

Venue: Houffalize, BEL- XC#9- 30-31 August 1997

Yet another display of controlled riding by Olympic Champion, **Paola Pezzo** (ITA, Gary Fisher), left her rivals in no doubt about her form for the up-coming World Championships on September 21. The Italian attacked the field only three kilometres into the race and by the six kilometre mark had a lead of 25 seconds. That was the race decided, and virtually the Series too. Pezzo now has to finish 13th or better at next weekend's final in Annecy to claim the World Cup.

Pezzo may be the hottest prospect for a world championships win since the sport began, but that event is hardly weighing on her mind. *"So far this season all I have thought about was the World Cup. I've not thought much about the world championships. I will have a think about that after Annecy (World Cup finals),"* she remarked.

After the previous world cup race, at Vail, Pezzo claimed that she would not be trying to win here, and so relaxed was she today during her cruise to victory that she had time to joke with a course-side journalist about the smart jacket and tie he was wearing. Pezzo is known for her interest in fashion, and is always immaculately attired. Today, for the first time this year, she wore a knee-length version of the gold-sequinned 'sparklepants' that she has made her trademark this year.



The Ardennes course here was less technically challenging than in past years. In several of the forest sections, single track had previously formed the route, but in places this had been overlayed with wide trails made by forestry vehicles operating in the area.

Second place was taken by a resurgent **Alison Sydor** (CAN, Volvo-Cannondale), who did not attempt to compete with Pezzo early in the race, but on the last lap closed the gap by 20 seconds. On her way up through the rankings, Sydor went past first a tiring **Chantal Daucourt** (SUI, Trek Volkswagen) and then a cramping **Margarita Fullana** (ESP, Liberto Megamo). Reigning World Champion Sydor had dislocated her shoulder in a crash at Vail and has compromised its recovery a little in her desire to say fit. *"It hurts a bit during the race, but so do my legs!"* Said Sydor, sporting a short Annie Lennox hair style in platinum blonde.

About this, she explained that, *"Sometimes a superficial change can help bring about a change in attitude."* It has not been an easy year for Sydor, whose pre-season was interrupted by a snowboarding injury in her pelvic region. This year Pezzo is presenting a monumental challenge to Sydor's world title, which she has held for the past three years.

Margarita Fullana, a relative newcomer to mountain biking, had to run down some of the slippery descents here, but she managed to hold off Daucourt and finish third. Daucourt is at the end of a period of heavy training in preparation for the World Championships.

Paul Skilbeck

Next race: World Cup final, Annecy, France, 5/6 September.

Course: 10.75km, 425m climbing each lap. Mixture of wide roads and narrow woodland tracks featuring tight corners, steep drops and tree roots.

Spectators: 30,000

Weather: warm, sunny, light rain

Laps/distance: 3 laps, 32.25km.

Average speed: (approx.) 17km/h

Women's XC Results

Pos	Bib	Name	First Name	Nat	Team	WCPTS	UCIcode	Time
1	1	PEZZO	PAOLA	ITA	GARY FISHER-ROSO	75	ITA19690108	1:53:55.36
2	2	SYDOR	ALISON	CAN	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	70	CAN19660909	1:55:43.84
3	21	FULLANA	MARGARITA	ESP	LIBERTO MEGAMO A	66	ESP19720409	1:57:11.80
4	3	DAUCOURT	CHANTAL	SUI	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	62	SUI19660623	1:58:20.86
5	15	LEBOUCHER	LAURENCE	FRA	PEUGEOT LA POSTE	58	FRA19720222	1:59:18.74
6	5	MATTHES	RUTHIE	USA	POWERBAR	55	USA19651111	1:59:51.87
7	7	TOMLINSON	LESLEY	CAN	KONA FACTORY	52	CAN19591226	1:59:56.21
8	18	FÜRST	SILVIA	SUI	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	49	SUI19610508	2:00:47.31
9	36	GASSMANN	DANIELA	SWI	TISSOT-WHEELER	46	SUI19640723	2:02:48.95
10	4	DUNLAP	ALISON	USA	TEAM GT	43	USA19690727	2:03:24.59
11	6	DE NEGRI	NADIA	ITA	BIANCHI MARTINI	40	ITA19720406	2:03:58.47
12	14	ALEXANDER	CAROLINE	GBR	RITCHEY	39	GBR19680303	2:05:33.24
13	9	RÖSCH	NORA	GER	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	38	GER19750708	2:06:28.99
14	13	ROVIRA	SILVIA	ESP	SPECIALIZED-SPAI	37	ESP19671215	2:06:44.73
15	35	DAHLE	GUNN-RITA	NOR	AMERICAN EAGLE	36	NOR19730210	2:06:48.21
16	17	GRIGSON	MARY	AUS	GIANT/AIS	35	AUS19710603	2:08:04.19
17	121	VINK	ELSBETH	NED	AMERICAN EAGLE	34	NED19730125	2:08:34.07
18	12	ZU PUTLITZ	HEDDA	GER	TEAM H+H	33	GER19650904	2:08:37.43
19	143	GREEN	ERICA	RSA		32	RSA19700925	2:08:41.45
20	73	LAROY	LORY	BEL	SMOUT RC	31	BEL19641010	2:09:53.15
21	29	SPITZ	SABINE	GER	TEAM KONA-EMS	30	GER19711227	2:10:22.42
22	136	JÜNGST	BIRGIT	GER		29	GER19671001	2:11:06.13
23	137	VAN WERSCH	LOES	NED	VSB BATAVUS	28	NED19670807	2:11:16.14
24	32	BRUNGER	TRACY	GBR	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	27	GBR19700608	2:12:01.29
25	40	JONSSON	ANNICA	SWE	CRESCENT	26	SWE19701227	2:12:16.68
26	51	DORLAND	CORINE	NED	VSB BATAVUS	25	NED19730630	2:12:25.35

