

Dutch Triangle

37th Military World Championship Orienteering

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Classic distance, exhausted runners

With the soundtrack of shooting of the nearby Dutch infantry range, the classic distance brings more sounds to the forrest than the breaking branches and the puffing and blowing runners.

Bang! Ratata! The shootings coming from the nearby Dutch infantry range are so clear to hear, all runners know now definitively why this tournament of orienteering is called the military world championship. The runners don't mind. They are only concentrating at one of the three maps they will get during the classic distance. Almost nine kilometers for the female runners and more than 15 kilometers for the male runners.

At the starting area most runners are disappearing as soon as possible in the forrest. The Slovenians Jozse Svrnjak and Karmen Cundr who are starting at the same time, are looking at each other maps. Svrnjak points the direction Cundr have to run. And gone are they. Despite the different routes of men and women sometimes a long line of runners is to see when leaving the forrest and reaching the open areas. Most runners have however no problems in finding the points along the road, a problem most runners experienced the day before at the short distance. 'This day however there are some new difficulties like the sun shining often in your eyes', tells the Lithuanian runner Herijus Sulcys after arriving at the finish. Linda Nordin of Sweden did have more problems with the terrain which was very heavy because of the



Results Classic Distance:

Men:

1. Wo. Roman Efimov, Russia, 72.52
2. Capt. Raimo Turtinen, Finland, 73.06
3. Lt. Valentin Novikov, Russia, 73.23
4. 2Spt Slawomir Wozniak, Poland, 75.11

Women:

1. Wo. Tatiana Riabkina, Russia, 49.24
2. Pte. Jeva Sargautytė, Lithuania, 51.32
3. Wo. Julia Novikova, Russia, 52.23
4. Pte. Gøril Fristad, Norway, 54.15

Profile

Name: Roel Cuppen

Rank: Sergeant-major (sport) at the Dutch army located in northern Germany

Function: Head of the starting area during the 37th World Championship Orienteering



Goals: 'Being sure everything is going well at the starting area. Let's say: from the moment the bus is arriving with the runners till their start.' **Kick of orienteering:** 'I'm more fan of hockey, but I know the sport of orienteering well enough for checking

everything is going well. I'm doing it myself once or twice a year. Of course I like to be here at this tournament. It's a sport characterized by fair play. Maybe because it's from Scandinavian origin or because almost everyone is knowing everyone. It's almost a family sport.'

Always fairplay? 'As the runners are arriving at the starting area, we are sometimes checking they don't have a mobile phone with them. The area of orienteering have to be secret. When the first runners have arrived at the finish, they are of course not allowed to call for informing other members of their team. The same rule of course for leaving the finishing area prematurely. As far I know fair play is still the rule at the sport of orienteering. I'm at the starting area for the overview. Members of the Dutch union of the sport of orienteering have allready checked the chips and checked and cleared the names of the runners. As the runners are standing at the mark of the starting area, I don't have to do much more than enjoying the match.'



Having a quick drink while checking the last map for the last run to the finish.

sandy parts. The good side of that, she says, is the possibility of remarking better the competing runners behind you. 'Because of the open parts of the area many runners are running faster than normally', adds Robert Banach of Poland, 'despite the risk to make more mistakes. The finish however is for most runners a big relief. For most runners a good possibility of drinking a lot of fresh water,



Reaching the finish was a relief to most of the participants.

for some other runners like the Portuguese Marco Pova and the Dutch runner Olga Zwikker the possibility of taking any breath. For the first time today they are able again to hear the shootings from the nearby infantry range. Yes, the classic distance was a tough one.



Today's programm

- 09.00-17.00 hrs: Cultural Day Amsterdam
- 17.00-19.00 hrs: Social organising and supporting personnel
- Mobile Laundry closed



Drinking water directly after finishing.



Together studying the map directly after starting.



Running the last hard meters to the finish.



Running through the woods in the neighbourhood of the start.

Harskamp 'Crisis Center'



Most of the logistics and support to this championship is done by personnel of 320 Maintenance Company. In building 119 they have their 'crisis center' in which everything is co-ordinated



Visitors Run

Orienteering is unknown in Holland. For giving the Dutch public the possibility of knowing this sport better, a so called visitors run was organised. 45 runners made use of this introduction to orienteering by running five kilometers through the area.

New fan for the Croatian team

In the second edition of 'Dutch Triangle' the Croatian runner Predag Makulincic was telling during the interview his wife who is in Croatia, is getting a baby, right at the time of that interview. One of his team members informed us that Makulincic is now the father of a nice little daughter. Makulincic who will not return to his family before the end of this tournament, is now busy with thinking up a nice name for her.

Estonian team counts more female than male athletes

Thirty teams are participating to this Military World Championship. Only one of that teams has more female than male athletes: Estonia. Since 1994 the country sends a team to the military championships orienteering, but only since the year 2000 the team has female athletes.

The present four females in the team are experienced, three of them are taking part for the third time now, only one of them is a beginner. A beginner, but only in the military world championship. All four of them have a lot of experience in different tournaments. 'In Estonia orienteering is a very popular sport', Maret Vaher starts. 'About 4000 people are practicing the sport, that's a lot if you know that our country only counts 1,3 million inhabitants', Kirti Rebane continues. 'But we have a lot of forest in Estonia, it's about forty percent of our country.'

As told before, all four athletes are experienced. They

train at least four times a week and run in a lot of competitions. 'If you want to, you can take part to a game every weekend. Even in winter it continues with ski-orienteering. In our forests we have a lot of skitracks. You can compare the ski-orienteering with driving with a car in a city you don't know.'

So far, the four girls are satisfied with the championships. Although it's a bit harder as expected. 'The maps are much more demanding than I expected', Vaher tells. 'You carefully have to choose your speed if you don't want to make a mistake on the map', Rebane thinks.

The terrain in Harskamp surroundings are similar to the Estonian forests. Annika Rihma explains: 'The only main difference is that Dutch woods are more clean: we have very green forests with a lot of bushes on the ground. This is much better to run: you don't hurt your legs while running.'



Ruth Vaher, Kirti Rebane, Annika Rihma and Maret Vaher (left to right)

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Profile

Name: Maria Jesus Menchon

Rank: Lieutenant veterinary medicine at the Spanish army

Kick of orienteering: 'After swimming and cross country I switched one year ago to orienteering.

Someone of my team told me there would be more possibilities for me in orienteering than in cross country. It became true: much to my surprise I noticed I became second best female runner in my team. Orienteering is a nice sport, it combines mental and physical efforts very well.'

Tactics: 'We practiced in the Spanish area of Murcia, but the terrain here differs a lot.'

Medical background: 'At the army I'm responsible for veterinary medicine. Besides physiotherapy I don't know if my profession will be useful for my team. Medications for an animal are not the same as medications for a human being.'

Chances in winning: 'Spain is not that good in orienteering. My country is better in football and tennis. I'm just doing this sport for one year, so I don't know the changes of other teams or other runners.' Laughing: 'Maybe I will know them better during the disco night at the canteen of these barracks.'

