

Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 1999

NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, USA - xc#1 - 27-28 March 1999 - Report / Rapport

Diesel-UCI women's World Cup Round One

Alison Dunlap (USA) stormed to an impressive win in a thrilling first round of the 1999 women's World Cup, at Napa, California.

Summary

There was very nearly a sprint finish at the climax of one of the more exciting women's world cup races in memory. On the final lap, with Dunlap in the lead, **Gunn-Rita Dahle (NOR)** launched an attack and left behind three times World Champion and UCI World Cup holder **Alison Sydor (CAN)**, and narrowed the gap to the lead from 28 down to around 10 seconds. Dunlap rallied in the closing kilometre and then in the final hundred metres Dahle, realising she could not catch the leader, eased up and the gap between first and second at the finish line stood at 20 seconds. Sydor was third, at 1m23sec.

Review in brief - *see lap splits below*

Australian Mary Grigson led after the start loop, but on the main climb Sydor went to the front, strung out the field, and opened a gap ahead of Dunlap in second place.

Starting lap two, Sydor held a small lead, but then was passed by Dunlap in an attack on the first part of the main climb. Dahle gradually closed the gap to Sydor, but lost time to the leader.

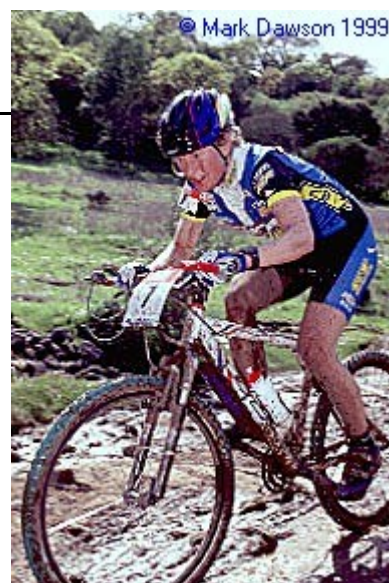
Dahle caught Sydor, who tried to hang on, but the expression on her face gave away the pain she was suffering. Illness before the start of the season had left her short of training in the past month. Dunlap remained between 25 and 30 seconds clear.

On the final lap Dahle attacked Sydor and rapidly began closing the gap to Dunlap. Dunlap had just enough strength to hold onto her lead. After the finish her legs could not support her when she dismounted.

This is Dunlap's second world cup round victory. Her first was at Budapest in 1997. Dahle had distinguished herself a couple of weeks ago at round two of the [road racing women's world cup](#)



Napa, 27 April, 1999. Women's start



Alison Dunlap leads up the lower slopes of Calistoga climb

[in Hamilton](#), New Zealand, in which she finished second. All three of the top placed riders have represented their nation in road racing.

Chrissy Redden (*CAN*) was the only other rider in contention. She rode the entire race in fourth position. Olympic champion **Paola Pezzo** (*ITA*) was pleased to finish 8th. The World Cup is not her focus; the world championship is. She will not compete in Sydney at round two.

Quotes

Alison Dunlap - 1st

- *"This is the biggest win of my career... The last lap was so hard, (Dahle) kept getting closer. I heard 20 seconds, then 15 seconds... (Sydor) went out very hard, I had a tough time staying with her. She gapped me on the first descent, but then I started to feel better and came back to her... So much of mountain biking is mental, if they think you're strong there is less chance they will attack you, so I attacked Alison and it worked... This course is hard, it was slippery in places, you had to be supple in the shoulders."*

Gunn-Rita Dahle - 2nd

- *"I am really happy. This is the best start I have had to a season... last year I was 27th. I've never had a good race here and I wanted to break the cycle. I think this made me feel nervous. I dropped my chain on the first lap and maybe stressed too much... I felt my body was a bit slow in the first couple of laps, but then I started riding my own race, not really thinking about the others."*

Alison Sydor - 3rd

- *"I had a difficult spring, with some health problems, and have had to take it easy in the past few weeks. Gunn-Rita and Alison are riding so well now... I'm satisfied, in the World Cup you have to finish in the top three if you want to stay in contention for the overall title... I went out hard because that's the way I ride races. It makes sense to get a lead early in the race... I tried to pace off Gunn-Rita... she got me at a weak point and just floated away, then I started to think about protecting my third place."*



Gunn-Rita Dahle.
This year she is the
world's most successful
on and off-road rider

