

MTB World Cup XC # 2 - CDM

Offenburg, Germany, May 26-27, 2007

May 27: Elite Women XC

Kalentyeva takes first World Cup victory since 2004

By Rob Jones in Offenburg – cyclingnews.com

The cross-country Mountain Bike World Cup started up again on Sunday in Offenburg, Germany with round two after a one month break, and we saw rather different podiums for both the men and the women than at the opener in Houffalize, Belgium. The Chinese women, who had put two riders on the podium in Houffalize - with Chengyuan Ren taking the victory - were shut out in Offenburg, as Irina Kalentyeva (To Peak) took her first World Cup victory since 2004. Ren holds onto her World Cup series lead over Gunn-Rita Dahle Flesjaa (Multivan Merida) by a slim 10 points.

Pre-race, the threatened rain had not materialized, although the skies were overcast and damp, and the temperature had dropped over 12 degrees (Celsius) from the day before. The women headed out for two start loops and then six laps of the 5.7 kilometre circuit and, for the first three laps, conditions remained dry and the racing was fast. Sabine Spitz (Ghost) and Wang Jingjing (China National) set the early fast pace through the start loops.



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

The Chinese riders seemed to struggle a bit more on the technical circuit than they did in Houffalize, with Ren dropping back to 15th by the end of the first lap. At the front it was Spitz setting the pace, with Marga Fullana (Spiuk), Kalentyeva, Dahle Flesjaa and Marie-Helene Premont (Rocky Mountain-Haywood) the only riders able to stay with her



The start
Photo ©: Rob Jones

Premont dropped back a few seconds from the others on the second lap when she tangled with Fullana. "I tried to pass her, and she pushed me into the trees where I bent my rear derailleur a little bit. I had to catch up, and my gears didn't work as well, so it took some time."

While Premont was working her way back up, Kalentyeva attacked on the third lap, just before the skies opened and it began to rain heavily. As everyone else began to slip and slide, and work their way down the steep descents cautiously, Kalentyeva was reveling in the wet conditions.

"I was really, really hoping for the rain" she revealed afterwards. "I like those conditions very much, and I was using some special Continental tires for the wet and mud."

The Topeak team manager said that the tires were new prototypes, specifically for rain, and only Kalentyeva had access to them. Obviously, they were effective.

Spitz was leading the chase until lap four, when her chain broke and the German champion lost nearly five minutes repairing it, dropping her to 11th. Premont had caught the other chasers by this time, and took over second spot from Spitz, while Fullana and Dahle Flesjaa battled for third.



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

As Kalentyeva's lead approached two minutes at the end of lap five, Premont began picking up the pace, pulling back 30 seconds in the final lap. Dahle Flesjaa and Fullana had a rather unusual slow speed sprint to the line through the mud, with the world champion winning by less than a tire width. Spitz worked her way up in the final lap to take the fifth and final podium spot. Ren recovered from her early lap troubles to finish seventh and retain the leader's jersey.

American Willow Koerber (Subaru Gary Fisher) was ninth, and Canada's Kiara Bisaro (Opus) 10th. Koerber was in sixth place at the end of lap five, but had miscalculated the number of laps, thinking that she had finished a lap early. "I went so hard in what I thought was the final lap that it was really hard to get going again for another lap."

