



Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 1999

St Wendel, GER - xc#4 - 8-9 May 1999 - Report / Rapport - women / femmes Pezzo Back on Top

A win for mountain biking's glamour girl, **Paola Pezzo**, in a fast race at St Wendel confirmed that her world championships aspirations are alive and well.

After an emphatic win at round four of the cross country world cup Italian star, Paola Pezzo, 30, true to type brightened the podium by wearing a golden mini-skirt and go-go boots and then was whisked away on the moped of her team manager, Paolo Rosola.

The race itself was far from frivolous, however. Bright sun shone throughout, but the shortened, 7km, course at St Wendel, in Germany's Saarland region, remained slippery after heavy rainfall the night before.



A group of four riders pushed the pace and pulled the field apart on the first lap of five. By the end of lap one this group was 18 seconds clear of the chasers.

The lead group contained **Gunn-Rita Dahle (NOR)**, **Alison Sydor (CAN)**, **Alison Dunlap (USA)** and Pezzo. The chase group included **Caroline Alexander (GBR)** and the winner at Madrid two weeks ago, **Margarita Fullana (ESP)**. **Annabella Stropparo (ITA)** was a further 20 seconds back, but advanced to join Alexander, while Fullana dropped back and then disappeared from the top 15.



In the windy conditions it was an advantage for the riders to remain in groups. Part of the strength of the lead group was its size. Alexander, in chase, never had more than one accomplice. and when Stropparo crashed hard on lap three, Alexander was on her own. She never made contact with the leaders, but took fourth place about ninety seconds ahead of Stropparo.

Early in the race, Pezzo emerged as the strongest rider. She used a combination of excellent handling skills on the slippery woodland trails and tremendous speed on the climbs to wear her rivals down.

Another point about Pezzo is that she was riding a bicycle with suspension at both the front and rear. In a press statement, her team explained the rear suspension was intended to relieve the strain on her lower back, where she has complained of pain throughout her nine-year career.

On the third lap Pezzo made a concerted effort to ride clear, into a solo lead. She attacked before a bridge on the top part of the course. This attack was too much for Dunlap, who dropped off the pace and faded to finish tenth, but Dahle and Sydor were able to hold Pezzo's wheel for one more lap.

On the fourth lap Pezzo attacked again at the same point, and this time dropped her rivals. Dahle was the first to go. Some were surprised that Dahle was racing at all at St Wendel, for she broke a rib in a fall at Madrid two weeks ago and was in constant pain throughout the race today.



Sydor worked hard to keep in touch with Pezzo, but the Italian was too fast for her and finished with a margin of one minute.

Pezzo, formerly a post office worker in the small town of Boscohiesanuova, north-west of Verona, was the 1996 Olympic champion and won the world championships in 1993 and '97. This was her first world cup round win since round two at Silves, Portugal last year and it brings her total to 13.

Sydor's result today increased her lead over Dahle in the Diesel-UCI World Cup.

Thanks to Annie Robillard for information used in this report. Ms Robillard is the UCI Press Chief for the Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup

Quotes:

Paola Pezzo, 1st

"It is a long time since I have won a race. It is good to win a world cup round, but my main objective remains the world championships."

Alison Sydor, 2nd

"Paola (Pezzo) rode well today, I think she made a better tyre selection than I did. I didn't think it would be as muddy as it was. But Paola was very strong."

Gunn-Rita Dahle, 3rd

(Who lies second overall in the World Cup) *"I haven't given up on catching Alison (Sydor) yet.... Everything hurt more than at Madrid"*.





