

No.124, April 25, 2026

Mt. FUJI 100 2026: Chris MYERS Claims Men's FUJI100mi Title in a Blistering 17:50:13!

— A grueling side-by-side battle spanning dozens of kilometers in the inaugural prize money race; Japan's Yuya KAWASAKI takes third —



At the Mt. FUJI 100 international trail running event, the top male runners of the approx. 165.3km "FUJI100mi" race successively crossed the finish line at Fuji Hokuroku Park / Fujisan GX Stadium (Fujiyoshida City, Yamanashi Prefecture) on the morning of Saturday, April 25.

Featuring the event's first-ever prize money system and serving as a key World Trail Majors ranking race, this year's edition was held under generally favorable weather conditions, despite dense fog enveloping parts of the course during the night. Overcoming these elements, **Chris MYERS** (USA) claimed a spectacular victory in the men's race with an astonishing time of 17:50:13.

The race unfolded at an exceptionally high speed right from the start. By the F1 (Fujinomiya - 25.4km) checkpoint, a massive lead pack of about 10 runners surged forward, all within just a little over a minute of each other. After traversing the challenging Tenshi Mountains in the first half, the pack thinned out. At the 52.6km mark at F2 (Fumoto), an incredible dead heat began, with **Yuya KAWASAKI** (JPN), Myers, and **Jiaju ZHAO** (CHN) arriving exactly within "one second" of each other.

As the night deepened, the battle for the lead developed into a match race between Myers and Zhao. From just before the 100km mark at F4 (Hanamaruki/TNF), through F5 (Oshino), and into the dawn at F6 (Yamanakako Kirara), the two ran side-by-side for dozens of kilometers with literally zero seconds between them. The deadlock was finally broken at Mt. Shakushi, the course's toughest late-stage climb. Myers launched a decisive sprint up the grueling ascent, taking the solo lead, and held off all pursuit to power through the finish gate.



Following him, 2023 champion **Jiaju ZHAO** (CHN), who battled relentlessly and refused to yield until the middle stages, claimed second place in 18:28:12. Japan's ace **Yuya KAWASAKI** (JPN) ran a composed, mature race, carefully managing his pace and knowing his own limits amid the fierce competition from the overseas elites. Holding off the pursuing runners, he crossed the finish line with his young son in his arm to secure a proud third-place podium finish in 18:51:03. After finishing, champion **Chris MYERS** shared his joy: "I felt I still had power left in the last 20 miles, so I made a move, but until then I ran together with him (Zhao), waiting for each other at aid stations. I truly enjoyed the whole process. The course marking in Japan was incredibly meticulous and fantastic. I want to continue traveling like this, entering various races, and running while enjoying beautiful scenery."

Jiaju ZHAO, who fought for the lead until the final stages, reflected with satisfaction: "I battled with Chris, who is at the top level in the world. I was dropped at the end as I ran out of strength, but I'm very satisfied with my result. Compared to when I won three years ago, the course is nearly 2km longer, yet I improved my time by almost an hour, finishing close to the 17-hour mark."

I want to continue competing in races in different countries and broaden my horizons as an athlete."

Yuya KAWASAKI, finishing third, demonstrated a calculated and mature performance throughout the race, boldly challenging the top international runners while understanding his own limits. At the finish gate, holding his son in one arm and returning high-fives with a smile, he was enveloped in massive cheers from the Japanese fans.

In fourth place, Japan's **Terunobu KUROKAWA** finished in 19:47:34. He captivated the crowd by sharing a story of cross-border friendship unique to 100-mile races: "I wasn't feeling my best, but the greatest moment was running and encouraging each other with **Minchul KO** (KOR / 5th place) as we continuously passed each other."

Meanwhile, the festival atmosphere continues to build at the main venue, Fuji Hokuroku Park. The "ASUMI40k" kicked off at noon today, and the "KAI70k" is scheduled to start at 2:00 PM, bringing even more excitement to the foothills of Mt. Fuji.

