

PRESS RELEASE

HARD, HARDER, MOUNTAIN ATTACK

- > The competition takes part on 17 January 2020 for the 22nd time
- > Superstars chase the record time
- > 1,200 participants from 24 nations come to Glemmtal

Saalbach. Austria's largest and hardest touring ski competition, the Herwis Mountain Attack in the Saalbach Hinterglemm Leogang Fieberbrunn Skicircus will take place on Friday, 17 January 2020 for the 22nd time.

Roland Kurz from the Salzburg event agency NMC launched the Mountain Attack 22 years ago. In 1999, the organisers as well as the participants were still called „weirdos“ who ran up a mountain at race pace to then race it down again at high speed using extremely light material. In the meantime, ski mountaineering has firmly been established in our society and is a fixed part of the sports scene. The local sports retailers benefit from the sales generated in this area. The boom remains unchanged, more and more people discover ski mountaineering, whether for fun, as a hobby- or as competitive mountaineering. All facets are represented, all milieus and income levels are part of this sport; and also tourism is rethinking its position as the target group is constantly growing. The Mountain Attack alone provides for just under 25,000 additional overnight stays in the Glemmtal, thus creating important economic impetus.

On Friday, 17 January 2020, the race will start at 4pm on the village square in Saalbach. 1,200 athletes from 24 nations will be part of the sprint and will run along the village street to the base area at the foot of the Schattberg. Following the motto: „On the skins, ready, steep uphill!“ the Glemmtal mountains will be attacked. With up to 70% gradient in the lower part of the Schattberg, the first mountain already demands everything from the athletes. The participants also experience a real summit thrill while being cheered on by numerous fans along the track.

THE RACE: 3 DIFFERENT DISTANCES

1. The Schattberg Race: This is a pure vertical race. Here the athletes have to master an elevation gain of 1,017 meters with the goal being on top of the Schattberg. 250 athletes have registered for this category.
2. The Tour: This is an individual race (ascents and descents). Here, the participants must tackle 5 summits, a total elevation gain of 2,036 meters and also descents have to be completed. The route leads via: Schattberg - west summit - descent to Hinterglemm - through the village - ascent Hasenauer Koepfl - Reiterkogel - descent Wetterkreuz - Bernkogel - descent to Saalbach (about 550 participants).
3. The Marathon: Also an individual race. Here it is necessary to cope with an elevation gain of 3,010 meters. The route is identical with the Tour until Hinterglemm. However, the participants also have to master the Zwoelferkogel ascent, the north descent into the Hochalm and the ascent from the Hochalm in the direction of Hasenauer Koepfl. Approximately 450 athletes will climb a total of 6 peaks!

ATTACK NEWS - WHAT IS SPECIAL AT THE #ATTACK20:

Starting shot by Landssportrat Stefan Schnöll at the start

The starting shot for the 22nd edition of the Hervis Mountain Attack will be given by the Salzburger Landessportrat Mag. Stefan Schnöll on 17.1.2020, and the 1,200 starters will start the race.

Attack Boom

Two hours after the opening of the registration on 15 October 2019, already all 1,200 starting places for the 22nd Hervis Mountain Attack were gone. Additional starting places can only be awarded if participants withdraw from the race and thus return their starting position. These possible remaining starting places will be awarded on the day of the race from 9:00 am directly at the registration in Saalbach.

Live Stream

As in the previous years, also in 2020 a LIVE STREAM of the race will be available on www.mountain-attack.at <<http://www.mountain-attack.at>>. In cooperation with Salzburg AG and the production team Mediahaus, we will broadcast live from 3:40 pm with the starting preparations until about 7:30 pm. In addition, postings, live feeds and current pictures on the Mountain Attack Facebook page will inform the fans about the current race progress. The spectators on site will be able to follow the race with live pictures on an LED wall in the finish area. Four presenters, eight mobile camera teams, four fixed camera positions and a state-of-the-art broadcast van will provide action-packed images and background reports on the Attack.

