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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 23, 2006

Boettcher



Masters Runners Dominate Teva Vail HalfMarathon

Vail, CO ----- The top three men and two of the top three women finishers at today's Teva Vail HalfMarathon were over 40 years of age showing their younger counterparts that age breeds experience and determination on a tough course boasting 3100 feet of vertical gain.

Former Teva U.S. Mountain Running Team Member Andy Ames, 43, Boulder, ran the 13-mile route in 1:34:26 for the win, followed by 2004 HalfMarathon champion Bernie Boettcher, 43, Silt, in 1:37:10. Rounding out the top three was Kenneth Pliska, the youngest of the trio at 40 years of age who finished in a time of 1:40:46.

For the women, last year's top two finishers repeated their one-two placing with Anita Ortiz, 42, Eagle, running 1:57:46 to eclipse Aurora Leon, 33, by nearly five minutes. Leon's time was 2:02:29 which was less than 20 seconds ahead of number three finisher, Heidi Vosbeck, 45, Vail, who crossed the finish line in 2:02:44.



Today's race started at 8:00 a.m. just east of Vail Village on Golden Peak at an elevation of just over 8,200 feet. The course was mostly uphill on service roads, along with some portions of single track terrain, for the first seven miles and then traversed the upper portions of Vail Mountain climbing ever so slightly before descending a majority of the final six miles. Even though there was a good amount of downhill running, the course still finished at just over 10,000 feet at the top of the Eagle Bahn Gondola.

There were two cutoff points along the course, the first at the four-mile point which runners had to reach before 1 hour and 20 minutes. Most of the nearly 200 competitors made the cutoff at the first check point, and the next checkpoint at approximately the seven mile mark eliminated just a few more racers. Aid stations on course were at miles 2, 4, 7, 9, and 11. In addition to aid station volunteers, there were also Vail Mountain Ski Patrol members located throughout the course to help monitor the runners.

Mark and Julie, Ski Patrol





Dehaan

A total of 185 runners finished the race with times ranging from 1:34:26 to just under four hours. The competitors were diverse in ages with the youngest finisher 16-year-old Kyla Berendzen who finished 83rd overall in a time of 2:22:20, and the oldest finisher 71-year-old Vici Dehaan, Boulder, in 3:24:36 for 178th position. Dehaan is training for the Pikes Peak Marathon to be held on August 20. She hopes to repeat her age-group win from 2005.

Not only did the competitors represent a wide range of ages and abilities, they also hailed from 10 different states, many from the flatlands of the Midwest like the running couple of Chris and Kelly Stripling, Kansas City, Missouri.

Chris Stripling had ridden much of the route on his mountain bike yesterday logging more than three hours on the trails. He wanted to get a full weekend workout in to prepare for Ironman Florida which he will compete in this November. The 38-year-old triathlete finished in 2:46:07, a bit slower than anticipated, but a time he was ultimately happy with.

Another Midwesterner at the race was Thaddeus Duhme, 30, Minneapolis, MN who befriended the Striplings last year at the Hood to Coast Relay in Oregon. Renowned as the largest relay in the world, Hood to Coast is a 197 mile trek from Mt. Hood through downtown Portland and on to the finish at the coastal town of Seaside. The three met up through a program at Hood to Coast designed to pair up athletes for 12-person teams. They are still looking for some team members to join them in August for this year's race.

Duhme drove straight through to Vail from Minneapolis yesterday leaving the Twin Cities at 6:00 a.m. and arriving in Vail at 8:00 p.m. ready to race this morning. With a personal marathon best of 3:13, Duhme had hopes of running about two hours at today's half marathon. He finished in 51st place, 15th in his age group timed in 2:14:53. Duhme was back in his car after the race for the long drive home.

Equally as flat as the Midwest, or perhaps more-so, is the southern state of Florida where competitor Rima Andrews calls home. Andrews was in Vail for a visit and decided to give the race a try. The 34-year-old raced to a 2:36:48 to finish in eighth place in her age group.

Running his first half marathon was Clive Egan, 34, Great Britain, who prior to today's race, had never raced more than six miles. "I completed a duathlon (running and biking) that had a six mile run and thought it would be fun to try a longer race," said Egan at pre-race registration on Saturday afternoon. Egan finished in 2:32:28.

