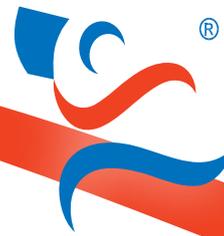


WOC News *Nr 11*



British men take gold after final-loop drama

Third successive win for Finnish women





Best-ever WOC relay for Russian girls (Galina Vinogradova, Yulia Novikova, Tatiana Ryabkina)

Russian men – second-best this time (Dmitriy Tsvetkov, Andrey Khramov, Valentin Novikov)



Sweden's girls do it again! – relay medals in every WOC (Annika Billstam, Sofie Johansson, Helena Jansson)

Switzerland takes bronze after Thierry's nightmare (Baptiste Rollier, Matthias Merz, Daniel Hubmann)



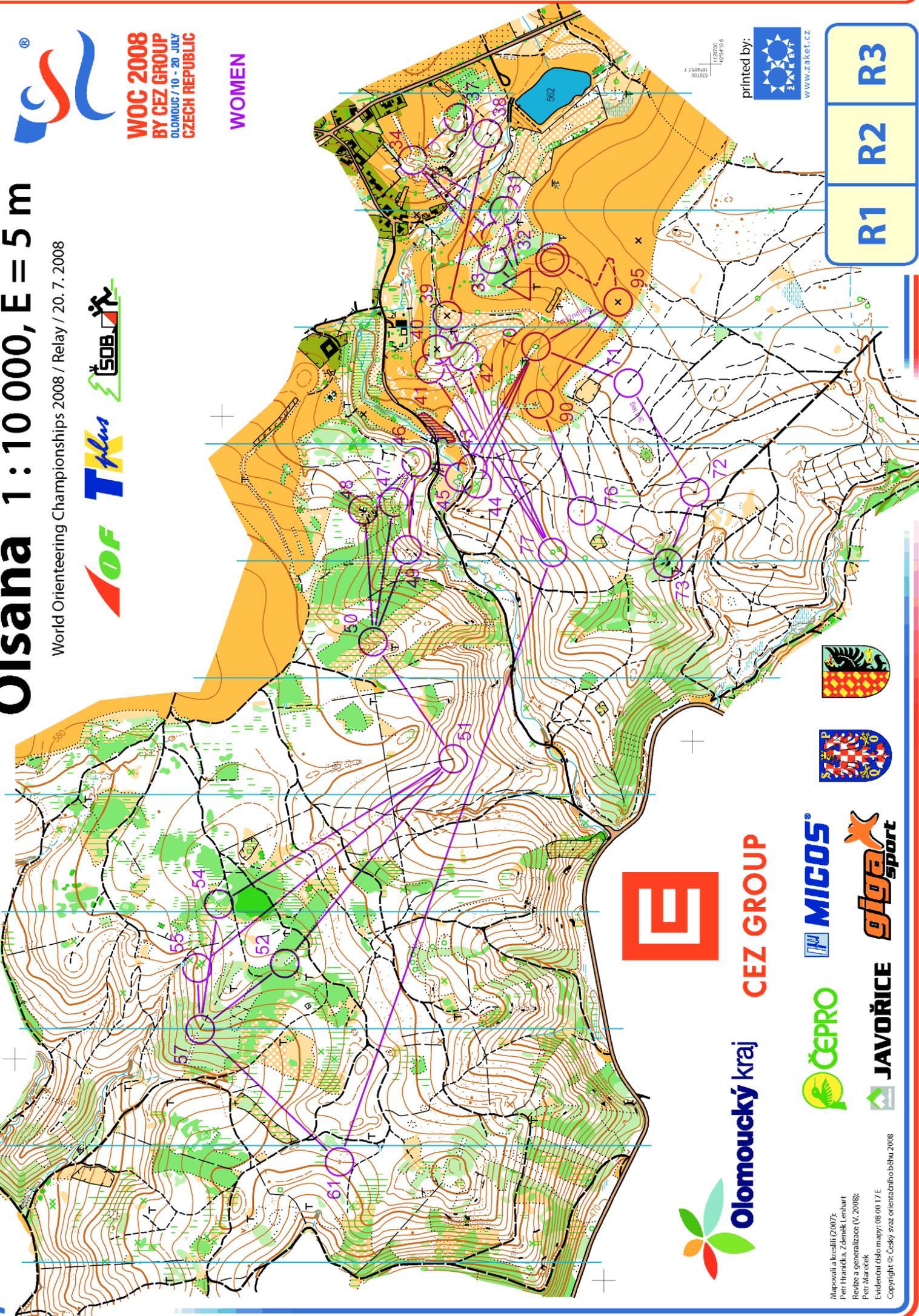
Olšana 1:10 000, E = 5 m

World Orienteering Championships 2008 / Relay / 20. 7. 2008



WOC 2008
BY CEZ GROUP
OLOMOUC / 10 - 20 JULY
CZECH REPUBLIC

WOMEN



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R1	R2	R3
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Mapovali a kreslili (2007):
Petr Hranicka, Zdenek Lenhart
Redko a generalizace (V. 2008):
Petr Hranick
Evidenční číslo mapy: 08 00 17 E
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CEZ GROUP

Olomoucký kraj





Women's relay race analysis



1st leg

The column of runners is split only slightly for a long time, even after the longer 7-8 leg. It is not until the 4th radio (12th c.) that small groups form in the lead. The trio Vinogradova (RUS) – R. Brožková (CZE) – Billstam (SWE) is 20-30" ahead of Brodmann (SUI) - Riddervold (NOR) - Allison (AUS). For the rest of their race the gaps between them get a little larger, with the order unchanged. The first in the finish is Vinogradova, with a slight (17") lead ahead of Brožková with Billstam. Then, more or less separately, the others are coming, and the first ten arrive within 2'40". Norway takes over fifth, Finland seventh. Chinese Ming Yue is 11th, 4 minutes behind the lead. She lost the leading group with a bad route choice on 7-8, where she ran down from the left alongside the asphalt road.

2nd leg

A lot of top runners make a mistake on the 1st control - Novikova, Juřeníková with Johansson, and also Andersen, so at the 1st radio (4. c.) Vroni König-Salmi is already



photo: Pavel Adámek

in the lead, followed by Juřeníková with Johansson. The latter then misses the fifth, so Vroni is soon alone. Another pair, running just behind the earlier, Novikova + Rantanen make a mistake there as well, and are thus overtaken by Andersen, Elson (AUS) and Abzalone (LAT). The latter two fall out on the long 7-8 leg. Then, Eva Juřeníková is not perfect at the 9th and 10th in green, and Johansson is then already over 1.5 min ahead of Eva. Meanwhile on the 9th the latter is caught by the group of Rantanen, Novikova and Andersen. They all have a different forking for the 10th than Eva, and overtake her. Andersen loses a minute on the 13th c. (she runs to the stone in clear forest from rough open above), where Eva is in turn successful and again gets half a minute ahead of Marianne. Rantanen with Novikova have the 13th on the cliff in rough open, which for the women means a

longer route choice from the left around the green (just the men run through). Unlike the others, Vroni König-Salmi is still running a quite perfect race and thus she adds to her medal bonus from the middle by also fulfilling her main role – to perform reliably

in relays. She hands over first, almost a minute ahead of Johansson, 2'44" ahead of Novikova, who is shortly followed by Juřeníková, Rantanen, and also Andersen thanks to a strong end section. The podium positions are now well ahead of the rest of the world - seventh Grace Elson is four minutes behind 6th place. A further minute behind is Shuangyan of China.



