



Press Release – Press Conference Challenge Regensburg: "The region is going to experience a fantastic race!"

In the famous shadows of Regensburg Cathedral a long race day will come to its spectacular end on August 14th. At the press conference near the race site, where over one thousand long-distance triathletes will experience their most memorable finish, the Finisher shirts were presented to the public for the first time.

Numerous journalists were welcomed in the "extraordinary atmosphere" of the historic "Herzog Hall" as well as Mayor Joachim Wolbergs, Head of District Tanja Schweiger and the Mayor of Neutraubling, Heinz Kiechle.

Mayor Joachim Wolbergs started the press conference with a confession: "I admit it. I am to blame," he states with a **smirk**. "I have asked Sonja and Tom Tajsich to bring triathlon back to Regensburg. Because when it comes to the future of the region, we are told again and again that we need do something for the quieter tourism periods. That's why Challenge Regensburg is going to be a success", he justified this step. "Together with not only Regensburg but the whole region, we now have an event that is produced by a huge family, which comes from Regensburg."

Furthermore he **reasons**: "If you've got a homegrown elite athlete like Sonja Tajsich, who lives the sport like she does, it is an opportunity you can not deny. You need to work with them!"

Clearly he was already fascinated by the triathlon feeling. That's why it was no surprise that he announced he's going to be part of the action on race day: "I am looking forward to race day. I'll be out there all day for sure - as a spectator... "

Head of District Tanja Schweiger also stands up for the Challenge Regensburg event. "I am pleased that Challenge Regensburg will be an event for the region and with the region. For one and a half years, we have been working together. And let me tell you, we have worked a lot over the last few weeks. Now only the final touches are left to do. I'm sure Challenge Regensburg is going to be a unique race. Not only for athletes but also for guests and the region. "

Just as enthusiastic the Mayor of Neutraubling, Heinz Kiechle, explained: "I am pleased that Neutraubling, as the "little brother" of Regensburg, is going to be part of the action. I've never before told you that I am an enthusiastic swimmer. Therefore, it makes me even happier that we can contribute the beautiful Lake Guggenberger See to bring a special event to the region. We're looking forward to welcoming the international audience that will not only bring a lot of guests, but also the famous goose bump-feeling."

Der Challenge Regensburg online

Im Web: www.challenge-regensburg.com

Auf Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChallengeRegensburg

Auf Twitter: www.twitter.com/Challenge_RGB #ChallengeRGB



Tom Tajsich looked back to the early days of planning the event: "15 months ago, Challenge Regensburg was announced to take part in 2016. This announcement caused a flood of e-mails. Many of these mails were full of enthusiasm, some were skeptical and some even said we were crazy. Probably we are. Crazy. No, of course we are triathlon-crazy. But that's what makes our team special."

"We have experienced many things over the last year. I'd like to mention just some examples of perfect cooperation with the authorities: Mrs. Sojer-Falter and Mr Remling from the **Landratsamt** Regensburg for example, have accompanied us to several meetings with regional organizations. Also, Mr. Brunnbauer at the Office of Sports and Recreation provides us with help and advice.

We are now three months out and I can say: 'We are ready'."

In less than three months the 1,100 currently registered individual and relay athletes will stand behind the starting line. Thirty-one nations will be represented. Along with the women's and children's run on Saturday and the Mittelbayerische Beginners Triathlon, around 2,500 athletes are expected at Regensburg. "That's a fantastic number," Tajsich says pleased.

PICTURE: Tom Tajsich, Heinz Kiechle, Tanja Schweiger, Joachim Wolbergs, Sonja Tajsich, Alexander Haubensak "The region is experiencing a fantastic race!"

Numerous projects and activities will attract athletes and those interested over the next few weeks and months. Just to mention a few: There will be preparation programs for beginner triathletes and runners, which will lead to the entry-level distances. Or race course checks for athletes of all abilities.

Also there will be three charity teams racing Challenge Regensburg. The goal: to swim, bike, run and **raise** at least 1,000 Euros. The amount will go to a regional Leukaemia Support Foundation. „We hope to raise at least 1,000 Euro. But of course we'd be happy if it would be more in the end,“ Armin Wolf, the initiator, says.

He will get active himself as well - as a swimmer in the media relay. Claus Wotruba of the Mittelbayerische newspaper will continue the 180 kilometers by bike. "Then comes Evi who will roll up the field from behind," Tom Tajsich announces laughing. The TV presenter admits: "Last year in Munich I ran my first marathon. At that time I said, I will never do this again. But I could simply not resist the 42.2 km on the spectacular course in Regensburg and the finishline at the Cathedral."

CHALLENGEREGENSBURG will take place in Regensburg on August 14, 2016. More information about the event is available at www.challenge-regensburg.com

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ABOUT CHALLENGE FAMILY

The **CHALLENGEFAMILY** series of triathlons features 47 full and half distance races in 25 countries around the world, including the world's largest long distance triathlon – Challenge Roth in Germany. The birthplace of the Challenge Family, Challenge Roth now features over 5,500 athletes and 250,000 spectators and home to both world records held by Andreas Raelert (GER) and Chrissie Wellington (GBR). Since 2002, races throughout Europe, UK, Australasia, Asia, North America and South America have joined Roth. Together they provide athletes with a new experience of long distance racing with a strong focus on athlete and spectator experience, giving back to the community while respecting the legacy of sport and being committed to its continued growth. For further information on Challenge Family visit www.challenge-family.com.

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