



Suunnistus- MÄNKIJÄ 9 2026



The first team raced with exactly the same line-up as at Esi-Jukola just over a month earlier, where they finished third. Uldis ran the opening leg, Russe the second, and Hesa anchored the team. Photo Timo Mikkola.

TuMe doubles up in the top four

Suunnistuspöytäkirja is the newsletter of the orienteering club Turun Metsänkävijät, which is distributed by email almost on the first Monday of every month. It can be read on the club's website under "Jäsenille". Send announcements, tips, pictures and reports about your competitions, training, trips. The deadline is always at the end of the month. Address is kari.vainio@tume.fi.



Fisu and Russe came in almost together from the second leg, sending Jossu and Samu out on the anchor leg in 6th and 7th place. They were just under two minutes behind the leaders, with their closest chasers also two minutes behind. TV screenshot.

Two strong teams

– It was rather clean work. Taking own forkings with a good confidence. In very difficult and stony terrain indeed, coach Taini wrote after Lakeuden Viesti.

The result was two excellent team performances, finishing second and fourth. There were also six great individual performances – or actually seven, considering that Hatman from the third team reached the first changeover four seconds ahead of Uldis from the first team.

Just under a minute ahead of them was Yannick from the second team, who had recovered well from the previous day's half marathon.

On the second leg, the shape of the relay began to emerge. Ikaalinen was leading, while Fisú kept the second team well in contention, moving up one place and maintaining the gap to the leaders. Russe, meanwhile, set the fastest pace behind the leader, dropped the others and reached the changeover together with Fisú.



Uldis, Russe and Samu on the podium together with winners Ikaalisten Nouseva-Voima and third-placed Tampereen Pyrintö. The last time a TuMe team stood on the second step of the podium was at the 2023 Viestiliiga final in Simpsiö – and earlier that same year at Lakeuden Viesti in Seinäjoki. Photo: Timo Mikkola.

Two flying anchors

TuMe's teams headed out on the anchor leg in 6th and 7th place, just under two minutes behind the leaders. Their closest challengers, meanwhile, were already two minutes further back.

– But as always, a good relay result requires a strong anchor leg. Today we had two of them. The boys went out in 6th and 7th place but came back in 2nd and 4th. The last kilometre in particular was something special, Taini summed up immediately after the relay.

The start of the anchor leg did not look quite as promising, however. Of the runners ahead, only Jämsä's Aarni Ronkainen dropped out of the battle at the front, while the other four managed to extend their advantage over the TuMe duo, who were running together, by another minute. Jossu had a slower forking early on, while Samu made an alarming-looking detour on the way to control three.

– I trusted myself more than the compass and ended up on the wrong vegetation boundary, Samu said of his mistake.

“The last kilometre in particular was something absolutely incredible.”

– Juha Taini

Samu explained that he had been through a heavy training period and was feeling physically quite tired. According to him, this showed particularly in his lack of concentration early in the course.

– I also made mistakes at controls one and six. After that, I just had to force myself to concentrate better.

The improved concentration showed in the split times. Samu set the fastest time on his forking for six consecutive legs, all the way to control 15, the final TV control. There he caught Pyrintö's Severi Kymäläinen, who was running in second place.

– I didn't really have any idea what the situation was, but when I saw Severi, I figured the top three must be close. Severi was pretty exhausted, but once I caught him, I ran behind him for a while and studied the remaining legs in advance. Then at the third-to-last control I went straight onto my own route and pushed the pace up a little, Samu explains.

The tactics worked. With fresher legs, Samu pulled away from Kymäläinen towards the end and crossed the finish line in second place, a minute ahead.





Behind them, Jossu was fighting for a strong position as well. Earlier on the course, the two TuMe runners had run several legs together, but their paths separated at the tricky forked controls.

– Because Samu had a different forking before the arena passage, I didn't know whether he was ahead of me or behind me. At control 15, the last forked control, I spotted Koovee's Timo Sild ahead of me and felt confident that I could catch him on the brutal climb up to control 16, the TV control, Jossu explained.

