



Val di Sole WC UCI 2015 N.4

Commezzadura (Val di Sole – Trentino) 16 agosto 2015

VAL DI SOLE 2015 UCI WORLD CUP: GAME ON!

The countdown to the Grand Final of the 2015 UCI World Cup presented by Shimano has begun. Just a few days to the start of the most anticipated event of the mountain bike racing season: Trentino and Val di Sole are ready to welcome the biggest names of the international XCO, DH and 4X scene together with thousands of enthusiasts who will attend those fantastic 2015 World Cup Finals. This part of the year is a feverish time for the valley, with a lot of visitors coming here to spend their summer holidays. For this reason the numbers estimated have grown to the sky: the Comitato Organizzatore is expecting more than 20000 people!

L'evoluzione dei tracciati in Val di Sole

The organizers decided to offer even more to the numerous enthusiasts that will enjoy the action from very close distance and they have made **important changes to the XCO and DH tracks**. In fact, quite a lot of the racecourse will be visible from the finish line parterre, where a big grandstand will be built and a maxi screen installed for the live stream of the races. Also the location for the fixed cameras by Red Bull Media House has been carefully picked: the show transmitted will be top-notch and none of the most spectacular racecourse sections will be missed. Changes in the ranking, lap times, crashes, overtaking...be ready with brollies and beers: **this time Val di Sole will take you to the front row!**

The President of the Comitato Organizzatore **Aldo Bordati** declares: «All disciplines evolve, no less than the athletes' skills and the efficiency of the machines they use. This has to go along with a racetrack reconditioning, from a technical perspective as well».

This is why the legendary track **Black Snake**, without changing its very own character, so appreciated worldwide, gets its restyling and becomes longer (2200m, with 520m of descent), fast and flowing, while **the XCO track upgrades** by adding new spectacular obstacles: rocks, roots, natural berms and winding singletracks designed specifically for those Finals.

Spectacle and buzz will not be constrained by daylight. Powerful lighting systems will illuminate the return of the 4X discipline under the UCI aegis. **This is the only 4X track in the world where a race can take place during the night:** the Finals are scheduled for Saturday evening at 20:45. A good 600 meters (another world record) of jumps, doubles, shoulder-to-shoulder action in corners and pure speed.

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Comitato Organizzatore Grandi Eventi Val di Sole

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The Finals are still open

With the Val di Sole event, Trentino and the whole country will be again in the spotlight of the international mountain bike scene. With exciting races that will decide the Finals: the games are still wide open in most disciplines.

In the XCO male category, the Swiss Nino Schurter (1100 points), leading the ranking after the last two overseas victories, will be defied by his old-established contender, the French Julien Absalon (910 points). The smallest mistake will be paid dearly because both of them have the same target, the victory. Third contender in the battle, but in principle already out of it, is Jaroslav Kulhavy from the Czech Republic (782 points), so dear to Val di Sole. On the Monday after the racing weekend he will be the special guest in a social ride with a few journalists: for sure it will be nothing more than a 'recovery ride' for him! But really, not even his position is that clear. Kulhavy will need to keep looking over his shoulder because the riders in fourth and fifth place are very close. We are talking about Mathias Flückiger and Florian Vogel, both from Switzerland.

For what concerns the XCO female category, Jolanda Neff from Switzerland still dominates the ranking: her second place at Windham (USA) gave her 1100 more points, enough to leave the solid athlete Gunn-Rita Dahle Flesjaa behind by 190 points. Catharine Pendrel from Canada could give them some trouble by properly managing her 726 points, but everything is yet to be proven. What is clear is that Pauline Ferrand Prevot, from France, winner at Windham, will fight hard to be back on the podium. And she is sixth with 570 points at the moment.

For the DH discipline, female category, one name only echoed five times over the last six rounds: Rachel Atherton. The absolute control of the British rider over the discipline means that, by maths, she is the 2015 DH World Champion. The only confrontation will be then for the second place, which by now belongs to another British rider, Manon Carpenter, (899 points), who also wears the rainbow jersey, against Tahnee Seagrave, third with 836 points. She comes from the British Islands as well and she has shown an improving performance over the season. The French Emmeline Ragot unfortunately is not into the race any more due to a double injury that she got in Canada, at the arm and in the foot. Tracey Hannan from Australia is fifth with 777 points and she will put all herself into standing on the podium.

DH discipline, male category: the fight here gets really tough and for sure there are many tough getting going among the first five positions. One name above the others: Aaron Gwin. With 1089 points, this American rider, two-time World Cup champion and winner in Val di Sole both in 2011 and 2012 said that Commezzadura is one of his favourite tracks. We'll see if he will appreciate the new track sections and if he will be able to repeat his previous results. For sure Greg Minnaar from South Africa (second with 954 points), the rider with the highest number of World Cup victories in the history of downhill, will try to get the 19th podium of his career. Third place



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for a rider who really deserves a victory in a year full of crashes and mechanicals: the French Loic Bruni, who has 869 points still chasing his first win. Also Troy Brosnan cannot be underestimated. This fit rider from Australia has already given proof of his skills on technical terrain with a victory at Fort William last year and a number of very good results during this season. Last but not least, with the fifth position, 709 points and the rainbow jersey is Josh Bryceland: this cheeky rider from the UK is 100% back to shape as he has made this clear by winning the fifth round in Canada.

It is going to be a very exciting race and the qualifications could be full of surprises. This season Val di Sole is planning on offering endless emotions and a ton of thrill!

To purchase on-line the entry tickets

www.valdisolebikeland.com/it/uci-mountain-bike-world-cup/acquista-biglietti

For complete info about the event, please visit

www.valdisolebikeland.com

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