

Dutch Triangle

37th Military World Championship Orienteering
Number 2, 1 September 2004

Sunny Opening Ceremony

In contrary of the morning's Model Event, the Opening Ceremony on Tuesday 31th of August was held under almost sunny circumstances. The small shower in the beginning of the official ceremony couldn't spoil the event.

The ceremony started with an entrance of all thirty nations' flags and over twohundred athletes in alphabetical order. The entire event had musical support

from the Dutch Artillery Veterans musicband.



Rainy Model Event

The first training of this championship was a first introduction to the Dutch woods for most of the participants. Under very wet weather conditions sportsman tried to find their way in the forrest. Inside this Dutch Triangle you can find a photo review.



After the entrance of all countries general-major Tony van Diepenbrugge, deputy commander of the Royal Dutch Army, in his short speech welcomed all visitors from the thirty different nations.

For then the ceremonial part was shortly interrupted by a fantasy show of the 'Close-Act', a theater group playing so called 'visual street theater' on an inventive way with impressive acting and magnificent costumes. Three different dragons, ladies dressed as butterflies walking on stilts and a lot of smoke and fire were just a couple of the ingredients.

Last part of the ceremony was the officially opening of the 37th Military World Championship Orienteering were declared open officially.

Profile

Name: Klaas Morsing

Rank: Sergeant I at the Dutch airforce

Function: LSO for the Swiss team

Goals: 'Giving the Swiss a good time during the tournament'

Kick of orienteering:

'Orienteering is an adventurous sport. I didn't know that sport before the tournament, but I

really like it. My hobby is survival run. Orienteering and that sport have typical similarities. A runner from the Belgian airforce who I knew, have already invited me for orienteering.'

Being a LSO:

'For the third

time I'm LSO for military world championships in Holland. Before being LSO for the Swiss I used to be LSO for the Danish pentathlon team and LSO for the Saudi Arabic taekwondo team. My job as LSO is this year not difficult. The Swiss know how to find their way. As LSO of Saudi Arabia last year I had to do a lot of other things. Like guiding them to the first Megapool store where these guys bought many household appliances and boxes full of fruit for their temporary stay in Holland. Or bringing the team leader, of course at a very hidden way, many sixpacks of beer. The Swiss will make my job as LSO this year a lot of easier. That's for sure.'



320 Maintenance Company:

The hidden force behind the tournament

The civilian and military personnel of the Dutch 320 Maintenance Company from 't Harde are modest. They don't push themselves forward, but without them there was no 37th Military World Championship Orienteering at all.

The personnel of 320 Maintenance Company are always busy: driving the busses going to and from the areas of orienteering; assisting the sportjury during the tournament; making the signs with country names; constructing tents, tables and chairs for the sportive battle; assisting in the opening ceremony. And even helping 101 Engineer Battalion in digging holes for the flagpoles.

Captain Henri Nitert, quality-manager of that unit, tells he and his men are already busy for more than 2,5 months in organizing the event. 'Of course, first only some staffpersonnel was involved, but now, during the tournament, we are at some days even with 100 men here. For

getting personnel for this tournament from other Dutch units was not easy. Right now, the whole Dutch army seems to be involved in exercising and training somewhere abroad. Next to our role during this tournament we have also our normal work to do for the Dutch army. With so many personnel here, it is not always easy to maintain our normal level of service.'

Nitert himself knew the sport of orienteering because of a colleague. Most of his men heard for the first time about this sport when being asked for the organization of this military world championship. 'What does it matter', the captain tells. 'My personnel will get all the information they need by the lead of the tournament. For them this tournament is a nice change of work. As long as it's nice weather of course.'

Civilian personnel of '320' is clocking in the runners at the model event.



It's raining, it's raining



It's raining, it's raining. A famous song that seems to be written especially for Holland right now. This summer is the wettest one in about fifty years. As you have already noticed it rained a lot: last three months rainfall had an average of about 320 mm for the entire country. Usually it's about 750 mm in an entire year. In some parts of Holland it was even worse: in one month only (August) over 300 mm of rain came down. But, weather forecast is getting better: the second part of this championship's period will be without rain and possibly even the sun starts shining.

Meet and Greet



Monday evening 30th of August a first party was held in the CISM-bar. Almost all participants of the thirty countries visited this 'Meet and Greet' party.

Today's programm

- 10.00-16.00 hrs: Short distance competition
- 10.00-12.30 hrs: Laying Wreath Airborne Oosterbeek
- 15.00-19.00 hrs: Opening times mobile laundry

Photo Review Model Event



After 6 months of practicing

‘We Colombians want to win the championship’

Orienteering is a very new sport in Colombia. But still the Colombian team believes it can win this military world championship. Why? ‘We practiced and practiced every day. And we have our jungle where we even practiced during nighttime.’

Five years ago the sport of orienteering reached Colombia. It was then only a civilian sport despite the fact the participants were partly dressed in uniform and carrying a rifle. ‘Since two years Colombian participants are following the international rules’, says Gustavo Sanabria, second year cadet at the military academy of Cali. The sport is still very unknown. ‘When orienteering in builded areas people are asking us what we are doing. When we are explaining we are looking for an orange triangle, they look at us saying we are crazy.’

For the first time

The Colombian team is existing of six cadets of the army and the airforce. The team started to practice at the beginning of this year. For the first time they are abroad, but they are hopefull for the victory at this tournament. Victor Manuel Cortes, third year cadet: ‘We really want to win. Second place is no fun for us. Every day we were running distances of 15 kilometers. We are able to win, because our

training was very hard. We have practiced a lot.’

And not always under the best circumstances while Colombia is still involved in an internal war. ‘Some forrests are not safe because of guerilla warfare’, confirms Sanabria.

‘Because of the fact we don’t have orienteering maps for the area around Cali, we are mostly practising around our capital Bogota’, tells Cortes. The Colombians are expert in a remarkable disciplin: orienteering during nighttime. ‘This way gives you a good practice: you only have a map and a compass and not any help of external information”, says German Ramon, also third year cadet.

Colombians at the model event



Name: Predrag Makulincic

Rank: Corporal Croatian army

Kick of orienteering: ‘I like orienteering a lot. But going to the tournament was this time not easy for me. When leaving Croatia I knew my baby would come soon. I just heard that right now my wife is giving birth. Of course a strange feeling. Despite the pregnancy of my wife I decided to go to this tournament. Why? I’m a soldier and consider my coming to here as my duty. Besides that, I want to support my team.’



Profile

Tactics: ‘No, we didn’t have real tactics for going to this tournament. As team we were able to practise for two weeks before going to here. The mapmaker who made the maps for the military world championship in Holland has also made ten maps in Croatia. Because of that we will understand the map made for this tournament easier. That’s an advantage. The terrain here is very sandy. That’s why I hope it will rain. It does make the terrain much more easier to run at.’

Chances in winning: ‘Of course the Russians. They always win. It’s almost boring! My favourite are because of that the Norwegians. Please, let them win this year.’

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