

MTB World Championships – CM

Livigno, Italy, August 31-September 4, 2005

By Rob Jones in Livigno www.cyclingnews.com

September 1: Junior Cross Country, 17.6km

Juniors make first assault

Today was the first run through of the full cross-country course - an unusually long circuit at 12.1 kilometres, shaped in a figure eight, with long climbs in each section.

The Junior women were the first to tackle this monster, completing one full lap, plus the shorter of the two loops that make up the circuit. To no one's surprise, it was the Czech rider Tereza Hurikova that took the rainbow jersey, a title she was denied last year, after flatting while in the lead. Germany's Hanna Klein finished second, followed by Tanja Zakelj of Slovenia.

Hurikova, who also won the road time trial title last year, and finished second in the event this year, stormed around the first short lap, nearly a minute and a half ahead of Swede Alexandra Engen. Engen cracked as the riders started their full lap, and was overtaken by Klein and Zakelj, who were working together to try and pull back Hurikova.

Hurikova agreed that the flat she suffered last year made her more cautious:

"I remembered my flat tire from last year. I'll never forget it, I am still sad about it. But I just told myself to go, go, go, to not slow down. I didn't believe I was going to win. I went cautiously on the descent and around every rock.

I have been here for three weeks, but I still can't believe I won. It was a very hard course. My competitors were all very strong. I know that I am strong, but to go alone from start to finish is amazing.

I didn't know these other girls. It's my first time racing against them. I knew about five girls in my field, that's all. But every year there are more and more strong girls.

People ask me if I prefer road racing or mountain bike racing. I prefer the mountain bike. I love Livigno!"



Czech rider Tereza Hurikova
Photo ©: Rob Jones



Chloe Forsman (USA)
Photo ©: Rob Jones



Podium tears
Photo ©: Rob Jones

Klein, racing at her first world championships, came into the race of the back of a strong season, after winning the German championships and finishing 12th at the European championships. The immense amount of climbing on this circuit suited her and, after a slow start, she actually pulled back time on Hurikova in the last lap, turning the fastest lap of the race, 46 seconds faster than Hurikova.

"I'm not a specialist at the start." Klein admitted "I was very cautious. I was nervous about the flat sections, but I began to gain confidence as the race went on. I liked the climbing sections. I hoped to win, but I am very happy. I gave it my best."

Results

Junior Women XC - 17.6km

1 Tereza Hurikova (Czech Republic)	1.13.14 (14.42 km/h)
2 Hanna Klein (Germany)	1.03
3 Tanja Zakelj (Slovenia)	2.18
4 Marianne Vos (The Netherlands)	3.06
5 Nadja Roschi (Switzerland)	3.28
6 Julie Krasniak (France)	3.53
7 Alexandra Engen (Sweden)	4.27
8 Liliya Zaytseva (Ukraine)	5.12
9 Chloe Forsman (USA)	6.21
10 Nataliya Krompets (Ukraine)	7.08
11 Verona Sovcikova (Slovakia)	7.26
12 Judith Pollinger (Italy)	8.07
13 Emiliy Batty (Canada)	8.16
14 Sandra Weber (Germany)	8.24
15 Silke Schmidt (Germany)	8.52
16 Johana Sovcikova (Slovakia)	9.03
17 Nicole Perruchon (Italy)	9.44
18 Claudia Sieder (Italy)	10.01
19 Joelle Schmutz (Switzerland)	
20 Isabelle Jacques (Canada)	11.03
21 Nina Gulino (Italy)	11.18
22 Emilie Beaumont (Canada)	11.20
23 Erica Oldfield (Australia)	11.56
24 Rasa Leleivyte (Lithuania)	13.09
25 Jennifer Fischer (France)	13.15
26 Evgenia Belozeroва (Russia)	13.17
27 Michelle Bellamy (New Zealand)	13.34
28 Vera Andreeva (Russia)	14.01
29 Heletje Van Staden (Namibia)	14.14
30 Katarina Uhlarikova (Slovakia)	14.26
31 Evelyn Frey (Switzerland)	16.07
32 Marie-Claude Surprenant (Canada)	18.14
33 Evelyn Pichette (Canada)	18.24
34 Paula Quiroz (Argentina)	18.41
35 Kaitlin Michener (Canada)	20.47
36 Sabine Stiegler (Austria)	20.56
37 Elisabetta Borgia (Italy)	24.58
38 Danae York (USA)	31.00
39 Anna Fordos (Hungary)	44.13
DSQ Aleksandra Dawidowicz (Poland)	
DNF Magdalena Pyrgies (Poland)	
DNF Ilke Dejongh (Belgium)	
DNF Tatjana Kaliakina (Lithuania)	