3rd leg

Minna Kauppi quickly forgets her unlucky long race and doesn't seem to feel it in her legs either. In the 4-6th place trio including her, Dana Brožková and Anne Margrethe Hausken, each has a different 1st control, but only Minna finds it without mistake while the others lose a minute. In front of them, Rjabkina finds it well, but Jansson loses as much as two minutes on the same 1st c. as Brožková had, so Sweden is now just slightly over





photo: Pavel Adámek

on the 13th (she has the small marsh, but Dana has it too). Without a direct final fight Brožková thus secures fifth place, Norway is sixth. Almost ten minutes behind her, just a pity that it is in the shadow of the men's start, Chinese achieve a historical seventh place. Just a few seconds behind Austral-

ia and Latvia arrive, both caught by Li Ji in the final section beyond the spectator control.

a minute ahead of the afore-mentioned trio. On the second control, Kauppi is seconds ahead of Jansson and three seconds behind Rjabkina. She then leaves both behind emphatically on the 7-8 leg, where she is by far the best from the entire women's relay race (8'34"). She thus considerably cuts down the lead of Lea Müller, who was some 100 s ahead on the 7th. But moreover, just on the 8th, Lea loses two minutes searching for the control... From now on, Minna runs for gold. Lea punches the 8th even slightly behind Jansson and Ryabkina. On the 10th, having different gaffling, she loses the Swede (although she had a control in a similar direction) - and also the Russian, who had totally different gaffling, gets 20" ahead of her. The latter still keeps Jansson in sight (there they have different gafflings on the 13th only), until the Swede makes a mistake on the route to the 20th (turned too much to the right). Rjabkina achieves a half-minute lead over Jansson and keeps it to the finish. Lea Müller is still not so far behind, but since the pair ahead of her doesn't make any notable mistake, and moreover she has lost a bit on the 14-15 short leg in the bottom of the valley, there is no chance for her to challenge for a medal any more.

Brožková goes on together with Hausken, both losing around a minute on the 12th and Hausken moreover also



Olšana 1:10 000, E = 5 m

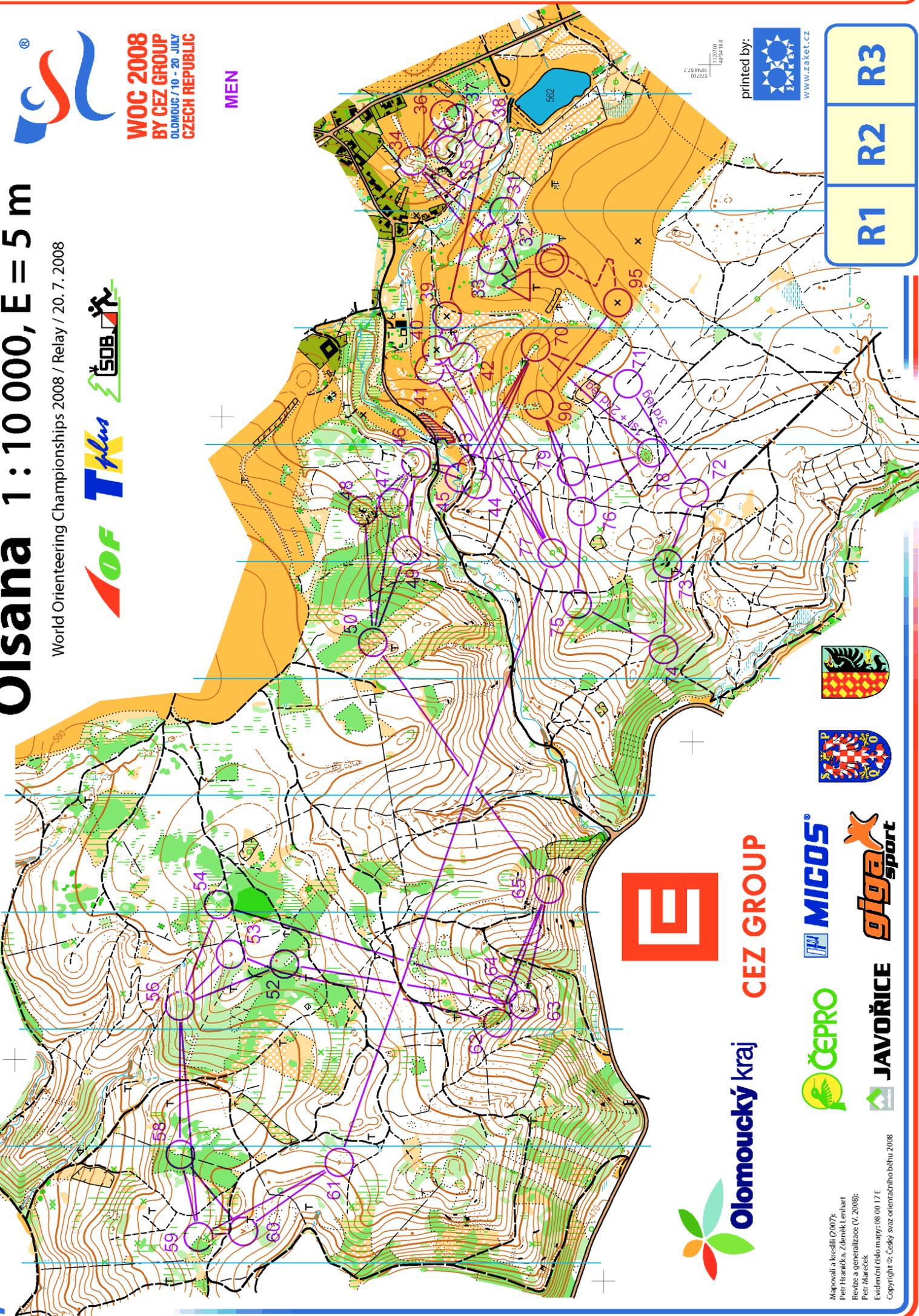
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MEN



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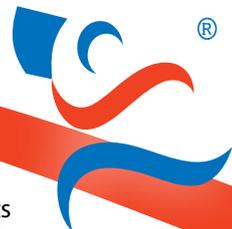


Mapovatel a kreslíř (2007):
Petr Hraněčka, Zdeněk Lenhart
Revize a generalizace (V. 2008):
Petr Maršálek
Evidenční číslo mapy: 08 00 17 E
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31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95

