

MOUNTAIN BIKE: Andreas Seewald and Katazina Sosna conquer the 2021 BMW HERO Südtirol Dolomites



ANDREAS SEEWALD AND KATAZINA SOSNA WIN THE 2021 EDITION OF THE BMW HERO SÜDTIROL DOLOMITES – NEW BEGINNINGS AT LAST

Germany and Lithuania conquered the 2021 BMW HERO Südtirol Dolomites. A much-awaited edition by both professional cyclists and amateurs alike. Today, they returned on their bike and conquered the iconic route of the toughest mountain bike marathon in the world. The men's podium welcomed Samuele Porro and Leonardo Paez (Colombia) in second and third place respectively, after having battled it out on the 86 km route; the women vied on the 60 km route, with Ariane Lüthi (Switzerland) and Angelika Tazreiter (Austria) ranking second and third respectively.

#MTBMarathonSeries #HERO #HEROSeries #HERODolomites

Selva di Val Gardena (BZ/Italy), 12 June 2021 – The curtain has fallen on what has been a veritable spectacle, featuring the crème de la crème of the international marathon mountain biking scene. The 2021 BMW HERO Südtirol Dolomites took place in Selva di Val Gardena: its iconic routes make it the toughest mountain bike marathon in the world, so much so that it has been welcomed with open arms to the prestigious 2021 UCI Mountain Bike Marathon Series.



THE MEN'S PODIUM

The top spot of the Elite men's podium was occupied by **Germany's Andreas Seewald from Canyon Northwave MTB Team** who cycled 86 km and 4,500 hm (the long route), crossing the Gardena, Campolongo, Pordoi, and Duron passes **in 4:26.57**.

Samuele Porro from Team Trek Pirelli finished 2nd behind him, leaving Leonardo Paez from Team Giant Polimedical in third place.



Samuele Porro, Andreas Seewald and Leonardo Paez

Born in Lenggries (Upper Bavaria), the village was also the birthplace of Olympic skier Hilde Gerg. Andreas Seewald was an Alpine skier until the age of 16, when he started to learn more about mountain biking. Just four years after that, he turned off-road cycling into his profession – also thanks to the training received within the Canyon Northwave MTB Team who oversaw him on his swift growth.

The German mountain biker tells us how *"I immediately kicked off at a strong and quick pace, hoping to advance on my own. However, there were changes in the leading spot throughout the race: during the Campolongo descent, I stopped due to a punctured tire, and, in that moment, Leonardo Paez overtook me. Then again, I did the same thing to him after Passo Duron, when he encountered my same problems."*

Truth be told, misfortune struck Leonardo Paez more than once as he punctured his tire twice. Andreas Seewald ends by saying: *"Had Leonardo not had those difficulties, we probably would have competed for the top spot of the HERO during the final sprint. Being here today, on this very important podium, is a dream come true."*

THE WOMEN'S PODIUM



Katazina Sosna

A race to remember among the women athletes, too. The Elite women battled it out on the 60 km and 3,200 hm route of this special BMW HERO Südtirol Dolomites, as the race is also one of the stages of the international UCI Mountain Bike Marathon Series.

Emotions ran high, and it all came to a grand conclusion with the arrival of the winner: **Katazina Sosna from Team Torpado-Südtirol International MT** who was always in the lead and so raced to the top spot of the 2021 rankings with a time of **3:50.45**.

Katazina crossed the finish line and, visibly moved, declared: *"I have waited for this day for a long time: I invested everything I had in this race. And so did my team, who came with me on a retreat to Anterselva for two weeks."* When interviewed by Eurosport, she added: *"We developed specific training sessions together with our trainer, Luca Bramati, to increase resistance, and today I have reaped the fruits of my labour. After having always grazed the top podium in the past editions, reaching my seasonal goal today is truly liberating and it means a lot. That goal was winning the BMW HERO Südtirol Dolomites."*

Ariane Lüthi from Team Salusmed came second at **3:54.54**, while **Angelika Tazreiter from KTM Factory MTB Team** ranked third coming in at **4:02.01**.

The first Italian to cross the line, in fourth position, was Sandra Mairhofer from the Pedale Leynicese Team, missing out on the podium by more than four minutes.

A NEW BEGINNING



Samuele Porro

The 2021 edition wanted to symbolise a new beginning after months of waiting. **Gerhard Vanzi** said: *"This was a challenge within a challenge. These have been tough and demanding months under multiple aspects, but the satisfaction of seeing our athletes on the starting line this morning was indescribable. We wanted this to be an edition to remember right from the start, a symbol for a new beginning, which communicated strength and lots of positive energy."*

LIVE BROADCAST

The 2021 BMW HERO Südtirol Dolomites edition resulted in a huge celebration of sports and mountain biking, taking the party well beyond Italy: the live broadcast between 10 a.m. and midday was seen on the official channels as well as in five continents and 53 countries.

THE START OF THE INTERNATIONAL 2021 HERO SERIES

Today's BMW HERO Südtirol Dolomites also represented the official start of the international 2021 HERO SERIES circuit. The Dolomites were the first stage and will be followed on 29 October 2021 by the HERO Dubai Hatta, who will see cyclists compete across the desert of the Hatta Nature Reserve. Athletes will flock to the Hatta Wadi Hub, a dedicated complex for outdoor sports in the Dubai Emirates. The last stage will be the HERO Thailand scheduled for 13 November 2021 which will wend its way across the lush, rainforest surrounding Chiang Rai, the cradle of Buddhist culture embodied by the famous white temple of Wat Rong Khun, and the Singha Park.

BMW HERO SÜDTIROL DOLOMITES MEN RANKING (86 KM)

1. SEEWALD ANDREAS – GER - CANYON NORTHWAVE MTB TEAM - 4:26.57
2. PORRO SAMUELE – ITA – TEAM TREK PIRELLI - 4:29.11
3. PAEZ LEON HECTOR LEONARDO - COL - TEAM GIANT POLIMEDICAL - 4:30.04
4. ARIAS CUERVO DIEGO ALFONSO – COL - TEAM GIANT POLIMEDICAL - 4:30.24
5. STOSEK MARTIN – CZE - CANYON NORTHWAVE MTB TEAM - 4:38.57

BMW HERO SÜDTIROL DOLOMITES WOMEN RANKING (60 KM)

1. SOSNA KATAZINA – LIT - A.S.D. TORPADO-SÜDTIROL INTERNATIONAL MT - 3:50.45
2. LÜTHI ARIANE -SUI - SALUSMED - 3:54.54
3. TAZREITER ANGELIKA - AUT - KTM FACTORY MTB TEAM - 4:02.01
4. MAIRHOFER SANDRA – ITA - A.S. DILETTANTISTICA PEDALE LEYNICESE - 4:06.04
5. MOREL ESTELLE – FRA - TEAM VTT ORNANS - 4:07.17

You can view the entire ranking and intermediate times at <https://www.herodolomites.com/en/the-race/rankings-2021>

For further information visit www.herodolomites.com

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