

Venue: Vail, CO, USA- XC#8- 12-13 July 1997

Paola Pezzo (ITA, Gary Fisher) won her fourth straight World Cup cross-country race during the eighth round of GRUNDIG/UCI World Cup competition at Vail, Colorado on July 12. Following in the Italian's powerful wake after the 32.8 km race were **Ruthie Matthes** (USA, Powerbar), **Tammy Jacques** (USA, Schwinn-Toyota) and Russian **Alla Epifanova** (Budvar).

Alison Sydor (CAN, Volvo-Cannondale) spent the race as a commentator, having been sidelined by a shoulder injury sustained during practice on the cross-country course on Wednesday afternoon. Sydor fell on an unmarked bridge-crossing section, falling on her shoulder and sustaining tissue damage but no broken bones. *"I am looking forward to being back for the next round,"* stated Sydor, who retains her second place ranking.

Pezzo, for her part, seems to be staying with the script that is making her a star - take an early lead, and never give it up. She has seemingly found form which is unassailable by anyone in the ranks.

At the first climb of a race total of 3,600 feet, it was **Beth Coats** (USA, Ventana) who led the group briefly, followed by **Alison Dunlap** (USA, GT) and Pezzo. Ruthie Matthes trailed directly behind Pezzo.

But, it took only 15 minutes for Pezzo and Matthes to begin pulling away from the rest of the group on this course which requires both the best of climbing ability and the nerves to descend expertly - they were never caught.

"My strategy was to give everything I had today," said Matthes, while Pezzo commented: *"I thought that Matthes might make up time on the descents, so I attacked on climbs."*

Tammy Jacques and Alison Dunlap battled for third and fourth place positions, a battle which eventually caused Dunlap *"to blow up - I just blew,"* as the GT rider states - she finished sixth, while Jacques held on to a distant third behind Matthes. A brilliant performance from ex-road racer Alla Epifanova placed the Russian in fourth, while **Rene Marshman** (USA, Moots Cycles), a Colorado local, rounded out the top five.

Chantal Daucourt (SUI, Trek-Volkswagen), currently holding a third position in World Cup standings, stayed away from Vail to rest for upcoming European Championships.

Course: 32.8km (20.4 miles) in three different loops, 1090m(3600ft) climbing total. Dry, dusty mountain road and track and village streets at an altitude of over 2600m(8500ft).

Spectators: 7,000;

Weather: very warm, sunny, passing cloud.

Average speed: (approx.) 17.5kp/h (11mp/h).



Alla Epifanova- RUS (left), took her second surprise podium position, an improved fourth spot

Women's XC Results

Pos	Bib	Name	First Name	Nat	Team	WCPTS	Time
1	1	PEZZO	PAOLA	ITA	GARY FISHER	75	1:52:15.28
2	8	MATTHES	RUTHIE	USA	POWERBAR	70	1:54:51.16
3	49	JACQUES	TAMMY	USA	SCHWINN/TOYOTA R	66	2:00:03.97
4	27	EPIFANOVA	ALLA	RUS	BUDVAR	62	2:01:12.08
5	38	MARSHMAN	RENE	USA	MOOTS CYCLES	58	2:01:40.31
6	4	DUNLAP	ALISON	USA	TEAM GT	55	2:03:13.59
7	6	TOMLINSON	LESLEY	CAN	KONA FACTORY	52	2:03:29.87
8	29	COATS	BETH	USA	VENTANA	49	2:04:30.59
9	43	BRAINARD	GOLDEN	USA	BIANCHI MARTINI	46	2:08:00.04
10	9	RÖSCH	NORA	GER	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	43	2:08:31.87
11	10	REDDEN	CHRISTINA	CAN	RITCHEY	40	2:09:40.14
12	21	GRIGSON	MARY	AUS	GIANT/AIS	39	2:09:41.87
13	106	TROMBLEY	ANN	USA	CHARMAR/KLEIN	38	2:10:07.90
14	24	HEARN	MARY	USA	POLO SPORT	37	2:10:33.59
15	16	MCQUAID	MELANIE	CAN	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	36	2:10:42.89
16	119	REEVES	GRETCHEN	USA	TWP	35	2:11:01.06
17	66	BRIGGS	MIRANDA	USA	THOMPSON/CANNOND	34	2:11:22.68
18	47	WILSON	KAREN	USA	PEARL IZUMI	33	2:11:31.99
19	104	BUCY	ELIZABETH	USA	IBIS-GEAX	32	2:11:37.31
20	62	HILL	KRISTI	USA	BREEZER/NEXUS	31	2:12:14.04
21	17	TANIKAWA	KANAKO	JPN	A&F;	30	2:12:50.90
22	120	SMITH	KIM	USA	MOOTS	29	2:13:05.01
23	115	WALBERG	CATHERINE	USA	BIANCHI MARTINI	28	2:13:30.43
24	116	FLORIT-JUAREZ	JIMENA	ARG	KLEIN/BEN&JERRY;'	27	2:17:13.00
25	127	WALLICK	SARAH	USA	BOURE	26	2:18:58.09

26	125	BEGY	CHRISTINA	USA		25	2:20:14.03
27	129	LOVEJOY	JILAYNE	USA	SCHWINN/GRAND WE	24	2:24:12.73
28	57	GARCIA	LEAH	USA	MARIN	23	2:25:37.11
29	126	FORCINA-BARROWS	LORRAINE	USA	ANSWER/MANITOU	22	2:26:15.71
30	124	KIDD	DEBORAH	USA	BOURE	21	2:26:53.75
31	121	TYSSO	ANNE KRISTINE	NOR	TRONDHJEMS/NORWA	20	2:27:00.00
32	128	MOORES	CHERYL	USA	TEAM JAMIS/CLIF	19	2:38:58.33
33	122	MACIEL	GABRIELA	MEX	TECATE	18	2:42:15.53
34	123	STANG	KATHY	USA	PROFLEX	17	2:45:24.45
dnf							
	61	PAULSEN	ABBY	USA		0	DNF
	50	PIPPIN	NIKI	USA	BREEZER	0	DNF
	78	EGGERTSEN	TERESA	USA	VOODOO CYCLES	0	DNF
	101	KNAPP	CHANTAL	USA	DIAMONDBACK	0	DNF
dns							
	2	SYDOR	ALISON	CAN	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	0	DNS