



A HEAD-TO-HEAD CHALLENGE FOR THE VICTORY IN BOTH THE TOR330 – TOR DES GÉANTS® AND THE TOR450 – TOR DES GLACIERS

Now on the fifth and decisive day, the TORX® event is witnessing a head-to-head race for the two competitions under way. A battle for the finish line that is made even more uncertain and exciting by the weather.

Courmayeur, 14 September 2021 - Provisional, and susceptible to sudden changes, a little like the weather over the past few hours, the rankings for the two TORX® races currently under way - the TOR450 – Tor des Glaciers, and the TOR330 – Tor des Géants® - see a head-to-head battle for first place in both competitions.

In the TOR330 – Tor des Géants® the lead duo formed by the Swiss **Jonas Russi** and the Italian **Franco Collé**, having recovered from the physical challenges faced yesterday, has gained a consolidated lead over the rest of the competitors. It is easy to imagine that from this point on and until the finish line, which is due to be reached early tomorrow morning, the duo will break away, and tactics will make way for the desire to win, with the Val d'Aosta-born engineer having also announced that he is looking to break the race record of 67:52:15 set in 2017 by the Basques Dominguez. Among the women, a special mention goes to the excellent performance so far delivered by the Spanish **Silvia Trigueros Garrote**, who is currently 9th overall and the leading woman in the race, with the Italian **Melissa Paganelli** and the French **Claire Bannwarth** forming a theoretical podium. It goes without saying that today, and above all the night that the athletes are due to face, could entirely overturn everything.

It is a similar situation with the TOR450 – Tor des Glaciers, with the Swiss **Jules Gabioud** and the Italian-born French citizen **Luca Papi** in solid command since the beginning of the race. Despite this being a sports challenge for a special few, both runners have the ability to make it all look easy. Behind the lead pair by about fifteen kilometres is the excellent **Stephanie Case**, in third place overall. Yesterday, the Canadian runner was involved in a particularly unusual episode - which was fortunately resolved with a smile and a post to Instagram - when she was attacked by a donkey! Again, in this case, it will be the final hours of the race that dictate the winner and the runners-up at the finish line in Courmayeur on Thursday morning.

In the meantime, tension is building for the third exciting race in the TORX® programme, the **TOR130 – Tot Dret**, the qualifying race for the next edition of the TOR330 – Tor des Géants®, which is due to begin at 9 p.m. this evening in Gressoney-Saint-Jean. The more than 300 participants will be facing 130 kilometres, rendered even more challenging by the 12,000 metres difference in height along the route, which is highly technical and fast, demanding an average speed of at least 3 km/h (compared to the 2.2 km/h for the Tor des Géants) in order to be able to arrive at the finish line in a maximum of 44 hours.

Lastly, Saturday will see the turn of the **TOR30 – Passage au Malatrà**, the last and the

shortest race in the programme, which is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. from Saint-Rhémy-En-Bosses.

As well as on Facebook and Instagram, the website www.tordesgeants.it will offer the opportunity to follow the progress of all the races and the individual athletes thanks to an updated live-tracking system.

VDA TRAILERS

VDA Trailers promotes and organises open-air sporting activities related to the world of trail running and the mountains. Competitions in the summer and winter, both day and night, that have promoted the image of the Val d'Aosta and the Alps, its nature and its people, worldwide through sport. All these activities are characterised by the ethics of trail running; respect for the environment and for people, sharing and solidarity. It has been managing and organising events and initiatives on an international level for more than 15 years. TORX®, Gran Trail Courmayeur, Winter Vertical Courmayeur, Arrancabirra® and Arrancasimba.

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