

Venue: San Francisco, California, USA- XC#1- 5/6 April 1997



Paola Pezzo, Olympic Champion, takes the first round at Napa, CA, USA

Olympic champion, **Paola Pezzo** (ITA, Gary Fisher) stunned her rivals with an effortless win, over four minutes clear of the field, in the opening round of the 1997 Grundig/UCI mountain bike world cup at Napa on Saturday May 5th.

The Italian, riding in a sparkling pair of gold-sequinned shorts, settled the race with one devastating attack on a rocky two-kilometre climb after only 7 of the 37 kilometres women's race. Second placed **Alison Sydor** (CAN, Volvo-Cannondale), who won last year's World Cup overall and also the world championships, had no reply to Pezzo's aggression. *"When she attacked on that climb, I didn't even try to follow her. It was a long hard race, and there was no point over exerting myself early on - especially on such a technical course,"* noted last year's dual champion.

Pezzo was surprised by the ease of her win. When she left Sydor behind the two of them were already more than a minute clear of a strung-out field. *"I pushed the pace a little, then looked back and there was no Alison,"* said Pezzo. Following her Olympic win at Atlanta last year, the blonde Italian has had a heavy schedule with television and celebrity appearances as well as her training programme. *"I was worried that I had not trained enough before the start of this season, but now I feel very confident of hitting*

my target," said Pezzo, who has stated her intention is to win the World Cup this year.

After being dropped by Pezzo, Sydor rode a solo race, unchallenged until the finish. A battle for second place almost developed when come-back rider, **Chantal Daucourt** (SUI, VW-Trek), 1993 European Champion, moved up to within a minute of Sydor on the third, final lap. For a while, she looked like making contact, but Sydor had enough in reserve to stay clear.

Gunn-Rita Dahle (NOR, American Eagle) was surprisingly far back, in eighth place. *"It just wasn't my day today, my legs had nothing in them... I'm looking forward to Wellington next weekend,"* said the tired looking rider, who was tipped to get a podium place on this intricate, mainly singletrack course.

Paul Skilbeck

Course: 10km, 400m climbing each lap. dusty, rocky surface, very technical

Spectators: 15000 over two days;

Weather: Warm, spring conditions

Women: 3.7 laps/37km. Average speed: Women-17.3km/h

Crowd size: 7500

Next race: [Wellington, New Zealand](#), 12-13 April

Women's XC Results:

Pos	Bib No	Name	First Name	NATION	TEAM	Points	Time
1	9	PEZZO	PAOLA	ITA	GARY FISHER/ROSO	75	2:08:16.10
2	1	SYDOR	ALISON	CAN	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	70	2:12:22.66
3	14	DAUCOURT	CHANTAL	SUI	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	66	2:13:37.91
4	12	TOMLINSON	LESLEY	CAN	KONA FACTORY	62	2:15:37.77
5	5	MATTHES	RUTHIE	USA	POWERBAR	58	2:16:19.75
6	54	DUNLAP	ALISON	USA	TEAM GT	55	2:18:48.58
7	17	HEARN	MARY	USA	POLO SPORT	52	2:19:03.28
8	2	DAHLE	GUNN-RITA	NOR	AMERICAN EAGLE	49	2:19:32.60
9	11	LEBOUCHER	LAURENCE	FRA	LA POSTE	46	2:19:57.19
10	13	REDDEN	CHRISTINA	CAN	RITCHEY	43	2:21:09.72
11	6	KAIN	SHARI	USA	POLO SPORT	40	2:21:19.37
12	32	RÖESCH	NORA	GER	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	39	2:22:11.04
13	3	FURTADO	JULIANA	USA	TEAM GT	38	2:23:15.09
14	25	MCQUAID	MELANIE	CAN	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	37	2:23:40.72
15	8	FÜRST	SILVIA	SUI	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	36	2:24:29.87
16	19	TEMPORELLI	SANDRA	FRA	LA POSTE	35	2:25:08.44
17	46	BRUNGER	TRACY	GBR	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	34	2:25:09.93
18	15	TURCUTTO	MARIA PAOLA	ITA	TEAM CECINI SPOR	33	2:26:08.87
19	20	WILSON	KAREN	USA	PEARL IZUMI	32	2:26:19.78
20	18	ELLIS	SARA	USA	PLYMOUTH/ELLSWOR	31	2:26:50.95
21	42	DE NEGRI	NADIA	ITA	BIANCHI MARTINI	30	2:28:24.06
22	58	BRAINARD	GOLDEN	USA	BIANCHI MARTINI	29	2:29:07.70
23	37	GRIGSON	MARY	AUS	GIANT/AIS	28	2:29:20.29
24	24	COATS	BETH	USA	VENTANA	27	2:29:41.61

