

## Conyers, GA, USA- 11-12.7.98- XC#7-

### Leboucher's Second First

A powerful **Alison Sydor** (CAN, Volvo-Cannondale) took to the fast '96 Olympics course at Conyers, Atlanta, riding with a vigour that belied Saturday afternoon's hot, muggy conditions. Her speed was confounded, however, by two time-sapping flat tires and a surging **Laurence Leboucher** (FRA, Peugeot LaPoste) who passed the world cup points leader to capture her second win of this season. World and Olympic Champion **Paola Pezzo** (ITA, Gary Fisher) was left to chase for third.

Saturday's race was essentially a two person contest between a pair of the sport's fastest women. An impressive fourth-place finish for Italy was posted by **Nadia DeNegri** (ITA, Bianchi-Martini) who emerged from a very hot and tired women's field to complete three laps of this deceptively tough Olympic course in four minutes more than the very quick winning time of one hour, 39 minutes.

The 42-woman field began the race at a cautious pace, aware of the humidity's punishment of body and mind here in the North American south. In consideration of the climatic extremes here, the race had been shortened from three and a half laps, down to three plus a start loop.

The field held together until the first feed zone, and then Sydor asserted herself at the front. Leboucher went with the Canadian, and looked confident on the climbs if a little cautious on the descents. Over the rollercoaster course, Sydor soon opened a modest gap. Leboucher decided to ride on the risky side in an effort to maintain contact with the outstanding technician Sydor. *"I felt like she was toying with me in the race - tactically,"* Leboucher said as she again utilized her ability to climb in the heat - as she had done victoriously in [Plymouth](#) two rounds ago.

*"I didn't want to go out too hard today because of the heat,"* Sydor said of her strategy. *"I would have liked to build up a bigger lead."* Meanwhile, Pezzo and DeNegri rode together 20 seconds back in the first lap and were a full minute off the pace by the second lap. At this point in the race, **Annabella Stropparo** (ITA, Volvo-Cannondale) and **Gunn-Rita Dahle** (NOR, American Eagle) were next through in fifth and sixth, respectively.

In the last lap Sydor flatted and, by the time she went by for the final loop with a repaired tire, was 50 seconds behind Leboucher - and at this point Pezzo led DeNegri by just over ten seconds. *"There were a lot of spectators on the course, so I tried to not say too many bad words,"* Sydor offered. Leboucher continued to ride hard but, unbeknownst to her, Sydor had flatted a second time just before the finish, her front tire betraying her on a rock section and causing her to crash. This was all the luck Leboucher needed to come across the line a full two minutes, 15 seconds ahead of Sydor; Pezzo, DeNegri and Dahle next across approximately one minute apart.

*"Today was really hard,"* commented Leboucher. *"If Alison hadn't flatted I think I would have been second because I was catching up on the climbs, but they were really short and Alison was really pulling away on the downhills - she was taking a lot of chances. Maybe that's why she flatted... maybe she pushed it too hard."*

For Sydor, today was a perfect opportunity lost. *"I thought for sure I had it in the bag and felt great today. But these are the things you have to deal with - mechanicals happen."* With her 70 points here, Sydor remains atop the standings and continues to wear the blue Grundig leader's jersey. With one round remaining Leboucher is now only 12 points behind, and Pezzo sits in third overall, five points behind Leboucher. None of the top contenders can afford a mistake at the final, once again it is wide open.

The final round of the XC World Cup circuit is the at Bromont, Quebec, on 5 September.

