

MTB World Cup XC #3 & DH #2 - CDM

Champery, Switzerland, June 9-10, 2007

June 9: Elite Women Cross Country, 36.5km

Full(ana) steam ahead

By Rob Jones in Champery, Switzerland – cyclingnews.com

Round three of the cross-country mountain bike World Cup in Champery, Switzerland, saw Marga Fullana (Spiuk-Tau Ceramica) don the leader's jersey in the women's category after an impressive race-long ride from the front.

The women's race was wide open, with the absence of perennial favourite Gunn-Rita Dahle Flesjaa (Multivan Merida) who has cut her season short to return to Norway and seek medical advice on persistent stomach problems.

The technical nature of the course made round two winner Irina Kalentyeva (Topeak-Ergon) and Marie-Helene Premont (Rocky Mountain-Haywood) the favourites, but it was Fullana who prevailed after 36.5 kilometres (six laps plus a start loop).



A delighted Margarita Fullana (Spiuk-Tau Ceramica)
Photo ©: Rob Jones

The Spanish rider had her patented fast start up the first climb, but this time was not caught by the technical riders in the following singletrack, rooted descent. The difference? "I know that I am not so good in the technical parts, so last winter we worked very hard to improve in this area."

It obviously worked, with Fullana cruising in 19 seconds ahead of Kalentyeva and 1:10 in front of Premont. World Cup leader Ren Chengyuan struggled in the early going, dropping as far back as the high 40s, before recovering to finish 14th.

As Fullana attacked, a chase organized behind, with Kalentyeva, Premont, and Sabine Spitz (Ghost International). Premont was struggling on the climb, and was dropped by the other two after the first lap. "I woke up with a headache, from the altitude I think, but it was more that this climb was too steep for me. I like climbs, but the speed was very fast on the first laps, and I overpaced myself. Then I made a mistake in the roots and they (Kalentyeva and Spitz) got a gap on me."

Premont recovered in the second half of the race to move back up and finish third.



Irina Kalentyeva (Topeak-Ergon)
Photo ©: Rob Jones

On the third lap, Kalentyeva gapped Spitz to chase on her own after Fullana, who was now nearly a minute up. She steadily pulled back time every lap to come close to catching the Spaniard. Spitz was having her own difficulties with the course, crashing in the third lap on the descent after a camera flash went off in her face, and being passed by Premont on the climb on lap four.

The final podium spot looked to be locked up by German Ivonne Kraft. She had ridden consistently all race in fifth, although Americans Mary McConneloug (Kenda-Seven) and Willow Koerber (Subaru-Gary Fisher), and Austrian Elisabeth Osl (Tonis) were starting to breathe down her neck. McConneloug came within 15 seconds of Kraft when cramps hit on lap five, then Koerber and Osl were within sight on the last lap, when Kraft suffered a very inopportune flat.

Koerber and Osl took over the battle for fifth, with the American getting to the front before the final descent and then opening a gap on Osl, to take her first ever European World Cup podium.

"Last race (in Offenburg, Germany) I thought the race was shorter than it was, and I ran out of energy. this time I thought it was longer, so I had double extra energy! When they (leaders) went away, I was trying not to panic, and just ride my own pace; just to be me, do my ride and let it come back to me. On the last lap we could see we were gaining, and then saw her (Kraft) stop. I attacked on the last little paved bit of the climb and got into the downhill first, and that was it."

Race Notes

- The World Cup overall battle is still tight, with Fullana at 560 points, Kalentyeva at 514, and Premont at 490. The advantage seems to be with Premont, with the next two events in Canada, on circuits on which she has won previously, including two World Cup wins at her home course in Mont Ste Anne, Quebec.

- Ren Chengyuan's surprisingly slow start was "a bad day" according to the team manager. "No, there were no mechanical problems, she was just not so good today. Maybe it was the altitude a little bit." Chengyuan takes over the U23 World Cup leader's jersey.



