



World champion Lakata sets his sights on BIKE Transalp podium

Hamburg, July 7, 2017 - Back in 2012, Alban Lakata triumphed in the BIKE Transalp powered by Sigma. Five years after his so far sole win, the newly minted MTB marathon world champion from Austria is aiming for a similar coup although he knows that it will be a tough competition at the event's 20th anniversary which kicks off on July 16 in Mayrhofen, Austria.

"The Transalp is true adventure with race character. Our goal is to place on the podium," explains the 38-year-old.

But thanks to so far seven participations in the legendary race across the main chain of the Alps, the athlete from East Tyrol knows, that everything has to work out perfectly in order to take home the win in the prestigious event.

Lakata hasn't triumphed in the Transalp since he came out victorious of the 2012 edition together with former team colleague Robert Mennen (GER). Five years later, it's time for the fourth try alongside Czech pro Kristian Hynek.

Both came in third back in 2014 and 2015 before they had to pull out of last year's event after a disappointing fifth race day. Before, team *Topeak Ergon Racing* had clinched the opening stage and been wearing the yellow jerseys for three days.

"It didn't work out to win the Transalp with Kristian because we haven't been able to bring our skills down to a common denominator yet. We work hard on this but it's very hard to succeed on such a high level. In addition, our competitors, especially *Centurion Vaude*, are preparing themselves more meticulously," knows Lakata who still is in cheerful spirits.

"My form is still getting better. The world championships title was also a confidence boost. It's awesome that I will be able to ride in the rainbow jersey over the course of the whole week," the three-time world champion concluded.

Further information on the Transalp can be found on the [event homepage](#).

Photos

Find free of charge photos of the 2016 Transalp for editorial usage [here](#). Please note that a one-time registration to the data base is mandatory. Please credit the respective photographer.

BIKE Transalp powered by Sigma

The BIKE Transalp powered by Sigma is the most famous stage race for mountain bike teams of two. Since its inaugural edition back in 1998, the route led in eight and from 2014 on, in seven stages across the main ridge of the Alps to Italy.

In 2017, the event for pros and the average Joe alike will take place from July 16 till 22 celebrating its 20th anniversary and cover about 539.80 km and 18,185 metres of climbing. The jubilee edition kicks off in Mayrhofen and leads via Brixen, St. Vigil, St. Christina, Kaltern, Trento and Lavarone to Riva del Garda where the tradition-rich classic will conclude at the shores of Lake Garda for the 17th time already.

For more detailed information on the route click [here](#).

The registration is currently running on www.online-registration.de.

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