Paola Pezzo

place	name	nom	nat	team	t	t+
1	PEZZO	Paola	ITA	GARY FISHER/SAAB	2:02:59.04	
2	SYDOR	Alison	CAN	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:03:59.53	1:00.49
3	DAHLE	Gunn Rita	NOR	DBS WORLD CUP TEAM	2:05:33.87	2:34.83
4	ALEXANDER	Caroline	GBR	AMERICAN EAGLE	2:05:34.84	2:35.80
5	STROPPARO	Annabella	ITA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:07:02.40	4:03.36
6	GRIGSON	Mary	AUS	A.I.S.	2:07:43.36	4:44.32
7	ZU PUTTLITZ	Hedda	GER	BE-ONE	2:08:07.51	5:08.47
8	EPIFANOVA	Alla	RUS	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:08:41.38	5:42.33
9	FLORIT-JUAREZ	Jimena	ARG	RLX POLO SPORT	2:09:12.90	6:13.86
10	DUNLAP	Alison	USA	TEAM GT	2:10:21.92	7:22.88
11	TOMLINSON	Lesley	CAN	RLX POLO SPORT	2:11:03.95	8:04.90
12	REDDEN	Christina	CAN	RITCHEY-YAHOO!	2:11:20.45	8:21.41
13	BRAINARD	Golden	USA	CATERA	2:11:51.48	8:52.44
14	TEMPORELLI	Sandra	FRA	LOOK/LA POSTE	2:12:20.61	9:21.57
15	MATTHES	Ruthie	USA	TREK VOLKSWAGEN	2:12:21.27	9:22.23
16	FULLANA	Margarita	ESP	MT DEW SPECIALIZED	2:12:31.06	9:32.02
17	LAROY	Lory	BEL	BE-ONE	2:12:47.74	9:48.69
18	BRUNGER	Tracy	GBR	GREAT BRITIAN	2:14:09.32	11:10.28
19	SPITZ	Sabine	GER	AMERICAN EAGLE	2:15:00.75	12:01.71
20	VILLENEUVE	Sophie	FRA	EGS	2:15:24.45	12:25.41
21	GASSMANN	Daniela	SUI	WHEELER	2:16:09.52	13:10.48
22	DORION	Melanie	CAN	TEAM FORD DEVINCI	2:16:28.63	13:29.59
23	JÜNGST	Birgit	GER	SCOTT/POLAR RACING	2:17:04.71	14:05.67
24	MARCOUYRE	Hélène	FRA	LOOK LA POSTE	2:17:20.06	14:21.02
25	ÖSTERGREN	Maria	SWE		2:17:23.30	14:24.26
26	RUSCA	Maroussia	SUI	SCOTT/ONE LIFE	2:17:40.66	14:41.62
27	ROVIRA	Silvia	ESP	MACARIO GT	2:18:17.91	15:18.87
28	LINDBERG	Madeleine	SWE	CRESCENT	2:19:24.86	16:25.82
29	DORLAND	Corine	NED	BE-ONE TEAM	2:20:04.61	17:05.57
30	SCHWING	Katrin	GER	STORCK	2:21:02.47	18:03.43
31	HENZI	Petra	SUI	FISCHER-BIANCHI	2:21:07.27	18:08.23
32	GREEN	Erica Lynn	RSA	SA CYCLING FED.	2:21:26.87	18:27.83
33	BURRI	Isabelle	SUI	UNIVEGA-DESCENTE-SCH	2:22:29.15	19:30.10