Results / Résultats - women / femmes

place	bib	name	nom	nat	pts	UCICODE	time	t+
1	7	DUNLAP	ALISON	USA	250	USA19690727	1:57:58.71	0.00
2	4	DAHLE	GUNN RITA	NOR	200	NOR19731002	1:58:19.41	20.70
3	1	SYDOR	ALISON	CAN	170	CAN19660909	1:59:22.13	1:23.42
4	11	REDDEN	CHRISTINA	CAN	150	CAN19660316	2:00:02.29	2:03.58
5	14	STROPARRO	ANNABELLA	ITA	130	ITA19680704	2:00:56.88	2:58.17
6	9	EPIFANOVA	ALLA	RUS	95	RUS19761202	2:02:02.85	4:04.14
7	2	LEBOUCHER	LAURENCE	FRA	90	FRA19720222	2:02:27.96	4:29.25
8	3	PEZZO	PAOLA	ITA	85	ITA19690108	2:03:47.20	5:48.49
9	22	BLATTER	BARBARA	SUI	80	SUI19701222	2:03:49.63	5:50.92
10	15	DE NEGRI	NADIA	ITA	75	ITA19720406	2:04:06.71	6:08.00
11	21	MATTHES	RUTHIE	USA	71	USA19651111	2:04:22.89	6:24.18
12	6	DAUCOURT	CHANTAL	SUI	67	SUI19660623	2:04:52.40	6:53.69
13	13	ZU PUTTLITZ	HEDDA	GER	63	GER19650904	2:05:13.87	7:15.16
14	12	TEMPORELLI	SANDRA	FRA	62	FRA19690125	2:05:31.58	7:32.87
15	19	FLORIT	JIMENA	ARG	61	ARG19720805	2:05:35.01	7:36.30
16	8	GRIGSON	MARY	AUS	60	AUS19710603	2:06:14.82	8:16.11
17	10	ALEXANDER	CAROLINE	GBR	59	GBR19680303	2:06:43.20	8:44.49
18	34	BRAINARD	GOLDEN	USA	58	USA19680919	2:08:51.07	10:52.36
19	27	MCQUAID	MELANIE	CAN	57	CAN19730517	2:08:55.93	10:57.22
20	28	BRUNGER	TRACY	GBR	56	GBR19700608	2:09:03.41	11:04.70
21	16	TOMLINSON	LESLEY	CAN	55	CAN19591226	2:09:14.15	11:15.44
22	96	LLOYD	RACHEL	USA	54	USA19750506	2:09:32.19	11:33.48
23	190	KAIN	SHARI	USA	53	USA19641117	2:09:59.05	12:00.34
24	50	TROMBLEY	ANN	USA	52	USA19631122	2:11:19.18	13:20.47
25	23	DORION	MELANIE	CAN	51	CAN19761119	2:11:50.27	13:51.56
26	24	SPITZ	SABINE	GER	50	GER19711227	2:12:24.95	14:26.24
27	25	PALMER-KOMAR	SUSAN	CAN	49	CAN19670127	2:13:38.13	15:39.42
28	65	ELLIS	SARA	USA	48	USA19681108	2:14:09.07	16:10.36
29	55	SINCLAIR	PATRICIA	CAN	47	CAN19690202	2:14:28.51	16:29.80
30	199	GREEN	ERICA LYNN	RSA	46	RSA19700925	2:14:46.07	16:47.36
31	194	CHORNEY	AMBER	CAN	45	CAN19750129	2:15:15.29	17:16.58
32	29	HEARN	MARY	USA	44	USA19690225	2:15:19.62	17:20.91
33	42	QUICK	RHONDA	USA	43	USA19650705	2:16:03.38	18:04.67
34	200	STREB	MARLA	USA	42	USA19650624	2:16:13.63	18:14.92
35	71	ROSCH	NORA	GER	41	GER19750708	2:16:38.39	18:39.68
36	193	JERABKOVA	JANA	CZE	40	CZE19730208	2:17:20.34	19:21.63
37	99	MASON	LANIE	USA	39	USA19690807	2:17:30.13	19:31.42
38	46	NAMBU	HIROKO	JPN	38	JPN19681008	2:17:39.36	19:40.65
39	35	RICHARDSON	CARMEN	USA	37	USA19670219	2:17:44.72	19:46.01
40	30	MARUNDE	REGINA	GER	36	GER19680826	2:18:28.65	20:29.94
41	20	MICHEL-SMITH	ANDREA	GER	35	GER19711114	2:18:58.54	20:59.83

42	88	HALL	GINA	USA	34 USA19670101	2:19:21.87	21:23.16
43	85	KELLY	KERRY	USA	33 USA19661205	2:20:54.51	22:55.80
44	44	DURYEA	KATHY	USA	32 USA19631221	2:21:25.37	23:26.66
45	92	WHISENHANT	SHELLY	USA	31 USA19660930	2:21:39.02	23:40.31
46	39	REEVES	GRETCHEN	USA	30 USA19710927	2:23:32.34	25:33.63
47	82	POTTS	CECILIA	USA	29 USA19800206	2:24:05.14	26:06.43
48	87	PICKETT	RACHEL	GBR	28 GBR19760402	2:25:08.05	27:09.34
49	86	FEDYNA	MARG	CAN	27 CAN19641023	2:25:13.37	27:14.66
50	191	MASSON	KAREN	AUS	26 AUS19680503	2:26:34.50	28:35.79
51	40	COPNALL	JENNY	GBR	0 GBR19751119	2:27:21.27	29:22.56
52	59	EGGERTSEN	TERESA	USA	0 USA19621003	2:29:18.20	31:19.49
53	94	PETIT	NADINE	CAN	0 CAN19740402	-1 LAP	0.00
54	100	GOVE	EMILY	USA	0 USA19800407	-1 LAP	0.00
55	83	ERIKSSON	HELENA	SWE	0 SWE19790805	-1 LAP	0.00
56	69	GREENE	LESLIE	CAN	0 CAN19660715	-1 LAP	0.00
57	98	DRUMM	HELENE	USA	0 USA19700220	-1 LAP	0.00
58	192	SCHERZ	BERNARTKA	SLO	0 SLO19710324	-2 LAPS	0.00

26	JONSSON	ANNICA	SWE	0 SWE19701227	DNF
48	MARSHMAN	RENE	USA	0 USA19640928	DNF
58	BRAUMANN	BIRGIT	AUT	0 AUT19730405	DNF
52	PIPPIN	NIKI	USA	0 USA19631220	DNF
84	AUGUSTIN	AUDREY	USA	0 USA19661005	DNF
97	TAZAKI	AYA	JPN	0 JPN19730328	DNF
89	NAKAGOME	YUKARI	JPN	0 JPN19651030	DNF
31	CLARET	DANIÉLE	FRA	0 FRA19690624	DNF
32	KOBAYASHI	KANAKO	JPN	0 JPN19700524	DNF
90	OWENS	TARJA	IRL	0 IRL19770524	DNF

91	HILL	KRISTI	USA	0 USA19671110	DNS
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