



Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 1999

Plymouth, GBR - xc#5 - 15-16 May 1999 - Report / Rapport - women / femmes

Fullana Wins a Thriller

Spain's **Margarita Fullana** scored a surprise win in a thrilling fifth round of the Diesel-UCI World Cup, at Plymouth on 15 May, by out-sprinting the powerful *Norwegian* **Gunn-Rita Dahle**.

On a mild, sunny English spring day the light and powerful duo of Fullana and Dahle blazed away from the field on the first of four laps of the 10.5km Newnham Park circuit. They remained inseparable until the finish line.

Even though the first lap of the race was shortened to 7.5km, the two leaders opened a substantial 16 seconds lead over World Cup series leader **Alison Sydor** (CAN) at the start of the second lap.



A further eight seconds behind Sydor at the start of lap two came '96 Olympic champion, **Paola Pezzo** (ITA), who later pulled out of the race complaining of back spasms.

Sydor rode the entire race alone in third position.

The next group of riders in this field, which had been blown apart by the ferocity of Fullana's early attack, contained **Barbara Blatter** (SUI), **Caroline Alexander** (GBR) and **Alison Dunlap** (USA). Blatter went on to finish fifth, one place behind the strong-finishing *Italian* **Annabella Stropparo**. Dunlap took seventh, and Alexander finished 11th after appearing to suffer from a puncture or mechanical problem on the second lap.



The race on this technically challenging circuit, with its steep climbs and intricate singletrack, was dominated by Fullana, whose unrelenting pace made it difficult for Dahle to take a turn at the front.

When it came to the sprint for the finish line, Dahle, the bigger of the two was expected to power past her rival, but Fullana - who has more experience of road racing than Dahle - was able to rise to the challenge and hold her position.

Dahle, who is still suffering from a broken rib sustained at round three, would have been hoping for a win today. If Sydor had been in fifth place or lower, this would have earned her the world cup leader's jersey. But this was never on the cards, since Sydor wheeled in two minutes and five seconds later, comfortable in third place just ahead of her team-mate Stropparo.

About Margarita Fullana-Riera

Fullana, 27, from *St Lornenz, Mallorca*, who has a reputation in road racing as a formidable climber, started the season with no world cup round wins. She now has two after winning at [Madrid](#) in the third round.

Her training programme, devised by former road racer Gert-Jan Theunisse, includes gymnastics to help improve dynamic balance, a critical component of mountain bike racing.

Before this season, Fullana's previous best results in mountain bike racing were ~~third in the world cup rounds~~ at St Wendel last year, and at Houffalize and Annecy in '97; and third at the world championships in '97. Fullana has already been confirmed as a rider on the Spanish Olympic team for the mountain bike event at Sydney 2000.



Margarita Fullana-Riera

QUOTES - *paraphrased*

Margarita Fullana (ESP), 1st

"I had no goal here and there was no pressure... I liked the course but I didn't like the river crossings... Gunn-Rita (Dahle) was not in front very much, I kept the rhythm going at the front."

Gunn-Rita Dahle (NOR), 2nd

"I'm very disappointed to be second today... Today Margarita (Fullana) was strong, it was her race. She was just stronger than I was today... Margarita was riding the technical sections better than I was... I still have a problem with my broken rib, but I don't really feel it while I am racing, only after I stop."

Alison Sydor (CAN), 3rd

"I've been away from home for a long time. I'm looking forward to getting back to BC (British Columbia) to recharge my batteries."



place	name	nom	nat	team	t	t+
1	FULLANA	Margarita	ESP	MT DEW SPECIALIZED	2:10:04.13	
2	DAHLE	Gunn Rita	NOR	DBS WORLD CUP TEAM	2:10:04.13	0
3	SYDOR	Alison	CAN	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:12:09.06	2:04.93
4	STROPPARO	Annabella	ITA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:12:18.79	2:14.66
5	BLATTER	Barbara	SUI	SCOTT/ONE LIFE	2:12:40.57	2:36.44
6	EPIFANOVA	Alla	RUS	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:13:13.01	3:08.88
7	DUNLAP	Alison	USA	TEAM GT	2:13:47.86	3:43.72
8	DAUCOURT	Chantal	SUI	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	2:14:58.18	4:54.05
9	ZU PUTTLITZ	Hedda	GER	BE-ONE	2:15:28.94	5:24.81
10	FLORIT-JUAREZ	Jimena	ARG	RLX POLO SPORT	2:16:12.14	6:08.00
11	ALEXANDER	Caroline	GBR	AMERICAN EAGLE	2:17:09.56	7:05.42
12	GRIGSON	Mary	AUS	A.I.S.	2:17:17.57	7:13.43
13	DORLAND	Corine	NED	BE-ONE TEAM	2:18:36.60	8:32.46
14	BRUNGER	Tracy	GBR	GREAT BRITIAN	2:19:04.78	9:00.64
15	TOMLINSON	Lesley	CAN	RLX POLO SPORT	2:19:54.17	9:50.04
16	REDDEN	Christina	CAN	RITCHEY-YAHOO!	2:20:01.74	9:57.61
17	TEMPORELLI	Sandra	FRA	LOOK/LA POSTE	2:21:15.80	11:11.67
18	MATTHES	Ruthie	USA	TREK VOLKSWAGEN	2:21:22.91	11:18.77
19	DORION	Melanie	CAN	TEAM FORD DEVINCI	2:21:45.86	11:41.72
20	ÖSTERGREN	Maria	SWE		2:22:02.66	11:58.52
21	VILLENEUVE	Sophie	FRA	EGS	2:22:10.64	12:06.50
22	MARCOUYRE	Hélène	FRA	LOOK LA POSTE	2:22:20.11	12:15.98
23	DE NEGRI	Nadia	ITA	ATB BIANCHI MARTINI	2:23:46.98	13:42.85
24	ROBINSON	Louise	GBR	RALEIGH	2:23:57.64	13:53.50
25	LAROY	Lory	BEL	BE-ONE	2:24:29.42	14:25.29
26	GEYSEN	Hanneke	AUS	RAW NRG/A.I.S.	2:25:07.14	15:03.00
27	RUSCA	Maroussia	SUI	SCOTT/ONE LIFE	2:26:28.15	16:24.02
28	LEBOUCHER	Laurence	FRA	TEAM GT	2:27:22.39	17:18.25
29	BRAINARD	Golden	USA	CATERA	2:27:36.77	17:32.64
30	LINDBERG	Madeleine	SWE	CRESCENT	2:27:58.42	17:54.29
31	GREEN	Erica Lynn	RSA	SA CYCLING FED.	2:28:14.56	18:10.43
32	JONSSON	Annica	SWE	TEAM CYCLEPRO CK	2:28:24.93	18:20.80
33	KOBAYASHI	Kanako	JPN	A & F	2:29:25.99	19:21.85
34	ROVIRA	Silvia	ESP	MACARIO GT	2:30:00.06	19:55.92