34	KOBAYASHI	Kanako	JPN	A & F	2:22:36.60	19:37.56
35	MARUNDE	Regina	GER	VW NUTZFAHR./GT	2:23:18.18	20:19.14
36	GEYSEN	Hanneke	AUS	RAW NRG/A.I.S.	2:23:39.45	20:40.41
37	ROBINSON	Louise	GBR	RALEIGH	2:24:10.38	21:11.34
38	MICHELS-SMITH	Andrea	GER	IKO-CORRATEC	2:24:34.11	21:35.07
39	ELSNER	Anna-barbara	GER	SCOTT POLAIR	2:25:23.83	22:24.79
40	MCQUAID	Melanie	CAN	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	2:25:48.29	22:49.25
41	BERTOSSI	Camilla	ITA	BOMBIERI	2:25:49.25	22:50.21
42	JONSSON	Annica	SWE	TEAM CYCLEPRO CK	2:26:34.57	23:35.53
43	KACHALKA	Nataliya	UKR	UKRAINIAN NATION	2:26:39.47	23:40.43
44	NAKAGOME	Yukari	JPN	MIYATA SUBARU	2:27:03.56	24:04.52
45	JUSZCZAK	Sylwia	POL	POLAND OPTEX	2:27:08.51	24:09.46
46	STEINER	Anita	SUI	TEAM WHEELER	2:27:09.09	24:10.05
47	VAN DEUN	Hilde	BEL	SMOUT-SPECIALIZED	2:27:47.97	24:48.93
48	EGGERTSEN	Teresa	USA	MICRO SUPREME	- 1 lap	
49	PUIGROSS	Janet	ESP	KASTLE-BIKEHOUSE	- 1 lap	
50	SOLLAART	Tessa	NED		- 1 lap	
51	VAN LOON	Annemiek	NED	DUTCH NATIONAL TEAM	- 1 lap	
52	PARKER	Sadie	NZL	NZMBA	- 1 lap	
53	GOLDIN	Annarita	ITA	CARRARO	- 1 lap	
54	BRAUMANN	Birgit	AUT	FIAT/ROTWILD	- 1 lap	
55	WILDE	Amanda	GBR	SENSIBLE/SPECIALIZED	- 1 lap	
56	JERABKOVA	Jana	CZE	KVK KOLIN	- 1 lap	
57	CARRE	Odile	FRA	SPECIALIZED	- 1 lap	
58	OWENS	Tarja	IRL		- 1 lap	
59	SIMONOVA	Jryna	UKR	BRICOMARCHE	- 1 lap	
60	BERGER	Verena	GER	BSE	- 1 lap	
61	BRUHN	Nadine	DEN	KOLDING	- 1 lap	
62	ROCHET	Sonia	FRA	SPECIALIZED	- 1 lap	
63	YEUNG	Ka Wah Alexand	HKG	NATIONAL TEAM	- 1 lap	
64	LENSEN	Marielle	NED		- 1 lap	
65	ROTTEVEEL	Marlies	NED	DUTCH NATIONAL TEAM	- 1 lap	
66	COSSARD	S��verine	FRA	SPECIALIZED	- 1 lap	
67	ORTIZ	Jeanne Marie	FRA	SPECIALIZED	- 2 laps	
68	SCHLICHTING	Silke	GER	MRC UNIT BOCHUM	- 2 laps	
69	DIELEMAN	Mirjam	NED		- 2 laps	
70	DEROO	Mieke	BEL		- 2 laps	
71	BULTYNCK	Brigitte	BEL		- 3 laps	
	LEBOUCHER	Laurence	FRA	TEAM GT	DNF	
	BLATTER	Barbara	SUI	SCOTT/ONE LIFE	DNF	
	DAUCOURT	Chantal	SUI	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	DNF	

DE NEGRI	Nadia	ITA	ATB BIANCHI MARTINI	DNF
RÖSCH	Nora	GER	RITCHEY-YAHOO	DNF
HEKMKE	Katrin	GER	STEVENS-JEANTEX	DNF
CLARET	Daniële	FRA	EGS	DNF
VAN WERSCH	Loes	NED	DUTCH NATIONAL TEAM	DNF
WEISS	Helga	GER	CUBE/MABETEC	DNF
ROWNTREE	Isla	GBR	RALEIGH	DNF
HAENZL	Regina	AUT	OAMTC SCOTT LATTELIA	DNF
PFAB	Irene	GER	DAGGER-INTENSE	DNF
RAHNER	Carolin	GER	ROTWILD-FIAT	DNF
RONSSSE	Karine	BEL		DNF
SCHMIDT	Katja	GER	BIRIA	DNF
KLOSE	Sandra	GER	KONA MAPEI	DNF
RUPPERT	Tanja	GER	KSV BANNATAL	DNS
FIEDLER	Barbara	GER	MRC UNIT BOCHUM	DNS