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The Great Week of HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc 2024 Concludes: A Historic Event Filled with Unforgettable Moments

Chamonix, France - September 2, 2024 - The 21st edition of the HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc has come to a close, solidifying its place as one of the most exciting and memorable events in the history of trail running. Throughout this week, thousands of athletes from around the world gathered in the majestic Alps to participate in various races, pushing their limits and breaking records. This year, the UTMB not only stood out for its high level of competition but also for the inspiring stories that left an indelible mark.

One of the most surprising and talked-about moments was the victory of Frenchman Vincent Bouillard in the main race, the UTMB. Bouillard, a true outsider who arrived as an underdog with no commercial contracts or sponsors, aspired to finish in the top 10. Instead, Vincent Bouillard (FRA - UTMB Index 832) stunned the world by taking the lead in Courmayeur and never faltering, ultimately claiming the title. Bouillard, a product engineer at HOKA, managed his race perfectly and unexpectedly became the inspiring story of the 2024 UTMB. He maintained a steady pace throughout his achievement, winning the race in 19h54'23", and is now the 5th in UTMB history to complete the course in under 20 hours, following in the footsteps of predecessors Kilian Jornet Burgada and Mathieu Blanchard in 2022, and Jim Walmsley and Zach Miller in 2023.



Vincent Bouillard (FRA - UTMB Index 832), winner of the UTMB at HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc 2024





Katie Schide (USA - UTMB Index 826), winner of the UTMB at HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc 2024.

In the women's category, Katie Schide (USA - UTMB Index 826) soared over the 176 km and 10,000 m of ascent. Adopting the same strategy as in 2022, she took the lead in the women's race, joining the men's group of favorites. From that moment on, her competitors never saw her again. Schide made history at the UTMB by breaking the time record, becoming the fastest woman to complete this challenging course. This achievement is even more impressive considering that the women's competition this year was the fastest ever seen, elevating the sport to new heights. After 22h09'31", the American crossed the finish line in first place and 13th overall!



Joaquin Lopez (ECU - UTMB Index 860), the first Latin American to reach the podium in UTMB history

Latin America Making Its Mark! Another historic moment was when Ecuadorian Joaquin Lopez (ECU - UTMB Index 860) took third place in the UTMB, becoming the first Latin American to reach the podium in this prestigious race. His performance not only made history for Ecuador but is also expected to inspire the Latin community, motivating more runners to follow in his footsteps and aim for the top. Lopez finished 3rd in 20h26'22", adding this podium to a record that includes 2nd in the TDS® in 2022, 11th in the UTMB in 2023, and 3rd in the 100M at Trail 100 Andorra™ by UTMB® in 2024.



Juan Belman (MEX) and David Norris (USA), who in the 50K category at Puerto Vallarta by UTMB, decided in a final sprint who would take 1st place

Additionally, Mexican Juan Belman had a standout performance in the OCC, the most competitive race of the week, finishing in 24th place and becoming the first Latin American to cross the finish line in this demanding race. His performance highlights the growing talent of Latin American runners in high-level international competitions.



Finally, it's important to highlight the record participation of 74 Mexicans in this 21st edition of the UTMB Mont-Blanc. This number reflects the growing interest and presence of Mexico in the world of trail running, demonstrating that the athletes of this nation are ready to face the greatest challenges and be protagonists on the world stage.

A Historic Reunion in Chamonix: The Visit of Verónica Palma and Arnulfo Quimaré



Scott Jurek, Verónica Palma, and Arnulfo Quimaré at the 21st edition of HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc in Chamonix, France.

Another highlight of this week was the visit of Verónica Palma and Arnulfo Quimaré, two legendary figures in trail running. During their stay in Chamonix, both athletes participated in a series of activities that included runs, meetings with runners from around the world, interviews, and historic reunions.

One of the most emotional moments was the reunion of Arnulfo Quimaré with Scott Jurek, 18 years after their iconic encounter in the legendary Sierra Tarahumara, an event that inspired millions and was widely documented in the book "Born to Run." This reunion in the heart of the French Alps symbolized not only the union of two great athletes but also the spirit of camaraderie and respect that characterizes trail running.

Verónica Palma, for her part, stood out for her energy and enthusiasm, actively participating in various activities and motivating other runners with her presence. The participation of Palma and Quimaré was not only a gift for the fans who admire them but also a demonstration of the global impact that the roots and traditions of running have in Latin America.

HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc 2024 concludes on a high note, celebrating not only the winners but all the participants who demonstrated courage, perseverance, and love for the sport. This event has left an indelible mark in the history of trail running, and the next year's edition is already eagerly anticipated, where new stories of overcoming and triumph are sure to emerge.





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2-4.OCT.2025

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Media contact

Lilian Cánovas

lilian.canovas@utmb.world

