

## **Venue: Mt Snow, Vermont, USA- XC#6- 21/22 June 1997**

"It is the middle of the season and I'm feeling a bit tired," was the scarcely believable quote of Olympic Champion, **Paola Pezzo** (Gary Fisher) after winning the sixth round of the World Cup by a massive margin.

This was another taste of the tall Italian at her devastating best. If she continues with this form it is hard to see anybody else coming anywhere near her in any of the competitions that count most this year - namely the World Cup and World Championships. Pezzo rode away from the field on the first climb of the race and her competitors were left to wonder how she does it. *"It was like she was on a motorbike,"* said third-placed **Ruthie Matthes** (USA, PowerBar), who decided against chasing as Pezzo disappeared into the intense heat of the long, slow ascent. Second was World Champion, **Alison Sydor** (CAN, Volvo-Cannondale).

Matthes, silver medalist at the 1996 World Championships, finished second here when the World Cup visited last year. Sydor was first, but then there was no Pezzo. Today Matthes tussled with Sydor for two of the three laps, but succumbed to a sharp attack by the Canadian near the top of the withering 5.6km climb and never saw Sydor again.

Sydor finished at four minutes, 26 seconds behind Pezzo; Matthes was a little over a minute further back. Next rider in, **Beth Coats** (USA, Ventana),



*A familiar sight: Pezzo on top of the podium*

had the best finish of her career to date, but was almost 13 minutes adrift of Pezzo.

Despite winning four times in the World Cup so far this season, and finishing second in the other two races, Pezzo is far from certain that she will win the coveted title - even though she knows she is by far the best female mountain bike racer in the world these days. *"I'm starting to feel a little more confident, but the top riders are still close to me in points."*

Sydor, 48 points behind and second overall, doesn't quite see it that way. *"I have no chance of catching Paola... but I can see why she is not confident. I was the same on my way to winning the World Cup last year. You cannot relax until it is over - anything can happen."*

As a harsh reminder of that, **Caroline Alexander** (GBR, Ritchey), one of the two riders to beat Pezzo and claim a World Cup round win this year, fell during warm-up half an hour before the start and broke her clavicle.

Mount Snow, which with its abundance of great singletrack has come to be regarded by many as the eastern capital of mountain biking, has been a feature on the World Cup circuit for several years now, and both pundits and riders are coming to regard it as a classic. *"It is the best course so far this season,"* said Sydor of the challenging loop. However, this event, which has seen some of the most exciting racing in World Cup history, is to take a break from the circuit for next year. It will be missed.

### **Paul Skilbeck**

**Course:** 8.85km, 411m climbing each lap.  
**Spectators:** 9,000;  
**Weather:** Very hot, very humid, sunny.  
**Laps/Distance:** 3.25/28.8km.  
**Average speed:** Women (approx.) 14kph



*Ruthie Matthes has a renewed enthusiasm for racing and was on the attack all day at Mount Snow*

