

Canmore, Alberta, CAN- 4-5.7.98- XC#6-

Sydor Wins Big at Home

Alison Sydor (CAN, Volvo-Cannondale) rode with all the authority of an experienced veteran in the mountains above her hometown of Calgary to demolish the opposition and strengthen her lead in the Grundig/UCI World Cup series. Chased gamely for four laps of the Canmore, Alberta circuit by **Chantal Daucourt** (SUI, Trek-Volkswagen) and current world champion **Paola Pezzo** (ITA, Gary Fisher), Sydor, 31, was reduced to tears at the end of the most heartfelt victory of her career, one she compared to her Olympic silver medal performance in 1996.

With her win in this sixth race - the first of two rounds where low scores are dropped, Sydor now leads the series by 21 points and is in firm control of her title pursuit. After a self-described *'really disappointing early spring'* hampered by a lingering chest cold, she has made a strong return after the long break since [Plymouth's](#) round five. Second place finisher Daucourt is now ranked fourth in the series while **Laurence Leboucher** (FRA, Peugeot-La Poste) is second in the rankings after finishing fourth today.

Conditions were a factor today as the testing course - made more treacherous by an early morning shower of rain - awaited the 65 starters and 5,000 enthusiastic fans with a mix of slippery descents and muddy singletrack. With **Margarita Fullana** (ESP, Mt. Dew-Specialized) the only top rider absent due to a Spanish Olympic selection race back home, Sydor and **Alison Dunlap** (USA, Team GT) led the parade lap. By the slippery *'Chute'* descent into the lower loop, Dunlap fell off and Sydor had moved 36 seconds clear of Daucourt. Next up was Leboucher, then round four winner **Gunn-Rita Dahle** (NOR, American Eagle) at 1-07 back.

Sydor had already begun to gap the field, doubling her lead by the beginning of the second lap, with second and third places holding a steady distance between them. Dahle then managed to pass Leboucher while Pezzo rode in fifth in this her first World Cup race since the fourth round in [St Wendel](#).

Nearly two minutes separated Sydor from her rivals a half-lap later as a rejuvenated **Anabella Stropparo** (ITA, Volvo-Cannondale) began moving up through the field and rode in sixth with **Nadia DeNegri** (ITA, Bianchi-Martini) close behind. Pezzo passed a slowing Dahle in the feed zone to begin lap three, and was soon on Leboucher's tail, closing the gap from 45 to 20 seconds within one lap. By the last lap's climb, Pezzo passed Leboucher as Sydor - not content with a near three-minute lead - kept pouring it on in front of an exuberantly partisan home crowd.

At race's end Sydor entered the Olympic arena to a huge roar from the fans, which included her father, her emotion showing as she smiled and waved to the crowd. Crossing over a bridge to the finish line, she dismounted and hoisted her bike over her head, overjoyed to win so convincingly - only an hour and a half from her hometown of Calgary. After crossing the line she then watched the rest of the podium-bound women finish, high-fiving teammate Stropparo before succumbing to the emotion of the occasion and bursting into tears during a television interview.

"I'm ecstatic - this win is so important to me," she admitted before moving on to explain what it took to win here. *"You had to climb and descend well and pace yourself. You had to be on top of it today, and there was no faking it. This was a true mountain bike course, and to win here in front of this crowd means so much to me."*

For Daucourt, winner of the third round in Budapest, a silver medal performance today was easily explained by her frame of mind. *"I was feeling great!"* she said. *"When I came here I didn't expect to do very well so I didn't feel stressed out. I was relaxed and I think it really helped. I was just having fun."*

Third place finisher Pezzo, however, was less enthusiastic about her finish. *"Today was not so good,"* she explained. *"The four laps were very technical, and it was very difficult physically."*

