

Austrian Osl wins final World Cup round at home

By Tour of Japan published September 19, 2009 – cyclingnews.com

Elisabeth Osl wins eighth and final round in Schladming, Austria



Elisabeth Osl (Central Ghost) leapfrogs her handlebars at the finish! (Image credit: Dave McElwaine/trailwatch.net)

Elisabeth "Lisi" Osl gave the Austrian crowd what they had hoped: a home win and the World Cup title at the eighth and final round in Schladming, Austria. Osl took her third World Cup win of the season after an impressive start to finish ride on the front.

Lene Byberg (Specialized) confirmed her second place overall by catching Canada's Catharine Pendrel (Luna) on the final climb to take second, while Pendrel hung on for third in both the race and the overall standings. Lea Davison (Maxxis-Rocky Mountain) was the top US finisher in 12th, two spots ahead of Mary McConneloug (Kenda-Seven). Emily Batty (Team Canada) finished 25th, and took second overall in the Under 23 final World Cup standings behind World Champion Aleksandra Dawidowicz (CCC Polkowice).

Osl came into the final round of the World Cup with a 65-point lead over Byberg. Pendrel was mathematically still in the running to win the title, but more concerned with holding onto third ahead of World Champion Irina Kalentieva (Topeak Ergon). The only other rider who could have been in the mix - Marga Fullana (Massi) - was out after fracturing a vertebra in a crash a week earlier prior to the Champéry, Switzerland, round.

The steep climbs of Schladming certainly suited the diminutive Osl, who was out in front by the top of the first climb of the four-lap race. Premont gamely hung on for most of the first lap, joined by Pendrel, but then slipped back to join a chase group with Byberg, Anna Szafraniec (JBG-2) and Kalentieva. Pendrel was gaining on Osl after the technical, muddy descents, but would lose time on each climb. The Austrian was steadily extending her lead, to eventually finish more than a minute ahead.

"I have no words," said Osl, who was emotional on the podium during the Austrian national anthem. "It has been a fantastic season, and I have surprised myself this year. My tactic today was just to give it my best. My legs felt bad before the start in the warm-up, so I just decided to go out hard and see what would happen. But the pressure, it was not easy. To come to Austria in the leader's jersey and hold onto it ... this was great pressure."

The effort the Canadian champion was expending would eventually catch up with her, as Byberg, Premont and Szafraniec slowly began reeling her in. Premont was at the front of the trio on the last lap when she slid out in a corner, giving Byberg to opportunity to attack and finally bridge up to

Pendrel for the final climb of the race. The pair swapped attacks until Byberg was able to just get ahead and finish eight seconds in front of Pendrel. Szafraniec came in for fourth, less than 30 seconds later, closely followed by Premont. The four chasers were separated by less than 50 seconds.

"I'm pretty pleased," said Pendrel, "I just wish that I could have held Lene [Byberg] off on that last climb! For a while I was able to keep Lisi [Osl] in sight, but the steep climbs suited her a lot more than me, and I had to back off a bit and go my own pace. Then Lene caught me, and we attacked each other a couple of times until she managed to get in front. But, overall, this is my best season ever, with a World Cup victory, the national title, third in the series and sixth at the World Championships, so, I'm satisfied."

For Premont, who has struggled with breathing problems all season, it was a strong end to the season. "Yes, I am happy with this result. It has been a hard season for me, with good results, then bad, then good. So, this shows me that I am on the right track and I go into the preparation for next season with a good feeling."

