

## ATHLETISME

Ascension Guinness du Mt Cameroun**COMMENT LEKUNZE A VAINCU SES CONCURRENTS**

LA 12<sup>e</sup> édition de l'ascension Guinness du Mont Cameroun s'est achevée dimanche en début d'après-midi. Celle-ci a vu Timothy Lekunze Léku Singer sa seconde victoire consécutive. Et de la belle manière ! Le jeune marathonien, camerounais à mis 3 h 46 mn 31 s pour « calader la montagne et revêtir l'héritage ainsi de 1 mn 26 s son record qu'il détient depuis l'an dernier et qui est désormais de 3 h 47 mn 57 s.

Chèz les femmes, la première à franchir la ligne d'arrivée a pour nom Effonge Christian Embelle qui a mis 5 h 47 mn 15 s dans le trajet stade municipal de Buéa - sommet du Fako et retour. Elle aura aussi battu les deux derniers records détenus par Mojoko Ngonja Emilia qui réalisa les performances suivantes 5 h 58 mn en 1985 et 6 h 00 mn 02 s en 1986. Le temps is par Mme Effonge se situe toujours en deçà du record de 1984, 5 h 4 mn 57 s chez les dames. Lekunze a reçu des mains du Dr Joseph Folé le mérite sportif de 2<sup>e</sup> classe en même temps que son trophée de vainqueur de cette 12<sup>e</sup> édition de l'ascension Guinness. Aux côtés du ministre, on notait la présence de M. Issa Hayatou, directeur des sports au ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports. M. David Hampshire, directeur général de Guinnes Cameroun S. A. du gouverneur de la province du Sud-Ouest, M. Magloire Ngulamba et de nombreuses personnalités tant administratives que politiques et sportives venues pour la circonstance des autres villes.

La belle fête qu'est l'ascension Guinness du Mont Cameroun qui cette année comme les précédentes, a connu un grand succès sur tous les plans, a commencé samedi 24 janvier. Les équipes masculines et féminines de l'Office national de commercialisation des produits de base ont disposé de celles de Fan's de Buéa respectivement par 29 à 24 points et 52 à 39 points. Dans la soirée, au cours de la conférence de presse organisée au Mountain club de Buéa, les représentants de la presse tant nationale qu'internationale ont été

mis en contact avec les concurrents notamment ceux venant de pays lointains, pour connaître les raisons qui les ont conduits à venir cette année participer à une expédition du « Char des Dieux ».

Le dimanche 25 janvier au matin, en présence d'une foule nombreuse, le ministre de la Jeunesse et des Sports le Dr Joseph Folé donne le départ de la 12<sup>e</sup> édition de l'ascension Guinness du Mont Cameroun. À 7 h les 276 concurrents présents dont 22 étrangers et 11 femmes prennent la direction de Upper Farm. Une fois les athlètes partis, les spectateurs restent alors découvrir le côté culturel de la compétition. En effet, sur l'aire de jeu du stade, les groupes de danses traditionnelles rivalisent de talent alors que joue la fanfare du Baptist Teachers Training School. A tout ceci se mêlent les démonstrations de yoga et autres exhibitions de karaté.

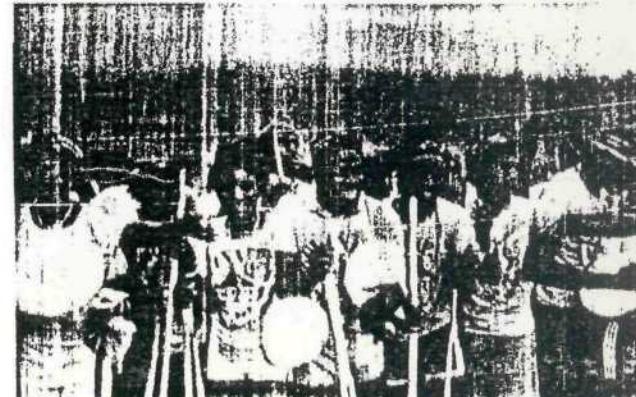
C'est dans cette ambiance de carnaval que les hauts parleurs diffusent les résultats par étapes de l'ascension, du Upper Farm au sommet, un sommet, un système de télécommunication relie les différents postes de contrôle à un autre installé au stadium de Buéa. C'est par ce dernier poste que les observateurs suivent le déroulement de la compétition. Il apparaît que dès le départ, Lekunze a tenu à saisir le contrôle de l'ascension.