Source: **Ari Cheren**

Women/Femmes



Alison Sydor- CAN

<i>pos</i>	<i>bib</i>	<i>name/nom</i>		<i>nat</i>	<i>WCPTS</i>	<i>UCIcode</i>	<i>time</i>
1	1	SYDOR	ALISON	CAN	75	CAN19660909	2:12:07.88
2	6	DAUCOURT	CHANTAL	SUI	70	SUI19660623	2:15:03.93
3	7	PEZZO	PAOLA	ITA	66	ITA19690108	2:17:26.12
4	5	LEBOUCHER	LAURENCE	FRA	62	FRA19720222	2:17:36.90
5	33	STROPPARO	ANNABELLA	ITA	58	ITA19680704	2:19:22.63
6	10	GRIGSON	MARY	AUS	55	AUS19710603	2:19:54.84
7	4	DAHLE	GUNN-RITA	NOR	52	NOR19730210	2:20:53.22
8	8	REDDEN	CHRISTINA	CAN	49	CAN19660316	2:21:17.74
9	12	EPIFANOVA	ALLA	RUS	46	RUS19761202	2:21:52.25
10	23	DE NEGRI	NADIA	ITA	43	ITA19720406	2:23:24.11
11	46	MATTHES	RUTHIE	USA	40	USA19651111	2:23:34.20
12	14	TEMPORELLI	SANDRA	FRA	39	FRA19690125	2:24:20.94
13	18	JACQUES	TAMMY	USA	38	USA19650312	2:24:33.40
14	15	ZU PUTTLITZ	HEDDA	GER	37	GER19650904	2:27:49.30
15	27	DORION	MELANIE	CAN	36	CAN19761119	2:28:58.60
16	11	TOMLINSON	LESLEY	CAN	35	CAN19591226	2:29:11.37
17	3	DUNLAP	ALISON	USA	34	USA19690727	2:29:44.87
18	28	FLORIT-JUAREZ	JIMENA	ARG	33	ARG19720518	2:30:04.82
19	9	ALEXANDER	CAROLINE	GBR	32	GBR19680303	2:30:05.72
20	54	BRAINARD	GOLDEN	USA	31	USA19680919	2:30:38.13
21	57	RICHARDSON	CARMEN	USA	30	USA19670219	2:31:27.95
22	21	MICHEL-SMITH	ANDREA	GER	29	GER19711114	2:32:20.60
23	77	CHORNEY	AMBER	CAN	28	CAN19750129	2:34:13.10
24	58	TROMBLEY	ANN	USA	27	USA19631122	2:34:54.01
25	40	KOBAYASHI	KANAKO	JPN	26	JPN19700524	2:35:41.30

26	51	QUICK	RHONDA	USA	25 USA19650705	2:37:18.74
27	48	HEARN	MARY	USA	24 USA19690225	2:37:32.75
28	66	PREMONT	MARIE-HELENE	CAN	23 CAN19771024	2:37:48.07
29	72	ROBICHAUD	LINDA	CAN	22 CAN19661210	2:40:20.15
30	65	MUNOZ CARRETE	CARIZA	MEX	21 MEX19701115	2:40:37.49
31	59	NANBU	HIROKO	JPN	20 JPN19681008	2:41:06.26
32	62	PLATT	CHRISTINE	CAN	19 CAN19690812	2:41:29.67
33	53	DURYEA	KATHY	USA	18 USA19631221	2:41:54.44
34	24	BRUNGER	TRACY	GBR	17 GBR19700608	2:42:07.83
35	75	ALLEN	SYLVIE	CAN	16 CAN19730808	2:42:09.09
36	56	REEVES	GRETCHEN	USA	15 USA19710927	2:42:26.66
37	94	KNAPP	CHANTAL	USA	14 USA19660502	2:42:39.61
38	61	GREENE	LESLIE	CAN	13 CAN19660715	2:42:43.28
39	31	COPNALL	JENNY	GBR	12 GBR19751119	2:43:28.95
40	60	EGGERTSEN	TERESA	USA	11 USA19621003	2:43:30.70
41	69	FEDYNA	MARG	CAN	10 CAN19641023	2:43:47.82
42	96	DWYER	JEANIE	CAN	9 CAN19710226	2:44:18.96
43	91	TOWNSEND	CLAIRE	CAN	8 CAN19750223	2:45:04.47
44	35	CLARET	DANIÉLE	FRA	7 FRA19690624	2:45:17.94
45	30	MCQUAID	MELANIE	CAN	6 CAN19730517	2:45:28.14
46	38	MARUNDE	REGINA	GER	5 GER19680826	2:46:28.49
47	93	GRAIN	GINA	CAN	4 CAN19740616	-1 LAP
48	82	PELLETTERIO-YORK	LARISSA	CAN	3 CAN19641023	-1 LAP
49	68	CARMICHAEL	SALLY	CAN	2 CAN19670215	-1 LAP
50	70	HEALY	ANNA	CAN	1 CAN19740118	-1 LAP
51	74	HEINTZMAN	ERIN	CAN	0 CAN19740503	-1 LAP
52	84	LAWRIE	SELENA	CAN	0 CAN19691006	-1 LAP
53	92	HAWTHORNE-ALLEN	TANYA	NZL	0 NZL19680824	-1 LAP
54	64	MACIEL	GABRIELA	MEX	0 MEX19660815	-1 LAP
55	90	PIZARRO LAZO	CLAUDIA	CHI	0 CHI19790206	-1 LAP
56	80	HALEY	BARBARA	CAN	0 CAN19701211	-2 LAPS
57	81	SPENCER	STACEY	CAN	0 CAN19720411	-2 LAPS
58	67	PADUA	SUE	CAN	0 CAN19691125	-2 LAPS
0	13	FÜRST	SILVIA	SUI	0 SUI19610508	DNF
0	16	PALMER-KOMAR	SUSAN	CAN	0 CAN19670127	DNF
0	52	SINCLAIR	PATRICIA	CAN	0 CAN19690202	DNF
0	73	WEISS	BARBARA	GER	0 GER19780522	DNF
0	76	MAHER	KATHARINE	USA	0 USA19760321	DNF
0	78	KASSEL	NIKKI	CAN	0 CAN19731105	DNF
0	79	WALDNER	CHARLENE	CAN	0 CAN19690928	DNF
0	95	POTTS	CECILIA	USA	0 USA19800206	DNS