Results

1	Irina Kalentyeva (Rus) Topeak-Ergon	2.02.38
2	Marie-Helene Premont (Can) Rocky Mountain Haywood	1.28
3	Gunn-Rita Dahle Flesjaa (Nor) Multivan Merida Biking Team	2.20
4	Margarita Fullana (Esp) Spiuk-Tau Ceramica	
5	Sabine Spitz (Ger) Ghost International Racing	4.57
6	Tereza Hurikova (Cze) Ceska Sportelna Mtb	5.11
7	Chengyuan Ren (Chn) China	5.30
8	Maja Wloszczowska (Pol) Halls Professional Mtb Team	5.54
9	Willow Koerber (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	6.30
10	Kiara Bisaro (Can) Opus	6.50
11	Susan Haywood (USA) Trek-Vw	7.11
12	Cecile Rode Ravanel (Fra) Team Lapierre International	7.44
13	Eva Lechner (Ita)	8.07
14	Nina Gohl (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team	8.15
15	Elsbeth Van Rooij-Vink (Ned) Beone Mountainbiketeam	8.26
16	Anna Enocsson (Swe) Ghost International Racing	8.29
17	Petra Henzi (Sui) Fischer-Bmc	8.41
18	Ying Liu (Chn) China	9.00
19	Elisabeth Osl (Aut) Tonis Pro Team Kirchberg	9.19
20	Nathalie Schneitter (Sui)	9.30
21	Renata Bucher (Sui)	9.43
22	Katerina Nash (Cze) Luna Womens Mtb Team	9.58
23	Lene Byberg (Nor) Specialized	10.08
24	Anna Szafraniec (Pol) Halls Professional Mtb Team	11.17
25	Rosara Joseph (NZl)	11.24
26	Ivonne Kraft (Ger) La Carrera-BTS	12.13
27	Catherine Pendrel (Can) Norco	
28	Laura Turpijn (Ned)	12.27
29	Laurence Leboucher (Fra)	12.52
30	Jingjing Wang (Chn) China	12.59
31	Nina Homovec (Slo)	13.11
32	Heather Irmiger (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	13.23
33	Georgia Gould (USA) Luna Womens Mtb Team	13.27
34	Sandra Walter (Can) XO Felt	13.41
35	Evelyn Staffler (Ita)	13.50
36	Alexandra Engen (Swe)	14.30
37	Maroussia Rusca (Sui)	14.58
38	Alison Sydor (Can) Rocky Mountain Haywood	15.13
39	Julie Krasniak (Fra) Team Lapierre International	15.19
40	Dellys Starr (Aus)	15.34
41	Maria Osl (Aut) Tonis Pro Team Kirchberg	15.54
42	Shonny Vanlandingham (USA) Luna Womens Mtb Team	16.17
43	Esther Suss (Sui)	16.47
44	Sabrina Enaux (Fra) Team Lapierre International	16.53
45	Katrin Schwing (Ger)	16.56
46	Helene Marcouyre (Fra) BH-SR. Suntour	18.10
47	Jaqueline Mourao (Bra)	18.17
48	Tory Thomas (Aus)	18.25
49	Nadja Roschi (Sui) Fischer-Bmc	18.38
50	Jenny Copnall (GBr) Subaru-Gary Fisher	18.58
51	Pavla Havlikova (Cze)	19.11
52	Blaza Klemencic (Slo) Pintatim Full-Dynamix	19.52
53	Katrin Leumann (Sui)	19.59
54	Wendy Simms (Can) Kona Les Gets	20.11
55	Amy Hunt (GBr)	21.02

1 lap behind

56	Berbel Jungmeier (Aut)
57	Maureen Guichardot (Fra) Scott Valloire Galibier
58	Caroline Mani (Fra)
59	Yolanda Speedy (RSA)
60	Elena Gaddoni (Ita)
61	Mary Mc Conneloug (USA)
62	Judith Pollinger (Ita)

63 Rocio Gamonal Ferrera (Esp) BH-SR. Suntour
64 Ruth Moll Marques (Esp) BH-SR. Suntour
65 Bettina Schmid (Sui) Fischer-Bmc

2 laps behind

66 Laura Lorenza Morfin (Mex)
67 Barbara Oberdorfer (Ita)
68 Githa Michiels (Bel)
69 Laura Metzler (Fra) BH-SR. Suntour
70 Francisca Campos Salas (Chi)
71 Sandra Dolcerocca (Den)
72 Anna Villar Argente (Esp) Massi
73 Cristina Mascarreras Sabria (Esp) Spiuk-Tau Ceramica
74 Zoe King (Aus)
75 Hanna Klein (Ger)
76 Inbar Ronen (Isr)
77 Sandra Santanyes Murillo (Esp) Massi
78 Ksenia Chernykh (Rus)
79 Brangre Wilst (Fra)
80 Heike Hundertmark (Ger) Breiz Mountain 22
81 Ivanda Eiduka (Lat)
82 Nina Baum (USA)

3 laps behind

83 Arielle Van Meurs (Ned)
84 Daniela Campuzano (Mex)
85 Sara Muhl (RSA)
86 Anja Gradl (Ger)
87 Joanna Wall (Aus)
88 Janka Stevkova (Svk)
89 Janine Droz (Sui)
90 Sara Bresnick (USA)
91 Kelli Emmett (USA) Giant Mountain Bike Team
92 Elena Babikova Gogoleva (Rus)
93 Nina Kunz (Ger)
94 Ingrid Bosscha (Ned)
95 Berengere Boes (Fra) Breiz Mountain 22
96 Semra Yetis (Tur) Goldcity Alanya
97 Marie Kunst (Den)
DNF Niki Fisher (Aus)
DNF Magdalena Sadlecka (Pol) Halls Professional Mtb Team
DNF Elina Sophocleous (Cyp) Bikin'cyprus Int'l Mtb Team
DNF Karolina Kozela (Pol)
DNF Fiona Macdermid (GBr)
DNF ~~Se~~verine Hansen (Fra) BH-SR. Suntour
DNF Sarah Koba (Sui)
DNF Agnes Naumann (Ger)
DNF Asa Maria Erlandsson (Swe) Subaru-Gary Fisher
DNF Kate George (GBr)
DNS Petra Mermans (Bel)
DNS Kristien Nelen (Bel)
DNS Senem Guler (Tur Goldcity Alanya

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