Il est arrivé premier à la hutte 1 avec un temps de 43 mn, de même qu'à la hutte 2 à 1 h 30 et au 3<sup>e</sup> refuge après 1 h 20 accusant ainsi un retard de 1 mn 20 à la montée. Il est suivi par Tala Thomas jusqu'au second refuge où ce dernier est déclassé par Litute, puis Ndémah Joseph Biame Diffo Nguesso, le Suisse Faïtou Christian. Au sommet déjà, Lekunze est toujours en tête. Derrière lui à deux minutes seulement se trouvent Litute et Fatton.

Mais à la descente, Lekunze allonge le pas. Et telle une locomotive fonce en direction de la ligne d'arrivée. A 9 h 45 - 10 h 45 seulement, il est au 3<sup>e</sup> refuge à 10 h soit 3 h de compétition. Il bat le second refuge dès lors le classement final s'est déjà presque fait chez les hommes. Lekunze en tête, a dépassé Upper Farm à 10 h 39 et franchit en solitaire la ligne d'arrivée à 10 h 46 mn 31 s soit temps total de 3 h 46 mn 31 s. Un record est battu. Celui de l'an dernier (3 h 47 mn 57 s). Litute qui arrive en seconde position ne peut pas l'égaler il a mis 3 h 50 mn 55 s.



Lekunze comme ici l'année passée, a franchi dimanche la ligne d'arrivée en solitaire (Photo archives).



Des concurrents sur la ligne de départ (Photo archives).

La troisième place revenait à Tala Thomas Dzever. Mais à 200 m de la ligne d'arrivée, il perd l'équilibre et s'écroule. Fatton le champion d'Europe des ascensions en profite pour lui souffler ce classement. Il se contentera de rang de quartier. Mike Short, vainqueur des 9<sup>e</sup> et 10<sup>e</sup> éditions de l'ascension Guinness du Mont Cameroun a fini 23<sup>e</sup> (presque dans les rangs) avec 4 h 37 mn 36 s. Il n'a même pas approché de ses propres records (3 h 56 mn 17 s ou 4 h 06 mn 32 s). La cause ? Il est arrivé malade. Il souffre depuis six mois et déjà la veille on l'a vu trainer le pied.

Chez les femmes, on attendait Mme Mojoko Ngonja Emilia. On a découvert Mme Effonge Christian Embelle, celle-ci a pulvérisé les records de Mme Mojoko qui n'a pas conquis sa quatrième couronne. Elle a mis 5 h 47 mn 15 s contre 6 h

20 mn 02 l'an dernier et 5 h 58 mn il y a deux ans. Seulement elle est à 3 mn du record de 1984 de Mme Sarah Ewelisane (5 h 44 mn 57).

Voilà le reste les différents classements de cette 12<sup>e</sup> ascension Guinness du Mont Cameroun qui a été dotée de 6.160.000 F de prix Messieurs : Lekunze Léku Thi mothée 3 h 46 mn 31 s, 2 Litule Wallerson 3 h 50 mn 55 s., 3 Fatton Christian (Suisse) 4 h 05 mn 16 s., 4. Tala Thomas Dzever 4 h 05 mn 45 s., 5. Ndémah Joseph Biame 4 h 05 mn 52 s., 6. Lyonga Robert Ekerme 4 h 09 mn 54 s., 7 Elive Nname David 4 h 12 mn 47 s., 8. Bwange Molea Andreas 4 h 16 mn 29 s., 9. Dinga Stephen 4 h 16 mn 56 s., 10. Ngon Njombe David 4 h 19 mn 42 s.

Dames : 1<sup>re</sup> Effonge Christian Embelle 5 h 47 mn 15 s., 2. Mojoko Ngonja Emilia.

**Essoula NUCK BIDJECK**

N

68 minutes avec une partie de 6

## 2nd Edition Guinness Mount Can Lekunze is champion again

The 1987 edition of the Guinness Mount Cameroon race saw no ear-to-ear smile as Cameroon's leading long distance runner, Timothy Lekunze repeated last year's exploits by regaining championship. He did the race in 46 mins 34 secs reducing last year's record one minute 23 seconds.