Marie-Helene Premont (Rocky Mountain Haywood)
Photo ©: Rob Jones

Results - 36.5km

1 Margarita Fullana (Spa) Spiuk-Tau Ceramica	1.55.49
2 Irina Kalentyeva (Rus) Topeak-Ergon	0.19
3 Marie-Helene Premont (Can) Rocky Mountain Haywood	1.10
4 Sabine Spitz (Ger) Ghost International Racing	2.19
5 Willow Koerber (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	4.25
6 Elisabeth Osl (Aut) Tonis Pro Team Kirchberg	4.41
7 Mary McConneloug (USA) Kenda Seven	5.32
8 Tereza Hurikova (Cze) Ceska Sportitelna Mtb	5.44
9 Ivonne Kraft (Ger) La Carrera-BTS	6.08
10 Georgia Gould (USA) Luna Womens Mtb Team	6.17
11 Kiara Bisaro (Can) Opus	6.37
12 Katerina Nash (Cze) Luna Womens Mtb Team	6.52
13 Catherine Pendrel (Can) Norco	7.10
14 Ren Chengyuan (Chn) China	7.27
15 Petra Henzi (Swi) Fischer-BMC	7.30
16 Cecile Rode Ravanel (Fra) Team Lapierre International	7.36
17 Ying Liu (Chn) China	7.44
18 Laura Turpijn (Ned)	8.00
19 Katrin Leumann (Swi)	8.25
20 Rosara Joseph (NZL)	9.08
21 Heather Irmiger (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	9.30
22 Eva Lechner (Ita)	10.33
23 Jingjing Wang (Chn) China	10.47
24 Sandra Walter (Can) XO Felt	11.00
25 Susan Haywood (USA) Trek-VW	11.23
26 Blaza Klemencic (Slo) Pintatim Full-Dynamix	12.06
27 Anna Szafraniec (Pol) Halls Professional MTB Team	12.16
28 Lene Byberg (Nor) Specialized	12.41
29 Magdalena Sadlecka (Pol) Halls Professional MTB Team	12.48
30 Laurence Leboucher (Fra)	12.59
31 Anna Enocsson (Swe) Ghost International Racing	13.04
32 Nina Homovec (Slo)	13.18
33 Maroussia Rusca (Swi)	13.34
34 Maria Osl (Aut) Tonis Pro Team Kirchberg	13.58
35 Nathalie Schneitter (Swi)	14.32
36 Katrin Schwing (Ger)	14.42
37 Sabrina Enaux (Fra) Team Lapierre International	14.45
38 Wendy Simms (Can) Kona Les Gets	14.46
39 Renata Bucher (Swi)	14.52
40 Evelyn Staffler (Ita)	15.03
41 Dellys Starr (Aus)	15.26
42 Janka Stevkova (Svk)	15.30
43 Shonny Vanlandingham (USA) Luna Womens Mtb Team	16.17
44 Esther Suss (Swi)	16.42
45 Maureen Guichardot (Fra) Scott Valloire Galibier	17.20
46 Severine Hansen (Fra) Bh-Sr. Suntour	17.28

One lap down

47 Rocio Gamonal Ferrera (Spa)
48 Tory Thomas (Aus) Bh-Sr. Suntour
49 Ruth Moll Marques (Spa) Bh-Sr. Suntour
50 Jenny Copnall (GBr) Subaru-Gary Fisher
51 Nina Gohl (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team

52 Laura Metzler (Fra) Bh-Sr. Suntour
53 Sarka Chmurova (Cze) Max Cursor
54 Asa Maria Erlandsson (Swe) Subaru-Gary Fisher
55 Jaqueline Mourao (Bra)
56 Laura Lorenza Morfin (Mex)
57 Helene Marcouyre (Fra) Bh-Sr. Suntour
58 Hanna Klein (Ger)
59 Caroline Mani (Fra)

Two laps down

60 Franziska Roethlin (Swi)
61 Sarah Koba (Swi)
62 Sandra Santanyes Murillo (Spa) Massi
63 Githa Michiels (Bel)
64 Sandra Dolcerocca (Den)
65 Elena Gaddoni (Ita)
66 Julie Krasniak (Fra) Team Lapierre International
67 Agnes Naumann (Ger)
68 Berangre Wilst (Fra) Breiz Mountain 22
69 Liliya Zaytseva (Ukr)
70 Kelli Emmett (USA) Giant Mountain Bike Team
71 Jennifer Gersbach (USA)

Three laps down

72 Zoe King (Aus)
73 Anna Villar Argente (Spa) Massi
74 Francisca Campos Salas (Chi)
75 Emma Colson (Aus)
76 Ruth McGavigan (GBr)
77 Nataliya Krompets (Ukr)
78 Sara Bresnick (USA)
79 Elina Sophocleous (Cyp) Bikin'cyprus Int'l MTB Team
80 Nina Baum (USA)
81 Ivanda Eiduka (Lat)
82 Megan Monroe (USA)
83 Joanna Wall (Aus)
84 Marie Kunst (Den)
85 Cristina Mascarreras Sabria (Spa) Spiuk-Tau Ceramica
DNF Maja Wloszczowska (Pol) Halls Professional MTB Team
DNF Elsbeth Van Rooij-Vink (Ned) Beone Mountain bike team
DNF Yolanda Speedy (RSA)
DNF Sara Muhl (RSA)
DNF Barbel Jungmeier (Aut)
DNF Berengre Boes (Fra) Breitz Mountain 22
DNF Gemma Collins (GBr)
DNS Arielle Van Meurs (Ned)
DNS Bettina Schmid (Swi) Fischer-BMC