Results

Elite women

#	Rider Name (Country) Team	Result
1	Elisabeth Osl (Aut) Central Ghost Pro Team	1:19:10
2	Lene Byberg (Nor) Specialized Factory Racing	0:01:05
3	Catharine Pendrel (Can) Luna Pro Team	0:01:13
4	Anna Szafraniec (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	0:01:41
5	Marie-Helene Premont (Can) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	0:01:53
6	Irina Kalentieva (Rus) Topeak Ergon Racing Team	0:03:10
7	Aleksandra Dawidowicz* (Pol) Ccc Polkowice	0:03:21
8	Petra Henzi (Swi) Fischer-BMC	0:03:50
9	Cécile Rode Ravanel (Fra) Lapierre International	0:03:59
10	Nathalie Schneitter (Swi) Colnago Cap Arreghini	0:04:36
11	Anja Gradl (Ger) Central Ghost Pro Team	0:04:48
12	Lea Davison (USA) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	0:04:50
13	Sabine Spitz (Ger) Central Ghost Pro Team	0:05:08
14	Mary McConneloug (USA)	0:05:21
15	Blaza Klemencic (Slo) Felt International MTB Team	0:05:39
16	Eva Lechner (Ita) Colnago Cap Arreghini	0:05:45
17	Katrin Leumann (Swi)	0:05:53
18	Sabrina Enaux (Fra) BH-Suntour	0:06:03
19	Tanja Zakelj* (Slo) MBK Orbea	0:06:12
20	Sarah Koba (Swi)	0:06:43
21	Paula Gorycka* (Pol)	0:07:49
22	Vivienne Meyer* (Swi) Colnago Cap Arreghini	0:08:41
23	Janka Stevkova (Svk)	0:08:49
24	Rowena Fry (Aus) Discovertasmania.Com	0:08:57
25	Emily Batty* (Can)	0:09:08
26	Hanna Klein* (Ger)	0:09:15
27	Anna Villar Argente (Spa) Massi	0:09:38
28	Marielle Saner-Guinhard (Swi) Team Bikepark.ch	0:09:43
29	Amanda Sin (Can)	0:10:00
30	Nataliya Krompets* (Ukr)	0:10:29
31	Laura Metzler (Fra) BH-Suntour	0:10:47
32	Kate Potter (Aus)	0:10:57
33	Adelheid Morath (Ger)	0:11:06
34	Maria Osl (Aut) Fischer-BMC	0:11:17
35	Annie Last* (GBr)	0:11:31

36	Barbara Benko* (Hun)	0:12:01
37	Sandra Walter (Can)	0:12:23
38	Githa Michiels (Bel) Team Saeco	0:12:32
39	Monique Zeldenrust (Ned)	0:12:47
40	Judith Pollinger* (Ita) Sunshine Racers Asv Nals	0:12:48
41	Suzanne Clarke (GBr)	0:13:37
42	Coralie Redelsperger (Fra)	0:13:43
43	Fabienne Niederberger (Swi)	0:14:12
44	Stephanie Wiedner* (Aut) DS-Rennsport	0:14:33
45	Silke Schmidt* (Ger)	0:15:16
46	Jennifer Sagesser* (Swi)	0:15:17
47	Katherine O'shea (Aus) Torq Performance Nutrition	0:15:37
48	Sandra Santanyes Murillo (Spa) Cemelorca-Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	0:15:53
49	Alexandra Engen* (Swe)	0:16:47
50	Virginie Pointet* (Swi) Team Bikepark.ch	0:16:54
51	Nadine Rieder* (Ger) Fumic.Brothers.International	0:17:14
52	Karin Groen (Ned)	0:17:29
53	Corina Gantenbein (Swi)	0:17:58
54	Alexa Hüni (Ger)	0:18:10
55	Lucie Vesela (Cze)	0:18:20
56	Irina Slobodyan* (Ukr)	0:18:41
57	Maaïke Polspoel* (Bel)	0:18:46
58	Martina Nemcova (Cze)	0:20:32
59	Gracie Elvin* (Aus) Discovertasmania.Com	0:20:38
60	Jean Ann Mckirdy (Can)	0:21:53
-1lap	Anna Oberparleiter* (Ita)	
-1lap	Nicoletta De Jager (Ned)	
-1lap	Catherine Lohri (Swi)	
-1lap	Rebecca Beaumont* (Can)	
-1lap	Nina Homovec (Slo) MBK Orbea	
-1lap	Christina Verhas (Aut)	
-1lap	Kiona Harbers (Ned)	
-1lap	Lenka Bulisova* (Cze)	
DNF	Tatjana Dold (Ger)	
DNF	Kathrin Stirnemann* (Swi)	
DNF	Inbar Ronen (Isr)	
DNS	Kristien Nelen (Bel)	

Teams

#	Rider Name (Country) Team	Result
1	Central Ghost Pro Team	78 pts
2	Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	47
3	Colnago Cap Arreghini	45
4	Specialized Factory Racing	35
5	Luna Pro Team	32
6	JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	30
7	Topeak Ergon Racing Team	26
8	Ccc Polkowice	24
9	Fischer-BMC	23
10	Lapierre International	22
11	Felt International MTB Team	16
12	BH-Suntour	13
13	MBK Orbea	12
14	Discovertasmania.Com	7
15	Massi	4
16	Team Bikepark.ch	3