



The eighties - start of the race on Hrabětická louka



FOUNDING & HISTORICAL FACTS

The Jizerska Padesatka (50 of Jizera) was established as a race testing performance for the mountain climbers from the TJ Lokomotiva Liberec club, who prepared themselves for severe mountaineering expeditions at the end of the sixties. The race was organised by the Ski club of Liberec town. The first race was held on the last Saturday in January, 1968 with 52 competitors taking part; it led through the Jizera mountains from the village of Bedrichov to Korenov and back. The winner was Josef Driml from the organising club.

All the members of the Expedition Peru 1970 took part in the third edition in 1970. Four months later on 31st of May the members (including 15 founding members of Jizerska Padesatka) were buried under a rock avalanche caused by an earthquake on the 6768 meters high mountain Huascaran in Peru. Since 1971 the race has been a memorial event for this tragedy and is also called „Memorial Expedice Peru 70“ to commemorate those climbers.

As the years went by, the race became very popular, the number of competitors grew and reached 7863 participants by the tenth year. As such a large crowd of skiers was regarded as being too damaging to the ecology of the Jizera mountains, a limit of 3000 participants was set in the late 1980s. In the following years, the number of entries decreased slightly. This was partly a result of the changing political situation. Nowadays, participation in the main race (50 km in classic technique) has stabilised to a total of around 2500 competitors.

The most dedicated participant in the Jizeska Padesatka is Ladislav Mika who has taken part in every race since the year 1968.

From the very beginning the race was highly valued because of its good organisation. Although early attempts to join an international long distance ski series were not successful, mainly for political reasons, this first step was achieved in 1995 when Jizerska Padesatka was included in the Euroloppet

family and became a candidate for the Wordloppet. Hard work during the following years resulted in the Jizerska 50 being admitted to Worldloppet membership in 2000.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL RACE

was in 2006, with excellent snow conditions and a sunny day for the competition.

THE MOST EXTREME RACE

was in 2001. Poor snow conditions forced the organisers to change the start and finish 2 days before the race.

FEATURES

The Jizerska Padesatka course, which runs through the Jizera mountains environmental protection area, is quite unique and has a very good profile