

Tissot/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 2000 - Coupe du Monde MTB

XC #8 - Lausanne, SUI - 2-3.9.2000

Double Win for Team Subaru-Specialized

Marga Fullana (ESP, Subaru-Specialized) and **Filip Meirhaeghe** (BEL, Subaru-Specialized) repeated their victorious results from round three of this season, when the two elite cross-country pros gave their team a pair of impressive wins to finish out the 2000 season in Lausanne, Switzerland. With rain and mud the most determining factor on a long 9 km course, both riders met the challenge and ground their way through the woods outside this picturesque Swiss city to put an important stamp on their season finales.

Marga Fullana (ESP, Subaru-Specialized) knew she wasn't in the running for the world cup overall coming into this final race, as she skipped the North American rounds of racing to prepare for her one goal this season - the Olympics. She also wasn't happy to see the muddy conditions develop in Lausanne this past week, as she prefers hard climbs to flat courses - especially if there is mud.

But the flyweight Spanish rider, who with two world cup wins this season is also this year's World Champion, seemed to revel in the conditions as she rode behind another three-time world cup winner, **Barbara Blatter** (SUI, Scott USA). Blatter was the local favorite, and both are slated to do well in the Olympics - so this race was a bit of a showdown.



Marga Fullana - ESP



With 40 women starting the race, competitors had a start loop, plus a short lap and three full laps of muddy conditions ahead of them. Fullana shadowed Blatter until the final lap, as the two riders put a minute on two other women by mid-race.

Blatter found herself in the lead for much of the race, and was comfortably in the overall world cup lead - especially with nearest rival **Alison Dunlap** (USA, Team GT) skipping this race. For her, the plan wasn't even to complete the entire race, but to ride for a couple laps and pull out.

"I planned to drop after two laps," she said, "but I was in the lead so I kept going."

Hedda Zu Puttlitz (GER, Be-One) and **Elsbeth Vink** (NED, Subaru-Specialized) were riding together in chase formation, while two more Germans - **Sabine Spitz** (Merida) and **Regina Marunde** (Focus) rode with local heroine **Chantal Daucourt** (SUI, Trek Volkswagen) in 7th position.

But soon enough the attacks came in full up front, when Fullana experienced a slight chain problem going through the start/finish for the final lap. This gave Blatter the impetus to attack off the front, but Fullana was ready. She gave chase for the next couple kilometers, and caught Blatter on the backside of the course. She then counter-attacked, just as Blatter's form collapsed.

"I had to work too much," said Blatter. "My legs died, and I could hardly climb."

After leaving Blatter, Fullana made swift work of the final lap, putting an eventual 47 seconds on her chaser only the chaser now wasn't Blatter but teammate **Elsbeth Vink** (NED, Subaru-Specialized). As Blatter and Fullana had battled off the front, Vink attacked Zu Puttlitz for third place.

But she wasn't through, and while Blatter went backward several positions, Vink not only passed her, but Zu Puttlitz and Spitz as well, the two Germans moving to 3rd and 4th positions.

"I was very fast in the second and third laps," said Vink. "I was pacing with Hedda before I attacked, and was then happy to pass Barbara also on the final lap. I actually saw Marga ahead, but couldn't catch her."

Fullana then surged to the win several minutes later, after two hours, ten minutes of racing. She seemed never to doubt that she could do it.

"In the last lap Barbara attacked, but I counter-attacked and passed her," she said through a face of mud afterward. "I was worried about the mud before the race, but prepared psychologically, and said to myself 'I don't care what the conditions are, I can do well no matter what.'"

"This was like a test for the Olympics," she added. "I wanted to see if I'm in shape."

With her finish, Blatter wins the world cup overall, with Dunlap second and **Alison Sydor** (CAN, Volvo-Cannondale) - who finished 15th after experiencing brake problems - finished the season 3rd overall. Fullana ends the season ranked 4th.