35	SCHWING	Katrin	GER	STORCK	2:30:54.32	20:50.19
36	CLARET	Daniéle	FRA	EGS	2:31:10.48	21:06.35
37	COPNALL	Jenny	GBR	VOLVO CANNONDALE	2:31:12.38	21:08.24
38	VAN DEUN	Hilde	BEL	SMOUT-SPECIALIZED	2:31:43.08	21:38.94
39	HENZI	Petra	SUI	FISCHER-BIANCHI	2:31:43.90	21:39.76
40	JÜNGST	Birgit	GER	SCOTT/POLAR RACING	2:32:25.26	22:21.12
41	KACHALKA	Nataliya	UKR	UKRAINIAN NATION	2:32:25.92	22:21.78
42	RÖSCH	Nora	GER	RITCHEY-YAHOO	2:32:53.86	22:49.72
43	PARKER	Sadie	NZL	SPECIALIZED NZ	2:33:10.65	23:06.51
44	JUSZCZAK	Sylwia	POL	POLAND OPTEX	2:33:27.58	23:23.45
45	JERABKOVA	Jana	CZE	KVK KOLIN	2:34:33.88	24:29.75
46	NAKAGOME	Yukari	JPN	MIYATA SUBARU	2:34:45.30	24:41.17
47	HEKMKE	Katrin	GER	STEVENS-JEANTEX	2:35:15.86	25:11.73
48	BRAUMANN	Birgit	AUT	FIAT/ROTWILD	2:35:39.35	25:35.21
49	MICHELS-SMITH	Andrea	GER	IKO-CORRATEC	2:36:08.73	26:04.60
50	THOMAS	Sue	GBR	TEAM - ADIDAS	2:36:25.18	26:21.04
51	MOLL MARQUES	Ruth	ESP	SCOTT SPAIN	2:36:26.06	26:21.92
52	PUIGROSS	Janet	ESP	KASTLE-BIKEHOUSE	2:36:27.31	26:23.17
53	EGGERTSEN	Teresa	USA	MICRO SUPREME	2:38:11.06	28:06.93
54	CARRE	Odile	FRA	SPECIALIZED	2:38:11.71	28:07.57
55	SOLLAART	Tessa	NED		2:38:34.91	28:30.77
56	VAN LOON	Annemiek	NED	DUTCH NATIONAL TEAM	2:38:35.23	28:31.10
57	PICKETT	Rachel	GBR	MUDDOCK-TREK	2:39:24.99	29:20.86
58	BERGER	Verena	GER	BSE	2:39:59.42	29:55.28
59	LENSEN	Marielle	NED		2:41:37.97	31:33.83
60	SIMONOVA	Jryna	UKR		2:45:35.82	35:31.68
61	COSSARD	Séverine	FRA	SPECIALIZED	2:47:49.54	37:45.40
62	YEUNG	Ka Wah Alexand	HKG	NATIONAL TEAM	2:48:48.81	38:44.67
63	OWENS	Tarja	IRL		2:49:41.51	39:37.38

64	ORTIZ	Jeanne Marie	FRA	SPECIALIZED	- 1 lap
65	PALMER	Leanne	AUS		- 1 lap
66	JAMES	Caroline	GBR	SCOTT UK	- 1 lap
67	IBBOTSON	Jane	GBR	GIANT/DIRT TECH/MBR	- 1 lap

68	ASHAOFT	Jamie L.	GBR	MARSHALLS CYCLES/HARO	- 2 laps
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PEZZO	Paola	ITA	GARY FISHER/SAAB	DNF
MCQUAID	Melanie	CAN	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	DNF
SPITZ	Sabine	GER	AMERICAN EAGLE	DNF
GASSMANN	Daniela	SUI	WHEELER	DNF
MACGREGOR	Helen	GBR	VC LINCOLN TMS, IMPS	DNF
ROWNTREE	Isla	GBR	RALEIGH	DNF
WILDE	Amanda	GBR	SENSIBLE/SPECIALIZED	DNF