

MTB World Cup XC #6 & DH #5 - CDM

Maribor, Slovenia, September 14-16, 2007

September 16: Elite Women Downhill

Atherton takes revenge as Jonnier wraps up overall

By Rob Jones in Maribor – cyclingnews.com

Frenchwoman Sabrina Jonnier (Iron Horse-Monster Energy) added a World Cup title to the world title she won last weekend in Scotland, at the World Cup final today in Maribor, Slovenia.

Jonnier could manage no better than sixth in the final, after battling illness much of the week, and it gave Rachel Atherton (Animal Commencal) a measure of revenge to win the final event after being beaten last week for the world title.

Rain, which had been forecast for the morning, never materialized, and the large and enthusiastic crowd of spectators were treated to perfect blue skies and temperatures in the mid-20s Celcius. This left the 2.57 kilometre course bone dry, and the soft loamy ground began to get more and more churned up as the day went on, making some corners ragged, and exposing roots all the way down the course.



Great Britain's Rachel Atherton (Animal Commencal)
Photo ©: MTB.si

Atherton was the clear favourite for the women, having qualified a full six and a half seconds ahead of Tracey Hannah (Australia). Jonnier was well back in 11th during qualifying, 17 seconds behind, and could only improve by five seconds in the final, a fact that could be explained by her ill health.

"I've been sick all week, so I just did the best I could," she explained. "It was bad today, it was the worst. I couldn't breathe at all, stuffed up nose and plugged ears."



Newly re-crowned World Champion
Sabrina Jonnier (Iron Horse/Monster Energy)
Photo ©: MTB.si

Jennifer Makgill (SSangyong-Fusion), halfway through the women's 30 rider field set the first strong time of 3:34.11. Jonnier took another five seconds off, but that lasted for four riders before Helen Gaskell dropped the best time by a further two seconds.

Junior world champion Floriane Pugin (France) knocked another second off, and then two riders later, the defending champion, Tracy Moseley (Kona Les Gets), reduced the top time by a further second. Hannah couldn't beat the time, moving into third, however, Moseley's time was still over five seconds slower than Atherton's qualifier.

Atherton made it clear that she was the strongest rider by knocking a further three-plus seconds off her qualifying time, to win by 8.63 seconds.

"I had a pretty good run for sure, it's a wicked fast course," said the Briton. "The course suited me down to the ground, as it was pretty technical all the way down. I think it probably wasn't pedally enough for Sabrina."

Moseley took second overall behind Jonnier, with Tracey Hannah rounding out the top three.

Results

1 Rachel Atherton (GBr) Animal Commencal	3.16.27
2 Tracy Moseley (GBr) Kona Les Gets	0.08.63
3 Tracey Hannah (Aus)	0.09.33
4 Floriane Pugin (Fra) Chatel Mountain Cycle	0.09.80
5 Helen Gaskell (GBr)	0.10.80
6 Sabrina Jonnier (Fra) Iron Horse / Monster Energy	0.12.84
7 Celine Gros (Fra)	0.13.21
8 Marielle Saner (Swi) Bikepark.Ch Tui	0.14.74
9 Mio Suemasa (Jpn)	0.15.72
10 Jennifer Makgill (NZl) Ssangyong-Fusion Pro Team	0.17.84
11 Vanessa Quin (NZl) Ms-Intense Factory-Racing Team	0.18.78
12 Scarlett Hagen (NZl)	0.22.49
13 Emmeline Ragot (Fra)	0.22.81
14 Haby Blu Cann (GBr)	0.26.07
15 Lisa Myklak (USA)	0.27.27
16 Claire Buchar (Can)	0.27.37
17 Fionn Griffiths (GBr)	0.27.81
18 Petra Bernhard (Aut)	0.32.14
19 Anita Molcik (Aut) Team Hotec / Rsp	0.33.61
20 Dalma Kiss (Hun)	0.35.71
21 Calamaty Jayne Cann (GBr)	0.36.42
22 Amy Laird (NZl)	0.37.37
23 Daniela Bossard (Swi)	0.37.74
24 Diana Marggraff (Ecu)	0.37.86
25 Elisa Canepa (Ita) Playbiker - Iron Horse	0.37.89
26 Helene Fruhwirth (Aut)	0.38.56
27 Jaymie Mart (Bar)	0.52.00
28 Anne Mai Sletten (Nor)	1.04.71
29 Jessica Vogt (USA)	1.10.22
30 Elise Koren (Nor)	1.14.84