Free fan gondola

Also in 2020 all spectators, companions and fans can use the Schattberg X-press gondola to get up to the middle station and the summit free of charge after the race start in order to be as close to the action as possible.

The checkpoints in the valley, in Hinterglemm and in Hochalm, are best suited for the fans flooding in. Both locations can be easily reached by car. In Hinterglemm it is only a few steps to the checkpoint, while in Hochalm the cars can be parked directly.

Mountain Attack Charity

100 employees of the company Egger (St. Johann in Tirol) will once again conquer the Schattberg and will collect donations with their meters of elevation gain for the 7th time. The donation amount of approx. EUR 5,000, provided by Egger CFO Dr. Thomas Leissing from his own pocket, will again be donated to a SOS Children's Village in 2020 (will be reported after the race).

Participants and fans provide numerous overnight stays, an economic factor!

The Mountain Attack not only attracts more than 1,200 active athletes to the Glemmtal valley, but also numerous coaches and fans who fill restaurants and bars well before and after the race. At the Mountain Attack in January more than 4,000 companions, fans and spectators came to the region next to the starting field.

Safety

For the safety of the participants, a dedicated Mountain Attack doctor with a Red Cross team is on site. Representatives of the Saalbach mountain rescue service and the ski patrol of the mountain railways are positioned at all summits. The event team includes eight emergency paramedics and two rescue paramedics.

THE RACE

Again in 2020 many international and national top stars will be at the start. It comes to the showdown to the course record on the marathon distance.

In the men's marathon, last year's winner and course record holder from 2018, with 2:18:57, Michele Boscacci, will once again try to defend his title in order to win the Attack as the first athlete for the third time in a row. The two Austrians Armin Höfl (2nd place 2019) and Jakob Herrmann (3rd place 2019) will try everything to bring the victory back to Austria after more than 11 years (2008 Andreas Ringhofer).

The Mountain Attack 2020 is extremely top-class internationally: Swiss stars Werner Marti and Martin Anthamatten will start in Saalbach for the first time, as will the strong young Italian Nadir Maguet.

The narrowest group of favorites also includes: Italians Martin Stofner (5th / 2019), William Boffelli (6th / 2019) and Stefano Stradelli, from Germany Toni Palzer (winner 2017) and Konrad Lex (winner 2010), and Austrians Christian Hoffmann (Triple winner 13,14,16; 4./2019), Robert Berger (7./2019), Marcell Voithofer (11./2019), Marc Hochstaffel (12./2019).

In the women's marathon, the victory surely leads to last year's winner Alba de Silvestro, from Italy (partner of Michele Boscacci). For the first time in Saalbach is the Swiss top athlete Victoria Kreuzer, who is given extremely good chances of winning. The Austrian Silke Repaski of the La Sportiva Mountain Attack Team, who will premiere in Saalbach in 2020, is also to be assessed strongly

Experience has shown that the men's tour will also be very competitive. Short intervals are expected. The top contender for the win is the South Tyrolean Alex Oberbacher, who was able to win the first time in 2019 with 1:41:58. However, the Austrians will sit on his neck. Above all Daniel Zugg, (2./2019) and Maximilian Kurz (4./2019) from the La Sportiva Mountain Attack Team.

Daniel Ganahl (Montafon), Patrick Brieler (Mariazell), Horst Kofler (South Tyrol, Ahrntal) as well as the athletes from the La Sportiva Mountain Attack Team such as Harald Feuchter, Tobias Wagenhofer, Andreas Jank, Peter Sunkler and Christoph Scheiber are also to be assessed strongly.

In the women's tour, the winner of 2018 Johanna Hiemer (AUT) is back from her baby break and well prepared to climb the podium at the top. Sarah Dreier (3./2019), Verena Streitberger (4./2019) and Ulli Exenberger (5./2019), all AUT.