Two hundred and forty six runners off at the Buea Municipal Stadium at 6 a.m. in the presence of the Minister of Youth and Sports Dr. Joseph Kengabi and thousands of spectators who had come to Buea for the event. Speculations were rife on

the eve of the event as more renowned foreign mountaineers made their appearance in Buea. Attention was earlier focused on the 1976 Montreal Olympics runner Joseph Kengabi 29, from Kenya and Fatton Christian 27 of Switzerland, Europe's one time junior mountain racing champion.

Mike Short, twice winner of the Mount Cameroon Race surprised spectators this time around when he failed to come among the first ten. In an earlier interview, Mike Short complained of ill health due to injuries sustained in practice sessions. The emergence of a hitherto unknown

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It was however a dramatic finish for Tata Thomas from Bui Division, North West Province who collapsed a few metres to the finish line, only to be overtaken by a jubilant Fatton Christian from Switzerland, for the third place.

guess of a previous champion to proven talents like Lekunze and Short.

A clerk with the Royal Exchange Assurance Limbe, Litute age 29, first entered mountain racing in 1982 occupying the 16th position in 1983, he led all through and could have been champion but for a fateful collapse barely one hundred metres to the winning line. Came 1984 and Litute emerged 5th only to sink to the 24th position in 1985.

Prizes totaling over CFA six million

Mount Cameroon Race

## Lekunze does it again

For an on-the-spot report of the race, turn to page 24.



Timothy Lekunze : A repeat performance of last year's exploits fetching him a medal of honour.

were awarded to winners with Lekunze grabbing CFA one million. The second and third places got respectively CFA 500,000 frs and 350,000 frs. The first ten places were occupied by the following :

Lekunze Timothy 3H. 46.34 ; Litute Walterson 3H 50.55 ; Fatton Christian 4H 05.16 ; Tata Thomas 4H 05.45 ; Ndemah Jo-

seph 4H 05.5  
Lyonga R. Eke 4H 09.44 ; El Namme David 12.47 ; Bwange N lea 4H 16.09 ; Dir S. Tafili 4H 16.5 Ngou Njombe 19.42.

The Minister of Youth and Sports Dr. Joseph Fose, the name of the Head of State, decorated Timothy Lekunze with the second class order of merit in recognition of his achievement. The minister expressed total satisfaction with the organisation of the event lauding the sponsors, Guinness Cameroon S.

their promotion of sports in the country. Trophies and medals were also awarded to the three winners of the race by the minister.

By Emmanuel Tacko on special assignment to B

I can not hope to meet his standards easily.

Another Swiss, 45 years old Piaget Jacques said the event was a great one and probably the biggest in the world.

Dumas Rene, a 35 years old architect who was listening to the interview cut in and declared from the mountain is dangerous. "In Europe there is no descent. The end of the race is at the summit. He said to have been placed 15th in the race was a marvellous achievement for him which he would live to remember but added humorously that he might not come next time unless his nightmare of descending is neutralised.

By Plus Kwendi

## the sky is my limit -- Lekunze

1987 edition of the Guinness International Mount Cameroon race is now over and done with. Lekunze declared that he is ready for all challenges. "This is just the debut of me and what I intend to do is to be nothing compared to my achievements" Lekunze added.

After he received his CFA 1,000,000 prize, Lekunze said he did not think he had any convincing challenge completing his course. "I will round off this academic year,"

shortly after he received his CFA 1,000,000 prize, Lekunze said he did not think he had any convincing challenge completing his course.

According to reports that he will be hiding before his race, he reported, "I don't like to nervous speaking with people. You stay away from people because energy. You can be easily defeated by hearing people say. So you need to stay and meditate. As a good you need be reserved."

Below are the results of the Thursday and Sunday matches (13th and 14th playing days).

Lekunze agreed that Mike Short's exposure to the public before the competition was responsible for his embarrassing demise. "Mike spent a lot of time in receiving people and talking."

The champion told our reporter that he trained very hard but regretted that he beat his record by a bout of malaria and cough which he suffered barely one week to the event.

Lekunze says he hopes to continue running until old age and hopes that even the sky will not be his limit as long as he practices hard.

According to him, he would have little for training after school completed to his present time schedule which he says is too tight owing to his academic pursuits.

Meanwhile, Fatton Christian the 27 years old Swiss national who apparently stole the third place at the competition said he had been challenged into participating in the race following Lekunze's exploits in previous races in Cameroon and abroad.

