



Press release - Chamonix (France), Wednesday 28 August 2024

HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc: A French triumph at the TDS for Marie Dohin and Thibault Marquet while the Juniors shine before the UTMB World Series Finals get underway

After setting off on Monday evening from Courmayeur in an atmosphere crackling with excitement and palpable tension, the runners taking part in the TDS® have almost all crossed the finish line. Today, Chamonix hosted the YCC The Revenge and the Mini UTMB, providing an enthusiastic backdrop for the exploits of the young trail runners. Today also marks D-1 for the OCC which will see 1,200 runners set off at 08:15 tomorrow morning, setting the tone for the UTMB® World Series Finals.



TDS Men's podium
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The French take centre stage at the TDS

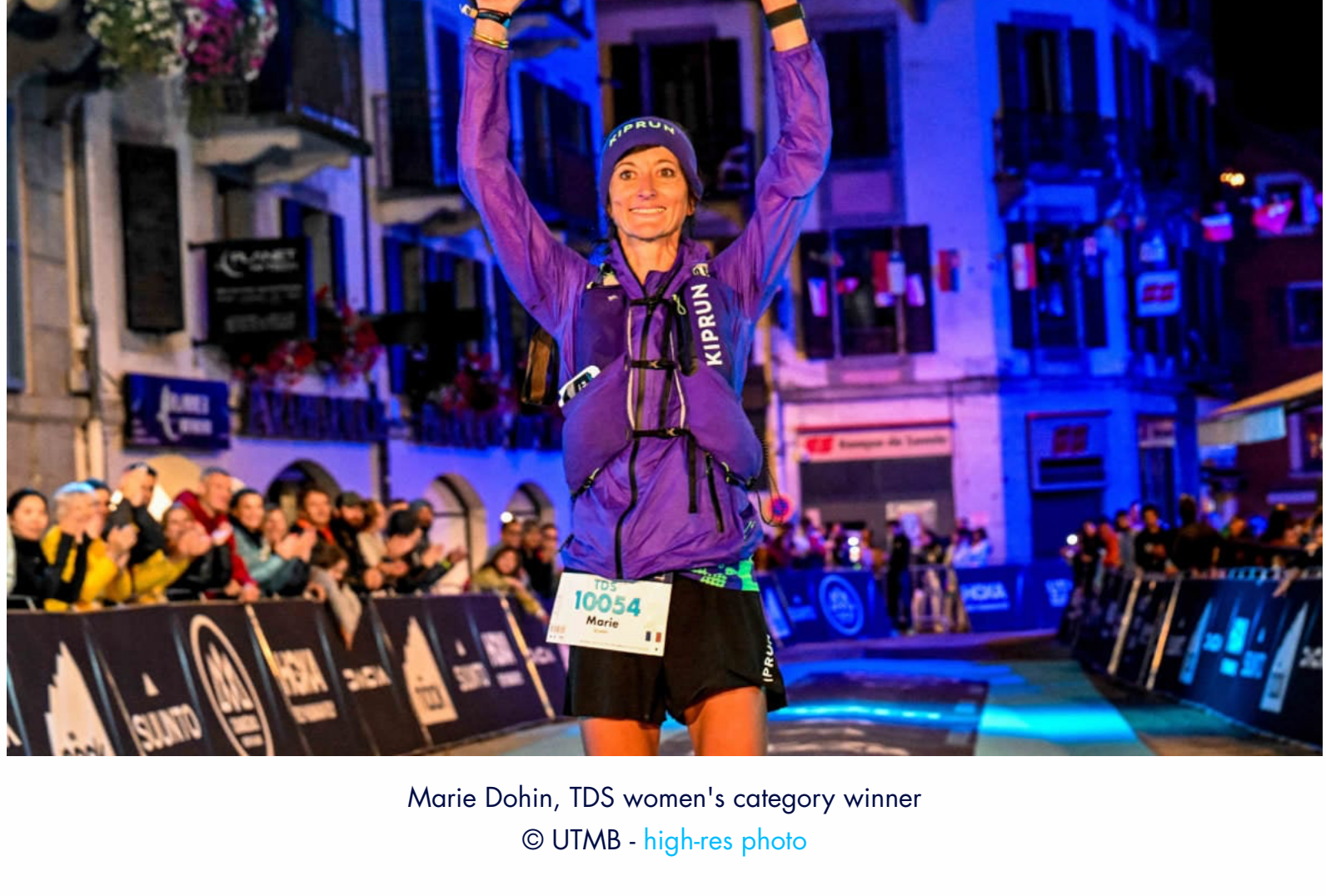
At 23:50 on Monday evening, 1,874 athletes set off from Courmayeur for the TDS challenge: 148km with 9,306m D+ on a particularly technical course. Hot weather conditions conspired to make this edition even more demanding, testing the determination of the runners. In both the women's and men's categories, the TDS saw several French athletes stand out:

Thibault Marquet (FRA - UTMB Index 847), based in the Beaufortain region, mastered the difficult course and the heat to reach Chamonix in 18h59'36", almost an hour ahead of fellow countrymen **Alban Berson** (FRA - UTMB Index 827) who completed the course in 19h26'40" and **Gautier Airiau** (FRA - UTMB Index 862) who finished in 20h07'22".

