



FOTO: TOM KELLY

The first Worldloppet race ever: Dolomitenlauf 1979

## Dolomitenlauf – Everybody is a winner over himself

One of the founder members of Worldloppet, the Dolomitenlauf race first saw the light of day in 1970, the brainchild of Robert Steiner, who is still associated with the race today. It was he who brought to the race the twin mottoes 'Jeder ein Sieger über sich selbst' (Everybody is a winner against himself) and 'Dabei sein ist alles' (Taking part is everything), which epitomise the spirit of popular racing and of the Dolomitenlauf in particular. Together with the Marcialonga and the Koenig Ludwig Lauf, Dolomitenlauf formed the Alpentris in 1973 and, with the addition of Vasaloppet and the Finlandia-hiihto, was a member of Euroloppet, from which the idea of Worldloppet was born. Until Czech Republic's Jizerska Padesatka was admitted to the Worldloppet family, Dolomitenlauf was always the opening race of Worldloppet season.

Dolomitenlauf has a history of 38 years and many traditions that were mostly supported by long-time Mayor of Lienz – Hubert Huber. For the first

time in 1974 the finish of Dolomitenlauf was brought to the main square of Lienz, which demanded a lot of work from all locals and tight cooperation with the city authorities. For a long time H. Huber acted as the "Mayor of Worldloppet" who wanted to bring all the Worldloppet-family around one table. He well understood the importance and Dolomitenlauf's meaning for the city and was always ready to help when necessary.

In Lienz the initial ideas of Worldloppet have been followed for 30 years. In the frontline there are cross country skiing and friendship without borders. The Dolomitenlauf is therefore an athletic challenge where people with the similar goals gather from around the world. According to the slogan of Dolomitenlauf „everyone is a winner over himself“, every participant will be warmly greeted and celebrated in the finish.