

Venue: St Wendel, Germany- XC#3- 26/27 April 1997

After an intense battle with **Paola Pezzo** (ITA, Gary Fisher), **Caroline Alexander** (GBR, Ritchey) surged ahead to break the spell the Olympic champion had cast over her rivals in the first two rounds of the 1997 Grundig/UCI series.

Alexander chose the third lap to make her move and later said *"It was a matter of how patient I could be. I didn't want to ride the whole race by myself... I went a hard a few times and that was it."* Alexander's margin at the finish was 1:31.

In 1994 Alexander finished second overall in the Grundig/UCI World Cup, and in 1995 she won the European Championships. But today was the first World Cup round win for the 28 year-old Briton from Barrow-in-Furness. As Pezzo admitted Alexander has long been thought capable of such a result, *"Caroline was very strong today, and she is a very good rider. In the past she has been unlucky but today things went well for her. I was hoping to win, but I'm very happy with second place."*



Caroline Alexander (GBR) in the Sea Otter Classic earlier this year

A surprisingly fast first lap destroyed the hopes of many riders. World Champion, **Alison Sydor** (CAN, Volvo-Cannondale) was one to suffer badly, and finished fifth. Sydor started the race feeling tired-out by a heavy travel schedule - she had raced at Napa, USA, and Wellington, New Zealand, in the

first two rounds of the World Cup, whereas Alexander skipped the Wellington round in favour of some concentrated training at home. In the first round, at Napa, Alexander was forced out by punctures.

Third place was taken by **Chantal Daucourt** (SUI, VW-Trek). Daucourt was one of the survivors of the hot early pace, and shared the work to drop **Nadia de Negri** (ITA, Biachi-Martini) and Sydor. Daucourt lost contact with Pezzo and Alexander when she crashed on the third lap and *"after that I couldn't catch up, they were just too fast. But even without my crash I was going to come third."*

Paul Skilbeck Course: 8km, 270m climbing each lap. road, forest path, rocky tracks, low technical difficulty

Spectators: 5,000; Weather: cool, overcast, showers

Laps/Distance: 4.5/40.1km

Average speed: Women 18.2km/h

Women's XC Results

Pos	Bib	Name	First Name	Nat	Team	WCPTS	Time
1	60	ALEXANDER	CAROLINE	GBR	RITCHEY	75	2:12:38.67
2	1	PEZZO	PAOLA	ITA	GARY FISHER	70	2:14:10.55
3	9	DAUCOURT	CHANTAL	SUI	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	66	2:15:25.05
4	5	DE NEGRI	NADIA	ITA	BIANCHI MARTINI	62	2:16:18.45
5	2	SYDOR	ALISON	CAN	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	58	2:17:23.21
6	4	DUNLAP	ALISON	USA	TEAM GT	55	2:19:04.23
7	16	LEBOUCHER	LAURENCE	FRA	LA POSTE	52	2:19:42.91
8	3	TOMLINSON	LESLEY	CAN	KONA FACTORY	49	2:19:43.43
9	65	ROBINSON	LOUISE	GBR	TEAM RALEIGH	46	2:20:09.59
10	61	GASSMANN	DANIELA	SUI	TISSOT-WHEELER	43	2:20:15.09
11	66	FULLANA	MARGARITA	ESP	LIBERTO MEGAMO A	40	2:20:27.87
12	28	TEMPORELLI	SANDRA	FRA	LA POSTE	39	2:21:34.29
13	6	STROPPARO	ANNABELLA	ITA	VOLVO-CANNONDALE	38	2:21:43.40
14	46	ROVIRA	SILVIA	ESP	SPECIALIZED-SPAI	37	2:22:19.54
15	17	REDDEN	CHRISTINA	CAN	RITCHEY	36	2:22:22.72
16	11	MATTHES	RUTHIE	USA	POWERBAR	35	2:22:53.85
17	15	DAHLE	GUNN-RITA	NOR	AMERICAN EAGLE	34	2:24:09.66
18	20	RÖESCH	NORA	GER	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	33	2:24:55.10
19	36	MARUNDE	REGINA	GER	GT GERMANY	32	2:25:03.07
20	19	ZU PUTLITZ	HEDDA	GER	TEAM H+H	31	2:26:04.48
21	62	FIAT	NATHALIE	FRA	KONA	30	2:26:04.92
22	26	FÜRST	SILVIA	SUI	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	29	2:27:44.37

