

Ragot takes first World Cup win

By Tour of Japan published July 24, 2010 – cyclingnews.com

Jonnier keeps overall lead



World Champion Emmeline Ragot riding her Intense bike to victory. (Image credit: Dave McElwaine/trailwatch.net)

The race for the World Cup title in the women's Downhill got a little tighter on Saturday, at round four in Champéry, Switzerland. World champion Emmeline Ragot (Suspension Center) took the first World Cup victory of her career and jumped into third in the women's overall standings behind leader Sabrina Jonnier (Maxxis-Rocky Mountain).

The rain, which had turned the steep 1,500 metre course into a slippery mud slide during qualifying, finally backed off for race day, but the damage had been done and, in some ways, the drying conditions made things worse. As the thick mud began to dry, it clung to bikes and turned to the consistency of peanut butter, doubling the weight of bikes and slowing forward momentum to a crawl. For the lighter, less powerful women, it was the worst, with riders literally coming to a halt in some corners as they pushed on the ground with their feet to

keep moving.

Floriane Pugin (Scott 11) set the first fast, sub-6 minute time. Canada's Claire Buchar (Chain Reaction/Intense) also went under six minutes, but was more than 16 seconds behind Pugin. The young French rider stayed in the hot seat until the final three riders came down, with Ragot racing third from last and knocking over eleven and a half seconds off the top time. Jonnier was next, and moved into second, still nearly five seconds behind Ragot, and the fastest qualifier, Myriam Nicole (Commencal Superiders) slotted into third.

"I was a real balance not to fall, [because] the mud was very sticky," said Ragot. "I kept saying 'go slow, go slow, go slow' ... but not too slow or you will fall over! The end [of the course] it was terrible... I had a rock caught between my frame and my tire. It made a terrible noise. But now I feel good. I have been waiting for a win."

Jonnier now has 850 points to Pugin's 645, with Ragot up to 615 points.

ELITE WOMEN

1	Emmeline Ragot (Fra) Suspension Center	0:05:27.25
2	Sabrina Jonnier (Fra) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain	0:00:04.87
3	Myriam Nicole (Fra) Commencal Superiders	0:00:09.72
4	Floriane Pugin (Fra) Scott 11	0:00:11.65
5	Tracy Moseley (GBr) Trek World Racing	0:00:12.08
6	Manon Carpenter (GBr)	0:00:18.11
7	Claire Buchar (Can) Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense	0:00:27.87
8	Petra Bernhard (Aut) RC Alpine Commencal Austria	0:00:38.87
9	Fionn Griffiths (GBr) Norco World Team	0:00:39.72
10	Céline Gros (Fra) Morzine-Avoriaz/Haute-	0:00:41.16
11	Mio Suemasa (Jpn) FFC	0:00:51.71
12	Martina Bruehlmann (Swi)	0:00:52.77
13	Miriam Ruchti (Swi) Dr-Gravity Union	0:01:06.75
14	Katy Curd (GBr) Rose Bikes	0:01:07.63
15	Caroline Sax (Fra)	0:01:13.06
16	Micayla Gatto (Can) Oakley/Commencal	0:01:15.88
17	Jacqueline Harmony (USA) Vixen Racing	0:01:38.21
18	Nicole Beege (Ger)	0:02:01.84
19	Morgane Charre (Fra)	0:04:00.15
DNF	Emilie Siegenthaler (Swi) Scott 11	

ELITE WOMEN'S TEAMS

#	Rider Name (Country) Team	Result	
1	Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense	85	pts
2	Scott 11	70	
3	Santa Cruz Syndicate	48	
4	Commencal	40	
5	Suspension Center	40	
6	Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain	35	
7	Monster Energy / Specialized / Mad Catz	32	
8	Commencal Superiders	32	
9	Norco World Team	32	
10	Lapierre International	30	

11	Mondraker Factory Team	28
12	Trek World Racing	28
13	MS Evil Racing	26
14	Yeti Fox Shox Factory Race Team	23
15	RC Alpine Commencal Austria	23
16	Morzine-Avoriaz/Haute-Savoie	21
17	GT Bicycles	19
18	Dr-Gravity Union	18
19	Solid Aclass Factory Team	17
20	Kenda-Playbiker	15
21	Giant Factory Team	9
22	Team Lac Blanc Massif Des Vosges	8
23	Blackmountain Morewood United	7
24	XMS Racing Squad	4
25	Team Cingolani - Protone	3