



17th Südtirol Dolomiti Superbike 9 July 2011

Double win for the Germans at the 17th Dolomiti Superbike Birgit Söllner wins ahead of Katrin Schwing and Daniela Veronesi

Niederdorf (South Tyrol, Italy), 9 July 2011 - 38 year old Birgit Söllner from Germany won the 17th Südtirol Dolomiti Superbike marathon distanced at 110 km and over 3357 meters above sea level. The six-time Tour de France road bike participant has been using a mountainbike for only three years, finished the classic marathon in 5:32:51 hours. She beat her 39-year-old compatriot Katrin Schwing by 7:09 minutes into second place. With a gap of 8:18 minutes, the Italian Marathon champion Daniela Veronesi was third. This was a first victory for Söllner in Niederdorf. In 2010, she made it to fourth place. Katrin Schwing won the Dolomiti Superbike in 2009 whereas Veronesi was successful on the 60km route in 2009.

Comments:

Birgit Söllner (aged 38 from Germany), first: "It was a bloody hard race. I did not fare well in the beginning until the first ascend where I was able to catch up to the leaders. I then got up to pace. I cycled in road races for 18 years before turning to mountain biking. When you have been on the road for six hours you have to maintain pace without any breaks. It's only possible when you train for a long time".

Katrin Schwing (39 from Germany), second: "I was able to improve from fourth to second place; I am very satisfied with that. The mountain Prize irritated me, but I was careful not to burn myself out and continued with my rhythm. Stay calm I thought to myself, the mountain is your friend. In the somewhat flat passage between Toblach and Schludersbach, I unfortunately could not get into the group as I announced yesterday so, I had to struggle through alone. With my 29er, I sometimes found the pedalling somewhat hard, but I persevered".

Daniela Veronesi (39 from Italy), third: "I'm basically satisfied with my performance. I cramped while I was on the final climb to Prato Piazza, but this can happen. I come from road racing and have major technical flaws. Marco Bui and Yader Zoli (13th placed in the men's division) helped me to eliminate these defects. My thoughts are already with the World Cup Marathon of 2012".

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