

ALMOST 1,500 RUNNERS: INSIDE THE DEMANDING TRAIL COMPETITION IN THE EASTERN ALPS

- GGUT victory goes to Alexander Westenberger (GER) and Basilia Förster (GER)
- Technically demanding trails and tough weather conditions with lots of rain and wind
- New: start-finish area with expo at Salzburger Platz in the center of Kaprun great success
- New: 52 children and young people at the first MINI-GGUT – powered by Osttirol
- More than 24 hours live transmission GGUT LIVE TV with more than 100,000 accesses

1,412 runners from 41 nations on five technically demanding event distances made the seventh edition of the Grossglockner ULTRA-TRAIL® powered by DYNAFIT (GGUT) to an international competition weekend of superlatives. The start-finish area with a top-class expo moved to Salzburger Platz, the center of Kaprun, this year. For the safety and catering of the trail runners, a total of 400 helpers (mountain rescue, fire brigade, volunteers) were on the route around Austria's highest mountain. With GGUT Live TV, the moderator team realized a high-quality live broadcast.

On Friday, July 29, the GWT 35 started at 8 am. The athletes of the premier class over 110 kilometers started at 10 pm. The starting shots for the other routes fell on Saturday, July 30. The two Germans Alexander Marcel Westenberger (Team Schamel) and Basilia Förster (Team xc-run) won the GGUT 110. At the GGT 55, the 20-year-old DYNAFIT athlete Konstantinos Paradeisopoulos (GRC) surprisingly wins a few minutes ahead of South Tyrolean Andreas Reiterer (Asics).

DYNAFIT trail hero Andrea Zogsberger and Josef Grundbichler win the GWT 35

The weekend of competitions was heralded by the Gletscherwelt Trail with a length of 37 kilometers and 1,500 meters in altitude. After the start on Enzingerboden in the Weissee Gletscherwelt almost 500 athletes had to run steeply up to Rudolfshütte, over the technically demanding Kapruner Törl (2,693 m) and past the reservoirs Mooserboden to Kaprun. 1st place went to Austria: DYNAFIT trail hero Andrea Zogsberger from Upper Austria and Josef Grundbichler from Golling a.d. Salzach won the race. Christina Stadelmann (AUT) and Janina Weber (GER) finished 2nd and 3rd. The Salomon team runner Maximilian Grieser (GER) came in second after ultra-runner and Red Bull athlete Florian Neuschwander (GER).

Tough conditions and surprise winners at OTT 80 and GGT 55

On the Grossglockner Trail, the Greek Paradeisopoulos and the Südtiroler Reiterer, delivered an exciting duel over several kilometers. The 20-year-old DYNAFIT athlete was able to assert himself and win by less than three minutes. "Reiterer was faster in the downhill, that's why I had to look for the decision in the last uphill," he said. The Greek, who still has some high-class races on his schedule, also says, "I love long races, that's another reason why I was happy to come to Kaprun!" 3rd place also went to South Tyrol, Tobias Geiser (Team Mountainshop Hörhager)

The women also kept it exciting until the end at the GGT 55. The Ukrainian Iryna Glushauskaite (Team Glory to Ukraine!) only succeeded a few minutes ahead of DYNAFIT trail hero Miria Meinheit (GER) and third-placed Michaela Portenkirchner (AUT).

On the 84-kilometer OTT 80 distance, the first-placed racers also ran head to head – finally Jordi Gamito Baus (Team Brooks) won the duel. The Spaniard as the top favorite, finished nearly 12 minutes ahead of Darwishi Hekmatullah. the Afghan living in Austria took a strong second place. The 3rd place was secured by Manuel Herkommer (GER). At the OTT 80 there was an Austrian triple victory: Salomon athlete Marie-Luise Mühlhuber from Axams took first place ahead of Stefanie Gaul and Veronika Haas (former Limburger, Team Mountainshop Vienna).

Good mood despite rain, wind and cold on the supreme discipline GGUT 110

With many spectators and in a great atmosphere, more than 200 athletes started at 10 p.m in the center of Kaprun, a race with 6,500 meters in altitude and 110 kilometers through 3 federal states, 7 valleys, 6 communities and past 14 glaciers.

The tough conditions with rain, wind and temperatures of only 5 degrees made the technically demanding trail competition extremely difficult. Alexander Marcel Westenberger (Team Schamel) was able to secure victory with a sensational time of 14:35.06 hours.

His German compatriots Daniel Keppler (Suunto) and Johannes Obermüller (Team Hypoxicum) crossed the finish line almost 50 minutes later. Red Bull athlete and ultra-cyclist Michael Strasser (AUT), who finished 8th in the GGUT last year, had to cancel the race this year. The fastest lady over the king's distance was the German athlete Basilia Förster (xc-run) in front of the Austrian Martina Pölzelbauer, who reached the finish line 3 hours behind Förster. Joanna Kopciowska-Watroba (PL) finished on third place.

"The weather conditions during the night were tough," said Westenberger at the finish. "It was cold, windy and wet and these three components made the GGUT a brutally tough race." Daniel Keppler, who had broken both poles, described the GGUT as challenging and cold, with many ups and downs, "there was everything there". And the third-placed

Obermüller was happy that he had reached his goal, a podium place. “Sometimes I was up to my knees in water, but who cares – bad weather is not an excuse not to perform”, he says.

All results in detail are available at <https://www.ultratrail.at/deutsch/anmeldung-results/results/>

Images from the GGUT 2022 are available [here](#).

Information at: www.ultratrail.at