(Live results available here: <https://runnet.jp/record/race.do?raceId=381818>)

FUJI100mi Men's Results

1. Chris MYERS (USA) 17:50:13
2. Jiaju ZHAO (CHN) 18:28:12
3. Yuya KAWASAKI (JPN) 18:51:03
4. Terunobu KUROKAWA (JPN) 19:47:34
5. Minchul KO (KOR) 20:02:20
6. Ryoshin HASE (JPN) 20:05:56
7. Ryan WHELAN (GBR) 20:51:41
8. Takuya NOGUCHI (JPN) 20:53:36
9. Junsuke MIZUNO (JPN) 20:55:25
10. Hiroki SHIMURA (JPN) 21:23:10

Mt. FUJI 100 2026 Event Outline

- **DATES:** Friday, April 24, 2026 – Sunday, April 26, 2026 (3 days)
- **Race Categories**

① FUJI100mi

- Distance: Approx. 165.3.0km / Cumulative altitude gain: +6,461m
- Start: Fujisan Kodomo-no-Kuni (Fuji City, Shizuoka Prefecture)
- Finish: Fuji Hokuroku Park / Fujisan GX Stadium (Fujiyoshida City, Yamanashi Prefecture)
- Race start time: Friday, April 24 (Wave start, 500 racers per wave)
17:00 / 17:15 / 17:30 / 17:45
- Final cutoff time: 14:30, Sunday, April 26 (*44 hours and 30 minutes cutoff)
- Number of racers: 2,000 (including priority, general, donation-based, and elite entries)
- Support crews: 500

② KAI70k

- Distance: Approx. 68.6km / Cumulative altitude gain: +2,921m
- Start / Finish: Fuji Hokuroku Park / Fujisan GX Stadium (Fujiyoshida City, Yamanashi Prefecture)
- Race start time: 14:00, Saturday, April 25
- Final cutoff time: 11:00, Sunday, April 26 (*21 hours cutoff)
- Number of racers: 1,000 (including general, donation-based, and elite entries)

③ ASUMI40k

- Distance: Approx. 38.5km / Cumulative altitude gain: +1,481m
- Start / Finish: Fuji Hokuroku Park / Fujisan GX Stadium (Fujiyoshida City, Yamanashi Prefecture)
- Race start time: 12:00, Saturday, April 25
- Final cutoff time: 21:30, Saturday, April 25 (*9 hours and 30 minutes cutoff)
- Number of racers: 1,000 (including general, donation-based, and elite entries)

④ SAKUYA 9k / U-20 6k (Open Race)

- Distance: 8.6km / U-20 5.7km
- Start / Finish: Fuji Hokuroku Park / Fujisan GX Stadium (Fujiyoshida City, Yamanashi Prefecture)
- Race start time: Sunday, April 26 (9k at 9:00 / U-20 6k at 9:15)
- Number of racers: 200 (including general and elite entries)

■ Organizer: Mt.FUJI100 Race Committee

<Member Organizations>

General Incorporated Association Fuji Hakone Izu Trail Support

Mt.FUJI100 Joint Venture (Sotoe Co., Regionport LLC, R-bies Co., Ltd.)

- **Co-sponsored by:** Fuji City, Fujinomiya City, Minobu Town, Narusawa Village, Fujikawaguchiko Town, Fujiyoshida City, Oshino Village, Yamanakako Village, Gotemba City, Susono City
- **Supervisor:** Mt.FUJI100 Joint Venture (Sotoe Co., Regionport LLC, R-bies Co., Ltd.)
- **Environment Partner:** NPO Fuji Trail Runners Club
- **Special Partner:** THE NORTH FACE
- **Platinum Partner:** Goldwin, aminoVITAL®
- **Supported by:** Japan Sports Agency, Japan Tourism Agency, Shizuoka Prefecture, Yamanashi Prefecture, Doshi Village, Yamanashi Nichinichi Shimbun, Yamanashi Broadcasting System, Television Yamanashi, FM Fuji, The Shizuoka Shimbun, Shizuoka Broadcasting System, Shizuoka Telecasting, Shizuoka Asahi Television, Shizuoka Daiichi Television, K-MIX
- **Honorary Race Committee:** Mayors of the 10 municipalities comprising the Executive Committee
- **Race President:** Tsuyoshi KABURAKI (Representative Director, General Inc. Assoc. Fuji Hakone Izu Trail Support / Professional trail runner)
- **Vice President of the Race:** Koichiro HORIUCHI (President, Fuji Kyuko Co., Ltd.)
- **Race Producer:** Ricka FUKUDA (Medical doctor / President of Japan Trail Running Association)
- **Co-representatives:**
Tatsuo CHIBA (Representative Director, Sotoe Co., Ltd.)
Yoshihiro TAJIKA (Representative, Region Port, LLC)
Yu KUROSAKI (Representative Director, R-bies Co., Ltd.)
- **Advisors:**
Shin MURAKOSHI (Professor, Faculty of Education, Shizuoka University)
Masumi NAKAO (Representative Director of NPO Discover Rias)
Tsutomu MIURA (Chairman of NPO Fuji Trail Runners Club)