Men's relay race analysis



1st leg

After the long 7-8 section, Pasi Ikonen leaves the others a little behind – by as much as 30 s. But Gonon is the fastest of all (from all three legs) here, achieving 6'51" (Gueorgiou on the 3rd leg does it in 6'58"). Ikonen's lead ends on the approach to the 13th c. (stone under green). In the green area of 15-16 Gonon (FRA) takes the lead, afterwards followed closely only by Procházka (CZE). But the latter loses too when he wrongly goes to Gonon's 21st c. – he has a different one. Losing half minute, he goes on together with Bertuksem (LAT), Gristwood (GBR) and Ikonen. Ikonen then loses a little, while the other three finish up to half minute behind Gonon. Norway (Skjeset) is eighth, +1.5 min., Sweden (Öhlund) and Russia (Tsvetkov) together on 11th-12th position another minute later. Öhlund made a mistake on the 13th (stone), where Tsvetkov was even in the lead, but he got behind on the leg to the 15th (long route choice along the road on the left) and then lost more on the leg to the 16th – although having the cliff in rough open, he avoided the green ahead of it by coming from below on the right. Baptiste Rollier (SUI) finishes together with Bukovac (SVK) and Kovács (HUN) 14th-16th, plus 3'20" to the lead. Also Rollier was amongst those who made a mistake on the 13th (stone) and he moreover lost also on the 16th (small marsh).

2nd leg

At the beginning Renard makes the French lead even a little greater, but on the 7-8 long leg, Duncan gears up whilst Smola with Huovila take the wrong route in the end, when avoiding the hill in front of the control from the right, across the rough open. Krumins runs straight, but loses time on the final approach. Duncan is thus here 1.5 min ahead of the others, actually together with Renard. In the following sections, both usually have different gafflings and after Duncan's 12th is a little more advantageous, he takes the lead. But in turn, Renard's 13th is closer (vegetation boundary curve) and Duncan moreover gets on the wrong route to the 14th,

getting as far as the top of the hill after contouring round the valley from the left. After that he is again half a minute behind. But then the see-saw goes again the other way – Renard's 16th is the stone in rough open, which must be approached through green or by avoiding it, while Duncan goes to the stone on the slope where he needs just to go down along a narrow ride, and here takes up to 50" lead. After Renard has the fastest split times three times in the final section, he is in the end 24" behind at the finish line.

Huovila catches Smola and Krumins as soon as at the third control, and thereafter the order within this trio changes in various ways. Krumins slightly loses, but on the 14th and 15th he is again in front of Smola, but on the 16th the latter jumps over to the 'flying' couple Merz - Gösswein (both caught up 11 places on their leg!), which caught Khramov already on the 9th, after the latter made a mistake there. At the beginning the excellent Johansson looks to enhance Scandinavian chances. He leaves Khramov behind at the third control (after the latter left 2nd too much to the left) and catches Nordberg, who made a mistake on the 1st c. On the leg 7-8 also the latter is left behind (and also overtaken by Khramov) and Johansson catches Breitschädel (AUT). On the 8th, this couple is up to 6th-7th position. The trio CZE-LAT-FIN is just half minute (or even less) ahead. Johansson's pace is slowed down on the 11th and then substantially on the 13th, where he is caught and also overtaken by the trio SUI-HUN-RUS.

In the finish the Russians and Swiss come almost simultaneously in 3rd and 4th place, 1.5 min. behind the British. They are followed by Hungary, still keeping their chance of an excellent result, and Czech Republic. A further 3/4 minutes behind is Latvia, Finland a further +15", Sweden another 20" more. Another minute behind them are Russia, Norway and Ukraine. Also Nordberg used some time on the 13th (stone) and in general the split times show that he must be feeling his silver medal long distance from the previous day in his legs.

3rd leg

Jamie Stevenson starts his race, followed by Thierry less than half a minute behind, the latter having in his legs (and mind) a golden middle and a free day instead of the long. Thus the majority of the o-public is probably betting on the French achieving the relay victory. Nothing goes against this thinking – on the 1st radio (4th contr.) they are together. The order in the subsequent placings gets changed a little – Novikov with Hubmann gets ahead of Dlabaja–Lenkei a little. This changes on the 7-8 long leg, where Novikov is faster and gets over half a



minute ahead of Hubmann. The other couple splits too when Lenkei doesn't manage to keep this pace. But the other three are still well ahead of the others – just Sirmais (LAT), running alone, is not so far away, but Öberg loses two minutes to Dlabaja and the other Scandinavians are even more behind. Stevenson still accompanies Thierry, but after Jamie runs too far below the control on the approach to the 10th he is caught by Novikov, while Gueorgiou starts to set up a lead. On the 12th Dlabaja has the shorter gaffling, thus in spite of losing a little on the approach he gets ahead of Hubmann. But on the 13th, Dlabaja's control is the lowest one (small re-entrant), then the order is again as it was before. On the joint 14th they are together, and to the 15th, Daniel takes the straighter route and is here 12" earlier. For spectators enjoying the Tractrac transmission, the situation in the lead is still enthralling – Thierry is just some 30" ahead of



the Novikov - Stevenson pair. After the joint 15th c. Jamie stays alone, having the following one on the cliff in rough open, to which he must bash through green, while the other two can run down. The same difference gets Sirmais even closer to Dlabaja with Hubmann, who both also had the cliff. And the Scandinavian trio is now just slightly over one minute behind the Czech-Swiss duo. When the latter finds the 18th first, which is only Hubmann's (the distinctive tree), Dlabaja starts to lose to him. In the ascent to the spectators' 19th, the gap gets bigger. Anyway, unless something unusual happens, they cannot fight for medals any more. On the 19th spectators see Thierry passing 37" ahead of Novikov, with Stevenson a further 21" behind and then a further 55" later Hubmann is running through, already half minute ahead of Dlabaja.

Thierry thus still keeps his lead, although the occasionally interrupted signal from the Tractrac transmission still keeps the spectators enthralled. But after the French flag appears on the screen again, it moves away from the 22nd bound for the 24th. After it turns back a while later and goes on to the 23rd, it looks as though Thierry perhaps makes an unbelievable mistake and runs directly to the next-but-one control. Around the 23rd the situation is quite unclear, showing just a chaos of flags of the three European super-powers, with the French one moving very slowly. Once this reaches the 23rd, the other two are passing the 24th already. It

seems that not just the performance, but also some injury is deciding the medals. But it is strange that Thierry, though slowly, still follows the route of the race. Tractrac now brings to spectators a story, for which it really wasn't supposed... What on earth has happened here? At least the TV camera gives a picture of the unlucky one, but still gives no explanation... the entire o-public can see on-line the living o-legend, who moments ago was running for a medal at WOC just walking through the forest. It is not clear at first sight what kind of injury this might be. Just one frail gesture from the Frenchman points somewhere to the area of his mouth. The radio on the 24th shows his split time, so it is clear that he hasn't lost his SI card. Sceptics think of the possibility that the master has given up after some fatal mistake, prepared to take nothing else than gold. Some organisers get afraid of some complaints about the map or some other technical mistake...