27	152	LINDBERG	MADELEINE	SWE	NAT TEAM SWEDEN	24	SWE00000000	2:12:32.00
28	59	GEYSEN	HANNEKE	AUS	IRON HORSE	23	AUS19770730	2:12:55.58
29	19	TEMPORELLI	SANDRA	FRA	PEUGEOT LA POSTE	22	FRA19690125	2:13:06.60
30	16	TANIKAWA	KANAKO	JPN	A&F;	21	JPN19700524	2:13:07.77
31	39	ELLIS	SARA	USA	PLYMOUTH/ELLSWOR	20	USA19681108	2:14:04.14
32	145	MARQUESTAUT	SYLVIE	FRA		19	FRA19680224	2:15:41.06
33	88	VAN DEN BRAND	DAPHNY	NED	VSB BATAVUS	18	NED19780406	2:16:11.58
34	142	ROWNTREE	ISLA	GBR	BLACK COUNTRY WH	17	GBR19690413	2:17:04.10
35	52	BRAUMANN	BIRGIT	AUT	CYCLOPIA TREK	16	AUT19730405	2:18:08.77
36	135	BORTOLIN	PAOLA	ITA	VINER GAERNER/ME	15	ITA19690427	2:20:41.67
37	133	PHELAN	JULIE	GBR	TEAM STONEFIELD	14	GBR19640107	2:20:48.81
38	94	GRETHEN	ANTJE	GER	SUNN-NIKE	13	GER19650929	2:21:24.01
39	108	CARRE	ODILE	FRA	PARIS O. C.	12	FRA19710316	2:21:44.35
40	148	SCHWING	KATRIN	GER	STORCK	11	GER19720321	2:21:46.42
41	78	OHRSTIG	EMELIE	SWE	GT-SWEDEN/NATL S	10	SWE19780227	2:21:47.31
42	159	VAN DEUN	HILDE	BEL		9	BEL19710602	2:22:48.05
43	49	COPNALL	JENNY	GBR	BIKEPARK/RALEIGH	8	GBR19751119	2:22:52.66
44	113	LENSEN	MARIELLE	NED		7	NED19680902	2:23:23.70
45	134	HALL	JOANNE	AUS		6		2:28:02.35
46	30	MICHELS-SMITH	ANDREA	GER	KHS GERMANY	5	GER19711116	2:29:15.33
47	147	VAN LOON	ANNEMIEK	NED		4	NED19690710	2:29:17.03
48	141	DUPLESSIS	SUSAN	AUS		3		2:30:52.04
49	144	SERVAIS	MELANIE	BEL	BALANCE	2	BEL19790820	2:31:22.96
50	146	COSSARD	SÉVERINE	FRA	DIAMONDBACK	1	FRA19710625	2:31:34.00
51	132	FRANKE	DELLYS	AUS		0		2:31:50.57
52	150	CLAES	RIA	BEL	TREK USA	0	BEL19621205	2:31:55.90
53	162	BATTAIR	VALERIE	BEL	55 DSL LUGANO	0	BEL19780307	2:32:46.33
54	114	VERSCHAEVE	HILDE	BEL	TREK USA	0	BEL1970020 9	2:34:00.92

55	123	BRACKX	ANNICK	BEL	TREK USA	0	BEL19610508	2:34:52.43
56	164	MIE	MANUELA	ITA	PROBIKE RACING	0	ITA19680211	2:36:03.96
57	119	VAN BEEK	GENEVIEVE	NED		0	NED19700826	2:37:12.31
58	165	VAN AERTSELAERE	CARINE	BEL	SMOUT RC	0	BEL19670825	2:37:23.34
59	163	GEEBELEN	IRENE	BEL	PRO-FLEX	0	BEL19590118	2:40:54.42
60	158	JASPERS	ANK	NED		0	NED19650423	2:41:10.29
61	160	WINTERS	BEA	NED		0	NED19670415	2:41:52.01
62	155	DUCHAMPS	VALERIE	BEL	KASTLE	0	BEL19790612	2:43:34.48
63	156	BLANCHART	JO	BEL	TREK USA	0	BEL19700406	2:47:42.41
-1 lap								
64	125	CAGNIE	SYLVIE	BEL	FUNNY BIKE	0	BEL19751107	- 1 LAP
dnf								
0	22	EPIFANOVA	ALLA	RUS	BUDVAR	0	RUS19761202	DNF
0	26	MARUNDE	REGINA	GER	GT GERMANY	0	GER19680826	DNF
0	47	EGLIN-HOSOTTE	SOPHIE	FRA	PEUGEOT LA POSTE	0	FRA19660930	DNF
0	91	RAVENSTIJN	REZA	NED	WOLF'S REIZEN	0	NED19670206	DNF
0	28	JACQUES	TAMMY	USA	SCHWINN/TOYOTA R	0	USA19651203	DNF
0	8	STROPPARO	ANNABELLA	ITA	VOLVO-CANNONDALE	0	ITA19680704	DNF
0	149	BRUNEN	YVONNE	NED		0	NED19710204	DNF
0	161	JANSEN	MARCIA	NED		0	NED19711209	DNF
0	157	MUNOZ CARRETE	CARIZA	MEX		0	MEX19701115	DNF
dns								
0	20	ROBINSON	LOUISE	GBR	TEAM RALEIGH	0	GBR19650112	DNS
0	118	NACHBAR	NATASJA	NED	NATIONAL TEAM	0	NED19691224	DNS