The Swiss said Lekunze had done a lot to popularise the Guinness International Mount Cameroon race overseas following his successive and impressive performances. He says he had been training for the race for one year now but admits that Mount Cameroon is "a difficult mountain".

"I have seen many mountains in Europe and run them, but be sure that this one is not so easy. Lekunze is a very strong man indeed."

## National Division one League matches

### Cammark hit highest

Cammark Social Club of Bamenda got the highest scores since the start of this football season when they trounced Caiman of Douala 5-1 on the Mahkon Municipal Stadium last Thursday. They followed up their scoring spree last Sunday with a 4-1 beating on Entente of Ngaoundere.

Below are the results of the Thursday and Sunday matches (13th and 14th playing days).

THE TELEPHONE

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## 12th Edition Guinness Mount Cameroon Race

# A gruelling test of stamina

Handing trophies to winners of this year's Mount Cameroon race, the Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr. Joseph Fofe lauded the uniting efforts of the sponsors, Guinness Cameroon S.A. in the promotion of sports in the country.

The Mount Cameroon race has rapidly gained the reputation of a gruelling and exciting international sport, testing speed, stamina and strength in every contestant. The winners are drawn

as far afield as Kenya, Switzerland, Britain and Germany.

Coming third in this year's encounter was Fatton Christian aged 27 from Switzerland. A forest guard by profession, Fatton heard about Mount Cameroon race from the exploits of our own pace setter, Lekunze in foreign races.

As the Minister of Youth and Sports noted, the Mount Cameroon race has put Cameroon in the international

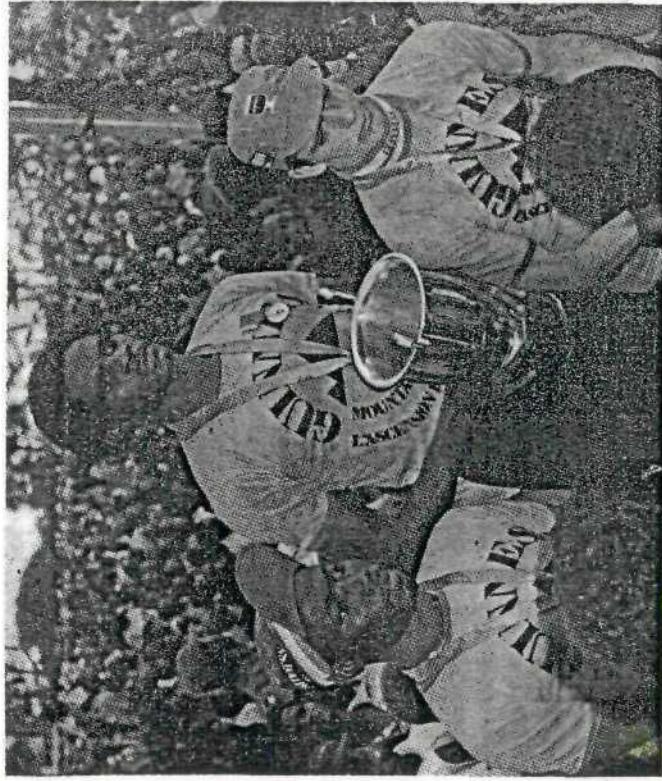
sporting limelight and Lekunze, more than anyone else has contributed immensely in making the sport popular. It was in recognition of this that the Head of State through the Minister of Youth and Sports awarded him a medal of honour.

Other winners in the race receive varying incentives. Guinness Cameroon pays the following to the winners:

1st - CFA 1,000,000, 2nd - CFA 500,000, 3rd - CFA 350,000, 4th - CFA 200,000, 5th - CFA 150,000, 6th - CFA 100,000, 7th - CFA 80,000, 8th - CFA 70,000, 9th - CFA 60,000, 10th - CFA 50,000, Fastest climber CFA 50,000, Fastest decent CFA 50,000 and First lady CFA 100,000.

Each runner who did the race in the appropriate time received CFA 10,000.

For reasons of safety only 350 participants were accepted and 276 actually took part in the race. Runners reported at the starting



Fatton Christian receives trophy from Dr. Fofe. He heard about Mount Cameroon race from the exploits of Lekunze (Photo INFOCAM Buéa)

Timothy Lekunze: The champion arrives setting a new record (Photo Araba File) In dated not later than December 25, 1986 and with identity cards.

whistles which had to be worn throughout the race. In case of accident, a runner