From the TV control onwards, the decisive battle began, eventually resulting in Jossu bringing TuMe's second team into the top four as well. This is how he described the final kilometres of the relay:

– Leaving the TV control, I noticed Aarni right behind us, but I decided to stay behind Sild and study the final section of the course at the same time. I felt that these guys weren't going to beat me in a sprint today.

– We nailed the third-to-last control, and I knew immediately that I should take the lower route across the slope towards control 18, just as Samu had done before me. Sild climbed a little higher, but I stuck to my own plan. Approaching the control, the three of us were running almost side by side, with about 20–30 metres between us. I had everything under control, spotted the flag early and put in a burst of speed.

– Once I had opened up a 20–30-metre gap, I just went all-out to settle the race as early as possible. I never saw Pyrintö, but if I had caught sight of Severi, I might have had a chance to catch him too.



Jossu at the finish. TV screen-shot.

From setback to success

– This was one of the big moments of my orienteering year, Jossu said happily after the race.

Jossu explained that the spring had been a difficult time for him. After struggling with injury issues, he had been really looking forward to running this anchor leg. A solid summer of base training had given him a good foundation.

He admitted that he wasn't entirely sure what kind of shape he was in, but he felt fresh throughout the race and his orienteering was solid.

– The feeling of meeting my teammates at the finish was amazing. I'm really happy that they gave me this opportunity with two great runs before me.



Ville at a TempO station. Photo: Tomasz Krysiak.

European relay bronze for Ville

Ville Hiirsalmi, together with Venla Mäkinen and Matilda Lukkari, won bronze in the junior relay at the European Trail Orienteering Championships. The competition, held around a golf course, was won by Latvia, with Italy taking silver.

Ville also performed very well in the TempO competition, finishing seventh, while his father Juha placed tenth in the Open class. In the PreO competition, Juha finished 25th and Ville 27th. The European Championships were held in Szczecin, Poland.



*Juha had a strong second day in the PreO competition. finishing fourth.
Photo: Jela Furuczová.*



Ville with his IOF bronze medal.



Sale overcame some difficulties to make the Middle A-final, where he finished an excellent 26th. Photo: Jiri Mrkvicka.



Uldis's 26th place in the Long Distance was his best-ever World Cup result. Photo: Eszter Kocsik.

Sale storms into the A-final

Sale bounced back from his disqualification in the World Cup qualification race in the best possible way. In the Long Distance C-final, he stormed to a convincing victory by more than four minutes, earning himself a place in the Middle Distance A-final. Only the winner of the C-final qualified directly for the A-final.

In the Middle Distance final, Sale continued his strong performances with an excellent 26th place, finishing ahead of, among others, Eetu Savolainen and Touko Seppä.

Edu and Uldis had qualified for the A-finals in both individual distances. In the Long Distance, Uldis finished 26th and Edu 47th. In the Middle Distance, Edu was 47th again, while Uldis finished 51st.

TuMe's fourth man, Edgars, competed in the B-finals in both the Long and Middle Distance.



Edgars ran a strong anchor leg, almost two minutes faster than Latvia's first-team anchor, and moved the second team up nine places. Photo: Vratislav Polivka.

The races were held in intense heat. Edu finished 47th in both individual races and moved the Spanish team up three places in the relay. Photo: Jan Racek.



The relay featured a TuMe runner on every leg. Sale ran the opening leg for Latvia's first team, with Uldis taking over on the second leg. Edgars anchored Latvia's second team, while Edu ran the anchor leg for Spain's first team. The two clubmates were almost evenly matched on the final leg, with just six seconds separating Edu's and Edgars' leg times. Latvia's first team finished 11th overall.

And for a little bit of club-team speculation: if either Edu's or Edgars' leg time is added to Sale and Uldis's combined time at the second changeover, an imaginary TuMe team would have made it into the top ten overall.



Yannick at Turku Market Square. Photo: Tatu Lertola/TS.

Yannick wins half marathon in Turku

Yannick warmed up for Lakeuden Viesti by winning the Paavo Nurmi Half Marathon in Turku the day before the relay. Yannick led the race from start to finish, crossing the line in 1.08:24, more than two minutes ahead of the runner-up.