25	68	BRIGGS	MIRANDA	USA	LHTHOMPSON/CANNO	26	2:29:48.32
26	16	MARUNDE	REGINA	GER	TEAM GT GERMANY	25	2:30:06.43
27	65	KELLY	KERRY	USA	RECHARGE	24	2:30:14.71
28	34	STREB	MARLA	USA	MARIN	23	2:30:16.29
29	67	LLOYD	RACHEL	USA	SOFTTRIDE	22	2:30:17.01
30	44	SPITZ	SABINE	GER	KONA-EMS	21	2:30:42.51
31	35	BRANDT	LAURIE	USA	CHARMAR/KLEIN	20	2:30:44.45
32	64	MARSHMAN	RENE	USA	MOOTS CYCLES	19	2:31:01.97
33	45	BLACKWELDER	BROOKE	USA		18	2:31:13.40
34	10	STROPPARO	ANNABELLA	ITA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	17	2:31:33.37
35	41	WALLENFELS	LYNDA	GBR	JAMIS	16	2:32:02.90
36	70	PRYDE	SUSY	NZL	SAECO/CANNONDALE	15	2:32:24.56
37	43	SINCLAIR	TRISH	CAN	KONA FACTORY	14	2:32:36.46
38	61	ROVIRA	SILVIA	ESP	SPECIALIZED SPAI	13	2:32:40.88
39	31	TANIKAWA	KANAKO	JPN	A&F;	12	2:34:49.72
40	39	PIPPIN	NIKI	USA	BREEZER	11	2:35:36.59
41	56	HILL	KRISTI	USA	BREEZER/NEXUS	10	2:35:56.70
42	29	KNAPP	CHANTAL	USA	DIAMONDBACK	9	2:36:32.59
43	21	JONSSON	ANNICA	SWE	CRESCENT	8	2:36:48.81
44	52	BUCY	ELIZABETH	USA	IBIS	7	2:39:29.25
45	59	TROMBLEY	ANN	USA	CHARMAR/KLEIN	6	2:40:07.60
46	22	VINK	ELSBETH	NED	AMERICAN EAGLE	5	2:40:21.73
47	7	JACQUES	TAMMY	USA	SCHWINN/TOYOTA R	4	2:40:54.33
48	66	NAKAGOME	YUKARI	JPN	MIYATA	3	2:41:03.01
49	53	MICHELS-SMITH	ANDREA	GER	KHS GERMANY	2	2:43:01.13
50	51	DRUMM	HELENE	USA	ACTION-TEC	1	2:44:16.01

51	69	KAPPL	ANNIE		BONTRAGER	0	2:44:16.70
52	47	WALBERG	CATHERINE	USA	BIANCHI/MARTINI	0	2:44:27.75
53	60	MERBACH	ANITA	USA	NUKEPROOF/SIMPLE	0	2:46:02.61
54	55	HUNTER	LESLIE	CAN	KONA FACTORY	0	2:48:10.72
55	57	HALL	GINA	USA	BREEZER	0	2:50:14.59
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	23	ZU PUTTLITZ	HEDDA	GER	TEAM H+H	0	
	4	ALEXANDER	CAROLINE	GBR	RITCHEY	0	
	28	EGLIN-HOSOTTE	SOPHIE	FRA	LA POSTE	0	
	33	GARCIA	LEAH	USA	MARIN	0	
	63	PAULSEN	ABBY	USA		0	
	40	PALMER	SUSAN	CAN	SATURN	0	
	50	STOCKDALE	MIA	USA	TEAM IN MOTION	0	
	38	EGGERTSEN	TERESA	USA	VOODOO CYCLES	0	
	36	SMITH	KIM	USA	MOOTS	0	
	27	FLORIT	JIMENA	ARG	KLEIN/BEN&JERRY;'	0	
	30	LAMOREAUX	LISA	USA	KLEIN	0	
	62	LINDBERG	MADELEINE	SWE	CRESCENT	0	