

## Südtirol Dolomiti Superbike

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# Victory in the Südtirol Dolomiti Superbike Marathon goes to Ragnoli and Sosna

*Villabassa/Niederdorf (South Tyrol/ Italy), 08 July 2017 – Thanks to his great ability on difficult descents Juri Ragnoli from Brescia was able to gain victory on the marathon distance of today's Südtirol Dolomiti Superbike. In the female category Katazina Sosna finished first after fighting on her own from start to finish.*

Italian Champion Juri Ragnoli was the one to win out on several current and former World Champions gaining victory on the long marathon distance in today's Südtirol Dolomiti Superbike. After his victory at the HERO Südtirol Dolomites, this is the second marathon gold medal Ragnoli has won in this season. "I enjoy this special moment, because I managed to do something incredible today", says the 29-year-old from Brescia immediately after he arrived at the finish: "I am living my dream".

Ragnoli and the Portuguese Marathon World Champion 2016 Ferreira were fighting for the first position for most of the race. However, the special skills of each athlete were clear from the very beginning. "In today's ascents Thiago was stronger than me. A few times he was able to leave me 30 seconds behind", says Ragnoli, who could catch up on Ferreira on the various descents. „This strategy allowed me to go on my own pace on the ascents“, says the winner of the 2017 Südtirol Dolomiti Superbike.

It was the last ascent to Prato Piazza, when Ragnoli could follow Ferreira's pace. "I tried several times to leave Ragnoli behind, but there were too many other athletes on the track.", says Ferreira disappointed. On the last descent he had to let Ragnoli go, who finished 47 seconds ahead of Ferreira.

Periklis Ilias from Greece, World Champion in 2012, finished on the third place, making the Marathon podium of this year's Südtirol Dolomiti Superbike an international one. Especially during the first part of the race he had some stomach problems. "And after three or four hours you must bear the consequences", he says. "I was able to recover in Carbonin, but today it was all about mental strength", affirms the 31-year old from Greece. And he adds: „The Dolomiti Superbike is my favourite race, one of the big classics“.

Katazina Sosna, who dominated today's marathon race in the female category sees it in a similar way: "After two bronze medals I finally made it this year and won this amazing race", affirms the athlete from Lithuania. "For me this victory counts as if it was World Championship title." However, the 27-year-old from the Team Torpado-Südtirol had some difficulties at the beginning. „I had a little cold, but I guess, the fresh alpine air heals



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everything“, says Sosna after a lonely race at the top and laughs. After 20 kilometres Katazina Sosna left the rest of the field behind and fought on her own for the rest of the race.

Even if Sosna was unbeatable today, the second, Maria Cristina Nisi, was overjoyed at the finish: “This second place feels like a victory today – I fought so much for it!”. For Nisi, team colleague of short distance winner Gulino, this is the first podium finish at the Südtirol Dolomiti Superbike. „This race is perfectly organized with a very warm welcome for all the athletes“.

South Tyrol was represented on the marathon distance in the female category by the top track and field athlete Agnes Tschurtschenthaler from Sesto, who surprisingly finished on the third place. Her summary: “Perfect day, perfect race!”. Although her comments on the race sound like a big suffering: “In the beginning I found it hard to find my own pace, but starting from San Candido I invested a lot. That is why the ascent to Prato Piazza was so extremely difficult for me”, says the 35-year old, “I am still lacking experience on the long distance, but I was able to make it up thanks to my home advantage. I know the track by heart“.

The marathon distance of this year’s Südtirol Dolomiti Superbike was 113 km long and led the athletes clockwise through the five municipalities of Alta Pusteria/ Hochpustertal: Villabassa/ Niederdorf, Dobbiaco/ Toblach, San Candido/ Innichen and Braies/ Prags.

For further information and pictures visit [www.dolomitisuperbike.com](http://www.dolomitisuperbike.com)

### Elite Men, 113 km

1. Ragnoli, Juri	(ITA)	4:18.15,9
2. Ferreira, Thiago	(POR)	4:19.02,7
3. Ilias, Periklis	(GRE)	4:20.29,2
4. Hynek, Kristian	(CZE)	4:21.29,2
5. Paulissen, Roel	(BEL)	4:23.06,6

### Elite Women, 113 km

1. Sosna, Katazina	(LTU)	5:25.17,9
2. Nisi, Maria Cristina	(ITA)	5:32.13,0
3. Tschurtschenthaler, Agnes	(ITA)	5:37.39,1
4. Gaddoni, Elena	(ITA)	5:42.28,2
5. Schwing, Katrin	(GER)	5:48.30,6

For all results and details visit <https://services.datasport.com/2017/mtb/dolomiti>



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