PERE AURELL CONQUERS THE 14TH EVEREST TRAIL RACE BY TUGA AND JOINS THE SELECTED GROUP OF WESTERN WINNERS

STAGE 6 | 28.50 km | +1,694 m / -2,730 m | Cumulative altitude: 4,424 m Tyangboche-Lukla

Pere Aurell Conquers the Khumbu: Historic Victory at the 14th Everest Trail Race

The Catalan runner masterfully manages the technical final descent into Lukla to prevail in a thrilling head-to-head battle against local favorite **Milan Kulung**, joining Jordi Gamito and Miguel Heras on the race's exclusive list of Western winners. In the women's field, **Ang Furba Sherpa** claims her third crown after dominating Nepal's high mountains.

LUKLA (NEPAL).– The Khumbu Valley has spoken once again. Following six days of semi-self-sufficiency, dizzying elevation changes, and altitudes that push human physiology to the absolute limit, **Pere Aurell** etched his name in gold at the fourteenth edition of the **Everest Trail Race by Tuga**. Living up to pre-race predictions, the Catalan athlete secured a victory of immense technical and strategic weight in the heart of the Himalayas.

The sixth and final stage—a demanding 28.50-kilometer course between the Tyangboche monastery and Lukla featuring 1,694 meters of ascent and 2,730 meters of descent (4,424 meters of cumulative elevation change)—presented the ideal terrain for a final ambush by **Milan Kulung**. A true virtuoso on the rugged, technical descents of these latitudes, the Nepalese runner started the day needing to erase the 19-minute cushion **Aurell** had built over the previous stages.

However, the Catalan demonstrated a deep understanding of the mountain environment and impeccable tactical composure. Far from conceding ground

on the endless stepped downhills and technical singletrack leading into Lukla, **Aurell** shadowed **Kulung's** every move for most of the day. He dictated the pace, controlled every crest, and neutralized every breakaway attempt by his direct rival.

Spanish Sweep in the Lukla Finale

While the battle for the overall classification played out down to the finest detail, the final stage win featured a strong Spanish presence. **Ricardo Cherta** unleashed his top-end speed to cross the Lukla finish line in first place, edging out runner-up **Abel Carretero** by barely a minute. **Pere Aurell** completed a top-tier Spanish podium sweep in third, finishing roughly two and a half minutes behind **Cherta**—a performance that even allowed him to extend his final winning margin over **Milan Kulung**.

With this triumph, **Aurell** shatters a historic barrier in a race traditionally dominated by Sherpa and local athletes, who are naturally adapted to both hypoxia and the technicality of Himalayan terrain. Across fourteen editions, only two other Western runners had ever stood atop the final podium: **Jordi Gamito** and **Miguel Heras**. It is a monumental sporting achievement in an edition also shaped by the absence of the race's all-time record holder, Nepal's **Suman Kulung Rai**.

Ang Furba Sherpa Reaffirms Her Hegemony

In the women's race, Nepal's high peaks once again crowned an undisputed queen. **Ang Furba Sherpa** displayed her customary mastery at high altitude and on technical ground to claim her third **Everest Trail Race by Tuga** title. Her dominance was absolute, crossing the final finish line with a lead of more than two hours over fellow Nepalese runner **Sonima Sherpa**, who finished second. Meanwhile, Italy's **Giuliana Arrigoni** put together a solid week of racing to deliver a standout performance in the women's standings.

As the final runners arrive in Lukla, the Himalayas draw the curtain on another sporting expedition. Race organizers are already looking ahead to November 2027, which will mark the 15th anniversary of one of the wildest, most technical, and iconic stage races on the international trail running calendar.