



Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 1999

Madrid, ESP - xc#3 - 24-25 April 1999 - Report / Rapport - women / femmes

Fullana Fulfills her Need

World Cup leader, **Alison Sydor** (CAN), threw down the gauntlet to the field on a climber's course that featured long climbs and long descents, and **Margarita Fullana** (ESP) called her bluff.

Early this year, in an interview for the official world cup guide "MBG," Fullana stated: *"I need to win a round at the world cup."* At the third round of the Diesel-UCI Mountain Bike World Cup, Fullana, 27, from Mallorca, took her first world cup win in front of an appreciative home-nation crowd, at the world wonder of St Lorenzo Di El Escorial, just north of Madrid.

Sydor looked the strongest rider during the first lap of the race, held over four laps of the 7km course, plus one circuit of the start loop. After the 1km start loop Sydor, the 32 years-old Vancouver resident who has won three world championships and is currently first in the UCI rankings, surprised nobody with her trademark move of forcing the early pace.



Margarita Fullana

Once again, this tactic worked and the number of contenders rapidly dwindled to but a handful. The awesome 3km climb, interrupted only briefly by one short, sharp descent about 1km up it, was so severe that it had drawn complaint from riders - in particular some of those who do well on a flatter course.

The results may have been different had not the highly regarded *Norwegian* **Gunn-Rita Dahle**, 26 from Stavanger, who won the silver medal at the '98 world championships and currently lies second overall in the world cup, fallen heavily over her handlebars on the sharp descent and suffered a bruised - possibly broken - rib. She said that she felt no pain until the final lap, at which point it became excruciating. Typically Dahle endured it and finished third, but after the finish line the pain brought her to her knees.

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Gunn-Rita Dahle

Starting the second lap, there were only four riders in close contention: Sydor, and the Olympic champion **Paola Pezzo** (ITA) led the field. Margarita Fullana (ESP) followed at 21 seconds, Gunn-Rita Dahle (NOR) had remounted after her crash and

rode at 36 seconds along with Alison Dunlap (GT) Dunlap rode most of the race in fifth place - where she finished.

Olympic champion Paola Pezzo, who has had a troubled start to the season, was obliged to dismount on the second lap to tighten her seat, which had worked its way loose and was in danger of falling off completely. She lost a lot of time with the spanner work, and started the third lap in fourth place - the position in which she finished the race.

It was still a welcome result for Pezzo. She had been sent home with a bronchial infection before round two at Sydney two weeks ago and has missed a lot of training since then.

The second lap reduced the race to a battle between Fullana and Sydor.



Fullana, who had not raced at Sydney, lived up to her reputation as a strong climber and the second time up the big climb she closed the 21" gap to Sydor's back wheel. Third time up the climb, Fullana attacked. Her gambit was successful because Sydor was unable to counter. Starting the final lap the Spaniard held a lead of 17 seconds over Sydor, with Dahle at 28".

The last lap was a triumphal procession for Fullana, who was cheered wildly by her supporters in the crowd. This was Fullana's first world cup win, her previous best results were third in the world cup rounds at St Wendel last year, and at Houffalize in '97, and third at the world championships in '97.

Sydor suffered a flat tyre on the final descent, but her lead over Dahle was sufficient for her to remain in second place with less than one kilometre remaining.

Quotes

Margarita Fullana-Riera - 1st

"I rode in a road race in Mallorca to prepare for this, and I felt good, but even so I was not sure if my form would be good enough. I cannot believe I did so well today! ... I felt Alison Sydor was not so strong on the climbs so I attacked her there."

Alison Sydor - 2nd

"I felt OK, but it is really tough racing here only two weeks after Sydney. I travelled through Vancouver to get here and the jet lag has taken a lot out of me... I would expect a rider of (Fullana's) quality to do well here having missed Sydney... I will ride in a stage race next week to prepare for Plymouth and St Wendel, and I'm looking forward to both of those races."