23	85	CLARET	DANIELE	FRA	SPECIALIZED	28	2:28:27.67
24	40	SPITZ	SABINE	GER	JEANTEX/KONA	27	2:29:12.74
25	78	LAROY	LORY	BEL	SMOUT R	26	2:29:49.93
26	70	DORLAND	CORINE	NED	VSB BATAVUS	25	2:30:45.42
27	24	MCQUAID	MELANIE	CAN	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	24	2:31:08.93
28	77	BACH	MARITA	FRA	MOLSHEIM FUN BIK	23	2:31:15.49
29	72	COPNALL	JENNY	GBR		22	2:32:05.34
30	95	RAVENSTIJN	REZA	NED	WOLF'S REIZEN	21	2:32:49.34
31	103	GRETHEN	ANTJE	GER	SUNN	20	2:33:51.65
32	81	DOPLEB	SABINE	GER	GIANT	19	2:34:55.26
33	106	PFAB	IRENE	GER	KÄSTLE RACING TE	18	2:35:15.60
34	13	TANIKAWA	KANAKO	JPN	A&F;	17	2:35:49.19
35	80	CARRE	ODILE	FRA	PARIS O.C.	16	2:38:14.54
36	56	MICHELS-SMITH	ANDREA	GER	KHS GERMANY	15	2:39:30.00
37	55	NAKAGOME	YUKARI	JPN	MIYATA	14	2:39:50.00
38	101	WEISS	BARBARA	GER	TEAM RIEDL	13	2:40:20.00
39	91	VAN DIJK	VANESSA	NED	DIAMONDBACK	12	2:42:30.00
40	96	LENSEN	MARIELLE	NED		11	2:44:00.00
41	108	VERSCHAEVE	HILDE	BEL	TREK USA	10	2:47:40.00
42	110	LUKAT	SILKE	GER		9	2:53:00.00
43	107	SCHMIDT	KATJA	GER	BIRIA	8	-1 LAP
44	67	NACHBAR	NATASJA	NED		7	-1 LAP
45	99	VAN BEEK	GENEVIEVE	NED		6	-1 LAP
46	104	OINONEN	ANU	FIN	CRESCENT	5	-1 LAP
47	102	KOLAROVA	KATERINA	CZE	JOKO	4	-1 LAP

48	93	BRACKX	ANNICK	BEL	TREK USA	3	-1 LAP
49	100	KAMERBEEK	INGRID	NED		2	-1 LAP
50	109	CAGNIE	SYLVIE	BEL	FUNNY BIKE	1	-2 LAPS
0	79	ALFES	SUSANNE	GER	DIAMONDBACK	0	DNF
0	63	EGLIN-HOSOTTE	SOPHIE	FRA	LA POSTE	0	DNF
0	97	DEN OUDEN	NATASCHA	NED	GRISLEY	0	DNF
0	94	VAN RAVENSTEIN	MAJO	NED		0	DNF
0	98	LIEFTINK	NATASJA	NED	GRISLEY	0	DNF
0	68	COPPOOLSE	SANDRA	NED	NATIONAL TEAM	0	DNF
0	8	TURCUTTO	MARIA PAOLA	ITA	CECINI LIVIGNO	0	DNF
0	30	BRUNGER	TRACY	GBR	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	0	DNF
0	83	JÜNGST	BIRGIT	GER		0	DNS
0	105	GALLAGHER	GILLIAN	GBR	KONA	0	DNS
0	92	VON VALTIER	CLAUDIA	GER		0	DNF
0	86	EPIFANOVA	ALLA	RUS	BUDVAR	0	DNF
0	111	SERVAIS	MELANIE	BEL	BALANCE	0	DNF