Anyway, time is running, and the battle for medals must come. Now it is clear who will be fighting for gold. Statistics of current recent results would perhaps indicate that Russia would take yet another gold. But theoretical hypotheses are no longer valid. Novikov gets stiff and is not able to follow Stevenson's spurt. From a few-second deficit on the 24th, the latter sets up a similar lead on the 26th and goes on. Today's play, full of surprises, has a stylish peak – the Brits take their first ever relay WOC gold!

Hubmann, who has now appeared in a medal position, is well ahead of Dlabaja, and the home team is this year just less than 40" behind a medal. His finish kept a lead of less than half minute ahead of Sirmais, who thus wrote another chapter in the book of today's surprises. So just one podium place left free for Scandinavia. Föhr, Öberg and Østerbø started their race within one minute in 8th, 9th and 11th place (with Binder of Austria in between). After Föhr's mistake on the 1st, they run altogether through most of the race. Before the 19th, Föhr takes a slight lead over the others and takes the sixth place in the end. A small lead by Öberg ahead of Østerbø is erased before the 24th, where the Swedish runs from right, across the hill, while Østerbø takes the left way. The latter for sure had other expectations from this WOC than spoiling his chances at sprint after losing his SI card and then utilising a good job on the relay just for bettering his team's position from



11th to 7th place. 10 seconds behind, Sweden ends their again unsatisfactory story, three minutes later it is Slovakia in the finish, returned close to the best by a very good last leg of Barták. And after him, Lenkei is running in, at least keeping Hungary in the top ten.

Shortly after, Thierry gets to the corner of the arena area by his own. If he had in theory managed to walk to the finish line, it would perhaps be 13th place. But of course he is immediately given health care in the emergency car. Some tens minutes later, the reason is given to the public - Thierry got stung by an insect. Later, it is more precisely explained that a bee flew into his throat and stung him probably somewhere in the area of the tongue root, which in turn started to swell. This alone is of course not compatible with further running. It was not any special allergic reaction - in such a case Thierry would hardly be able to continue on his own. He was thus not in any great danger, but to be sure, a helicopter took him later to the hospital in Olomouc. The same evening he was released and two days later, he was third in the sprint in the World Cup at O-Ringen and he is now second in the World Cup standings. But the frustration from such an unbelievable premature end to his almost golden race will stay in his mind for a long time still.



Graham Gristwood, Jamie Stevenson, Jon Duncan



Minna Kauppi, Merja Rantanen, Katri Lindeqvist





Golden way ended on the 22nd

In spite of his huge disappointment over what happened, Thierry told us more about his unhappy relay race.

I was really satisfied to see the great teamwork of my two mates. They were preparing my leg very well. On my leg, I took the lead in the relay quite early and was pushing very hard like in an individual race.

After the spectator control in the field, I knew that my lead was good enough and I just had to take the last controls with care. When I ran to the 22nd I was in full control. I punched this control and went out of the light green area. Then, in just a tenth of a second, I realized that several bees were flying in front of me. I had walked on to a bee swarm. I don't know how, but a bee went in my mouth. I tried to spit it out, but the bee went into my throat. Then I had a severe nausea reaction.

My pulse at that moment was probably around 180-190. I got shocked and panicky. In my mind, everything became very confused. I knew that the finish line was so close, so I pushed myself to run. But I didn't read my map and went in the wrong direction. In less than one

minute, the bite reaction didn't allow me to breathe normally. I went very fast into a sort of asthma reaction. I had some 20% of the normal capacity of my lung. Our team dream - the WOC relay gold medal - was gone but I started to realise that I was also in danger.

Then I tried to calm down and thought that I had to go to a TV man in the forest to ask him to call the emergency staff at the finish. Then I walked through the course, while thinking that the emergency team would come towards me.

At the finish area, I collapsed and was transported by helicopter to the hospital. When I woke up in hospital, I couldn't remember what happened in the last

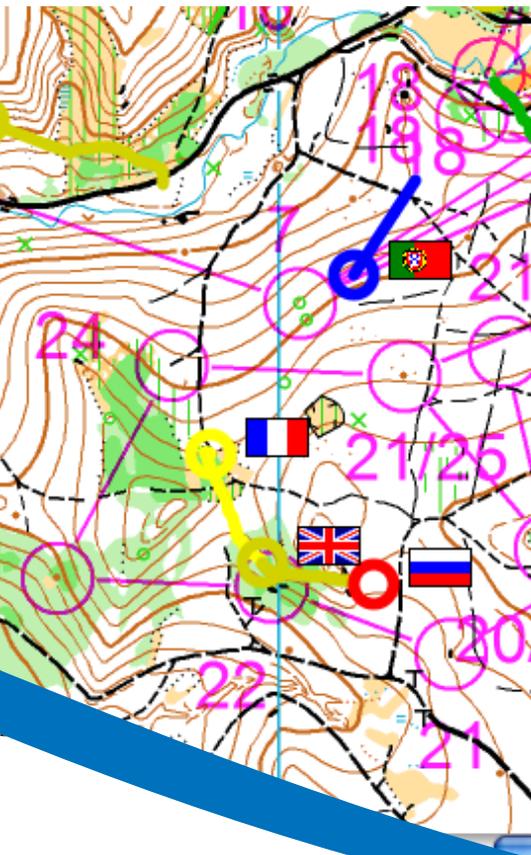
minutes and believed for a few moments that I still had to run a relay. I asked the doctor several times to let me go, that my team-mate would soon be at the changeover...

This scenario still sounds unbelievable to me. It is just like a bad nightmare. Many times I have said that "luck" has no place in top performances. I was laughing when people were saying "Good Luck" before a start. But, I have now to admit that training/preparation is just there to limit the "luck" factor to the minimum. But there will always remain a very fine layer of luck somewhere that you can't avoid.

Thierry Gueorgiou

On the podium, medalists enjoy great moments. In the background, helicopter just takes Thierry to the hospital.

Photo: Pavel Adámek



Women's long race analysis

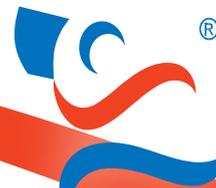


photo: Pavel Adámek



control was she not the fastest.

6-7 Dana takes the path near the bottom of the valley, but this means more climbing. Despite that, she is only 5 s slower than Marianne and 10 s than Hausken, who was the fastest here. The longer route from the left side taken by Sofie Johansson is 20 s slower than Hausken's.

start-1 A. M. Hausken completely bungled her route choice to control 1 and got caught up by Dana Brožková already there.

2-3 Hausken managed to get ahead of Dana after the second control but the situation reversed again after "green" control number 3 when Dana left her behind.

From the third control on, the best three intermediate times belonged to the medallists only, just in various orders.