Every runner has a story. Kristi White, 23, Steamboat Springs, ran her hometown half marathon this past June finishing in about 2:08. "I did the Steamboat half and saw this (race) advertised in the newspaper and decided to come over and run it," said White on Saturday afternoon. Her estimated finish time was 2:45 and she bettered her prediction racing to a 12th place finish in her age group in 2:41:09.

Ken
Wilson
50-59
winner





New recruit of the Eagle Mountain Runners – of which Anita Ortiz is a member – 40-year-old Rob Crawford had a strong 13th place finish in his age group timed in 2:14:32. Crawford's wife Cindy, a long time Eagle Mountain Runner, finished in fifth place in the masters age category running 2:24:31.

Another popular running group in Eagle County, the Mountain Divas, trains out of the Vail Athletic Club with coach and mentor Ellen Miller. One of the newest Divas, Susan Breeden, lives in London with her family and visits Vail in the summer. Breeden planned to use the race to train for a running trip in Europe later this summer. She finished today's race in 2:43:31.

Most of the competitors stayed for the awards ceremony following the finish at Eagle's Nest. The top three male and female finishers overall received

gift certificates for Teva footwear while the top three finishers in each age group 19 and under, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60+ also received gift certificates. There was no duplicate prize giving although all participants were eligible for random prize drawings.



In addition to the top finisher awards, each participant received a commemorative T-shirt, goody bag, and race refreshments at the finish line. The T-shirts were designed by runner and artist Bernie Boettcher.

Named best race series of 2005 by regional magazine *Colorado Runner*, the Teva Vail Mountain Trail Running series celebrates its ninth anniversary this year. In order to be scored as a series finisher, participants must complete at least four events. The Teva Vail HalfMarathon is followed by the Teva Tiga Berry Picker (5k/10k) on August 13 and on September 10, the fifth and final event of the series will be held – the Teva Joint Worx EverGold 10K. Series awards will be presented at the September 10 event during the race awards ceremony. Last year's series boasted more than 1100 participants with nearly 20 runners completing all races in the series.

Winners in the first series event on June 11, the Teva First Bank of Vail 10K at 10,000 feet, were Helen Cospolich and Bernie Boettcher. Cospolich also won the women's division in the second race in the series, the Teva Vail HillClimb on July 2. Simon Gutierrez, a five-time member of the Teva U.S. Mountain Running Team was the overall winner.

Individual race entry is \$25 or \$35 on race day. Runners can register for the remaining events Online at active.com, print out an entry form at www.vailrec.com and mail, or fax their completed entry, or stop by Vail Recreation District at 700 South Frontage Road East to drop off their entry (the building with the large clock next to the tennis courts at Ford Park). For the Teva Tiga Berry Picker, runners can register and pick up their runner number at VRD on Saturday, August 12 between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.





Series title sponsor Teva footwear introduced the Teva Mountain Running Club earlier this year and invites all athletes to join at www.teva.com. Series sponsors include First Bank of Vail, Joint Works Physical Therapy, Vail's Mountain Haus, Tiga Advertising, Howard Head Sports Medicine Centers, Steadman Hawkins, and Gatorade.

For more information including results and press releases from last year's series, and to view course maps visit www.vailrec.com

Top finishers at the 2006 Teva Vail HalfMarathon:
Men:

1 Andy Ames, 43	1:34:26
2 Bernie Boettcher, 43	1:37:10
3 Kenneth Pliska, 40	1:40:46
4 Joshua Smith, 20	1:41:22
5 Scott Oberbreckling, 42	1:42:13
6 Antonio Holguin, 40	1:43:32
7 Hans Funke, 45	1:43:54
8 Sean Larnin, 27	1:44:14
10 Nacen Gray, 27	1:48:19
9 Alex Willis, 18	1:46:35



Pliska, Boettcher, Ames

Women:

1. Anita Ortiz, 42	1:57:46 (19th overall)
2. Aurora Leon, 33	2:02:29 (28th overall)
3. Heidi Vosbeck, 45	2:02:44 (29th overall)
4. Kristen McLaurin, 36	2:07:51
5. Amy Reynolds, 29	2:11:41
6. Jamie Brant, 32	2:13:06
7. Amie Bervy, 41	2:15:00
8. Megan Morrissey, 37	2:15:09
9. Stephanie Scholl, 43	2:16:11
10. Jeanne Blatter, 48	2:16:23



Ortiz, Leon, Vosbeck

