

MTB World Cup XC #4 - CDM

Madrid, Spain, May 23-24, 2009

May 24: Elite women cross country

Fullana wins at home

By Rob Jones in Madrid – cyclingnews.com

As usual, Madrid proved to be an exciting venue for the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup. World Cup leader Marga Fullana (Massi) extended her lead in the overall standings with a win in this fourth round, but the World Champion won by only four seconds over the defending World Cup champion Marie-Helene Premont (Maxxis-Rocky Mountain).

After a second night of heavy rain, the decision was made to shorten the women's race from five laps to four. The wet ground made some of the climbs unrideable, and every corner had to be negotiated with care. A group containing Fullana, Premont, world number-one-ranked Catharine Pendrel (Luna) and Lene Byberg (Specialized Factory Team) split away from the field. However, Pendrel ran into shifting problems, as well as having difficulty with the muddy course after a night of rain.



Margarita Fullana (Massi) wins
Photo ©: Rob Jones



Marie-Helene Premont (Rocky Mt/Maxxis)
Photo ©: Dave McElwaine

Fullana then made her first testing attack, and only Premont and Byberg could respond. Pendrel dropped back to sit solo in fourth, with a chase group containing round one winner Elisabeth Osl (Central Ghost Team), Maja Wloszczowska (CCC Polkowice) and Eva Lechner (Colnago Cap Arreghini) forming behind. The front three began getting reeled in from behind on the second lap, both by Pendrel and the chase of Osl, Lechner, Wloszczowska and the Olympic champion Sabine Spitz

Premont was getting concerned about being caught, and upped the pace, dropping Byberg with less than a lap and a half to go. Byberg would hold on for third, but the race for the win was down to two riders. Fullana made the winning move on the final long climb, launching an attack that Premont could not respond to immediately, and then holding on to win her second consecutive World Cup. Behind Byberg, Pendrel was caught by Spitz and Osl, after some mechanical problems, but managed to hold on for the fifth and final podium spot behind Spitz.

"It is a great honour to win in my home country; this was one of my big goals for the season," said Fullana. "Of course, I was very concerned about Marie-Helene, because she is always strong, but I could see that I was better on the climbs, and I knew that I had to attack there in the final lap."

"In the last two laps, the chasers were catching up to us, and neither Fullana or Byberg were working," said Premont, "so I went to the front to set the pace. Then, on the last long climb Marga [Fullana] attacked, and I could not respond fast enough to catch her before the finish."



The early laps were muddy
Photo ©: Rob Jones

Fullana's win increased her lead in the World cup standings to 850 points, 190 over second place Osl, with Byberg in third at 565 points. Pendrel moves to fifth at 470 points, and Premont jumps from 16th to ninth in the standings with 408 points.

Georgia Gould was the top American finisher in 14th place.

Results

1	Margarita Fullana Riera (Spa) Massi	1.28.24
2	Marie-Helene Premont (Can) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	0.04
3	Lene Byberg (Nor) Specialized Factory Racing	0.15
4	Sabine Spitz (Ger) Central Ghost Pro Team	2.17
5	Catharine Pendrel (Can) Luna Pro Team	2.19
6	Elisabeth Osl (Aut) Central Ghost Pro Team	2.47
7	Eva Lechner (Ita) Colnago Cap Arreghini	3.54
8	Nathalie Schneitter (Swi) Colnago Cap Arreghini	4.06
9	Maja Wloszczowska (Pol) CCC Polkowice	4.11
10	Petra Henzi (Swi) Fischer-BMC	4.21
11	Irina Kalentieva (Rus) Topeak Ergon Racing Team	4.41
12	Marielle Saner-Guinchard (Swi) Team Bikepark.Ch	4.49
13	Katrin Leumann (Swi)	4.54
14	Georgia Gould (USA) Luna Pro Team	5.00
15	Anna Szafraniec (Pol) Jbg-2 Professional Mtb Team	5.02
16	Caroline Mani (Fra) Team Bikepark.Ch	5.26
17	Adelheid Morath (Ger)	5.34
18	Willow Koerber (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	5.39
19	Mary Mcconneloug (USA)	5.40
20	Janka Stevkova (Svk)	6.35
21	Aleksandra Dawidowicz (Pol) CCC Polkowice	7.11
22	Julie Krasniak (Fra)	7.24
23	Rowena Fry (Aus) Discovertasmania.Com	7.28
24	Tereza Hurikova (Cze) Ceska Sportitelna Mtb	7.45
25	Barbara Benko (Hun)	8.18
26	Ivonne Kraft (Ger)	8.33
27	Cécile Rode Ravanel (Fra) Lapierre International	8.54
28	Laura Turpijn (Ned)	9.02
29	Julie Bresset (Fra) Breiz Mountain	9.15
30	Kate Potter (Aus)	9.28
31	Heather Irmiger (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	9.35
32	Anna Villar Argente (Spa) Massi	9.39
33	Vivianne Meyer (Swi) Colnago Cap Arreghini	9.49
34	Maria Osl (Aut) Fischer-BMC	9.56
35	Laura Metzler (Fra) Bh-Suntour	10.22
36	Vera Andreeva (Rus)	10.23
37	Alexandra Engen (Swe)	10.37
38	Helene Marcouyre (Fra) Bh-Suntour	10.45
39	Virginie Pointet (Swi) Team Bikepark.Ch	11.01
40	Cristina Mascarreras Sabria (Spa) Conor - Camping La Siesta	11.30
41	Sabrina Enaux (Fra) Bh-Suntour	12.05
42	Evelyn Staffler (Ita) Colnago Cap Arreghini	12.28
43	Rosara Joseph (NZL)	12.46
44	Asa Maria Erlandsson (Swe) Subaru-Gary Fisher	12.50
45	Kristien Nelen (Bel)	12.56
46	Katherine O'Shea (Aus) Torq Performance Nutrition	14.03
47	Judith Pollinger (Ita) Sunshine Racers Asv Nals	14.19
48	Stephanie Wiedner (Aut) Ds-Rennsport	14.35
49	Katrin Schwing (Ger)	15.00
50	Oksana Rybakova (Rus)	15.29
51	Gracie Elvin (Aus) Discovertasmania.Com	16.10
52	Sandra Santanyes Murillo (Spa) Cemelorca-Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	17.15
53	Elisabeth Brandau (Ger)	18.02
54	Camille Pousse (Fra)	18.55
55	Nadine Rieder (Ger) Fumic.Brothers.International	20.18
56	Laure Boulay (Fra) Keops	22.06
57	Joana Barbosa (Por)	23.56

One lap behind

58	Catherine Lohri (Swi)
59	Elena Ondasova (Svk)
DNF	Githa Michiels (Bel) Team Saeco
DNF	Kathrin Stirnemann (Swi)
DNF	Blaza Klemencic (Slo) Felt International Mtb Team
DNF	Magdalena Sadlecka (Pol) CCC Polkowice

Teams

1	Central Ghost Pro Team	56 pts
2	Colnago Cap Arreghini	47
3	Luna Pro Team	45
4	Massi	40
5	Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	35
6	Team Bikepark.ch	34
7	Specialized Factory Racing	32
8	CCC Polkowice	32
9	Fischer-BMC	21
10	Topeak Ergon Racing Team	20
11	JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	16
12	Subaru-Gary Fisher	13
13	Discovertasmania.com	8
14	Ceska Sportelna MTB	7
15	Lapierre International	4
16	Breiz Mountain	2