3-4 Minna Kauppi messed up both control 3 and 4 (around 40" at each) and after smaller mistakes already at control 1 and 2, she is in 10th place at the 3rd control. All the way until the 8th control Minna's split times ranked around the 15th. Obviously she was not having a good day.

4-5 Many competitors ran through the green all the way to the path and returned to the control from there. After such a mistake Signe Soes (she moreover turned too far south) got overtaken by Annika Billstam, although the latter avoided the green from the left and lost around 30" this way too. This couple then runs together for the entire rest of the race.

5-6 Marianne avoids the green from the right along the path, which makes her 24" slower than the almost direct route of Dana, who thus goes into the lead for the following three legs. Up to the 6th control, only on the 2nd

7-9 Also on these two legs Marianne is faster than Dana and takes over the lead on the 9th control, 11 s ahead of Dana.

9-10 Like the men, the women had a map exchange at the beginning of the long leg which prevented them from being able to plan the route choice in advance. The route was practically identical with the men's route, except that the start control was located about 350 metres more to the east and 5 contours higher than the men's one - as a result, the women's route had a smaller height climb (of about 15 metres) in comparison with men's, when the route choice from the right side was taken. One of the southern options resulted in the fastest time, utilising the roads which avoid the valley in the beginning (4.65 km / 90 m). The best time on this leg was achieved by Bernadett Kelemen of Hungary (22'20") who ran it together with Sofia Johansson (22'26"). At the 6th control Johansson caught up four minutes to Kelemen and led her even to the finish, placing Kelemen 13th.

Hausken, who opted for a route far left all the way, and even through the village (4.67 km/150 m), ran the third best time on this leg (22'52"). Minna Kauppi with her route choice across the field off the map even further north followed closely with a split time only 15 seconds slower. Here Minna climbed up from 9th to 5th place. The next best time (23'17") was run by Andersen who made the exact same choice as Hausken. Sarah Rollins, who did not go to the village but preferred to run nine contours up over a spur to a road, was 15 seconds slower. Dana Brožková made a 24'20" split time with a

similar route choice (3.86 km/180 m), which meant that Hausken had caught up with her again. From this moment they ran together. Moreover, Dana now loses to Andersen 1'14" on the 10th control, which also means, that Marianne is 45 seconds behind Dana in real time. But she didn't manage to catch Dana, which would almost for sure decide on the gold for Marianne, and in contrast, Dana is again cutting the loss during most of the following legs, although very slowly.

Eva Juřeníková achieved the same time as Dana, taking a similar route choice to that of Sofie Johansson, but more straightforward in the middle and end of the leg, with much less utilisation of roads (4.35 km/85 m). She still keeps a very good position, being 5th before this leg and 6th after that.

This long leg caused three major changes in the top ten, with Sofie jumping up from 10th to 4th place, Hausken from 12th to 7th and in contrast Liisa Anttila falling down from 4th to 11th place and Merja Rantanen from 7th to 12th. The latter took a very long route, running outside the forest in the south for most of the second half of this leg.

Two-thirds of the women took the southern route choice, and no-one found the courage to run more straight, across the valleys, although this choice wouldn't be so unreasonable (3.4 km/ 200 m).

13-14 Dana and Hausken took a more straight choice, which means higher climbing than the others who ran more to the right. Marianne is thus leading by 36 s ahead of Dana now, and because the duo Billstam – Soes was the fastest here, Annika loses now 28 s to Dana only.

16-21 Dana loses some seconds by searching for the 16th control too early, but then she is more certain in the green and from the five controls in this area she is faster than Marianne four times, so on the 21st, she loses 3 seconds only!

Unlike the men, most of the women kept a cool head in their fight for the best positions in the green by the end of the race. Minna Kauppi was the only exception as she continued to run in her less than



impressive pace, winning only the leg to the spectator control. Right after that she made a mistake longer than half-a-minute although she approached the next control from a path from the east. Despite that, Minna was close to catching up to Johansson, who had made a mistake at the 17th control, but Minna lost time again at the 19th and 22nd controls (more than half-a-minute at the latter).

21-22 Not only Minna lost time at the 22nd control - Emma Engstrand also had a hard time at both the approach to the control and with the route choice as a whole and dropped from 8th to 9th place here. Merja Rantanen lost over 4 minutes here, drop-

ping all the way from 9th to 17th place in this very final segment of the race, and even though she made the best times going to the last control and the finishing sprint, she only managed to place 15th. Eva Juřeniková's hesitation at the 21st

control brought her down to 10th place but due to the mistakes by Rantanen and Engstrand at the 22nd control, Juřeniková ended up 8th. The most important thing that happened at the 22nd control was Andersen's slight loop. Here she lost her lead ahead of Dana who overtook her by a full 18 seconds. Dana's lead now only kept growing and brought the first home gold for 18 years!

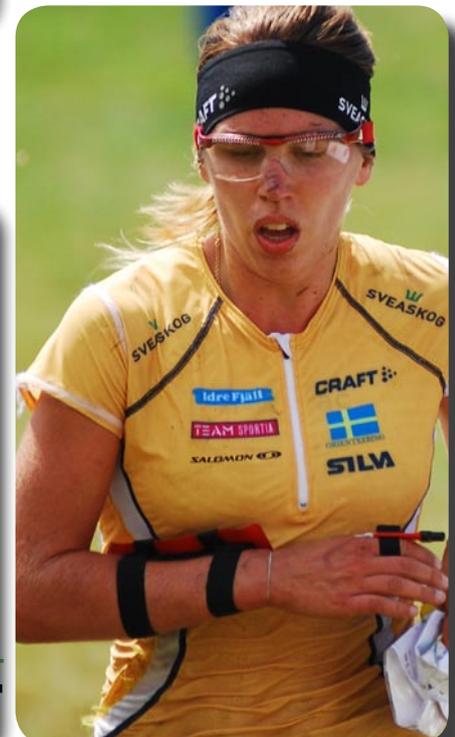
(Routechoices on the women's race map worked out by Radek Novotný)

photos: Jan Kocbach



Top six:

1. Dana Brožková (CZE),
2. Marianne Andersen (NOR),
3. Annika Billstam (SWE),
4. Anne Margrethe Hausken (NOR),
5. Signe Soes (DEN),
6. Sofie Johansson (SWE)



Boudy 1 : 15 000, E = 5 m

World Orienteering Championships 2008 / Long distance - Final / 19. 7. 2008



Olomoucký kraj



WOC 2008
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OLOMOUČ / 10 - 20 JULY
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Dílčí postupy/
additional route choices

