



Val di Sole WC UCI 2015 N.6

Commezzadura (Val di Sole – Trentino) 20 august 2015

VAL DI SOLE 2015, THE UCI WORLD CUP KICKS OFF WITH THE 4X QUALI

It is Thursday and the Val di Sole circus has finally begun with the Four Cross World Cup Qualifying. Hannes Slavik is first

After the 4X Quali, **Hannes Slavik** from Austria is first, **Aiko Gohler** from Germany second while **Nielsen Blake** is in third position. Giovanni Pozzoni, from Italy, gives the Italian touch to the ranking: he had a good run and takes **fourth**. The Four Cross Quali are based on timed runs of the riders one by one, and not the four of them riding together, which is what the name '4X' refers to. The Quali positions of this evening are important to establish the riders level and to organize their start off the grid during the race tomorrow. The Finals will take place tomorrow evening, at 20.45 and it is going to be a real rush of adrenaline, with contacts among riders, overtaking and endless turns of the battle's tide.

Downhill timed training

The timed training sessions on the downhill racecourse today have established how the riders are dealing with the track in its whole, partially damp due to yesterday's rain. The ground is continuously changing as the new sections transform and settle after a number of rides. In addition the rain, on and off all day, keeps the Black Snake quite damp.

It is very interesting to see that **the top three riders are very close in terms of time, just a few tenths of a second apart.**

It is clear that their battle has started even before the Quali. **Gee Atherton** had the fastest ride, 3:46.279, followed by **Aaron Gwin** with 3:46.791 and **Troy Brosnan** with 3:46.932. Among the ladies **Rachel Atherton** is the fastest, with 4:39.302, closely followed by **Manon Carpenter** with 4:40.606. **Eleonora Farina** is third with 5:16.333.

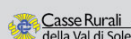
To really understand how physical and technical the Black Snake track is, take a look at the video by the Swiss **Claudio Caluori**, Team Gstaad-Scott manager. As always to introduce us to the World Cup racecourses, he rides behind a strong rider, here **Connor Fearon**, from Australia, 13th in the Cup ranking. Be ready for his shouts of enthusiasm mixed with terror and to a good "*porca miseria!*" in perfect Italian, that Claudio is happy to share with us!

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