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2008 Teva U.S. Mountain Running Team Selection Process

The Teva U.S. Mountain Running Team will compete in the 24th World Mountain Running Trophy in Crans Montana, Switzerland, during the weekend of September 13-14, 2008. This year's Trophy races are uphill only events (as opposed to odd-numbered years when the events are held on up/down courses) with the senior men running approximately 12km, the senior women and junior men running a distance slightly over 8km, while the junior women run approximately 4.5km.

The women's team includes four athletes with the top three finishers scoring for the team. Six athletes will represent the men's team with the top four finishers scoring. The junior men's team includes a maximum of four with top three scoring while the junior women's team is a maximum of three with the top two scoring. Team manager Nancy Hobbs, Colorado Springs, CO, team leader Richard Bolt, Portland, Oregon, team manager for the juniors Dave Dunham, Bradford, MA, and women's team manager Ellen Miller, Vail, CO will accompany the team to Switzerland.

At the USATF annual convention in Honolulu on December 2, the Mountain Ultra Trail (MUT) Council chose two races from which automatic qualifiers to the U.S. team will be selected. The USA Mountain Running Championships will be hosted at Mt. Washington (7.6 miles) slated for June 21 in Gorham, NH. The top four U.S. men and the top U.S. woman finisher at Mt. Washington will receive automatic berths on the team. Vail Mountain in Colorado will host the second and final selection race on July 20 with the Berry Picker Hill Climb (approximately 5 miles) where the top U.S. man, the top two U.S. women, and the top junior man will receive automatic berths.

Bob Teschek, race director for the Mt. Washington Race, said the following when he learned of the selection races for 2008, "That is great news indeed. We're looking forward to an exciting duel among the top U.S. runners this year!"

Joel Rabinowitz, race director for the Berry Picker Hill Climb, noted the history of Vail hosting a team selection race in his comments, "Vail is proud to have hosted selection races in both the uphill and up/down disciplines. This year we offer a challenging course on the mountain, a course which includes both single track terrain, loose rocks, tree roots, gravel, and significant elevation gain from base to summit. We applaud the USATF Mountain Ultra Trail Council for their decision to select a junior man at our race in addition to the senior selectees. Hopefully this will attract some promising young athletes to the Vail Valley on July 20."

The remaining members of the senior squad, (one male, one female), will be selected by the Mountain Ultra Trail Council with input from the team staff based on results at the selection races, past World Trophy events, national and international racing experience including mountain, road, cross country, and track. Athletes **MUST** run a selection race in order to be considered for the team. To be considered for the team all team members **MUST** be current USATF members prior to running a selection race. Interested athletes should submit running resumes to: Richard Bolt (richard.bolt@usmrt.com) and Nancy Hobbs (trlrunner@aol.com)

The team will be selected based on the following criteria (Note: Must be current USATF members prior to the selection race):

- The top four U.S. males and the top U.S. female finisher at the USA Mountain Running Championships (June 21) receive automatic berths.
- The top U.S. male, the top two U.S. female finishers, and the top junior male (provided he finishes within 10% of the top female finisher and/or meets junior qualifying standards) at the Berry Picker Hill Climb (July 20) receive automatic berths.

The remaining team members will be selected by the Mountain Ultra Trail Council with input from the team staff based on:

- Results in the above named races.
- Prior World Mountain Running Trophy performances.
- International mountain results.
- National mountain results.
- Regional mountain results.
- Trail and road results.

Juniors Team Selection – 2008 Teva US Mountain Running Team

For team consideration, the junior athlete:

- Must be at least 16 and not yet 20 in the year of competition.
- Must have posted a 16:45 or better (junior men) and 19:30 or better (junior women) in a 5km road or cross country event. (Equivalent times – from an alternate race distance that translate to the aforementioned time criteria – will be considered for distances other than 5km.)
- Must have experience running (in training and preferably racing) on courses similar to the event.
- Must be mature, motivated, with a positive attitude to proudly represent the United States and sponsors internationally, under the rules of USATF and the event governing bodies.
- A letter of recommendation from a coach, parent, or mentor-runner must accompany the athlete resume.

Resumes (including road, trail, track, and cross country results and current training info) will be accepted through July 21. Send resume and recommendation to: Dave Dunham, dave.dunham@comcast.net, or contact Dave at: (978) 474-9745. Team members will be announced by August 1, 2008.

For additional information visit the websites listed below:

Teva US Mountain Running Team	www.usmrt.com
USA Mountain Running Championships 2008	www.gsr.com
Berry Picker Hill Climb	www.vailrec.com
USA Trail Championships 2008 and 2009	www.runningseries.com
World Mountain Running Association	www.wmra.info
USA Track & Field	www.usatf.org
World Mountain Trophy 2008	www.wmrt2008.org/pages/fr/
World Mountain Trophy 2007	www.coursedes2bains.org/presentation-wt07-fr.html
USA Mountain Running Championships 2009	www.whitemountainmilers.com
American Trail Running Association	www.trailrunner.com
Teva	www.teva.com
SportHill Clothing	www.sporthill.com
Fleet Feet Sports-Boulder	www.fleetfeetboulder.com
Windermere Real Estate Teton Valley	www.juliebryan.mywindermere.com



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