



Deposita Red Ants Rumble – 9 – 11 February 2007

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Written by Sakkie Meyer

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A Rumble..... it certainly was in the Magoebaskloof area. Mountains, Caves, Mountains, Kloof's, Mines, rain forest and once again, more mountains.

The 17 teams entered for the race all met on the Friday evening for race briefing and a short prologue. The prologue was a fun filled event with three different exercises; an obstacle course, a run and wall climb and a go-kart push. Each team was timed over each exercise, the fastest combined time winning the prologue. It all lasted around 20mins and was a good way to settle the nerves.





The main race started at 3am, with teams starting at 30 second intervals based on their prologue result. We started in 6th place with a brisk 5km run collecting a checkpoint along the way. It was then into our canoes for a 12km paddle, our strongest discipline. We caught and pass the two front teams and had a quick transition onto our new full suspension Giant Anthems (Yeeeeehaaaaaa) for the next leg, a mountain biking section. This ended up being very interesting. We made a BIG navigational error. So big that we ended up back at the same house an hour after we had passed it earlier in the morning, after doing a very interesting bush whack hike a

bike! Was good to test the sense of humour so early in the race.

When we finally got to the next transition we were back in 11th position, an hour behind the lead team. We did the kloofing section, which involved a few jumps, an abseil and a rope climb, catching up with the other teams forcing us to lose more time queing at the different obstacles. It gave us more time to enjoy the awesome scenery.

After passing a few teams in transition we headed off on the next mountain bike section in 6th place, with great hopes of closing the gap to the lead teams. This was a fairly easy cycle and predominantly downhill. The next transition was unassisted, though we did have access to one box which a few small ants had carried in for us.

We had picked up to 4th place and headed out for the 21km hike. It started with 7km of climbing up an old jeep track. This was a looong climb. We had to ascend over 800m! There was still mist covering the top when we got there, making it difficult to see where we were heading. At CP7 we did our first caving section that took about ten minutes. Let me just say it was great fun, though caving is not made for tall people like me. We had closed the gap to the 3rd placed Team USN and passed them with a better route choice to the steep path that would take us down into the Serali Forest. It waswith big trees



and ferns growing all over the place. USN caught up to us and the pace heated up a bit. Both of teams not wanting the other to get away. By now the sun was coming



out and it was getting very very hot. We stopped off to lie in the stream for a minute just before entering the unassisted transition together in joined 3rd place.
more like a rain forest

The last leg was a monster cycle. At first it didn't feel like a cycle leg, it started with one hell of a climb, which took us over an hour and a half to get to the top. One way to test our humour and guts! I hit a wall bigger than the China wall, so much so that Jeanette pushed my bike for a while. When we got to the check point at the top it was a welcome sight to see our seconds. After some time out in the shade with ice cold drinks and food it was back on the road. Tweet had me on the tow-rope for a while until we got to the down hills, where gravity took over. By the time we got to the next CP at the cave I felt a lot better. We were still in the running for 3rd. What an awesome cave with some breathtaking stalagmites and stalactites. From here we had a very interesting cycle again back to the main gravel road. Let's say, it turned into a hike a bike, which we did with Team USN. When we finally got to the top we had some awesome downhills, where we finally managed to break away from Team USN after they developed some bike problems.

We reached the old mine just as it was getting dark. Too our surprise the 2nd place team, Team Jeep were just leaving. After heading through the old tunnels and clipping the CP, we headed off for the last stretch to the finish with yet another uphill. We got to the last CP, happy that the finish was only 3km away. To our surprise on leaving this CP we saw 4 lights coming in the opposite direction. It was Team Jeep, who had gotten lost. It was then a mad dash to the finish, finally finishing second in just over 19 and a half hours, showing that consistency and not giving up helped. Well done to Team Cyanosis for a great win.

Thanks to Team Red Ants for a wonderful race. Also thanks to our seconds – Mike Bird, Ian Jacobs, Stuart and Jessica Rawlinson.



Finally thanks to all our sponsors,



whom this would not be possible without:

- McCAIN for all the support
- SALOMON for the footwear and backpacks
- GIANT – for the Anthem mountain bikes, which performed fantastically the whole race
- ENERGY DYANMICS – for the energy products necessary to keep us going!
- LINDEN CYCLES – for all the great service and advice.