– I was already in Finland because I’m competing in an orienteering race in Kristiinankaupunki tomorrow. The course was challenging and definitely not the fastest, but it was still really nice, Yannick told *Turun Sanomat*.

His winning time was almost five minutes slower than his personal best.

– After tomorrow’s orienteering race, I’ll focus more on running this autumn. I want to challenge my personal best on somewhat flatter courses, Yannick continued in the interview.

More than 6,000 runners took part in the event.

Who was Paavo Nurmi?

Paavo Nurmi (1897–1973) was a Turku-born runner and nine-time Olympic champion. At the 1924 Paris Olympics, he won both the 1,500 and 5,000 metres within the space of just one hour.



Manu weaves his way towards World Championship silver in the Long Distance. WMOC photos: Ökö and MoonLine Media.

Four medals at WMOC

Manu won two medals, while Ökö and Hatman each took one at the World Masters Orienteering Championships in Poland.

In the Sprint, Manu won silver in M50 and Ökö silver in M45. Hatman completed TuMe's strong showing by finishing fifth in M40.

In the Long Distance, Manu claimed another silver, while Hatman took bronze. In the Middle Distance, TuMe's best result was Manu's fourth place.

Also representing TuMe at WMOC were Sundman, Oxana and Joni Tenhunen, Jussi Salonen, Lergo and Rale.



Manu and Ökö on the podium after the Sprint.



Manager Sundman in the fast lane on his way to his best result of the championships, 31st place in the Middle Distance.



Lergo was unlucky in the Sprint qualification when his SI card failed to register all the punches. In the forest races, his best result was 17th place in the Middle Distance.



Hatman won a bronze medal in the Long on the final day of the championships.



Oxana finished in the top ten in both the Middle and Long Distance B-finals, placing 9th and 7th respectively.



After the Long, Jussi was disappointed with an eight-minute mega-mistake, but still improved on his Middle result, finishing 126th.

TempO bronze for Juha

Juha Hiirsalmi won bronze at the Finnish Trail Orienteering Championships in Kuopio. Juha finished third in the TempO competition, while his daughter Henni placed tenth.

In the two-day PreO competition, the results were more modest this time, with Juha finishing 20th and Henni 23rd.



Trail running victory for Hesa

Before Lakeuden Viesti, Hesa tried racing without a map for a change. The result was a dominant win at the Kyrkösjärvi Trail in Seinäjoki, with a margin of more than six minutes. He completed the 13-kilometre course in 51:42.

Sprint medal haul

Riku Levälehto won gold and Taneli Korpinen silver in M40, Tatu Teriö took gold in M50, Oxana Tenhunen silver in W50, Tapsa Järvensivu bronze in M60, and Pekka Inkinen silver in M75. That was TuMe's medal haul from the regional Sprint Championships.

A total of 15 TuMe orienteers took part, while Lergo served as the event controller.

Hurry up with relay entries

There's still time to join a team for the Finnish Relay Championships, which will be held in Inkoo on 13 September. The entry deadline is 3 September.

So far (as of 31 August at 9:30), four teams have been entered in the men's open class and two in M50.

One M35 team is already set, and Vesa has promised to enter it. There have also been rumours of as many as two M70 teams, and possibly one M55 team.

If you're interested in running in one of the age-group teams, you can still add your name to the Excel sheet shared online by Petri:

[Tune Ikämiehet SM-viesti 2026 - Google Sheets](#)

A team is also being put together for the Halikko Relay on 26 September. The entry deadline is 20 September. If you are interested in taking part, add your name to the Excel sheet shared by Vesa:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hSxq3VEyhUSt-F8UOwMXcSa2vo5RsQNVMGUT7VmsyPo/edit?usp=sharing>



Correction

Contrary to what was reported in the previous newsletter, Lergo won the regional Middle Distance championship in the M65 class, as the race winner was from Rauma and therefore outside the region.

Lergo's victory was also a convincing one, with a margin of almost three minutes to the next eligible competitor.

Photo: Vakka-Rasti.