

Lechner claims cross country crown in Belgium

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Koerber seals second, Osl takes bronze



Eva Lechner (Colnago Arreghini Sudtirol) wins the Houffalize World Cup after a battle to the finish with Willow Koerber (Gary Fisher/Subaru). (Image credit: Dave McElwaine/trailwatch.net)

Eva Lechner (Colnago Arreghini Sudtirol) became the first Italian woman to win a World Cup since Annabella Stropparo in 2002, with her victory in Houffalize. American Willow Koerber (Subaru-Gary Fisher), with her back-to-back second places, became the first American since Alison Dunlap to claim the World Cup leader's jersey (also in 2002).

The women's four-lap race (plus a start loop) split up quickly, with Lechner, Koerber, 2009 World Cup champion Elisabeth Osl (Central Pro) and defending Houffalize champion Marga Fullana (Massi Team) moving to the front.

Lechner fell off the pace mid-race with a flat tire, but quickly rejoined the leaders, and then charged off the front, with only Koerber able to match her pace. On the last lap, Koerber touched wheels with Lechner and had

to stop and put her foot down, allowing Lechner to open a gap she held to the finish line. The American came in second, followed by Osl, and then the leading Under-23 rider, Julie Bresset (BH-Suntour).

"Mentally, I had a problem last week which held me back," Lechner explained. "But I was able to 'reset' myself during this week, and I came into this race at the top both mentally and physically. This win is incredible, maybe the biggest I have ever had."

"It was my own fault," said Koerber, who equalled her best World Cup showing from a week earlier at Dalby Forest with her second place. "We were so close, going back and forth, but when I was following her on the final climb my front wheel touched her back wheel, and I had to stop and put my foot down. She gained a few seconds on me there, and that was it."

Marie-Hélène Premont (Maxxis-Rocky Mountain) also had a strong start, riding with the leaders in the early going. But she suffered a flat late in the start loop, losing over 30 places and eventually abandoning.

Irina Kalentieva (Topeak Ergon), the World Champion and winner of round one, fell to third overall after struggling to finish 13th at Houffalize, a victim of "dead legs".

#	RIDER NAME (COUNTRY) TEAM	RESULT
1	Eva Lechner (Ita) Colnago Arreghini Sudtiroi	1:40:30
2	Willow Koerber (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	0:00:05
3	Elisabeth Osl (Aut) Central Pro Team	0:00:36
4	Julie Bresset* (Fra) BH-Suntour	0:01:50
5	Catharine Pendrel (Can) Luna Pro Team	0:02:32
6	Esther Süss (Swi)	0:03:29
7	Margarita Fullana Riera (Spa) Massi Team	0:03:35
8	Katrin Leumann (Swi)	0:03:38
9	Katerina Nash (Cze) Luna Pro Team	
10	Lene Byberg (Nor) Specialized Factory Racing	0:04:01
11	Anna Szafraniec (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	0:04:45
12	Cécile Ravanel (Fra) Lapierre International	0:05:22
13	Irina Kalentieva (Rus) Topeak Ergon Racing Team	0:05:51
14	Georgia Gould (USA) Luna Pro Team	0:05:54
15	Tanja Zakelj* (Slo) MBK Orbea	0:06:03
16	Blaza Klemencic (Slo) Felt Oetzal X-Bionic Team	0:06:16
17	Marielle Saner-Guinchard (Swi) Bikepark.ch Scott	0:06:21
18	Heather Irmiger (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	0:06:48
19	Hanna Klein (Ger)	0:07:09
20	Rosara Joseph (NZl)	0:07:34
21	Nathalie Schneitter (Swi) Colnago Arreghini Sudtiroi	0:08:20
22	Anja Gradl (Ger) Central Pro Team	0:08:23
23	Mary McConneloug (USA)	0:08:25
24	Fanny Bourdon* (Fra)	0:09:32
25	Maja Wloszczowska (Pol) CCC Polkowice	0:09:47
26	Alexandra Engen* (Swe)	0:10:16
27	Rocio Gamonal Ferrera (Spa)	0:10:32
28	Emily Batty* (Can) Trek World Racing	0:10:42
29	Annika Langvad (Den)	0:10:49
30	Sarah Koba (Swi) Giant Swiss Team	0:10:51
31	Monique Pua Sawicki (USA)	0:10:52
32	Sabrina Enaux (Fra) Felt Oetzal X-Bionic Team	0:11:10

