

MTB World Cup DH & 4X #3 - CDM

Vallnord, Andorra, May 15-17, 2009

May 17: Elite women downhill

Two in a row for Jonnier

By Rob Jones – cyclingnews.com

Sabrina Jonnier (Maxxis-Rocky Mountain) took her second consecutive downhill World Cup win, and overtook Tracy Moseley (Trek World Racing) for the lead in the women's series.

During a second day of good weather, Jonnier, who also qualified first, faced a drying track, which was getting loose and dusty at the top. Three days of hard riding and racing were rutting out the lower, wooded portion and creating braking bumps, which pounded the riders as they pushed to shave extra tenths of a second from their times.

Canada's Micayla Gatto was the first woman off, and proved that her qualifying time was an anomaly by posting a sub-three minute 2:57.77 time that would hold up for nearly half the field, before American Melissa Buhl finally bumped her from the Hot Seat with a blazing fast 2:51.20.

Buhl didn't get much chance to enjoy her spot in the Hot Seat, because five riders later, Japan's Mio Suemasa took the top time below 2:50 at 2:48.60. Suemasa was immediately surpassed by Myriam Nicole of France, by two-tenths of a second, who in turn was supplanted by veteran Celine Gros (Morzine-Avoriaz 74).

But the final three were still to come. Emmeline Ragot (Suspension Center), the former Junior World Champion, was third fastest in qualifying, and knocked two seconds off of Gros' time. Next up was World Cup leader Tracy Moseley (Trek World Racing), who was well back of Ragot on the upper half of the course, but came back strongly in the technical bottom section to pull to within two-hundredths of the second by the bottom.



Sabrina Jonnier (Maxxis / Rocky Mountain)
Photo ©: Enric Moran Gimeno



Elite women's downhill podium
Photo ©: Enric Moran Gimeno

However, Jonnier was still to come, and she was on fire, fastest at both intermediate splits and a staggering four seconds fastest by the finish line. Jonnier was nine seconds faster than she was in qualifying. The Maxxis-Rocky Mountain rider took the overall lead from Moseley with her second consecutive win, but her lead is a slim two points, so this battle is far from over.

"I'm super happy," said Jonnier. "I felt good all week here, and in the final even stronger than last week. But I was also extremely nervous, as I do not normally qualify well, so I was feeling the pressure. But I felt very comfortable on this track, and confident with the way my bike was set up. It's great to be back in the World Cup lead, after an only average ride in South Africa."

"That was a pretty tough result to digest. I made a mistake in the top section, but other than that I thought I had a great run," said Moseley. "To see the time that Sabrina posted, well it just kind of deflated me. Losing to Emmeline by two hundredths, well that's racing, and sometimes it goes your way, and sometimes it doesn't."

"Small margins are cruel but part of the sport. It's the bigger margin I need to work on, and I'll be heading home tomorrow to do just that."

Results

1	Sabrina Jonnier (Fra)	Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	2.41.58
2	Emmeline Ragot (Fra)	Suspension Center	0.03.87
3	Tracy Moseley (GBr)	Trek World Racing	0.03.89
4	Céline Gros (Fra)	Morzine-Avoriaz 74	0.06.19
5	Myriam Nicole (Fra)		0.06.83
6	Mio Suemasa (Jpn)		0.07.02
7	Floriane Pugin (Fra)	Iron Horse-Kenda-Playbiker	0.07.26
8	Melissa Buhl (USA)		0.09.62
9	Fionn Griffiths (GBr)	Norco World Team	0.11.77
10	Anais Pajot° (Fra)	Team Sunn	0.13.47
11	Emilie Siegenthaler (Swi)	Scott 11	0.13.89
12	Katy Curd (GBr)		0.16.00
13	Micayla Gatto (Can)		0.16.19
14	Petra Bernhard (Aut)	Ancillotti Doganaccia Racing Team	0.16.33
15	Miranda Miller (Can)		0.17.86
16	Diana Marggraff (Ecu)		0.20.87
17	Claire Buchar (Can)	Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense	0.21.41
18	Anita Molcik (Aut)		0.22.84
19	Jessica Stone (GBr)	2Stagefactory	0.24.26
20	Fanny Lombard° (Fra)		0.26.52
	DNS Helen Gaskell (GBr)		

Elite women teams

1	Santa Cruz Syndicate	94 pts
2	Trek World Racing	65
3	MS Evil Racing	51
4	Scott 11	48
5	Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	40
6	GT Bicycles	39
7	Suspension Center	35
8	Animal Commencal	35
9	Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense	33
10	Yeti Fox Shox Factory Race Team	31
11	Morzine-Avoriaz 74	30
12	Monster Energy / Specialized / Mad Catz	24
13	Iron Horse-Kenda-Playbiker	24
14	Norco World Team	22
15	Team Sunn	22
16	Lapierre Powered By Saab Salomon	21
17	Ancillotti Doganaccia Racing Team	17
18	Specialized Team America	14
19	Massi	12
20	2Stagefactory	12
21	Kenda Morewood	4