



The new UCI marathon world champions come from Switzerland and Norway – the local hero Alban Lakata was beaten by seconds only

Christoph SAUSER (SUI) and Gunn-Rita DAHLE FLESJAA (NOR) are the new UCI mountain bike marathon world champions in the Tyrolean Brixental valley. In the last downhill, after 94 km and 4400 metres in altitude, the new men's world champion made his race, while Olympic champion Gunn-Rita Dahle Flesjaa celebrated her fifth world championship title.

After 4 h and 30 min of fighting, the local hero Alban Lakata had to let the Suisse Christoph Sauser pass in the very last part of the Fleckalm single trail. "I already have got a silver medal and it would have been great to become world champion in this home race, but I'm sure tomorrow I will be lucky with silver", says Lakata. "The top group became smaller and smaller with every ascent, then Christoph Sauser and me could get rid of the Colombian. I kept up with Christoph, but then I side-slipped on the trail and lost a few seconds, which I would have needed for the final sprint."

Christoph Sauser became world champion for the third time. "I'm very happy to recapture the world championship title after losing it last year. The race was really hard, and Alban too."

On the third place came the winner of the KitzAlpBike 2008, the Colombian Leonardo Hector Paez.

The fastest woman was the Norwegian Gunn-Rita Dahle Flesjaa: "40 seemed to be my lucky number. Nobody believed I could get the title with almost 40 years and after the birth of my son, but now I could give evidence, to them and to myself. It's incredible!" On the second place came the British woman Sally Biggam, on the third place the Suisse Ester Süss.

The women's local hero was out of luck: Lisi Osl from Kirchberg, the site of the world championships, had a flat tire quite early in the race and lost a lot of time. But in the end she was able to arrive on the tenth place.

In the 18th KitzAlpBike marathon a new record number of participants could be reached: For the first time more than 1000 starters were registered. "The mountain bike world championships were a huge success. We are proud to have hosted mountain bike world championships in the Brixental valley and are really glad about the great feedback from the UCI and the participants and the large interest of the public. The championships attracted many hobby bikers, so we could register more than 1000 starters," says Max Salcher, chairman of the OC. The KitzAlpBike Festival is to be continued the next weekend with the cross country races and two more competitions.



Results:

Men

1. Sauser Christoph, 1976, Switzerland 4:30.13,1
2. Lakata Alban, 1979, Austria 4:30.17,9
3. Paez Leon Hector Leonardo, 1982, Columbia 4:33.25,2

Women

1. Dahle Flesjaa Gunn-Rita, 1973, Norvegia 4:35.30,3 (40)
2. Bigham Sally, 1978, Great Britain 4:39.18,8 (2)
3. Süss Esther, 1974, Switzerland 4:42.49,6 (8)

More information on:

<http://services.datasport.com/2013/mtb/kitzalp/#Marke1>