

Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 1999

Canmore, Alberta, CAN - xc#7 - 3-4 July 1999 - Report / Rapport - women / femmes Rigour in the Rockies

Gunn-Rita Dahle (NOR) triumphed in the most gruelling World Cup mountain bike race since Budapest last year to score her first big win of the season.

Temperatures close to freezing, with rain or sleet falling, combined with a wet, slippery course ensured that cold limbs and crashes played a big part in the race.

Caroline Alexander (GBR), relatively unaffected by the conditions, rallied on the final lap to catch and pass World Cup leader and defending World Cup Champion **Alison Sydor** (CAN), and **Annabella Stropparo** (ITA), to claim second place.

Sydor, who was particularly distressed by the cold, struggled with the cold and a failing brake system, and bravely defended her World Cup series lead while Dahle powered away from the field to a solo win. At the finish line, Sydor collapsed and had to be carried to the post-race interview tent.

From the outset, with three laps of 8km (5miles), plus a short start loop to complete, Alexander displayed her excellent condition. She escaped from the field, accompanied by Dahle alone, on the first lap. 2.5km into the race, the 31 years-old Briton led Dahle as they walked over the slippery top of the main climb. Stropparo followed at 7", with **Alison Dunlap** (USA) at 20". Sydor and her team-mate **Alla Epifanova** (RUS) came by at 35".

By the end of lap one the order had changed. Dahle, the brilliant descender had opened a lead of 43" over Stropparo. Sydor was at 59" and Alexander had slipped back to fourth, at 1'12", just 3" ahead of Epifanova. The Briton explained: *"I forgot to take my forks off lock-out until the end of the descent."* The loss of control she suffered as a result of this cost her up to three places on the difficult descent. Dunlap had dropped to sixth place after struggling on the descent. She would finish in this position.



Gunn-Rita Dahle



Caroline Alexander

Meanwhile, up at the front, Dahle continued to extend her lead all the way to the end of the race, and finished with a winning margin of 2'05". She said at the finish: *"It was the coldest race I have done. The worst thing was trying to find my pedals when I remounted. My feet were numb with cold and I could not feel when I had clipped back in. And I could not get onto my biggest gear: my hands had no feeling and I couldn't operate the gear shifter properly."*

For Alexander, the conditions were not a problem. Coming from the wet and windy north-eastern English town of Barrow-in-Furness, near the picturesque Lake District, Alexander said: *"I ride in conditions like this every Sunday during winter. It's alright if you have a lot of clothing on, and I had a lot of clothing on because I knew how cold it would get."*



Approaching the start of the final lap, Alexander started to come back to Sydor and Stropparo. On the lap-two descent she had dropped back to fifth place behind Epifanova. But at the bell, Alexander had closed the gap to 36" behind Stropparo and 31" behind Sydor. Before the top of the climb, Alexander passed Sydor and was riding with the Italian. And then came the descent. For Stropparo and Sydor this was one descent too many. Their disc brake pads failed and they were obliged to walk many sections or else drag their feet to slow down.

Alexander had no trouble passing these two incapacitated riders to claim second place, 24" clear of Sydor, who finished third.

The World Cup series now has Dahle 100 points behind Sydor. The final, in Houffalize, Belgium, on 4 September, is a closer contest than the World Cup standings show. If Dahle can regain her superb current form and win the race, Sydor must finish third or better to claim the series win. Yet the figures are against such a result. Sydor has won twice at Houffalize, while Dahle has yet to finish higher than third there.



