

Italian Ivan Coudin Won The 28th Spartathlon

Italian Ivan Coudin succeeded to win the «SPARTATHLON 2010» and managed to capitalize the 7th best record in the 28 years of the Games. The race was the distance between Athens-Sparta which is 246km.

The participation of the 28th SPARTATHLON was a record for the competition as 325 athletes of both gender took part from 32 countries.

First Greek athlete was Stergios Anastasiadis who had an excellent appearance and finished 10th (in 29 h 3' 14"). It must be pointed out that Mr Anastasiadis is a military officer in NATO, in Spain, and he came to Greece just to take part in Spartathlon. Good appearance also succeeded Mr Dimitris Petroliaqkis who finished 19th (in 30h 34' 26") while Mr Giorgos Koutsoukous finished 25th (in 31h 41' 38").

First woman and 14th in the final position is Emily Gelder from Great Britain (in 30h 17' 3"). In the 32th position managed to finish the second woman Mrs Masumi Yoshimura.

Italian Ivan Coudin, with clever strategy and stable tempo, managed to make the difference after the Parthenio Mountain, arrived to Sparta (3 minutes after 6:00 am) and finished in front of the statue of Leonidas, where the local people applauded the winner in the finish line. «I dedicate this victory to my family, to Italian athletes who helped me and especially in the memory of the 27 years old friend of my sister who passed away a few months ago. The race was extremely difficult. The competition was very good», declared Ivan Coudin when he crossed the finish line.

Almost half an hour behind the Italian athlete finished the Dutch Jan Lantink (23:31:22) screaming «Hellas» when he touched and kissed the legs of the statue of Leonidas. Even though he was tired from the over - exhaustion, Lantink sat in front of the statue with his daughter Emily, where he shouted «Viva Greece». «I will not do it again. That is the end. He explained that Holland hasn't the high meter of Greece and he needed similar weather conditions in order to adjust himself in the difficulties of SPARTATHLON. In third position finished the German Jan Prochaska in 24 hours, 55 minutes and 58 seconds.

PANAGIOTIS TSIKIRIS

This year everything was great to a very significant year for SPARTATHLON which completed 28 years since 1983 where it was established, when the British captain of RAF John Foden and his team a year ago ran experimentally from Athens to Sparta.

SPARTATHLON this year completes 2.500 years from the great battle of Marathon and the competition revives the deed of dayrunner Pheidippides, who arrived to Sparta to ask for help "the day after his departure from Athens" as this has reached us through the writings of the great antiquity historian, Herodote. The president of the International Organisation SPARTATHLON Mr. Panaciotis Tsiakiris was satisfied with the competition of 2010. "It was a

difficult race because of the humidity that was against the efforts of the athletes. Despite the economic and the organisational difficulties because of the strike of big trucks, the competition was successful. The 28th competition fills 2.500 years since the achievement of Pheidippides, and it had the biggest number of competitors. This fact depicts that SPARTATHLON has become an international institution" mentioned Mr. Tsiakiris.