Mt. FUJI 100 2026 Press Schedule

A press conference to introduce promising runners will be held on Friday, April 24, at 11:00, followed by a press briefing at 12:00. Award ceremonies for KAI and FUJI are scheduled for Sunday, April 26.

■ Friday, April 24

08:00- Press Center Opens [*1 Fuji Hokuroku Park Press Center]

08:00-18:00 Mt.FUJI100 EXPO [*2 Fuji Hokuroku Park Stadium]

08:00-16:30 Press Registration [*4 Fuji Hokuoku Park Information]
11:00-12:00 Press Conference (Japanese / English) [*3 Fuji Hokuoku Park Special Stage]
12:00-13:00 Press Briefing (Japanese / English) [*1 Fuji Hokuoku Park Press Center]
11:00-16:30 Press Registration (FUJI Start Area) [Fujisan Kodomo-no-Kuni Information]
16:30 FUJI Opening Ceremony (Japanese / English) [Fujisan Kodomo-no-Kuni]
17:00-17:45 FUJI Wave Start [Fujisan Kodomo-no-Kuni]

■ Saturday, April 25

08:00-18:00 Mt.FUJI100 EXPO [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]
10:20 (Est.) FUJI First Overall Finisher Expected [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]
11:30 ASUMI Opening Ceremony (Japanese / English) [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]
12:00 ASUMI Start [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]
13:20 (Est.) FUJI First Female Finisher Expected [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]
13:30 KAI Opening Ceremony (Japanese / English) [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]
14:00 KAI Start [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]
14:55 (Est.) ASUMI First Overall Finisher Expected [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]
14:55 (Est.) ASUMI First Female Finisher Expected [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]
18:00-19:00 ASUMI Awards Ceremony (Japanese / English) [*3 Fuji Hokuoku Park Special Stage]
19:30 (Est.) KAI First Overall Finisher Expected [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]
21:30 (Est.) KAI First Female Finisher Expected [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]
21:30 ASUMI Final Cutoff Time [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]

■ Sunday, April 26

08:00-14:00 Mt.FUJI100 EXPO [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]
08:45 SAKUYA Opening Ceremony (Japanese / English) [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]
09:00 SAKUYA 9k Start [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]
09:15 SAKUYA U-20 6k Start [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]
11:00 SAKUYA Awards Ceremony (Japanese) [*3 Fuji Hokuoku Park Special Stage]
11:00 KAI Final Cutoff Time [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]
12:00-13:00 KAI Awards Ceremony (Japanese / English) [*3 Fuji Hokuoku Park Special Stage]
14:00-15:00 FUJI Awards Ceremony (Japanese / English) [*3 Fuji Hokuoku Park Special Stage]
14:30 FUJI Final Cutoff Time [*2 Fuji Hokuoku Park Stadium]
14:30 Press Center Closes [*1 Fuji Hokuoku Park Press Center]

■ Contact Information

Mt. FUJI100 Organizing Committee Secretariat
955-1 Shuzenji, Izu City, Shizuoka 410-2416, Japan

Tel: +81-90-1981-1478

Fax: +81-558-80-9207

E-mail : press@mtfuji100.com

Official Website : <https://mtfuji100.com>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/Mt.FUJI100/>

X : <https://x.com/MtFUJI100>

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/mt.fuji100/>

YouTube : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYTG7HNLx89OeaOsknc6mTg/featured>

For past press releases, please visit : <https://mtfuji100.com/press/>

For access to official race photos for press use, please contact the Secretariat above.