

MTB World Cup XC #3 & 4X #2 - CDM - CDM

Houffalize, Belgium, May 2-3, 2009

Race 5 - May 3: Elite women cross country

Fullana claims first World Cup win of '09

By Rob Jones in Houffalize – cyclingnews.com

Over 20,000 spectators packed the hillsides at Houffalize, and watched Marga Fullana (Massi) take a record fifth victory in the women's race. The Spanish rider took the women's World Cup standings lead as a result of the victory.

"It is a very hard race here at Houffalize, and very special to win," said Fullana. "The crowds are so big here and the fans are very special, so it pushes you to go harder."

The women's race, at a short three and a half laps, was perfect for Fullana. The UCI World Champion excels at very fast starts and long climbs, and Houffalize has both. By the end of the start loop, Fullana had a small gap on Marie-Helene Premont (Maxxis-Rocky Mountain), with a chase group forming behind, led by defending race winner Ren Chengyuan (China). Fullana opened a gap on Premont in the first full lap, when the Canadian champion had to run a section that Fullana was able to ride.

"I was with Fullana in the beginning," said Premont. "But there was a change to the course that I didn't know about, so I got off my bike to run a section while she kept riding, and that is when she got away. Ren and Catharine [Pendrel (Luna)] came up to us, but on the second lap when Ren went hard, it was too fast a pace for me."

"I am still building my fitness, so I'm really pleased with this result at this time of the season," she added.



Spain's Margarita Fullana Riera (Massi)
Photo ©: Rob Jones



Catharine Pendrel (Luna Pro Team) hits the climb
Photo ©: Rob Jones

Ren and Pendrel took up the chase, with Premont dropping back slightly to Eva Lechner (Colnago Cap Arreghini) and former World Cup leader Elisabeth Osl (Central Ghost Team). By the start of lap two Ren and Pendrel had bridged up to Fullana, but Ren quickly fell back when the Spaniard increased the pace.

For the remainder of the race it was down to Fullana and Pendrel. Ren was firmly in third, while Lechner, Osl and Premont battled for the last two podium spots.

Fullana sealed her victory on the main paved climb of the last lap, when she opened a 10-second gap that Pendrel could not close, eventually rolling in 14 seconds ahead of the Canadian rider. Ren came in 46 seconds later, shaking her head in disappointment, with Lechner and Osl taking the final two podium spots.

"I had a strong start, one of my best," said Pendrel. "Along with Ren we were able to join Fullana in the lead, but when she attacked on the last lap I just didn't have enough to stay with her. But this is an awesome result for me; the Houffalize race is one of the true classics of the sport, so to finish second here is a real accomplishment."

Canada's Emily Batty took her second consecutive Under 23 victory, finishing 13th overall, and moved to within six points of leader Julie Bresset (Breiz Mountain). Batty, attending her first edition of the Houffalize race, took awhile to get going, probably denying her a second top 10 result in the shorter than usual race.



Emily Batty celebrates her Under 23 win
Photo ©: Rob Jones

"I was actually expecting the course to be harder than it was, based on all I had heard about Houffalize," said Batty. "I had a pretty good start, but I was behind Julie [Bresset], so I was trying to chase up to her initially. After I caught her, I just tried to put as much time as I could between us, and finish as high [in the standings] as I could."