place	bib	name	nom	nat	UCIcode	t	+t
1	2	DAHLE	GUNN RITA	NOR	NOR19731002	1:52:18.41	0.00
2	8	ALEXANDER	CAROLINE	GBR	GBR19680303	1:54:23.59	2:05.18
3	1	SYDOR	ALISON	CAN	CAN19660909	1:54:47.47	2:29.06
4	3	STROPPARO	ANNABELLA	ITA	ITA19680704	1:54:51.07	2:32.66
5	9	EPIFANOVA	ALLA	RUS	RUS19761202	1:55:09.91	2:51.50
6	4	DUNLAP	ALISON	USA	USA19690727	1:57:12.67	4:54.26
7	14	ZU PUTLITZ	HEDDA	GER	GER19650904	1:58:32.01	6:13.60
8	11	MATTHES	RUTHIE	USA	USA19651111	1:58:32.27	6:13.86
9	7	REDDEN	CHRISTINA	CAN	CAN19660316	1:59:17.52	6:59.11
10	13	BLATTER	BARBARA	SUI	SUI19701222	1:59:30.91	7:12.50
11	25	SPITZ	SABINE	GER	GER19711227	2:00:16.66	7:58.25
12	16	LEBOUCHER	LAURENCE	FRA	FRA19720222	2:01:54.38	9:35.97
13	41	TROMBLEY	ANN	USA	USA19631122	2:02:53.05	10:34.64
14	22	BRUNGER	TRACY	GBR	GBR19700608	2:03:19.08	11:00.67
15	5	GRIGSON	MARY	AUS	AUS19710603	2:03:30.54	11:12.13
16	56	CHORNEY	AMBER	CAN	CAN19751129	2:04:11.63	11:53.22
17	21	DORION	MELANIE	CAN	CAN19761119	2:05:48.10	13:29.69
18	15	TOMLINSON	LESLEY	CAN	CAN19591226	2:06:29.55	14:11.14
19	61	REEVES	GRETCHEN	USA	USA19710927	2:06:40.46	14:22.05
20	65	AUGUSTIN	AUDREY	USA	USA19661005	2:06:55.15	14:36.74
21	20	GEYSEN	HANNEKE	AUS	AUS19770730	2:07:32.78	15:14.37
22	57	SINCLAIR	PATRICIA	CAN	CAN19690202	2:08:25.50	16:07.09
23	64	SMITH	KIMBERLY	USA	USA19680128	2:08:31.58	16:13.17
24	59	VINK	ELSBETH	NED	NED19730125	2:09:25.47	17:07.06
25	17	BRAINARD	GOLDEN	USA	USA19680919	2:10:00.27	17:41.86
26	66	MARSHMAN	RENE	USA	USA19640928	2:10:09.00	17:50.59
27	23	KOBAYASHI	KANAKO	JPN	JPN19700524	2:11:08.32	18:49.91
28	73	VAN WERSCH	LOES	NED	NED19670807	2:11:24.78	19:06.37
29	47	LLOYD	RACHEL	USA	USA19750506	2:12:12.12	19:53.71
30	89	CHORNEY	ERON	CAN	CAN19771122	2:13:42.05	21:23.64
31	58	RICHARDSON	CARMEN	USA	USA19670219	2:14:02.77	21:44.36
32	75	PREMONT	MARIE-HELENE	CAN	CAN19771024	2:15:18.56	23:00.15
33	80	TOWNSEND	CLAIRE	CAN	CAN19750223	2:15:29.23	23:10.82
34	32	NAKAGOME	YUKARI	JPN	JPN19651030	2:15:31.39	23:12.98

35	49	KAIN	SHARI	USA	USA19641117	2:15:41.85	23:23.44
36	62	HALL	GINA	USA	USA19670101	2:19:40.54	27:22.13
37	33	PARKER	SADIE	NZL	NZL19690329	2:20:06.14	27:47.73
38	71	SOLLAART	TESSA	NED	NED19750429	2:20:10.32	27:51.91
39	24	MCQUAID	MELANIE	CAN	CAN19730517	2:20:11.95	27:53.54
40	60	SAVAGE	LISA	NZL	NZL19700201	2:20:12.52	27:54.11
41	48	EGGERTSEN	TERESA	USA	USA19621003	2:21:08.80	28:50.39
42	79	ALLEN	SYLVIE	CAN	CAN19730808	2:22:03.96	29:45.55
43	55	QUICK	RHONDA	USA	USA19650705	2:22:59.14	30:40.73
44	74	GREENE	LESLIE	CAN	CAN19660715	2:23:56.63	31:38.22
45	28	DORLAND	CORINE	NED	NED19730630	2:24:10.98	31:52.57
46	12	FLORIT-JUAREZ	JIMENA	ARG	ARG19720518	2:27:10.93	34:52.52
47	95	LAYCOCK	TARA	CAN	CAN19700402	2:27:40.31	35:21.90
48	87	DANSEREAU	MARNIE	CAN	CAN19750313	2:30:49.26	38:30.85
49	70	FEDYNA	MARG	CAN	CAN19641023	2:32:10.51	39:52.10
50	96	NEGRAEFF	KATHLEEN	CAN	CAN19650317	-1 LAP	
51	42	NAMBU	HIROKO	JPN	JPN19681008	-1 LAP	
DNF	18	DAUCOURT	CHANTAL	SUI	SUI19660623	DNF	
DNF	93	WILSON	KAREN	USA	USA19630227	DNF	
DNF	72	HEARN	MARY	USA	USA19690225	DNF	
DNF	77	MUÑOZ CARRETE	CARIZA	MEX	MEX19701115	DNF	
DNF	76	PIPPIN	NIKI	USA	USA19631220	DNF	
DNF	84	PLATT	CHRISTINE	CAN	CAN19690812	DNF	
DNF	92	SCHLEBACH	LESLIE	CAN	CAN19660823	DNF	
DNF	88	PADUA	SUE	CAN	CAN19691125	DNF	
DNF	86	LAWRIE	SELENA	CAN	CAN19691006	DNF	
DNF	83	HEALY	ANNA	CAN	CAN19740118	DNF	
DNF	78	ROBICHAUD	LINDA	CAN	CAN19661210	DNF	
DNF	63	YEUNG	KA WAH	HKG	HKG19720915	DNF	
DNF	91	TUCK	CARRIE	CAN	CAN19801002	DNF	
DNS	26	DE NEGRI	NADIA	ITA	ITA19720406	DNS	