Marc Lauenstein

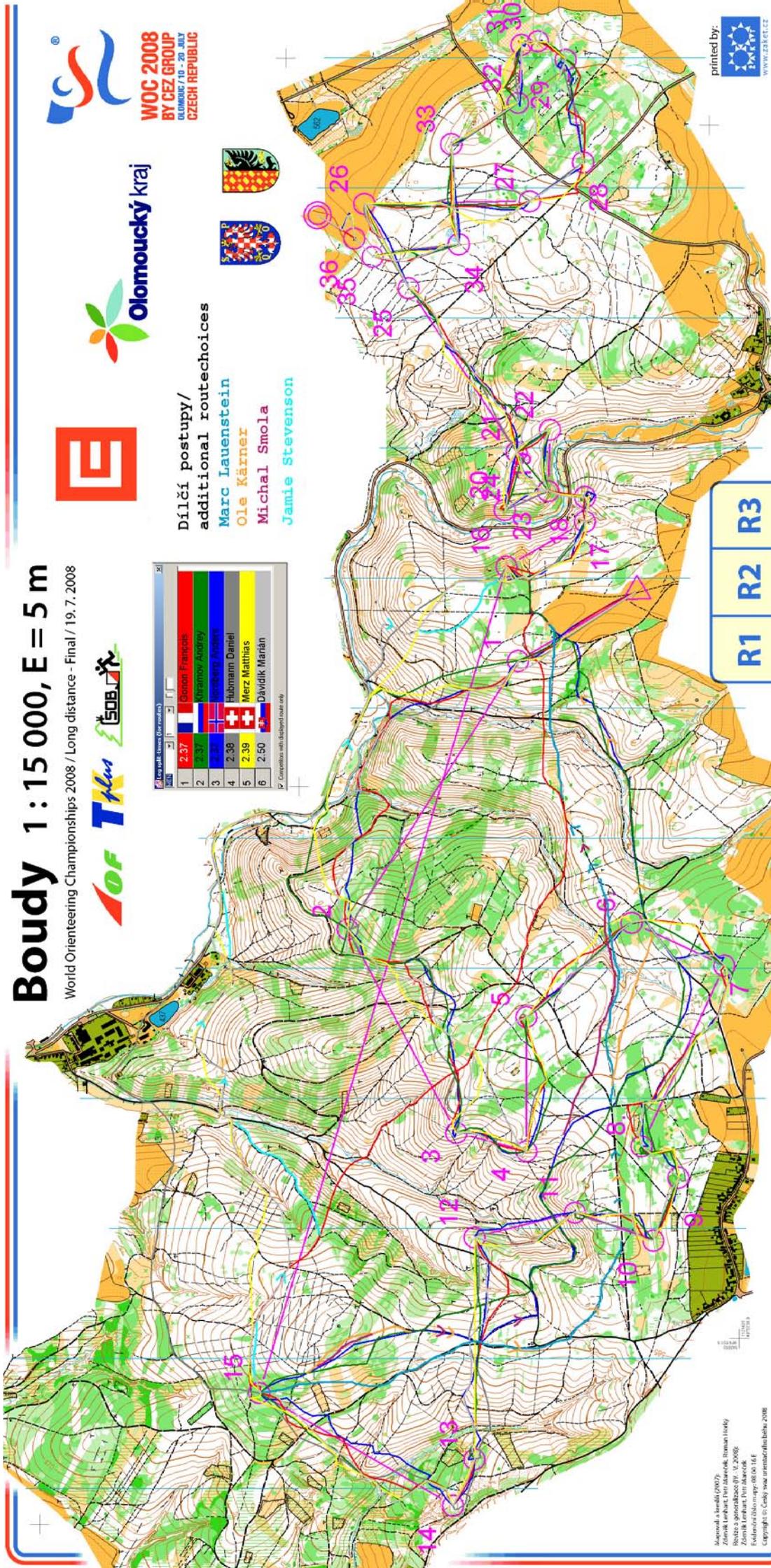
Ole Kärner

Michal Smola

Jamie Stevenson

Rank	Name	Time
1	Conson François	2:37
2	Kramay Andrej	2:37
3	Hubmann Daniel	2:44
4	Hubmann Daniel	2:38
5	Merz Matthias	2:39
6	Dávidik Marián	2:50

Competition with fullspeed route only



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R1 R2 R3

Competitor	Distance	Time	Speed
Daniel Hubmann	4,4 km / 175 m	21'36"	4'55"/km
Anders Nordberg	4,5 km / 145 m	21'55"	4'52"/km
François Gonon	3,6 km / 255 m	22'16"	6'11"/km
Andrej Kramay	4,5 km / 160 m	22'20"	4'58"/km
Matthias Merz	3,9 km / 200 m	20'38"	5'17"/km
Marián Dávidik	4,1 km / 200 m	20'49"	5'05"/km
Marc Lauenstein	4,3 km / 170 m	21'06"	4'54"/km
Ole Kärner	4,4 km / 135 m	21'39"	4'55"/km
Michal Smola	4,3 km / 175 m	23'09"	5'23"/km
Jamie Stevenson	4,2 km / 200 m	20'30"	4'53"/km

Mapová a kartová (2007)
Zeměpisný ústav ČSAR
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Men's long race analysis

Start-1

The straight line was mostly followed, but e.g. Anjala, zig-zagging a bit, or Dávidík, getting too much to the left at the end, lost around 20" compared to Weltzien's best split-time.

1-2

On this leg, crossing two valleys, there was no point to do anything but go right, but in fact the competitors tackled it in a number of variations. François Gonon, the fastest on this leg, largely made use of transverse paths and only at the end climbed over the ridge; Nordberg, 12 seconds slower, crossed the terrain from the main valley directly uphill. Michal Smola, after running down into the valley, did not run up to the path on the opposite slope; he decided to go on over the stream and then uphill like Nordberg, but, compared to him, he lost 40". Philippe Adamski used almost the same time as Nordberg when running directly up the path already from the side valley and also Carl Waaler Kaas reached a fair split-time with the same choice. Hubmann, who also took this route, was probably fast as well, but as he lost a minute looking for the control, he was placed 24th on this leg. Coming more from the north, Mats Haldin also went wrong in searching for this control (a mistake of about 1'). Jamie Stevenson even though coming from the path on the ridge, also had problems to find the control (approx. one minute mistake). Some competitors ran down to the road and at the end either across the terrain to the ridge (Matthias Merz) or up to the path around the ridge, coming to the control from the north (Andrey Khramov, Jan Mrázek). But Khramov lost 57' compared to Gonon, Merz a further 5' and Mrázek altogether 1' 55". Mats Troeng, whose split-times, at least in the first half of the course, usually ranked in the top ten, lost three minutes searching for this control.

2-3

Route choices differed only in the extent of how directly the competitors crossed the valley, with more climbing, or how far left they turned. The fastest-



him
on leg 6
already.

8-13

It's true that the leg 8 - 9 is short, but for instance Khramov lost 30" there compared to Mats Troeng's best split-time and Hubmann lost 19" when he came to the path to the south of the control.

est choice was to keep to the path until it turns to the south-east and then to run more or less straight on. Merz and Dávidík lost around 1' 15" when turning right too early and running uselessly 5 contours down and up in the valley while in the second half of the leg they (and especially Merz) got rather more to the left to keep on the path longer.