Paola Pezzo - 4th

"It was difficult for me today after two weeks without racing, so I am very happy to finish fourth."



place	name	nom	nat	team	t	t+
1	FULLANA	Margarita	ESP	MT DEW SPECIALIZED	1:54:39.94	
2	SYDOR	Alison	CAN	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	1:55:01.28	21.34
3	DAHLE	Gunn Rita	NOR	DBS WORLD CUP TEAM	1:55:15.68	35.74
4	PEZZO	Paola	ITA	GARY FISHER/SAAB	1:57:03.56	2:23.62
5	DUNLAP	Alison	USA	TEAM GT	1:58:27.25	3:47.31
6	ALEXANDER	Caroline	GBR	AMERICAN EAGLE	1:58:40.27	4:00.32
7	ZU PUTTLITZ	Hedda	GER	BE-ONE	1:59:34.87	4:54.93
8	DAUCOURT	Chantal	SUI	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	2:00:00.90	5:20.96
9	GRIGSON	Mary	AUS	A.I.S.	2:00:34.24	5:54.30
10	REDDEN	Christina	CAN	RITCHEY-YAHOO!	2:00:43.68	6:03.73
11	STROPARO	Annabella	ITA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:00:44.00	6:04.05
12	MATTHES	Ruthie	USA	TREK VOLKSWAGEN	2:02:24.77	7:44.83
13	BLATTER	Barbara	SUI	SCOTT INTERNATIONAL	2:03:13.68	8:33.74
14	FLORIT-JUAREZ	Jimena	ARG	POLO SPORT	2:06:42.39	12:02.45
15	SPITZ	Sabine	GER	AMERICAN EAGLE	2:07:19.26	12:39.32
16	JONSSON	Annica	SWE	TEAM CYCLEPRO CK	2:07:32.76	12:52.82
17	TEMPORELLI	Sandra	FRA	LOOK/LA POSTE	2:07:59.11	13:19.17
18	DORLAND	Corine	NED	DUTCH NATIONAL TEAM	2:08:08.02	13:28.08
19	LAROY	Lory	BEL	BE-ONE	2:08:18.78	13:38.84
20	BERTOSSI	Camilla	ITA	BOMBIERI	2:08:43.29	14:03.35
21	DE NEGRI	Nadia	ITA	ATB BIANCHI MARTINI	2:09:27.11	14:47.17
22	EPIFANOVA	Alla	RUS	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:09:40.65	15:00.71
23	DORION	Melanie	CAN	TEAM FORD DEVINCI	2:09:51.28	15:11.34
24	BRAINARD	Golden	USA	CATERA	2:10:30.15	15:50.21
25	BALDUZZI	Elisa	ITA	TEAM COLNAGO	2:11:37.84	16:57.89
26	GEYSEN	Hanneke	AUS	RAW NRG/A.I.S.	2:11:49.72	17:09.78
27	VILLENEUVE	Sophie	FRA	EGS	2:12:53.58	18:13.64
28	ROVIRA	Silvia	ESP	MARIN SPAIN	2:13:06.13	18:26.19
29	GASSMANN	Daniela	SUI	WHEELER	2:13:35.14	18:55.20
30	VINK	Elsbeth	NED	MT DEW/SPECIALIZED	2:13:36.92	18:56.98
31	LINDBERG	Madeleine	SWE	CRESCENT	2:13:44.53	19:04.59
32	PARKER	Sadie	NZL	SPECIALIZED NZ	2:13:58.25	19:18.31
33	MARCOUYRE	Hélène	FRA	LOOK LA POSTE	2:13:58.56	19:18.62
34	TOMLINSON	Lesley	CAN	POLO SPORT	2:14:46.22	20:06.27
35	SCHWING	Katrin	GER	STORCK	2:14:56.59	20:16.65
36	ROSCH	Nora	GER	RITCHEY-YAHOO!	2:15:16.21	20:36.27
37	KOBAYASHI	Kanako	JPN	A & F	2:15:22.12	20:42.18
38	MARSILIO	Claudia	ITA	KLEIN MODOLO RACING	2:15:24.71	20:44.77
39	TOVAGLIERI	Giuliana	ITA	TEAM SPREAFICO	2:15:33.34	20:53.40
40	ROBINSON	Louise	GBR	RALEIGH	2:15:54.15	21:14.21
41	PUIGGROSS	Janet	ESP	KASTLE-BIKEHOUSE	2:16:13.36	21:33.42
42	JÜNGST	Birgit	GER	SCOTT/POLAR RACING	2:16:16.76	21:36.82
43	GREEN	Erica Lynn	RSA	SA CYCLING FED.	2:16:35.97	21:56.03

