



PRESS RELEASE
Saturday 10th October 2009

PR 1: Focus Roc Dames (Roc Women)

Aleksandra Dawidowicz wins the Roc Dames in style

Poland gets three cyclists in the top four places

She had to wait till the last 50 metres before she could glimpse victory. Polish cyclist Aleksandra Dawidowicz (CCC Polkowice, 2 hrs 02 mins 38 s) won the Roc Dames this Saturday 10th October at the base in Fréjus, by putting in a strong sprint ahead of her compatriot Maja Wozkowska (CCC Polkowice, 2 hrs 02 mins 38 s) and Austrian Elisabeth Osl (Central Ghost Team, 2 hrs 02 mins 40 s), winner of the 2008 event. Another Polish racer, Magdalena Sadecka (CCC Polkowice), finished this 42 km event in fourth. As such Poland has achieved the feat of getting three mountain bikers in the top four spots. 5 mins 28 s behind Aleksandra Dawidowicz, French cyclist Cécile Ravanel (Team Lapiere International) finished in 5th position, after managing to stay with the leaders for around the first hour.

The Roc d'Azur's women's event set off from Fréjus at 0900 hours, under a hazy sky. "All the top names are here today, assured Cécile Ravanel, reigning French champion, on the start line. The Roc d'Azur 2009 is worthy of our world cup line-up!" A group of five cyclists, including Cécile Ravanel, quickly took the lead. At Fournel, around ten kilometres from the start, the frontrunners had nearly a minute's lead over the fragmented chasing pack. As such it seemed evident that victory would go to one of those at the front

At the top of the legendary Bougnon incline, where several hundred spectators were gathered, Elisabeth Osl, winner in 2008, was setting the pace ahead of Aleksandra Dawidowicz and Maja Wozkowska. From there the three women were constantly jockeying for position all the way to the finish, spurred on by the taste of victory. The sprint, launched around 200 m from the finish, was won by the rider that was crowned young World Champion hope back in September. She was more physical and mentally stronger. "I'm really delighted, said the 22 year old Aleksandra Wozkowska. It's the first time I've taken part in this race and... I've won it! I love this event and this region with its sea, sun and mountains! Where I live at the moment it's really very cold..."

Statements

- **Aleksandra Dawidowicz** (CCC Polkowice, winner in 2 hrs 02 mins 38 s): "I'm really delighted, said the 22 year old Aleksandra Wozkowska. It's the first time I've taken part in this race and... I've won it! I love this event and this region with its sea, sun and mountains! Where I live at the moment it's really very cold..."

- **Cécile Ravanel** (Team Lapiere International, 5th in 2 hrs 08 mins 05 s and 1st French woman): "Given the line-up, I'd have been hard pushed to do better than 5th... I managed to hook onto the right wagon for the first hour, but then I let go! I ended up on my own and, in the downhill sections, they gradually extended their lead. If I'd have stayed with them I probably wouldn't have completed this race as the pace was so quick! I'm not at all disappointed."

Today's second press release to follow – Focus BMX: World Cup final

