



UCI Mountain Bike World Championships MTB - Championnats du Monde UCI

Sierra Nevada, ESP - 3-11.6.2000



Report / Rapport: Cross-country - Femmes - Elite - Women - 11.6.2000

Sierra Nevada, ESP - Cross Country - Elite Women Results - Distance : 33500 m

Spain's Marga Fullana and France's Miguel Martinez Win Senior Cross-Country

The final day of competition at the 11th World Mountain Bike Championships ended a long week of racing with a crescendo, when two of the sport's fastest and most successful competitors won a tough cross-country event in Sierra Nevada, Spain. Current World Champion **Margarita Fullana (ESP)** and three-time rainbow jersey winner **Miguel Martinez (FRA)** controlled their races from start to finish, in two races on Sunday.

2000 is a special year in Fullana's mind, both because of September's Olympic games, which she is determined to win - but also because of the resulting early World Championships here in June. The effect has been a shortened season for the 1999 World Champions to wear their rainbow jerseys, a situation Fullana was not happy about.

That - and the added motivation of racing in her home country - gave her more motivation to do well here in Spain. Fullana came into this race in top form, having devastated the field in the most recent world cup event in Sarentino, Italy and was the odds-on favorite to repeat as the world champion.



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Margarita Fullana - ESP

And win she did, taking the lead in the first of nearly four laps. **Paola Pezzo (ITA)** passed **Alison Sydor (CAN)** in the first full lap after the three had briefly ridden together, with Fullana just :08 ahead of Pezzo and :12 ahead of Sydor. Riding in 4th position was **Barbara Blatter (SUI)** at :23 and **Alison Dunlap (USA)** at :40. Fullana's pre-race plan was to remain at a steady pace and not push it too hard for the first two laps, and win on the climbs. She didn't want to risk crashing or flatting a tyre on the descents, and so concentrated on the steep hills.

But within the first lap she told her team management that she felt good and wanted to up the pace, saying *"Please, let me go."* And so while her lead was less than ten seconds in the first lap, by the second lap she was 43 seconds clear of a hard-charging women's field.

Concerned about crashing (which she did in the last lap) and flatting a tyre, Fullana wanted to put as large a cushion as possible between her and the field. *"I wasn't afraid of anyone else,"* she commented, *"but I had a lot of respect for my main competitors - they're all champions."*

Fullana then pushed the pace and rode at full-speed, with approximately a minute separating the top-five women and the leader pushing the gap to nearly two minutes by the end of the second lap. At this point Sydor began to chase down Pezzo, steadily cutting the '97 World Champion's gap until she passed her on a steep and difficult climb, setting the final positions for the race.

And so with her father - a former road racer from the 1960's - watching from the finishing area, Marga kept her pace steady as she turned the pedals over with consistent power on the climbs and held her own on the descents until more than two hours of racing had passed.

She then rode to the finish line with a Spanish flag in hand, dismounted her bike and kissed the ground while the large crowd cheered loudly. Three and a half minutes later Sydor crossed the finish, and 4:14 later Pezzo finished, rounding out the three-person podium.

Margarita Fullana, 1st Place:

"It was of course a tough race and I expected to fight hard against Paola Pezzo, and on the second lap I knew I could be the winner. I just maintained my pace and rhythm, and then it was easy to get my second world championship. I want to dedicate this win to all the people of Mallorca in the Mediterranean Sea."

"Now I will take a rest, and won't go to the next world cup races and in the middle of July will start to prepare hard for the Olympics."

Alison Sydor, 2nd Place:

"A silver medal is a great achievement, so I'm very happy. It was hard, and in the last lap I had a good fight with Paola, and I'm happy to get a medal today. I passed Paola on the steep climb, and took it easy on the descent and stayed calm. The last 3 km my legs were cramping a lot, so I had to be careful. It's an altitude race, and pace is so important so I'm just happy to do well - the women's field is just so competitive these days."

Paola Pezzo, 3rd Place:

"Today was very good for me, because my main goal is the Olympics. So I'm very happy today to get third place. It was very, very hard today and Fullana is so strong. I had a little difficulty today in the third lap, when my legs cramped - and the altitude is very difficult. So now I will train just for the Olympics, with no world cups. I'll do altitude training and fast road work because Sydney is a very fast course."