3-7

Route choices were basically clear. Khramov, one of the favourites, lost twice about 20', on legs 4 and 7. A similar time was lost by Gonon on leg 6 when he, instead of using the path, ran parallel to it. So after four legs he lost the leading position, but Nordberg took the lead only for the subsequent three legs. Stevenson lost about 30" on leg 6 when he came from the path on the left side and failed to find the control cleanly.

7-8

Most competitors searched for the control directly by crossing the green area and using the small white area as attack points, but Gonon, for example, kept to the path longer and turned onto the ride. Nevertheless his split-time was at least comparable to those of the other top runners. Efimov, the fastest on this leg, took a "golden compromise" - behind the fence, but not up to the ride. Merz and Anjala went wrong in searching for the control and lost more than a minute; Khramov lost just a little bit less when he got up to the next path behind the green area.

On this leg, Smola got ahead of Mrázek (who made small mistakes in searching controls 3 and 5); for the first time, however, he saw

Stevenson fell behind even more, down to 17th place.

Near control 9 Michal Smola hurt his eye and he gradually fell out of the fight for medals, which can be also seen from his further split-times. So it is rather an irony of fate that just on this leg he came third overall. At controls 9 to 11, Gonon led ahead of Nordberg and Smola, on leg 12 Hubmann already had got ahead of Smola. Adamski was the fastest on leg 13 with an almost straight route (just slightly left) and it was he who then took third position. Other fastest routes were rather straight as well. Nordberg (+50") kept to the wide road up to the end of the valley; Michal Smola (+31") ran along it up to the opposite ridge.

13-14

None of the favourites made a significant mistake, but again one of the less successful, this time Dmitriy Tsvetkov, excelled with the best split-time. But Hubmann, for instance, ran too much left and lost 25" while Stevenson lost more than 40" when he got behind, up to the path which is at the end of the map.

14-15

There were small variations of relatively straight routes; this time Mamleev was the fastest. It was, however, rather a physical performance as he chose the almost identical route to Gonon who lost 27", but was still almost the fastest of the top runners. Merz passed left of the control and came to the path and Johansson made a mistake as well (both about +1' 10").

15-16



The competitors first saw the longest leg of the course only at its beginning, after the map exchange at control 15, so they had no time to think it over. Now it was Stevenson to excel with the best split-time of 20' 30" which brought him from 16th position to fifth! He chose almost the same route as Dávidík, only at the beginning instead of running down into the side valley, he passed it by, taking the path on the ridge on the right side. Dávidík, however, got left behind by only 19 seconds. Merz reached almost the same split-time (20' 38") as Stevenson on a similar route, he only ran down into that valley more directly and in the end he ran up the slope straight from the road, not using the zig-zagging path. The same split-time was achieved by the Bulgarian Nikolov who before followed the left paths on leg 15, which was too long, and got thus caught by Merz, who trailed him up to the finish for a surprising 12th place. Also other competitors running together reached a time under 21 minutes - Efimov who got ahead of Haldin (by taking almost the same route as Merz), and also Fraser towed by Dávidík. Out of the top six of final results, also Hubmann ran along the asphalt road, but from the control he ran down to the lower path and then even as far as the fringe of the village. He got left behind Stevenson by slightly more than a minute.

The fastest right-side route was that of Lauenstein (21' 06") and then only that of Kärner (21' 39"), both chosen relatively far right passing the first valley by. Gonon's middle route choice was still slower (22' 16"). He was, however, just 20" slower than Nordberg and so the first three positions remained unchanged after this leg - Gonon, Nordberg, Hubmann. Besides Stevenson, also other competitors dramatically improved their position: Merz (from 13th to fourth), Dávidík (from 14th to sixth), Efimov (from 15th to eighth).

Mats Troeng chose a route along the southern edge of the forest, passed through the green east of control 7 up to the meadow and went on through the forest and the clearing to the meadow north of the start. He fell from 18th to 34th place and then finished just slightly better - 28th. Adamski moved well down (from fourth to 12th place; after the same

route as Hubmann) and also Smola got left behind (from sixth to 16th place; 23' 09"). Later Smola managed to improve his position from about 16th to 18th to at least 12th and finally to 13th when he ran together with Mrázek (finally 24th) up to the finish and basically made no mistakes.

16-28

Basically all these legs required attention, employment of remaining energy and continuous focus when the finish was approaching. On leg 17 Gonon was slower than the other two medallists by 30", probably caused only by the fact that he did not go from the control immediately to the path. So Nordberg got ahead of him, at first only a little, but after the butterfly Nordberg led by half a minute as Gonon slightly hesitated at one of the butterfly controls. So even Hubmann got close to Gonon and, on leg 25, was ahead of him.

The way Khramov got step by step ahead is noteworthy at first sight. He was in 15th place after the long leg 16, in 12th place after the butterfly and eighth at control 28. After the long leg, however, the difference between 8th and 15th place was only 1' 11". On the other hand Efimov fell behind just as dramatically, mainly by his route choice on leg 25 when he run up the left path on the slope. After the butterfly, Tvetkov left the top ten as well, though more slowly.

Mats Haldin managed his best position between control 16 and the end of the butterfly, but it was only 20th place as his health was not quite OK. That was also the reason why he, even without making notable mistakes, fell to a final 29th place, and later he did not take part in the relay event and perhaps saw his not very lucky last WOC appearance.

28-29

For many competitors this leg decided the fight for the final positions. Johansson was the fastest and got back into the top ten. His route choice is not available, but the other best route choices, by Khramov and Krumins, followed the paths at least partly and Merz was just slower by one second when he passed by left, and to be sure, he ran along the paths almost all the way and along the ride in the end. Hubmann and Gonon were slower by almost half a minute, while Nordberg lost a minute when he found another ditch. So the final medal positions were decided

here,

with half - minute intervals between them; later the intervals only increased.

Hubmann lost a bit, but it was his only mistake within the last kilometres, and he demonstrated that he could hold his nerve in the critical moments. As this was combined with the fact that he still felt physically at ease, the result was that, out of the last 11 legs, he failed to win only two.

29-30

On this leg, Dávidík did not cope with the mental stress caused by his excellent performance, he went much more right than ideal, fell from fourth to 8th position and his loss to a medal position increased from 1' 22" to 2' 15".

30-31

Nerves were under pressure and so mistakes were made even on such a short leg across the clearing. Gonon made a half-minute mistake (he caught the small green on the right) and got further from the silver medal. Stevenson, who was already in fourth place, (although no less than 100 seconds from a medal), went off into the green areas to the left and a 1' 20" mistake sent him down to tenth place. Thanks to his reliable performance, Khramov continued to get ahead and just on this leg, he came up to fourth-fifth. Efimov made mistakes on controls 30 and 31 and fell to his final 20th place.

31-32

The fence served as a good contact point, but not all made use of it. Nordberg turned more to the left and did not find the control at first, nevertheless he did not lose so much time as to enable Gonon to attack him. Merz again did not take risks - he ran along the asphalt road and approached the control along the ride. So he was slower than Khramov by 16 seconds, while at control 31 they had an identical time, and this decided his final fifth place.

