

# Bresset rides away from Pendrel for Offenburg victory

By Tour of Japan published May 29, 2011 – cyclingnews.com

## Frenchwoman retains World Cup overall lead



Julie Bresset (BH - Suntour - Peisey Vallandry) wins the elite women's cross country World Cup in Offenburg, Germany (Image credit: Tour of Japan)

The women's race saw Julie Bresset (BH Suntour Peisey Vallandry) take her second consecutive victory against an elite field that was missing only one rider from the top-50. Bresset didn't have quite so easy a time of it, as defending champion Catharine Pendrel (Luna) attacked multiple times before Bresset was finally able to make the winning move.

The women's race was one lap shorter than last year and, combined with the very dry and hard track, it made for a race that was full on from the starting gun, with no time to rest. Round one World Cup winner Ren Chengyuan (Specialized) was the only top rider missing; she was out of the action after a back injury from a crash in training earlier this week.

Out of the start loop and into the first of five laps, Nathalie Schneitter (Colnago Arreghini Sudtirol) led the field, and a split quickly developed, with 12 riders at the front - Schneitter

and her teammate Eva Lechner, Bresset, Pendrel and her teammate Georgia Gould, Marie-Helene Premont (Maxxis-Rocky Mountain), Lene Byberg (Specialized), world champion Maja Wloszczowska (CCC Polkwice), Blaza Klemencic (Felt Oetztl X-Bionic), Esther Suss, Irina Kalentieva (Topeak Ergon) and local favourite Sabine Spitz (Central Haibike).

However, the pace proved to be too much for some, and the group began thinning out. Bresset and Pendrel started to pull away on lap two, with Schneitter and Gould the only ones able to hang on initially. Schneitter dropped off on the third lap, while Gould was looking very comfortable with the other two until her chain jammed on the fourth lap, and she lost more than a minute getting it unstuck, eventually finishing 20th.

"I was riding in that group of third through sixth and I dropped my chain," said Gould. "I tried to shift it back on because it was right before a downhill, and I ended up kinking it, and I had to stop. I was all panicked and I couldn't get it unkinked. I lost minutes - it was so crushing. A spectator was really nice and helped tell me how to undo it, which was a big help because I was so frazzled."

Pendrel tried a couple of attacks on Bresset, but couldn't get a gap, so she played a waiting game. Unfortunately for her, when Bresset launched her own attack just before the start of the final lap, the

Canadian couldn't respond, and the young French rider went into the final lap with a 25-second lead, which she stretched to 41 seconds by the finish.

"Julie and I just got away," said Pendrel. "I think we were going hard at the same time. I tried to attack her twice on the last lap, but she was always able to close to me and shut me out. She got the good line into the descent. I was hoping to get away there, but she put some time into me there after she got me going into it and then she was gone."

"It would have been nice to win again this year - I felt good, but I was having trouble getting away because Julie had so much zip," said Pendrel. "I feel that I still can improve, so I'll be that much stronger in Mont Ste. Anne."

Remarkably, Bresset is still actually eligible to race in the Under 23 category (she will turn 22 in June), and professes complete surprise at her strength this season. "My race was great. I don't understand what's happening to me - my second victory in two weeks! I took advantage on the downhill and then I went full gas. On the last lap, I continued on my pace to keep and grow the gap."

Behind the two leaders, the chase thinned down to three - Lechner, Premont and Byberg. Byberg, was the first to get dropped, and then Lechner gapped Premont on the final climb before the drop into the finish, to claim third. Byberg was racing a freshly launched, brand new carbon women's Specialized 29er hardtail named the Fate.

Bresset now has an impressive 700 points, to Pendrel's 470 in second place, with Byberg tied at 390 with the absent Chengyuan.

After Gould's mechanical woes, Katie Compton raced as the top American in 16th place. "That was such a fast race," said Compton. "There was no place to recover. You had to go for it the whole time. It was five minutes faster than last year and it was the same course and same conditions."