Ari Cheren



<i>Rank</i>	<i>Bib</i>	<i>UCI Code</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Firstname</i>	<i>Nat</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Gap</i>
1	1	ESP19720409	FULLANA	Marga	ESP	2:07:42.00	
2	4	CAN19660909	SYDOR	Alison	CAN	2:11:09.00	3:27.00
3	16	ITA19690108	PEZZO	Paola	ITA	2:11:56.00	4:14.00
4	2	SUI19701222	BLATTER	Barbara	SUI	2:12:05.00	4:23.00
5	12	AUS19710603	GRIGSON	Mary	AUS	2:13:42.00	6:00.00
6	3	USA19690727	DUNLAP	Alison	USA	2:14:38.00	6:56.00
7	14	CAN19660316	REDDEN	Chrissy	CAN	2:14:38.00	6:56.00
8	13	ARG19720518	FLORIT	Jimena	ARG	2:16:26.00	8:44.00
9	18	FRA19691106	VILLENEUVE	Sophie	FRA	2:17:16.00	9:34.00
10	46	GER19680826	MARUNDE	Regina	GER	2:17:39.00	9:57.00
11	35	RUS19771110	IAGOUPOVA	Irina	RUS	2:18:19.00	10:37.00
12	11	USA19631122	TROMBLEY	Ann	USA	2:18:57.00	11:15.00
13	9	RUS19761202	EPIFANOVA	Alla	RUS	2:19:04.00	11:22.00
14	20	CAN19591226	TOMLINSON	Lesley	CAN	2:19:18.00	11:36.00
15	8	NED19730630	DORLAND	Corine	NED	2:19:58.00	12:16.00
16	5	USA19651111	MATTHES	Ruthie	USA	2:20:48.00	13:06.00
17	19	CAN19690202	SINCLAIR	Patricia	CAN	2:21:39.00	13:57.00
18	6	SUI19660623	DAUCOURT	Chantal	SUI	2:22:08.00	14:26.00
19	15	GER19711227	SPITZ	Sabine	GER	2:22:37.00	14:55.00
20	7	ITA19680704	STROPPARO	Annabella	ITA	2:23:18.00	15:36.00
21	23	FRA19690125	TEMPORELLI	Sandra	FRA	2:23:43.00	16:01.00
22	48	ITA19650914	TOVAGLIERI	Giuliana	ITA	2:24:01.00	16:19.00
23	61	COL19720212	DELGADILLO	Flor	COL	2:24:12.00	16:30.00
24	34	ESP19730927	PUIGGROS MIRANDA	Janet	ESP	2:24:17.00	16:35.00
25	25	BEL19641010	LAROY	Lory	BEL	2:24:25.00	16:43.00
26	28	SUI19691014	HENZI	Petra	SUI	2:25:05.00	17:23.00
27	24	ESP19671215	ROVIRA PLANAS	Silvia	ESP	2:25:30.00	17:48.00
28	31	AUS19761216	BAYLIS	Anna	AUS	2:25:52.00	18:10.00
29	45	RSA19651227	KOTZE	Hannele	RSA	2:26:39.00	18:57.00
30	49	POL19810216	SZAFRANIEC	Anna	POL	2:28:02.00	20:20.00
31	17	AUS19770730	GEYSEN	Hanneke	AUS	2:28:56.00	21:14.00
32	29	NZL19690329	PARKER	Sadie	NZL	2:29:46.00	22:04.00
33	52	CAN19771024	PREMONT	Marie-helene	CAN	2:29:59.00	22:17.00
34	22	SUI19740613	RUSCA	Maroussia	SUI	2:30:20.00	22:38.00
35	10	GER19650904	ZU PUTLITZ	Hedda	GER	2:31:28.00	23:46.00
36	44	JPN19651030	NAKAGOME	Yukari	JPN	2:31:28.00	23:46.00
37	32	RSA19700925	GREEN	Erica	RSA	2:33:19.00	25:37.00
38	33	AUS19761002	FRANKE	Dellys	AUS	2:33:21.00	25:39.00
39	51	FRA19791016	MARCOUYRE	Helene	FRA	2:34:44.00	27:02.00
40	27	CAN19761119	DORION	Melanie	CAN	2:35:28.00	27:46.00
41	79	BRA19761227	MOURAO	Jacqueline	BRA	2:35:29.00	27:47.00
42	68	ESP19790225	GAMONAL	Rocio	ESP	2:36:22.00	28:40.00
43	50	AUT19750708	JUNGMEIER	Barbel	AUT	2:37:38.00	29:56.00
44	81	SLO19800311	KLEMEN CIC	Blaza	SLO	2:38:34.00	30:52.00
45	54	MEX19701115	MUNOZ CARRETTE	Cariza	MEX	2:38:52.00	31:10.00
46	42	NED19750429	SOLLAART	Tessa	NED	2:39:35.00	31:53.00
47	67	CZE19641201	POLIVKOVA	Kaja	CZE	2:41:03.00	33:21.00
48	53	IRL19770524	OWENS	Tarja	IRL	2:42:40.00	34:58.00
49	76	JPN19700729	SATO	Yuko	JPN	2:48:51.00	41:09.00
50	82	MEX19771015	LEAL BALDERAS	Veronica	MEX	2:50:21.00	42:39.00
51	66	RSA19761230	SPEEDY	Yolanda	RSA	- 1 lap	
52	71	JPN19741225	NAKANISHI	Seiko	JPN	- 1 lap	
53	65	RUS19631105	KAVERINA	Tatiana	RUS	- 1 lap	
54	57	UKR19800203	SIMONOVA	Iryna	UKR	- 1 lap	

55	63	ESP19670822	MORCILLO DEL BRIO	Rosa	ESP	- 1 lap	
56	74	IRL19710727	MC CLUSKEY	Beth	IRL	- 1 lap	
	21	GBR19680303	ALEXANDER	Caroline	GBR	DNF	
	36	GBR19650112	ROBINSON	Louise	GBR	DNF	
	58	SWE19780409	OSTERGREN	Marla	SWE	DNF	
	77	JPN19730328	TAZAKI	Aya	JPN	DNF	
	80	ARG19690708	GERMANO	Veronica	ARG	DNF	