44	HELMKE	Katrin	GER STEVENS-JEANTEX	2:16:48.89 22:08.95
45	RUSCA	Maroussia	SUI SCOTT ONE LIFE	2:16:54.49 22:14.55
46	HENZI	Petra	SUI FISCHER-BIANCHI	2:17:41.00 23:01.06
47	MCQUAID	Melanie	CAN ROCKY MOUNTAIN	2:18:26.54 23:46.60
48	NAKAGOME	Yukari	JPN MIYATA SUBARU	2:18:53.95 24:14.01
49	MICHELS-SMITH	Andrea	GER IKO-CORRATEC	2:19:52.12 25:12.18
50	PICKETT	Rachel	GBR MUDDOCK-TREK	2:20:45.92 26:05.98
51	JERABKOVA	Jana	CZE KVK KOLIN	2:21:10.00 26:30.06
52	EGGERTSEN	Teresa	USA MICRO SUPREME	2:21:35.78 26:55.84
53	VAN WERSCH	Loes	NED DUTCH NATIONAL TEAM	2:21:57.24 27:17.30
54	MOLL	Ruth	ESP SCOTT SPAIN	2:22:18.84 27:38.90
55	BRUHN	Nadine	DEN KOLDING	2:22:54.80 28:14.86
56	ROWNTREE	Isla	GBR RALEIGH	2:23:21.21 28:41.27
57	VAN DE BRAND	Daphny	NED DUTCH NATIONAL TEAM	2:24:13.26 29:33.32
58	VAN DEUN	Hilde	BEL SMOUT-SPECIALIZED	2:36:36.95 41:57.01
59	ESPIÑEIRA	Fernanda	ESP MOTO-BIKE	- 1 lap
60	ARMADA FENTANES	Carmen	ESP MOTO-BIKE	- 1 lap
61	MORCILO DEL BRIO	Rosa	ESP NOVOTEL PROCOVIF. CO	- 1 lap
62	MANZANO	Noelia	ESP LESAGRO	- 1 lap
63	OWENS	Tarja	IRL	- 1 lap
64	SANTANYES	Sandra	ESP KASTLE-BIKEHOUSE	- 1 lap
65	BURRI	Isabelle	SUI UNIVEGA-DESCENTE-SCH	- 1 lap
66	COPNALL	Jenny	GBR GREAT BRITIAN	- 1 lap
67	FRACZEK	Justyna	POL POLAND	- 1 lap
68	BERGER	Verena	GER BSE	- 1 lap
69	YEUNG	Ka Wah Alexand	HKG NATIONAL TEAM	- 1 lap
70	ELSNER	Anna-barbara	GER	- 1 lap
71	VAN LOON	Annemiek	NED DUTCH NATIONAL TEAM	- 1 lap
72	THOMAS	Sue	GBR GREAT BRITAIN	- 1 lap
73	AZNAR	Eva	ESP MALAGA ESP	- 2 laps
	LEBOUCHER	Laurence	FRA TEAM GT	DNF
	BRUNGER	Tracy	GBR GREAT BRITIAN	DNF
	MARUNDE	Regina	GER VW NUTZFAHR./GT	DNF
	CLARET	Daniéle	FRA EGS	DNF
	GOLDIN	Annarita	ITA CARRARO	DNF
	BRAUMANN	Birgit	AUT FIAT/ROTWILD	DNF
	JUSZCZAK	Sylwia	POL POLAND	DNF
	MERENTI	Elena	ITA TEAM COLNAGO	DNF
	SCHERZ	Bernartka	SLO SOVA-SCOTT TEAM	DNF