## Women's XC Results

Pos	Bib	Name	First Name	Nat	Team	WCPTS	Time
1	1	PEZZO	PAOLA	ITA	GARY FISHER-ROSO	75	2:01:54.08
2	2	SYDOR	ALISON	CAN	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	70	2:06:20.25
3	15	MATTHES	RUTHIE	USA	POWERBAR	66	2:07:30.56
4	51	COATS	BETH	USA	VENTANA	62	2:14:38.86
5	20	REDDEN	CHRISTINA	CAN	RITCHEY	58	2:15:03.09
6	6	DAUCOURT	CHANTAL	SUI	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	55	2:15:57.41
7	11	RÖSCH	NORA	GER	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	52	2:17:05.97
8	23	FÜRST	SILVIA	SUI	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	49	2:18:13.09
9	37	KAIN	SHARI	USA	POLO SPORT	46	2:19:40.03
10	3	DUNLAP	ALISON	USA	TEAM GT	43	2:20:45.21
11	95	JACQUES	TAMMY	USA	SCHWINN/TOYOTA R	40	2:21:38.13
12	69	MARSHMAN	RENE	USA	MOOTS CYCLES	39	2:22:13.32
13	36	GASSMANN	DANIELA	SUI	TISSOT-WHEELER	38	2:23:43.70
14	18	ROVIRA	SILVIA	ESP	SPECIALIZED-SPAI	37	2:24:21.16
15	26	GRIGSON	MARY	AUS	GIANT/AIS	36	2:24:49.59
16	7	STROPPARO	ANNABELLA	ITA	VOLVO-CANNONDALE	35	2:25:18.23
17	72	BLACKWELDER	BROOKE	USA		34	2:25:23.10
18	127	DORION	MELANIE	CAN	SCOTT MTB RACE T	33	2:26:30.46
19	13	ZU PUTLITZ	HEDDA	GER	TEAM H+H	32	2:27:41.13
20	31	HEARN	MARY	USA	POLO SPORT	31	2:27:41.74
21	82	PIPPIN	NIKI	USA	BREEZER	30	2:29:26.38
22	16	TANIKAWA	KANAKO	JPN	A&F;	29	2:29:45.10
23	111	PAULSEN	ABBY	USA		28	2:30:19.13
24	4	DE NEGRI	NADIA	ITA	BIANCHI MARTINI	27	2:31:05.99
25	113	GREENE	LESLIE	CAN	KONA FACTORY	26	2:31:31.39

26	14	ROBINSON	LOUISE	GBR	TEAM RALEIGH	25	2:32:07.08
27	19	MCQUAID	MELANIE	CAN	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	24	2:32:48.53
28	106	EGLIN-HOSOTTE	SOPHIE	FRA	PEUGEOT LA POSTE	23	2:33:22.57
29	49	BRAINARD	GOLDEN	USA	BIANCHI MARTINI	22	2:36:14.15
30	107	EGGERTSEN	TERESA	USA	VOODOO CYCLES	21	2:37:28.65
31	35	NAKAGOME	YUKARI	JPN	MIYATA	20	2:38:00.18
32	21	TEMPORELLI	SANDRA	FRA	PEUGEOT LA POSTE	19	2:38:31.06
33	84	HILL	KRISTI	USA	BREEZER/NEXUS	18	2:38:31.27
34	27	MICHELS-SMITH	ANDREA	GER	KHS GERMANY	17	2:39:38.59
35	125	FEDYNA	MARG	CAN	ERTC/CYCLE LOGIC	16	2:49:24.00
36	45	WILSON	KAREN	USA	PEARL IZUMI	15	2:54:21.00
DNF							
0	5	TOMLINSON	LESLEY	CAN	KONA FACTORY	0	DNF
0	43	EPIFANOVA	ALLA	RUS	BUDVAR	0	DNF
0	46	ELLIS	SARA	USA	PLYMOUTH/ELLSWOR	0	DNF
0	110	GARCIA	LEAH	USA	MARIN	0	DNF
0	9	LEBOUCHER	LAURENCE	FRA	PEUGEOT LA POSTE	0	DNF
0	128	BRADLEY	CASSEY	USA	BONTRAGER	0	DNF
0	76	WALLENFELS	LYNDA	GBR	JAMIS	0	DNF
0	78	SINCLAIR	TRISH	CAN	KONA FACTORY	0	DNF
0	86	KNAPP	CHANTAL	USA	DIAMONDBACK	0	DNF
0	114	HALL	GINA	USA	BREEZER	0	DNF
0	119	STERNER	JACQUELINE	USA	VENTANA	0	DNF
0	116	VAN DEN BRAND	DAPHNY	NED	VSB BATAVUS	0	DNF
DNS							
0	8	ALEXANDER	CAROLINE	GBR	RITCHEY	0	DNS
0	126	SHER	LISA	USA	NAUTILUS/BARACUD	0	DNS