Results

1	Margarita Fullana Riera (Spa) Massi	1.25.01
2	Catharine Pendrel (Can) Luna Pro Team	0.14
3	Chengyuan Ren (Chn)	0.46
4	Eva Lechner (Ita) Colnago Cap Arreghini	1.58
5	Elisabeth Osl (Aut) Central Ghost Pro Team	2.17
6	Marie-Helene Premont (Can) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	3.00
7	Sabine Spitz (Ger) Central Ghost Pro Team	3.26
8	Maja Wloszczowska (Pol) CCC Polkowice	3.39
9	Irina Kalentieva (Rus) Topeak Ergon Racing Team	3.54
10	Anna Szafraniec (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	3.57
11	Georgia Gould (USA) Luna Pro Team	4.02
12	Lene Byberg (Nor) Specialized Factory Racing	4.03
13	Emiliy Batty* (Can)	5.10
14	Petra Henzi (Swi) Fischer-BMC	5.14
15	Aleksandra Dawidowicz* (Pol) CCC Polkowice	5.20
16	Katrin Leumann (Swi)	5.44
17	Julie Bresset* (Fra) Breiz Mountain	
18	Alexandra Engen* (Swe)	6.13
19	Rode Ravanel Cécile (Fra) Lapierre International	6.21
20	Hanna Klein* (Ger)	6.22
21	Lea Davison (USA) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	6.32
22	Willow Koerber (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	6.36
23	Heather Irmiger (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	6.51
24	Magdalena Sadlecka (Pol) CCC Polkowice	7.07
25	Julie Krasniak* (Fra)	7.33
26	Laura Turpijn (Ned)	7.59
27	Rowena Fry (Aus) Discovertasmania.com	8.06
28	Mary McConneloug (USA)	
29	Marielle Saner-Guinhard (Swi) Team Bikepark.ch	8.16
30	Blaza Klemencic (Slo) Felt International MTB Team	8.26
31	Sabrina Enaux (Fra) BH-Suntour	8.30
32	Janka Stevkova (Svk)	8.35
33	Caroline Mani* (Fra) Team Bikepark.ch	8.38
34	Laura Metzler (Fra) BH-Suntour	8.46
35	Vivianne Meyer* (Swi) Colnago Cap Arreghini	
36	Adelheid Morath (Ger)	9.13
37	Tanja Zakelj* (Slo) MBK Orbea	9.47
38	Anja Gradl (Ger) Central Ghost Pro Team	10.32
39	Anna Villar Argente (Spa) Massi	10.37
40	Ivonne Kraft (Ger)	10.56
41	Kajsa Snihs * (Swe)	10.59
42	Esther Süß (Swi)	11.02
43	Amanda Sin (Can)	
44	Nataliya Krompets* (Ukr)	11.05
45	Mical Dyck (Can)	11.15
46	Sandra Santanyes Murillo (Spa) Cemelorca-Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	11.29
47	Vera Andreeva* (Rus)	11.35
48	Maria Osl (Aut) Fischer-BMC	11.47
49	Oksana Rybakova (Rus)	11.52
50	Helene Marcouyre (Fra) BH-Suntour	11.59
51	Fanny Bourdon* (Fra)	12.15
52	Jean Ann McKirdy (Can)	12.43
53	Suzanne Clarke (GBr)	
54	Kate Potter (Aus)	13.04
55	Virginie Pointet* (Swi) Team Bikepark.ch	13.26
56	Fiona Macdermid (GBr)	13.40
57	Coralie Redelsperger (Fra)	13.43
58	Sarka Chmurova (Cze)	13.58
59	Kathrin Stirnemann* (Swi)	14.15
60	Githa Michiels (Bel) Team Saeco	14.35
61	Carina Ketonen (Fin)	14.50
62	Gracie Elvin* (Aus) Discovertasmania.com	15.19
63	Katherine O'Shea (Aus) Torq Performance Nutrition	15.31
64	Cristina Mascarreras Sabria (Spa) Conor - Camping La Siesta	15.33
65	Zoe King (Aus)	15.58

66 Tatjana Dold (Ger)	16.37
67 Asa Maria Erlandsson (Swe) Subaru-Gary Fisher	16.54
68 Kristien Nelen (Bel)	16.55
69 Evelyn Staffler (Ita) Colnago Cap Arreghini	17.05
70 Sandra Walter (Can)	17.06
71 Fabienne Heinzmann (Swi) Team Bikepark.ch	17.58
72 Alla Boyko* (Ukr)	18.49
73 Sarah Koba (Swi)	19.29
74 Lorraine Truong* (Swi)	19.52
75 Kiona Harbers (Ned)	20.08
76 Marie-Claude Surprenant* (Can)	21.32
77 Lucie Vesela (Cze)	
78 Petra Mermans (Bel)	21.37
79 Nicoletta De Jager (Ned)	21.56
80 Jitka Skarnitzlova* (Cze) Giant Mountain Bike Team	23.16
81 Jennifer Sägesser* (Swi)	25.08

One lap down

82 Sandra Dolcerocca (Den)	
83 Irina Slobodyan* (Ukr)	
84 Jeanette Gerrie (NZl)	
85 Monika Heuveling (Ned)	
86 Janine Droz* (Swi)	
87 Sarah Holmes* (Aus)	
88 Ingrid Bosscha (Ned)	
89 Elena Ondasova (Svk)	
90 Nancy Bober (Bel)	
91 Elisabeth Mottet* (Bel)	
92 Klara Van Der Vaart (Ned)	
DNF Silke Schmidt* (Ger)	
DNF Stephanie Wiedner* (Aut) DS-Rennsport	
DNF Nathalie Schneitter (Swi) Colnago Cap Arreghini	
DNF Camille Pousse* (Fra)	
DNS Arielle Boek - Van Meurs (Ned)	
DNS Barbara Benko* (Hun)	

* Indicates Under 23

Teams

1 Luna Pro Team	55 pts
2 Central Ghost Pro Team	52
3 CCC Polkowice	46
4 Massi	40
5 Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	36
6 Colnago Cap Arreghini	30
7 Topeak Ergon Racing Team	22
8 JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	21
9 Specialized Factory Racing	19
10 Fischer-BMC	17
11 Subaru-Gary Fisher	17
12 Breiz Mountain	14
13 Lapierre International	12
14 Discovertasmania.com	4
15 Team Bikepark.ch	2
16 Felt International MTB Team	1