At the finish line, Thibault Marquet said: *"It was flowing, an incredible day! I'm very proud to have won this race and to have done it this way, deep down I was always hoping for a podium finish. I took the lead at Cornet de Roselend, and then I was carried along by the public as I passed through Beaufortain, where I live. The end of the race was harder, but fortunately I hadn't realised, otherwise I probably wouldn't have finished as strong."*

The women also put up a magnificent fight, inspired by the beauty of the Beaufortain landscapes and the support of the public in the villages and along the route. Savoyard **Marie Dohin** (FRA - UTMB Index 681) finished first in 24h06'01", edging out Switzerland's **Ariane Wilhem** (UTMB Index 746) in second place in 24h42'03" and France's **Céline Finas** (UTMB Index 664), who finished third in 25h41'41".

A few minutes after finishing, Marie Dohin said: *"I'm delighted with my victory today, because I wasn't expecting it! It was a perfect day, with all the indicators in the green, and we were able to enjoy the Beaufortain scenery, which I only saw at night in 2021."*



Marie Dohin, TDS women's category winner
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At the YCC The Revenge and the Mini UTMB, youth runners were in the spotlight

Determined to outdo yesterday's performance, the 307 young runners born between 2005 and 2010, spread out across courses adapted for each age category, and set off from Chamonix in the reverse order of yesterday's ranking. In bright sunshine, the young athletes enjoyed the warmth and enthusiasm of the Chamonix public that propelled them to sporting excellence!

Younger children were also in the spotlight on the Champs de Savoy with 7 races on offer throughout the afternoon for mini athletes aged 3 to 13. Small steps lead to big victories!



Mini UTMB start in Chamonix
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Tomorrow the UTMB World Series Finals get underway with the OCC

Since its launch in 2014, the OCC has rallied residents, elected representatives and volunteers of the Val d'Entremont area - an unspoilt mountain valley in the west of the canton of Valais - to offer a warm welcome to the runners along the 57km and 3,500m D+ course. The route winds through authentic Valais villages, starting with Orsières and its many hamlets, then Champex-Lac and Trient. During the second part of the route, athletes will experience the exceptional scenery of the eastern side of the Mont-Blanc massif, including the Col de Balme with its breathtaking panorama of the Aiguilles de Chamonix, and the demanding ascent of La Flégère, before arriving at the heart of Chamonix itself.

This latest edition of the OCC marks the start of the UTMB World Series Finals, the high point of a week that is a must-do for trail running enthusiasts. The line-up of elite athletes promises exceptional competition.

Among the women, **Clémentine Geoffroy** (FRA - UTMB Index 791), winner of the 2023 MCC, 2023 World Champion and 2024 European Champion, is expected to tackle the 50K format of the HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc for the first time; **Dani Moreno** (USA - UTMB Index 785), claimed victories in the same category on the HOKA Canyons Endurance Run™ by UTMB® last April as well as the Kodiak Ultra Marathons™ by UTMB® last October. Other runners to watch include **Judith Wyder** (SUI - UTMB Index 792), first at the Mont Blanc Marathon 2024 and second on the 50K course at Kullamannen™ by UTMB® last November; **Adeline Martin** (FRA - UTMB Index 755), third at the 2024 European Championships; and **Miao Yao** (CHN - UTMB Index 785), third last year at the OCC and third also at the Mont Blanc Marathon 2024.

In the men's category, a battle is expected between Switzerland's **Rémi Bonnet** (UTMB Index 948), first in July at the 50K Restonica Trail by UTMB® and world number 1 in the UTMB Index; England's **Jonathan Albon** (UTMB Index 933), 2019 Trail World Champion who last year won the CCC® after an epic final against China's **Jiasheng SHEN** (UTMB Index 904); and Italy's **Francesco Puppi** (UTMB Index 919), second last year at the OCC and determined to reclaim top spot in this year's rankings. The two Frenchmen **Sylvain Cachard** (UTMB Index 914), 2022 European mountain running champion and all-time best French performer at Sierre-Zinal in 2h32'45", and **Benjamin Roubiol** (UTMB Index 902), 2023 world long-distance trail champion and 2024 European vice-champion, are also ones to watch.



On the OCC trails
© UTMB - highres photo

Complete and free LIVE coverage

You can follow the OCC and all the UTMB World Series Finals live and on video at live.umb.world and via the event's social media channels.

From Thursday 29 August, you can follow the OCC live from 07:45 CEST.

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Images

2024 UTMB World Series images:

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Note to editors

About UTMB® World Series

UTMB® World Series is the world's ultimate trail-running circuit that unites the sport's biggest stars and passionate runners through the best, leading international events in the most stunning locations. Built on a passion for the mountains with sustainability at its heart, UTMB® World Series gives all trail runners the chance to experience the UTMB® adventure across the world, with events taking place across Asia, Oceania, Europe, Africa, and the Americas. It is the only place where runners can begin their quest to HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc, where the prestigious UTMB® World Series Finals will be held. Launched in May 2021 through the collaboration between the UTMB Group and The IRONMAN Group, the UTMB World Series circuit brings together many of the best international trail-running events on the planet. For more information, visit <https://utmb.world>.

About UTMB Group

Since the creation of HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc in 2003 by a group of passionate friends, UTMB Group has been the driving force behind the development of trail running. The HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc is the sports pinnacle event, and every year, 10,000 runners earn their place on the start line. UTMB Group also pioneered the LiveTrail® technology, an innovative digital service that supports the management of endurance races. Revered by hundreds of thousands of athletes, UTMB® has become a global, premium, and leading brand. In May 2021, UTMB Group partnered with The IRONMAN Group to launch the UTMB® World Series, which brings together many of the best international events on the planet to provide exclusive access to the sport's pinnacle event, HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc. The UTMB® World Series is built on the founding principles of HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc: surpassing oneself; fair-play; respect for people and the environment; and solidarity. Find out more at <https://utmb.world>.

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