Ari Cheren



Spitz | Vink | Fullana | zu Pulitz | Blatter

	#	UCIcode	name	nom	nat	tt / gs	t
1	5	ESP19720409	FULLANA	Marga	ESP	SUBARU-SPECIALIZED	2:10:26
2	27	NED19730125	VINK	Elsbeth	NED	SUBARU-SPECIALIZED	2:11:12
3	29	GER19650904	ZU PUTLITZ	Hedda	GER	BE-ONE TEAM	2:12:23
4	22	GER19711221	SPITZ	Sabine	GER	MERIDA	2:14:16
5	1	SUI19701222	BLATTER	Barbara	SUI	SCOTT USA	2:14:48
6	13	GER19680826	MARUNDE	Regina	GER	FOCUS	2:15:23
7	11	SUI19660623	DAUCOURT	Chantal	SUI	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	2:17:10
8	7	NED19730630	DORLAND	Corine	NED	BE-ONE TEAM	2:18:52
9	23	SUI19691014	HENZI	Petra	SUI	FISCHER K2	2:19:47
10	25	RUS19771110	IAGOUPOVA	Irina	RUS	RUSSIA MERIDA KOSTJIA	2:20:04
11	61	FRA19810106	RODE	Cécile	FRA	BIANCHI ALBACOM	2:20:23
12	50	ITA19721024	SALA	Veronica	ITA	TEAM COLNAGO	2:22:32
13	73	SUI19740613	RUSCA	Maroussia	SUI	SCOTT ELVIA	2:23:09
14	17	AUS19761216	BAYLIS	Anna	AUS	CANNONDALE AUSTRALIA	2:25:10
15	3	CAN19660909	SYDOR	Alison	CAN	VOLVO CANNONDALE	2:25:29
16	35	GBR19700608	BRUNGER	Tracy	GBR	GREAT BRITAIN	2:26:40
17	6	CAN19660316	REDDEN	Chrissy	CAN	GARY FISHER/SAAB	2:26:42
18	67	GBR19760625	THOMAS	Sue	GBR	SCOTT UK	2:30:20
19	70	GBR19780819	WILKINSON	Victoria	GBR	TEAM MARIE CURIE	2:30:34
20	59	GER19720321	SCHWING	Katrin	GER	STORCK	2:31:33
21	58	AUT19730405	BRAUMANN	Birgit	AUT	FIAT-ROTWILD	2:31:36
22	63	SUI19801107	STEINER	Sara	SUI		2:32:39
23	34	ESP19730917	PUIGROS MIRANDA	Janet	ESP	ROTOR EDR	2:32:51
24	64	SUI19780829	LAESER	Melanie	SUI		2:34:00
25	51	NED19750429	SOLLAART	Tessa	NED		2:34:56
26	55	SUI19811130	FLÜCKIGER	Lea	SUI	TEAM GT	2:35:17
27	40	JPN19700524	KOBAYASHI	Kanako	JPN	A&F	2:35:43
28	66	SUI19810605	RUPF	Katja	SUI	ARROW SWISS BIKE TM	2:40:44
29	69	SUI19810217	SENN	Fanny	SUI		2:42:47
30	56	AUT19750708	JUNGMEIER	Bärbel	AUT	CYCLOPIA TREK TEAM	2:45:48
31	52	ITA19711019	MARSILIO	Claudia	ITA	RACER TEAM	- 1 lap
32	71	NED19711129	VAN DER VLIST	Ingrid	NED		- 1 lap
33	65	NED19781226	TURPIJN	Laura	NED		- 1 lap
	10	FRA19691106	VILLENEUVE	Sophie	FRA	EGOBIKE/CAMELBACK	DNF
	16	FRA19720222	LEBOUCHER	Laurence	FRA	TEAM GT	DNF
	26	GBR19650112	ROBINSON	Louise	GBR	STOURBRIDGE CC	DNF
	28	ITA19680704	STROPPARO	Annabella	ITA	VOLVO CANNONDALE	DNF
	33	GBR19680303	ALEXANDER	Caroline	GBR	GREAT BRITAIN	DNF
	39	ESP19671215	ROVIRA PLANAS	Silvia	ESP	MACARIO GT	DNF
	54	GER19670901	JÜNGST	Birgit	GER	SCOTT-POLAR- RACING-T	DNF
	72	SUI19730613	SCHMIDLIN	Yolanda	SUI		DNF