



17th Südtirol Dolomiti Superbike 9 July 2011

Battle of the giants goes to Urs Huber The Swiss wins the 17th Dolomiti Superbike and equals three time winner Mauro Bettin

Niederdorf (South Tyrol, Italy), 9 July 2011. The 25 year old Swiss Urs Huber has won the 17th Südtirol Dolomiti Superbike marathon. Second was Alban Lakata from Austria and third the Finn Jukka Vastaranta. Mirko Celestino and Alban Lakata as well as Massimo Debertolis had their sights on the title, but in the end Huber was the strongest of all.

Huber covered the 110 km at 3357 meters above sea level in 4:25:58 hours and won the Südtirol Dolomiti Superbike for a third time after having won the event in 2008 and 2010 equalling the record set by Italian Mauro Bettin, who won the marathon between 2000 - 2002 three times in a row. Huber also collected the 2008 UCI MTB Marathon World Championships bronze medal in Niederdorf. With a gap of 56.9 seconds, the Austrian marathon world champion of 2010 Alban Lakata, who had never stood on the Dolomiti Superbike before, came in at second place. Third was the 27-year-old Finnish marathon champion, Jukka Vastaranta who crossed the finish line 6:38 minutes later. In the battle for fourth place Germany's Karl Platt set out against the Italian Marathon champion and worlds number one Mirko Celestino. This was for Platt his best attempt at the classic marathon in the Dolomites of the Alta Pusteria. However, Celestino was second last year.

Comments:

Urs Huber (aged 25 from Switzerland): "On the long climb up the mountain from Innichen to the Helm, Alban and I left the rest of the troupe behind. We increased the pace and were conditionally better than our competitors. We complemented each other very well and alternated on the leadership enabling us to extend the lead. On the flat stretch from Toblach to Schluderbach we retained our pace together. On the way to Prato Piazza, we almost mastered the final ascent together. I expected an attack from Alban, but it never came. So shortly before the Mountain Prize, I increased my pace on the Prato Piazza. It was my first victory in a clockwise direction. It was a different race from the one in 2010. It's great to win the largest marathon in Italy.

Alban Lakata (aged 32 from Austria) second: "On the first ascent everyone was still moving fast. At the long climb up to the Helm I tried to keep up with Urs because he knows how to attack the Dolomiti Superbike. We alternated superbly especially in the flatter section from Toblach to Schluderbach. It was almost like a team time trial ... In the end as at the World Cup, I was plagued by the heat and had no more substance. Urs is a world class man. He is unpredictable and has bite".

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Jukka Vastaranta (aged 27 from Finland) third: „I am very satisfied with my third place“. In 2010, I narrowly missed the podium by coming in at fourth. At the first ascend; I had problems as I almost threw up possibly because of the early commencement of the race. I have already contested three races this week“.

Karl Platt (aged 33 from Germany)Fourth: "I lost a lot of time because of a flat tire. I remained with Massimo Debertolis until Schluderbach. Together with Johnny Cattaneo I tackled the climb to Prato Piazza and gained on Mirko Celestino. Mirko made a good impression on me and I know that he is very strong on the down hills. I developed the race into a sprint and was able to defeat him in the final meters of the race“.

Mirko Celestino (aged 37 from Italy) fifth: „It was a dark day for me. I simply had bad legs and after 10 km I should have resigned from the race as there were 15 riders in front of me. Nevertheless, I am happy with my placement. It was my intention to win the race, but on the day it's not always like that; sometimes you find stronger people along the way. You have to accept defeat and honour the fight in the race for a good place“.

Results and photographs: www.dolomitisuperbike.com

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