



17th Südtirol Dolomiti Superbike 9 July 2011

Colombian double victory in the 60 kilometres distance South Tyrol's women victorious

Niederdorf 8 July 2011. The Colombian Jaime Chia dominated the short distance in the Südtirol Dolomiti Superbike. The 21 year old triumphed over the 60km route at 1591 meters above sea level in 2:15:04 hours. He distanced his 19 year old compatriot Jhonatan Botero by 50 seconds who beat third-placed South Tyrolean Hannes Pallhuber in a sprint by 7/10ths of second.

The leaders approached the race slowly. At the 33km mark before the final climb to Prato Piazza (2050 meters) the highest point of the race, there were five bikers close together; the U23-Italian champion Daniele Braidot from Gorizia, South Tyrolean John Schweiggl, the two Colombians Jaime Chia and Jhonatan Botero, and Hannes Pallhuber from Antholz. After about 4 km along the old military road up to Prato Piazza Jaime Chia moved on and pulled away. Pallhuber aged 37 could not keep up to the light weighted Colombian while Jhonatan Botero sat on his rear wheel. "The race actually started on the climb to Prato Piazza" said Hannes Pallhuber. "The Colombians alternated their attack before Chia charged off". Botero was more aggressive than Pullhaber in the sprint and crossed the finish line in second.

The two young Colombians were exhilarated with their first position on the podium as they are currently completing a three-month probationary period with the Italian Trek Torrevilla team from Lombardy. "We hoped to be included. It was our first podium placing today. We did not count on a victory as well a second place".

In the women's category Judith Niederwieser from Mühlen in Taufers (South Tyrol) was victorious. The 29 year old covered the distance in 2:54:15 hours and was faster than the best elite cyclist 31 year old Martina Miessgang from Vorarlberg. The Sextnerin Elizabeth Tschurtschentaler came in at second place Elizabeth on reaching the finish trailing nine seconds behind the winner. Niederwieser participated without any great expectations for the Dolomiti Superbike, "I was virtually conscripted by the organisation's president, Kurt Ploner", said the computer science teacher. "I started slowly and saved energy. It profited me rather well on the deciding climb up to Prato Piazza".

Super G World champion Christof Innerhofer jointly crossed the finish line alongside his teammate Werner Heel in a formidable time of 2:37.41, 6. "We cycled together from Toblach. My chain came off the rim shortly before the end. Werner waited for me and we went over the finishing line together". Both skiers entered the race for beneficiary purposes. Innerhofer on behalf of the South Tyrolean Sport Aid which is committed to youth advancement and Werner Heel as representative of the UNICEF Children's Fund.

Results and photographs: www.dolomitisuperbike.com

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