



Geismayr and Pernsteiner clinch third BIKE Transalp stage win

Trento, July 20, 2017 – Daniel Geismayr and Hermann Pernsteiner have come out victorious of the fifth stage of the 20th BIKE Transalp powered by Sigma. The defending champions from Austria racing for *Centurion Vaude 1* mastered the 84.73 km long leg from Kaltern to Trento (2,619 m) in the time of 3:31.31,3 edging off Jeremiah Bishop (USA) and Kristian Hynek (CZE) to the second rank as *Topeak Ergon Racing 1* crossed the timing line which was already placed at Parco le Coste in a photo finish only 0.1 seconds behind of the winners.

Rank three went to Italians Diego Cargnelutti and Johnny Cattaneo of *Wilier Force Squadra Corse* who jumped on the podium for the first time (3:33.37,7).

Just like the days before, the yellow jerseys were seeking the decision in the first climb to Gfrillner Saddle setting a high pace right away with the support of the second *Centurion Vaude* duo consisting of Transalp triple winners Jochen Kaess (GER) and Markus Kaufmann (GER). It was a strategy which paid off as none of the other teams was able to keep up – except of *Topeak Ergon Racing 1*.

When the second ranked supporter team of Geismayr and Pernsteiner then lost time due to a puncture, the overall leaders took it easy following their rivals to the second feed zone in Lavis.

“We then gave it another shot in the climb to Mount Calisio but were caught again in the descent,” explained Pernsteiner who finally secured the photo finish win with a smart manoeuvre racing head to head with Hynek.

“We were right next to each other, and I just pushed my front wheel a bit forward. It turned out that it was enough.”

His rival from the Czech Republic said: “We had the feeling that we were in front. Except of that, we had a good day as we were able to close the gap to the second rank in the overall classifier. We can be happy with the result although it would have been nice to win the stage.”

In the masters category, former world champion Massimo Debortolis (ITA) and his *Wilier Force 7C* teammate Dax Jaikel (CRC) extended their winning streak to five in a time of 3:49.56,2 while Esther Suess (SUI) and Jennie Stenerhag (SWE) of *Meerendal CBC* did so on the women's side of things in 4:25.20,7.

In the grand masters category, Swiss racers Hansjuerg Gerber and Daniel Christen earned their week's third stage win (4:02.37,4) therefore minimally reducing the arrears to the green jerseys of Thorsten Damm (GER) and Peter Vesel (SLO) who came in as second today (4:05.26,4).

But team *Scott Fahrradladen Gudensberg* has still a comfortable lead of some 20 minutes over the duo of *bikeholiday.ch/bike arena emmetten* with only two more stages to come.

The mixed event saw the leading duo for the first time being beaten after Silke Ulrich (GER) and Sascha Schwindling (GER) of *Team Herzlichst Zypern 1* rolled in in fourth position (4:23.14,8). Finland's Sini Alusniemi and Juha Kauppinen of *CroxSports Team* claimed the win in 4:10.59,7 but remained in fourth position of the overall ranking.

Results

All results of today's fifth BIKE Transalp stage can be found [online](#).

Stage Preview

The sixth stage will kick off at 9 AM CEST tomorrow leading via 49.95 km and 2,002 metres of climbing from Trento to Lavarone which will celebrate its debut as Transalp stage town.

For a more detailed route description click [here](#).

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 544.80 km and 17,987 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](#).

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