

MTB World Cup DH & 4X #3 - CDM

Vallnord, Andorra, May 15-17, 2009

May 16: Elite women four cross

Griffiths claims upset victory

By Rob Jones – www.cyclingnews.com

Fionn Griffiths (Norco World Team) took the women's win after the three other riders crashed in the second corner. Until the final things were unfolding pretty much as expected, with Griffiths, World Cup leader Anneke Beerten (Suspension Center), round two winner Jill Kintner (Red Bull/Intense) and Jana Horakova (Czech Republic) advancing to the medal round.

"I've been getting terrible gates all day," said Griffiths. "So I figured I'd be off the back a bit at the start. I was planning on going inside but I saw the line that Horakova had and Jill still wasn't turned yet. I knew she was going to drift and I saw it before it happened, so I just braked, went outside and just rode past everybody. It was cool."



Fionn Griffiths enjoys her moment
Photo ©: Enric Moran Gimeno

After the gate and the first set of jumps in the medal race, Kintner and Horakova came into the first left hand corner pretty much neck and neck, with Kintner on the inside. Horakova went wide and then cut across to squeeze Kintner as they set up for the second corner, a right hander, taking both of them down, with Beerten caught behind. Griffiths had a clear shot through to the finish.

Beerten finished second, with Horakova beating Kintner for third. Beerten holds onto her World Cup lead, while Horakova moves into second ahead of Kintner.

Results

- 1 Fionn Griffiths (GBr) Norco World Team
- 2 Anneke Beerten (Ned) Suspension Center
- 3 Jana Horakova (Cze)
- 4 Jill Kintner (USA)
- 5 Emmeline Ragot (Fra) Suspension Center
- 6 Melissa Buhl (USA)
- 7 Caroline Buchanan (Aus)
- 8 Rachel Seydoux (Swi)
- 9 Joanna Petterson (RSA)
- 10 Mio Suemasa (Jpn)
- 11 Diana Marggraff (Ecu)
- 12 Angelika Hohenwarter (Aut)
- 13 Lucia Oetjen (Swi)
- 14 Helene Valerie Fruhwirth (Aut)
- 15 Eva Castro Fernandez (Spa)
- 16 Neven Steinmetz (USA)
- 17 Anita Molcik (Aut)
- 18 Sarsha Huntington (Aus)
- 19 Steffi Marth (Ger)
- 20 Katarina Tothova (Cze)
- 21 Esther Leroy (Fra)
- 22 Tereza Votavova (Cze)
- 23 Maria Sanchez Veliz (Spa)
- 24 Romana Labounkova (Cze)