Source: **Ari Cheren**

## Women/Femmes



*Laurence Leboucher*

<i>pos</i>	<i>bib</i>	<i>name/nom</i>		<i>nat</i>	<i>UCIcode</i>	<i>time</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>LEBOUCHER</b>	<b>LAURENCE</b>	<b>FRA</b>	<b>FRA19720222</b>	<b>1:39:31.72</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>SYDOR</b>	<b>ALISON</b>	<b>CAN</b>	<b>CAN19660909</b>	<b>1:41:47.60</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>PEZZO</b>	<b>PAOLA</b>	<b>ITA</b>	<b>ITA19690108</b>	<b>1:42:40.05</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>DE NEGRI</b>	<b>NADIA</b>	<b>ITA</b>	<b>ITA19720406</b>	<b>1:43:31.74</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>DAHLE</b>	<b>GUNN-RITA</b>	<b>NOR</b>	<b>NOR19730210</b>	<b>1:44:24.73</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>MATTHES</b>	<b>RUTHIE</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>USA19651111</b>	<b>1:44:53.89</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>EPIFANOVA</b>	<b>ALLA</b>	<b>RUS</b>	<b>RUS19761202</b>	<b>1:45:12.38</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>STROPPARO</b>	<b>ANNABELLA</b>	<b>ITA</b>	<b>ITA19680704</b>	<b>1:45:27.04</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>FÜRST</b>	<b>SILVIA</b>	<b>SUI</b>	<b>SUI19610508</b>	<b>1:46:10.67</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>REDDEN</b>	<b>CHRISTINA</b>	<b>CAN</b>	<b>CAN19660316</b>	<b>1:46:41.84</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>ZU PUTTLITZ</b>	<b>HEDDA</b>	<b>GER</b>	<b>GER19650904</b>	<b>1:47:35.38</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>TOMLINSON</b>	<b>LESLEY</b>	<b>CAN</b>	<b>CAN19591226</b>	<b>1:47:42.06</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>DAUCOURT</b>	<b>CHANTAL</b>	<b>SUI</b>	<b>SUI19660623</b>	<b>1:48:06.29</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>DUNLAP</b>	<b>ALISON</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>USA19690727</b>	<b>1:48:38.45</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>MAHER</b>	<b>KATHARINE</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>USA19760321</b>	<b>1:48:47.01</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>TEMPORELLI</b>	<b>SANDRA</b>	<b>FRA</b>	<b>FRA19690125</b>	<b>1:49:49.38</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>FLORIT-JUAREZ</b>	<b>JIMENA</b>	<b>ARG</b>	<b>ARG19720518</b>	<b>1:51:21.46</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>HEARN</b>	<b>MARY</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>USA19690225</b>	<b>1:52:12.87</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>BRUNGER</b>	<b>TRACY</b>	<b>GBR</b>	<b>GBR19700608</b>	<b>1:52:15.92</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>REEVES</b>	<b>GRETCHEN</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>USA19710927</b>	<b>1:52:49.44</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>RICHARDSON</b>	<b>CARMEN</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>USA19670219</b>	<b>1:53:03.97</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>PIPPIN</b>	<b>NIKI</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>USA19631220</b>	<b>1:53:57.73</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>CLARET</b>	<b>DANIÉLE</b>	<b>FRA</b>	<b>FRA19690624</b>	<b>1:54:14.50</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>MICHELS-SMITH</b>	<b>ANDREA</b>	<b>GER</b>	<b>GER19711114</b>	<b>1:54:41.13</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>JACQUES</b>	<b>TAMMY</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>USA19650312</b>	<b>1:54:47.53</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>MARUNDE</b>	<b>REGINA</b>	<b>GER</b>	<b>GER19680826</b>	<b>1:54:49.02</b>

27	53	NAMBU	HIROKO	JPN	JPN19681008	1:58:59.02
28	42	BRAINARD	GOLDEN	USA	USA19680919	2:00:44.57
29	57	WALLENFELS	LYNDA	GBR	GBR19690820	2:01:01.50
30	58	EGGERTSEN	TERESA	USA	USA19621003	2:02:53.70
31	67	POTTS	CECILIA	USA	USA19800206	2:03:09.41
32	65	DUNCAN	CAROLINE	USA	USA19630924	2:03:11.20
33	29	MCQUAID	MELANIE	CAN	CAN19730517	2:04:28.27
34	51	DURYEA	KATHY	USA	USA19631221	2:04:39.19
35	33	KOBAYASHI	KANAKO	JPN	JPN19700524	2:05:35.48
36	59	MACIEL	GABRIELA	MEX	MEX19660815	2:13:23.94
37	44	QUICK	RHONDA	USA	USA19650705	2:14:22.21
38	66	RITTGERS	RACHEL	USA	USA19691216	2:15:31.72
39	60	WEISS	BARBARA	GER	GER19780522	2:18:22.01
0	9	GRIGSON	MARY	AUS	AUS19710603	DNF
0	24	DORION	MELANIE	CAN	CAN19761119	DNF
0	62	PIZARRO LAZO	CLAUDIA	CHI	CHI19790206	DNF
0	10	ALEXANDER	CAROLINE	GBR	GBR19680303	DNS