*Additional reporting provided by Sue George.*

#	Rider Name (Country) Team	Result
1	Julie Bresset (Fra) BH - Suntour - Peisey Vallandry	1:28:59
2	Catharine Pendrel (Can) Luna Pro Team	0:00:41
3	Eva Lechner (Ita) Colnago Arreghini Sudtirool	0:01:34
4	Marie-Helene Premont (Can) Team Maxxis - Rocky Mountain	0:01:48
5	Lene Byberg (Nor) Specialized Racing	0:02:08
6	Maja Wloszczowska (Pol) CCC Polkowice	0:02:35
7	Blaza Klemencic (Slo) Felt Oetzal X - Bionic Team	0:02:50
8	Katrin Leumann (Swi) Ghost Factory Racing Team	0:03:10
9	Tanja Zakelj (Slo) Orbea Geax	0:03:16
10	Esther Süss (Swi)	0:03:17
11	Irina Kalentieva (Rus) Topeak Ergon Racing Team	0:03:21
12	Sabine Spitz (Ger) Central Haibike Pro Team	0:03:47
13	Nathalie Schneitter (Swi) Colnago Arreghini Sudtirool	0:03:50
14	Katerina Nash (Cze) Luna Pro Team	0:04:04
15	Emily Batty (Can) Subaru - Trek	0:04:18
16	Katherine Compton (USA) Rabobank - Giant Off-Road Team	0:04:23
17	Tereza Hurikova (Cze) Central Haibike Pro Team	0:04:29
18	Annika Langvad (Den)	0:04:34
19	Elisabeth Osl (Aut) Ghost Factory Racing Team	0:04:40
20	Georgia Gould (USA) Luna Pro Team	0:04:50
21	Elisabeth Brandau (Ger) Central Haibike Pro Team	0:05:05
21	Rosara Joseph (NZl) Rabobank - Giant Off-Road Team	
23	Adelheid Morath (Ger) Felt Oetzal X - Bionic Team	0:05:31
24	Anja Gradl (Ger) Ghost Factory Racing Team	0:06:09
25	Anna Szafraniec (Pol) CCC Polkowice	0:06:25
26	Hanna Klein (Ger)	0:06:30
27	Nina Homovec (Slo) Orbea Geax	0:06:36
28	Lea Davison (USA) Specialized Racing	0:06:44
29	Gunn-Rita Dahle Flesjaa (Nor) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:06:54
30	Mary Mcconneloug (USA)	0:07:31
31	Sarah Koba (Swi) Giant Swiss SR - Suntour	0:07:44
32	Silke Schmidt (Ger)	0:07:48

32	Sabrina Enaux (Fra) Felt Oetzal X - Bionic Team	
34	Anne Terpstra (Ned) MPL Specialized MTB Team	0:08:07
35	Alexandra Engen (Swe)	0:08:20
36	Laura Metzler (Fra) BH - Suntour - Peisey Vallandry	0:08:21
37	Janka Stevkova (Svk)	
38	Hanlen Karen (NZl)	0:08:24
39	Annie Last (GBr)	0:09:03
40	Coralie Redelsperger (Fra)	0:09:12
41	Pavla Havlikova (Cze)	0:09:36
42	Anna Villar Argente (Spa)	0:09:38
43	Rie Katayama (Jpn)	0:09:54
44	Amanda Sin (Can)	0:10:55
45	Judith Pollinger (Ita) Infotre - Bi & Esse - Leecougan	0:11:05
46	Vera Andreeva (Rus)	0:11:18
47	Nataliya Krompets (Ukr) Isd Cycling Team	0:11:46
48	Mical Dyck (Can)	0:11:59
49	Chloe Forsman (USA)	0:12:04
50	Cécile Ravanel (Fra) GT Skoda Chamonix	0:12:29
51	Laura Turpijn (Ned) Team Merida Combee	0:12:34
52	Katherine O'shea (Aus)	0:12:55
53	Daniela Veronesi (Ita)	0:13:23
54	Githa Michiels (Bel) Trek - Kmc Trade Team Vzw	0:13:39
55	Gracie Elvin (Aus)	0:13:48
56	Sandra Santanyes Murillo (Spa)	0:13:54
57	Fabienne Niederberger (Swi)	0:14:19
58	Nicoletta De Jager (Ned)	0:14:44
59	Maaris Meier (Est)	0:15:00
60	Michalina Ziolkowska (Pol)	0:15:38
61	Oksana Rybakova (Rus)	0:16:20
62	Kristien Nelen (Bel) V.Z.W. Goeman Scott Cycling Team	0:17:27
63	Jenni King (Aus)	0:17:45
64	Krista Park (USA)	0:17:52
65	Rocio Gamonal Ferrera (Spa)	0:18:16

66	Corina Gantenbein (Swi) Fischer - BMC	0:18:50
-1lap	Sofia Pezzatti (Swi)	
-1lap	Lucie Vesela (Cze) GT Czech Team	
-1lap	Caitlin Elliott (Irl)	
-1lap	Mette Marie Kronborg (Den)	
-1lap	Maxine Filby (GBr)	
DNF	Carina Kirssi (Fin) V.Z.W. Goeman Scott Cycling Team	
DNF	Pavlina Sulcova (Cze) Merida Biking Team	
DNF	Heather Irmiger (USA) Subaru - Trek	
DNF	Aleksandra Dawidowicz (Pol) CCC Polkowice	
DNF	Maria Osl (Aut) Fischer - BMC	
DNF	Rowena Fry (Aus)	
DNF	Amy Dombroski (USA)	
DNS	Melanie Spath (Ger)	
DNS	Anneke Beerten (Ned) Milka Trek MTB Racing Team	