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2005 Teva U.S. Mountain Running Team Selection Process

The Teva U.S. Mountain Running Team will compete in the 21st World Mountain Running Trophy in Wellington, New Zealand on Sunday, September 25. Additionally an open race competition will be held on September 25 prior to the World Trophy junior and senior events. This year's Trophy races are uphill/downhill events (as opposed to even-numbered years when the events are held on uphill courses) with the senior men running 13.5km, the senior women and junior men running 9.1km, and the junior women running 4.7km.

The team is sponsored by Teva, the title sponsor and official footwear of the team, and SportHill apparel. Teva has been the title sponsor since 2002 and we are pleased to welcome SportHill this year, the first year as an official team sponsor. Additionally 180s has joined as a team gear sponsor and manufacturer of such items as the ExoLite™ Ear Warmer, Convertible Running Glove™ and Eye Gear. And bag sponsor Ground has joined as a team sponsor as well and provides a large duffel bag and backpack to each team member.

The women's team includes four athletes and an alternate with the top three finishers scoring for the team. Six athletes and an alternate 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. The alternates will run in the Open race, or should another athlete be unable to compete, in the Trophy race. Team leader Richard Bolt, New Hampshire and junior team manager Tom Borschel, Idaho will accompany the team to New Zealand.

At the USATF annual convention in Portland, Oregon in December 2004, the Mountain Ultra Trail (MUT) Council chose four races from which automatic qualifiers to the U.S. team will be selected. The USA Trail Running Championships will be hosted by the Gore-Tex USA 10Km Trail Running Championships slated for June 4 in Vail, CO. The top two U.S. men and the top U.S. women finisher at the 10Km will receive automatic berths on the team. The Northfield Mountain Race, a 15.3km for men and 10.2km for women, on June 25 in Northfield, MA will serve as the second selection race where the top U.S. woman and the top U.S. man receive automatic berths. Traveling to the Midwest on July 16 competitors will enjoy the third selection race, the Teva Devil's Trail Race in Merrimac, WI a 4.9km for juniors, a 9.8km for women, and a 14.7km for men. In Merrimac the top U.S. male and top U.S. female finisher will receive an automatic team berth. The final selection race will be held August 7 in Cranmore, NH with the Mt. Cranmore Race, a 13.8km race for both men and women. The top U.S. male finisher will receive an automatic berth on the team. There will be prize money at several of these events and the Gore-Tex USA 10Km Trail Running Championships also serves as the second annual North American Central American Caribbean Championships (NACAC).

The remaining members of the squad, (one male, one female plus alternates for both teams), will be selected by the MUT Council based on results at the selection races, past World Trophy events, national and international racing experience including mountain, road, cross country, and track. The heaviest weight will be placed on finishes in the selection races. 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 (rbolt@emersonecologics.com) or 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 two U.S. males and the top U.S. female finisher at the Gore-Tex USA 10km Trail Championships (June 4), our NACAC Championships, receive automatic berths.
- The top U.S. male and top U.S. woman finisher at the Northfield Mountain Race (June 25) receive automatic berths.
- The top U.S. male and top U.S. woman finisher at the Teva Devil's Race (July 16) receive automatic berths.
- The top U.S. male finisher at the Mount Cranmore event (August 7) receives automatic berth.

The remaining team members will be selected by the 15-member USATF Mountain Ultra Trail (MUT) Council 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 – 2005 Teva US Mountain Running Team

For team consideration, the junior athlete:

- Must have posted a 16:45 or better (junior men) and 19:30 or better (junior women) in a 5K road or cross country event. (Equivalent times will be considered for distances other than 5K.)
- Must have experience running (in training and preferably racing) on up and down 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 15th. Late breaking information and results can be added until August 10th. Team members will be announced by August 15, 2005.

Each Teva U.S. Mountain Running Team Member receives the following:

- Official USATF National Team apparel supplied by SportHill
- Teva footwear
- Duffle bag and backpack provided by Ground
- ExoLite™ Ear Warmer, Convertible Running Glove™ and Eye Gear supplied by 180s
- Airline ticket to New Zealand, or up to \$1200 for senior team members and \$650 for junior team members - whichever is less (more funding is contingent upon additional sponsors)
- Lodging and meals for the 4-night/5-day stay in Wellington

For additional information visit the websites listed below:

USA Trail Running Championships	www.tevamountaingames.com
Northfield Mountain Race	www.usatfne.org
Teva Devil's Race	www.trailrun.wors.org
Mt. Cranmore	www.whitemountainmilers.com
World Mountain Running Association	www.wmra.info
USA Track & Field	www.usatf.org
World Mountain Trophy 2005	www.mountainrunning.org.nz/
All American Trail Running Association	www.trailrunner.com
Teva	www.teva.com
SportHill Clothing	www.sporthill.com
180s	www.180s.com
Ground	www.groundwear.com

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