



## Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 1999

### SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - xc#2 - 10-11 April 1999 - Report / Rapport - women Sydor at Her Devastating Best

Canada's **Alison Sydor** left nobody in any doubt about her potential to win the Olympic gold medal when the international mountain bike racing circuit returns to Sydney next year.

Today, at the second round of the Diesel-UCI Mountain Bike World Cup, Sydor was unstoppable. With a display of superb fitness, skill and courage on a difficult course, Alison Sydor (CAN) overwhelmed her rivals. She has clearly recovered from the chest infection that hampered her at the first round, at Napa, California two weeks ago.

Perhaps even more impressive was the achievement of *Australian* rider **Mary Grigson**, who rode like an inspired rider and recorded the best performance by an Australian woman in mountain bike competition by finishing second, ahead of *Norway's* **Gunn-Rita Dahle**.

The race, which was held in rapidly changing weather conditions, was relatively short. Heavy rainfall on the evening before the race led to a decision by the Union Cycliste Internationale to complete two 1.8km start loops and then four full 6.9km laps.

Warm sunshine on the day of the race made the course dry, and therefore faster than expected. After the first two start loops there was a short sprint to be the first rider onto the narrow, single track, climb. Sydor got in front of **Alison Dunlap** (USA), winner of the first round of the 1999 World Cup, and remained in the lead for the remainder of the race.

By the end of lap one, Dunlap had slipped back to fourth place, and would finish eighth. *Canada's* **Christina Redden** started lap two in second place, 28 seconds behind Sydor. Redden was accompanied by two other riders, Gunn-Rita Dahle (NOR) and Dunlap. At this point Grigson was seventh, at 53 seconds.

By the end of the second lap, Sydor was 35 seconds clear of her pursuers and Grigson had moved up into fourth place, at 1 minute, 28 seconds.



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Alison Sydor - CAN



Start / Départ

Sydor maintained her pressure on the field, and was the fastest up the technically demanding Old Gum climb, a one kilometre ascent that riders regarded as the most difficult part of the course. By the start of the final lap she had extended her lead to 57 seconds ahead of Dahle. Grigson had continued her progress and was third, at 1 minute, 20 seconds. On the third lap Grigson was the fastest rider in the race.

The crowd of around 3,000 roared their approval of Grigson, particularly at the rocky Cauldron descent, where she was the fastest and smoothest rider. In the final lap, Grigson continued to be the fastest rider in the race, but her charge was not sufficient to rein in Sydor.

Sydor crossed the line 57 seconds clear of the Australian rider, with Dahle at 1 minute, 20 seconds.



Mary Grigson - AUS

## Rider Quotes

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### Alison Sydor

*"It's fantastic (to win here). It is great to have a good race here like this. I now have 18 months to think about the Olympic Games, and will have good memories from here... After Napa I hadn't expected to get my form back so soon. I had expected it for Europe, but not for here."*

Sydor, 32, is the reigning world cup champion. She has won the UCI world cup series two times, and has won the world championships three times.

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**Mary Grigson** - *Asked if the home nation crowd had helped:*

*"Yes, they just about pushed you up the hill with their screams."*



Rank	Name	Firstname	Nat	Sponsors	Time	Gap
1	SYDOR	Alison	CAN	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	1:40:25	0
2	GRIGSON	Mary	AUS	A.I.S.	1:41:23	57
3	DAHLE	Gunn-Rita	NOR	DBS WORLD CUP TEAM	1:41:45	1:20
4	LEBOUCHER	Laurence	FRA	TEAM GT	1:41:57	1:32
5	REDDEN	Christina	CAN	RITCHEY-YAHOO!	1:42:21	1:56
6	EPIFANOVA	Alla	RUS	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	1:44:11	3:45
7	FLORIT-JUAREZ	Jimena	ARG	POLO SPORT	1:44:46	4:21
8	DUNLAP	Alison	USA	TEAM GT	1:46:21	5:55
9	STROPPARO	Annabella	ITA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	1:47:17	6:51
10	BLATTER	Barbara	SUI	SCOTT INTERNATIONAL	1:47:47	7:22
11	TOMLINSON	Lesley	CAN	POLO SPORT	1:48:37	8:11
12	JONSSON	Annica	SWE	TEAM CYCLEPRO CK	1:48:43	8:18
13	ROVIRAPLANAS	Silvia	ESP	MARIN SPAIN	1:49:15	8:50
14	GEYSEN	Hanneke	AUS	RAW NRG/A.I.S.	1:49:41	9:15
15	MCQUAID	Melanie	CAN	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	1:51:02	10:37
16	MATTHES	Ruthie	USA	TREK VOLKSWAGEN	1:51:33	11:08
17	BRAINARD	Golden	USA	CATERA	1:51:41	11:15
18	BRUNGER	Tracy	GBR	NATIONAL TEAM	1:53:09	12:44
19	TEMPORELLI	Sandra	FRA	LOOK/LA POSTE	1:54:34	14:09
20	FRANKE	Dellys	AUS	GIANT-AUS	1:54:43	14:18
21	KAIN	Shari	USA	POLO SPORT	1:55:43	15:18
22	NAMBU	Hiroko	JPN	PANASONIC PANARACER	1:56:32	16:07
23	BAYLIS	Anna	AUS	SINTESI	1:57:52	17:27
24	NAKAGOME	Yukari	JPN	MIYATA SUBARU	2:00:46	20:21
25	VANDEUN	Hilde	BEL	SMOUT-SPECIALIZED	2:01:12	20:47
26	KOBAYASHI	Kanako	JPN	A & F	2:01:33	21:08
27	PARKER	Sadie	NZL	NZMBA	2:03:25	22:59
28	CULLEN	Rebecca	NZL	NZMBA	2:03:40	23:15
29	SAVAGE	Lisa	NZL	NZMBA	2:03:42	23:17
30	LAROY	Lory	BEL	BE-ONE	2:04:52	24:27
31	CRAMP	Tanya	AUS	ACT ACADEMY OF SPORT	2:05:23	24:58
32	EGGERTSEN	Tresa	USA	MICRO SUPREME	2:07:16	26:50
33	MORF	Sonja	SUI	SCOTT ELVIA	2:10:51	30:26

dns or/ou dnf

MOTE	Angela	NZL	AIRBORNE
MCCONNELL	Melanie	AUS	SINTESI
YEUNG	KaWahAlexandra	HKG	NATIONAL TEAM
HAMLIN	Donna	AUS	
KNEE	Vanessa	AUS	BOLLE
TOPMAN	Lucy	AUS	DEAN AMP RESEARCH
DENEGRI	Nadia	ITA	ATB BIANCHI MARTINI