The two La Sportiva athletes Theresa Kober, AUT, (2019, 4th / Marathon) and Kathrin Angerer (GER) have switched from the marathon (2019) to the tour route and will certainly go for the victory.

DATA & FACTS

Mountain Attack International Touring Ski Marathon

Date: Friday, 17 January 2020, Start: 4pm, village square Saalbach

Location: Skicircus Saalbach Hinterglemm

Distance: 3 distances on marked and secured slopes

Marathon: 3,010 meters elevation gain, 6 peaks

Tour: 2,036 meters elevation gain, 5 peaks

Schattberg Race - sprint with finish on Schattberg summit 1,017 meters elevation gain

Classes: Marathon Men & Women, Marathon +45,

Tour Men & Women, Tour +45 Men

Mountain Hero: Combined score with the Marathon of the

World Games of Mountain biking 2019 (long distance only)

Prize money: Total EUR 7,000,-

RACE PROGRAMME

4 pm Start Marathon & Tour at the village square in Saalbach

afterwards start Schattberg Race (2nd wave)

approx. 4:40 pm first planned arrivals at the Schattberg

approx. 4:55 pm first planned arrivals in Hinterglemm

approx. 5:35 pm first planned finish Saalbach Men's Tour

approx. 6:15 pm first finish in Saalbach (Marathon)

approx. 10:30 pm Award ceremony at the village square of Saalbach

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

From 3 pm Attack party on the village square with a DJ

Hosts: Marina Herzmayer & Oliver Andorfer

From 4 pm Attack raffle with great prizes at the village square in Saalbach

LIVE coverage with pictures from the Schattberg, Zwölferkogel, Hochalm, Reiterkogel and from the track and finish

From 8 pm Attack-Party with LIVE-Band „The Foxes“

10:30 pm Award ceremony on the village square

11 pm Attack Clubbing at the Castello (Saalbacher Hof)

RACE SPECIALS

Youngest participants:

Luca Verem, lebt in München, (CRO), 7.11.2003, Kategorie: Tour

Oldest participant:

Herwig Müller, Grödig (AUT) 18.3.1950, Kategorie: Schattberg Race

Rainer Schindhelm, Rotthalmünster (GER), 29.10.1943, Kategorie Tour +45

Hubert Grünbaum, Bayreuth (GER), 6.10.1950, Kategorie Marathon +45

Track record bonus

If the track record set by Michele Boscacci (ITA) aus dem Jahr 2018, with 2:18:57 is beaten, there will be an extra bonus of EUR 500.

THE „MOUNTAIN MAN“ OF THE PAST YEARS:

Michele Boscacci (ITA) 2019, 2018 (new track record)

Toni Palzer (GER) 2017

Christian Hoffmann (AUT) 2016, 2014, 2013
Tadei Pivk (ITA) 2015

Kilian Jornet Burgada (ESP) 2012, 2011
Konrad Lex (GER) 2010
Guido Giacomelli (ITA) 2009, 2007, 2006
Andi Ringhofer (AUT) 2008, 2005, 2004
Martin Hornegger (AUT) 2003
Mirco Mezzanotte (ITA) 2002
Luciano Fontana (ITA) 2001

Fabio Meraldi (ITA) 2000 Omar Oprandi (ITA) 1999

THE WINNERS 2019 – (shortened Marathon route)

Marathon

Winner Men's: Michele Boscacci, ITA 1:57:23

Winner Ladies: Alba de Silvestro, ITA 2:28:37

Winner Men's +45: Graziano Boscacci, ITA 2:24:47

Tour

Winner Men's: Alex Oberbacher, ITA 1:41:58 Winner Ladies:

Elena Nicolini, ITA 2:08:14

Winner Men's +45: Gerhard Tritscher, AUT 01:53:32

Schattberg Race

Winner Men's: Martin Schider, AUT 46:45 Winner Ladies:

Bernadete Klotz AUT 57:12

ORGANISER

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