



Mayr and Lobodzinski crowned World Champions

After a thrilling 2 days of competition at the Aspire Torch Staircase Run, it was Poland's Piotr Lobodzinski and Austria's Andrea Mayr who made history as the first ever winners of the Towerrunning World Championships, with Australia taking the team gold. After the qualification races on Friday, both Lobodzinski and Mayr were on pole position for the F1-style mass start, and despite the strongest fields ever assembled in a stair race, maintained their positions to the top.

The women were first off the mark and after a surprisingly close qualification between Mayr and Suzy Walsham (AUS), the final produced one of the most thrilling battles ever in a women's stair racing event, with Mayr pushed all the way before eventually winning in 7:50, with Walsham 4 seconds behind in 7:54. After the sprint start, the top 8 women entered the building close together, but by the 10th floor, Mayr and Walsham had broken away from the pack. Walsham stuck to the heels of Mayr till the 40th floor, before the 5 times World Mountain Running champion showed her strength and pulled away to maintain her unbeaten stair racing record. "The race today was very tough" said Mayr "but I am very happy to win here." Walsham was equally happy with her race, commenting "It was always going to be tough to win here but I am so happy with my performance – it was a great 2 days of racing for me." Third place went to Poland's Dominica Wisniewska-Ulfik, who was thrilled with her Championships performance "I am very happy to get a medal. I was fourth after the qualification so to go one better in the final is great."

In the men's race Lobodzinski also entered the building first, but was never challenged and went on to take the win by 17 seconds in 6:35. "I am very happy to be the winner of the first ever Towerrunning World Championships", said the Polish star, "It was perfect race for me". The minor medals proved a tougher battle with some overtaking and changing of positions from the starting grid order, but it was Australian duo Mark Bourne (6:52) and Darren Wilson (6:58) who eventually came away with the silver and bronze. "It was a tough race with a lot of strong competition, so I am really happy with the silver medal" said Bourne. After starting in 6th position, Wilson was also excited to come away with a medal "I had a crack and finished third, so it was awesome."

The team competition was based on the results from the qualification round, and the favourites, Australia, were dominant, winning by 44 points. The results were closer for the silver and bronze with the Czech Republic edging out Austria by 14 points.



“The first TWA World Championships in Doha were a great success with an incredibly exciting competition and the most star-studded international field in the Towerrunning history” says TWA President Sebastian Wurster. “We are very grateful for the excellent collaboration with Aspire Zone Foundation and appreciate the hard work of the entire event crew including dozens of volunteers who made this project possible.”

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