33	Caroline Mani (Fra) BH-Suntour	0:11:21
34	Mical Dyck (Can)	0:11:31
35	Coralie Redelsperger (Fra)	0:11:35
36	Laura Turpijn (Ned) Team Merida Combee	0:11:56
37	Rie Katayama (Jpn)	0:12:04
38	Maria Osl (Aut) Fischer-BMC	0:12:16
39	Anna Villar Argente (Spa)	0:12:32
40	Janka Stevkova (Svk)	0:12:38
41	Tereza Hurikova (Cze) Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	0:13:02
42	Paula Gorycka* (Pol) CCC Polkowice	0:14:48
43	Annie Last* (GBr)	0:15:07
44	Nicola Leary (NZl)	0:15:12
45	Eszter Erdelyi (Hun)	0:15:26
46	Fabienne Niederberger (Swi)	0:15:28
47	Kathrin Stirnemann* (Swi)	0:15:37
48	Vera Andreeva* (Rus)	0:15:43
49	Catherine Vipond (Can)	0:16:17
50	Adelheid Morath (Ger) Felt Oetzal X-Bionic Team	0:16:22
51	Ekaterina Anoshina* (Rus)	0:16:28
52	Ivonne Kraft (Ger)	0:16:56
53	Helene Marcouyre (Fra) BH-Suntour	0:17:06
54	Gunn-Rita Dahle Flesjaa (Nor) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:17:13
55	Judith Pollinger* (Ita)	0:17:24
56	Virginie Pointet* (Swi) Bikepark.Ch Scott	0:17:27
57	Carina Ketonen (Fin) VZW Goeman Scott Cycling Team	
58	Daniela Veronesi (SMr)	0:17:37
59	Camille Devi* (Fra) ASPTT Definitive Gitane	0:17:43
60	Michelle Hediger* (Swi) Fischer-BMC	0:17:45
61	Nataliya Krompets (Ukr)	0:18:12
62	Elisabeth Brandau (Ger)	0:19:02
63	Amanda Sin (Can)	0:19:10
64	Noga Korem* (Isr)	
65	Kate Potter (Aus)	0:20:11

66	Lorraine Truong* (Swi)	0:20:12
67	Tatjana Dold (Ger)	0:20:37
68	Viktoria Sultanova* (Ukr)	
69	Julie Krasniak* (Fra)	0:20:43
70	Maike Polspoel* (Bel)	0:21:27
71	Sandra Walter (Can)	0:21:30
72	Asa Maria Erlandsson (Swe)	0:21:55
73	Lily Matthews* (GBr)	0:22:57
74	Kseniya Kirillova* (Rus)	0:22:59
75	Nicole Hanselmann* (Swi)	-1 lap
76	Anne Terpstra* (Ned) Stappenbelt Specialized Mtb Team	
77	Kristien Nelen (Bel) VZW Goeman Scott Cycling Team	
78	Serena Calvetti* (Ita)	
79	Karin Groen (Ned)	
80	Corina Gantenbein (Swi) Fischer-BMC	
81	Karen Brouwer* (Ned)	
82	Katherine O'Shea (Aus) Torq Performance Nutrition	
83	Anna Oberparleiter* (Ita) Hard Rock Frw A.S.D.	
84	Oksana Rybakova (Rus)	
85	Lucie Vesela (Cze) GT Czech Team	
86	Joanna Wall (Aus) Torq Performance Nutrition	
87	Githa Michiels (Bel) Team Saeco	
88	Nicoletta De Jager (Ned)	
89	Sandra Santanyes Murillo (Spa) Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	
90	Jennifer Sagesser* (Swi) Thoemus Racing Team	
91	Cristina Mascarreras Sabria (Spa) Conor - Forallac	
92	Cindy Montambault (Can)	
93	Martina Giovanniello* (Ita) Team Cbe Tecnoimpianti A.S.D.	
94	Pavlina Sulcova (Cze) GT Czech Team	
95	Karine Travaillaud (Can)	
96	Catherine Lohri (Swi)	-2 laps
97	Lenka Bulisova* (Cze)	
98	Inbar Ronen (Isr)	

99	Mirre Stallen (Ned)	
100	Irina Slobodyan* (Ukr)	
101	Melanie Palframan* (RSA)	
102	Rebecca Henderson* (Aus)	
103	Alla Boyko* (Ukr) ISD Cycling Team	
104	Ingrid Bosscha (Ned)	
105	Elisabeth Mottet (Bel)	
106	Gabriella Modos (Hun)	-3 laps
107	Alba Larragoiti (Mex)	
DNF	Barbara Benko* (Hun)	
DNF	Magdalena Sadlecka (Pol) CCC Polkowice	
DNF	Laura Metzler (Fra) BH-Suntour	
DNF	Rozanne Slik* (Ned) Team Merida Combee	
DNF	Marie-Helene Premont (Can) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain	
DNF	Nina Homovec (Slo) MBK Orbea	
DNF	Aleksandra Dawidowicz (Pol) CCC Polkowice	
DNF	Evelyn Staffler (Ita)	
DNF	Petra Mermans (Bel)	
DNF	Kiona Harbers (Ned)	
DNF	Arielle Boek - Van Meurs (Ned)	
DNF	Mona Eiberweiser* (Ger) Central Pro Team	

TEAMS

#	Rider Name (Country) Team	Result
1	Luna Pro Team	67 pts
2	Colnago Arreghini Sudtirol	50
3	Subaru-Gary Fisher	48
4	Central Pro Team	41
5	BH-Suntour	30
6	Massi Team	24
7	Specialized Factory Racing	21
8	JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	20
9	Lapierre International	19
10	Topeak Ergon Racing Team	18

11	MBK Orbea	16
12	Felt Oetzal X-Bionic Team	15
13	Bikepark.ch Scott	14
14	CCC Polkowice	6
15	Trek World Racing	3
16	Giant Swiss Team	1