32-finish

Only small details and physical condition were relevant here. Competitors in sixth to eighth places interchanged, and finally the fastest finish brought participation in the ceremony for Dávidík, when he beat Anjala by two seconds and Kärner by three seconds!



Top six:

1. Daniel Hubmann (SUI),
2. Anders Nordberg (NOR),
3. François Gonon (FRA),
4. Andrey Khramov (RUS),
5. Matthias Merz (SUI),
6. Marián Dávidík (SVK)

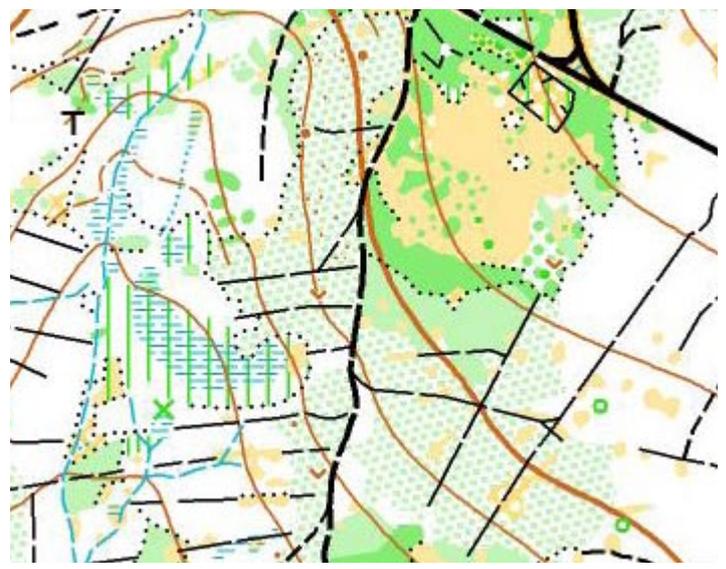
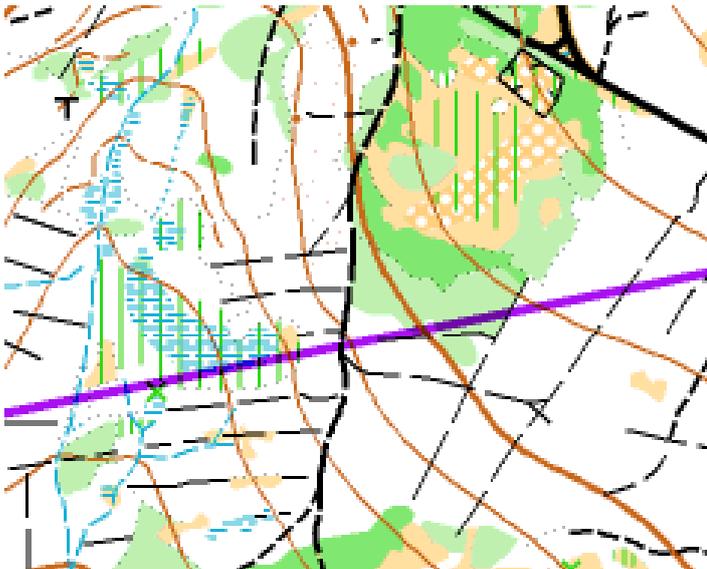
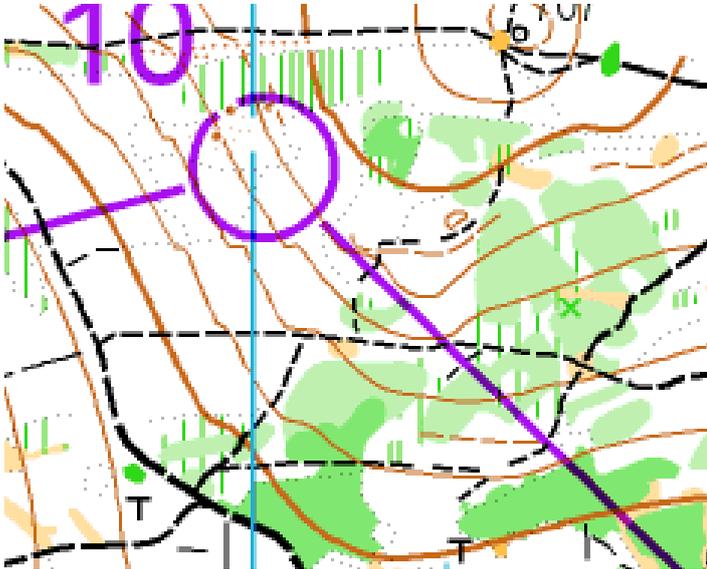
Photos: Jan Kocbach (1,4,5,6),
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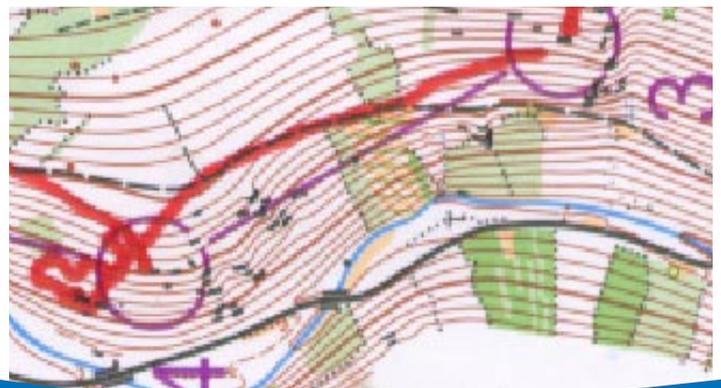


Czechs like details!

Already after the long qualification race we could find comments on some websites about differences between WOC maps and those used for the public races in the same areas. The fact is that Czech orienteers and mapmakers use far more details than is usual in many other countries, and thus also far more details than could be accepted by the IOF Map Commission for a WOC map. The mapmakers were thus forced to generalise their survey for the WOC races, but participants in the O-Festival could enjoy the extra detail in full. On this page you can compare two different areas of the long Q terrain. It should also be noted that control 10 of the men's C heat (used also as the 8th of the women's A) was initially supposed by the coursesetter to be on the small knoll to the north-west of its final location (vegetation boundary junction), and some runners commented that this was much less visible than the initially planned location.



This is the route of Matthias Merz to the 4th, where for example also home runner Michal Smola lost some time. The cliff was quite difficult to find when approaching from up in the clear forest without any other object in the nearby area. When coaches had a look in the area after the race, they found a 20x5 m large clearing in front of the control, which would make it very easy. But this in fact wasn't on the public race map either.





The area of the long final and relay didn't show so many differences in vegetation features, so this time firstly the many rootstocks were additional value on the public race map. But have a look too at the controls for the men's race - cliffs in the area of the 16th were also generalised, and in contrast, the pit used for men's control 1 was not originally on the map... In the other example you can also see that there were more knolls in the area of the women's first control.

