

MOUNTAIN BIKE: the HERO Südtirol Dolomites shines with Sandra Mairhofer and Andreas Seewald



THE 2025 HERO SÜDTIROL DOLOMITES: FOURTH TIME'S THE CHARM FOR SANDRA MAIRHOFER AND ANDREAS SEEWALD'S HAT TRICK

After a fourth spot in 2021, a third place in 2023, her second step on the 2024 podium, Sandra Mairhofer (Italy) wins the HERO SÜDTIROL DOLOMITES, followed by another Italian, Mara Fumagalli, and a surprising third place for Paula Gorycka Kurmann from Poland. Rosa Van Doorn places 8th while still retaining leadership of the UCI World Cup. Leo Paez' dreams of winning the HERO for the 9th time were dashed, as he places second right behind Andreas Seewald (Germany) – a victory at the HERO and the leader of the 2025 HERO UCI Marathon World Cup. Andrea Siffredi, from Italy, scores a third place in the toughest mountain bike marathon in the world!

Hashtag: #herodolomites #heromtbseries #uci #südtirol #dolomites

HERO Südtirol Dolomites © Freddy Planinscheck

HERO Südtirol Dolomites © wisthaler.com

Selva Val Gardena, 14 June 2025 – The HERO Südtirol Dolomites is the midway point of the revamped UCI Marathon World Cup's five rounds scheduled for 2025. Cyclists aiming for the title of World Cup Champions could not hide their light under a bushel any longer – if they wanted to qualify for the 2025 HERO UCI Marathon World Cup's overall ranking, the

Dolomites represented the 'go big or go home' moment to snag some of those crucial, qualifying points.

THE MEN'S RACE

While we cannot wager any bets on what **Andreas Seewald** from Germany must have thought, he must have realised it was now or nothing as he won this edition of the HERO. The representative of the Singer KTM Racing Team – and newly crowned European Marathon Champion as of last weekend – is no stranger to winning the HERO. Indeed, the 34-year-old cyclist had won the race back in 2021 and 2024, and knows the thrills and challenge of competing in the toughest mountain bike marathon in the world. He flew under the radar at the start of the race, trailing fifth at Passo Gardena, but then he soared past his competitors and led the race once in Arabba. Only the HERO veteran himself, **Leo Paez**, managed to keep up with him. However, upon climbing the Pordoi, the Colombian cyclist was thwarted by a fall and a mechanical issue, fighting to recover lost ground. But all to no avail, as Seewald continued his solitary race towards victory. Despite his advantage, his was no 'walk' in the park, also due to the spike in temperatures which washed over the western Alps – an extra challenge for the German cyclist.

Seewald completed the 86 km and 4,500 hm race track in 4:29:20, crossing the finish line in Selva Val Gardena proudly sporting the German flag and revelling in the celebrations for this extraordinary hat trick. The 2025 HERO said: *"I'm satisfied but it wasn't easy. I even thought about giving up at some point – I was convinced Paez would have caught up. Yet I preserved and overcame that crisis. I'm in exceptionally good shape, and the European Championship victory really pumped me up!"*

Leo Paez trailed in second position – yet the Colombian cyclist was satisfied as, after all, he'd risked being knocked off the podium at a certain point of the race. The 43-year-old Leo is known for his grit, which helped him secure a spot among the top three – true to form since his first victory back in 2012. The third spot went to **Andrea Siffredi**. The 26-year-old cyclist from Pontedassio (Savona, IT) trailed behind Seewald by 5'20", a promising time confirming his rising ascent among the Italian marathon scene. Wout Alleman, from Belgium, after a start wearing the 2025 HERO UCI Marathon World Cup's leader jersey, finished 6th.

THE WOMEN'S RACE

The start and finish line are located in Selva Val Gardena, also stage to the HERO Bike Festival. The first cyclists to cut the finish line were the Elite Women competing on the 60 km trail boasting 3,200 hm.

Even among the women, the race was nail-bitingly exciting. **Chelsea Bolton** (USA) attempted to sprint ahead and leave the others in her wake – but this only spurred **Paula Gorycka Kurmann** from Strüby Sting Team to show everyone what she was made of. **Sandra Mairhofer**, representing Soudal Leecougan, was giving it her all to confirm everyone's expectations following her past editions' performance. She placed fourth in 2021, third in 2023, and second in 2024 and, so, the Italian cyclist only had one goal: to win the HERO. Her determination paid off because, after having let her competitors run out of steam and keeping an eye on the usual suspects (**Rosa Van Doorn**, from The Netherlands – who hit a setback due to altitude – and **Vera Looser**, who lost precious seconds for an unwanted detour from the official race track which landed her in fifth place), she maintained leadership until crossing the finish line in Selva. The Soudal Leecougan International cyclist finished the hero in 3:58:51 – a dream come true!

Sandra Mairhofer said: *"I'm speechless. I'm over the moon. Today wasn't easy – after tackling the Lupo Bianco, I feared Gorycka Kurmann, from Poland, would catch up. Luckily enough, my legs carried me though and the descent is where I truly made the difference. I'm overjoyed!"*

A sweet victory for the local cyclist, who was born in Tesidio (Bolzano) just down the road. She beat another Italian cyclist to the top spot, as **Mara Fumagalli** placed second, 1:36.2 behind her, thanks to her performance on the Passo Sella climb which saw her overtake other cyclists. Nobody expected **Paula Gorycka Kurmann** to perform that well, and yet she did – at one point even the first placed looked within reach at the Pordoi, where she led the race. Ultimately, the two Italians beat her to it, landing her in third place 3:29.1 behind the winner.

THE CUP'S LEADERS

After today's results, the 2025 HERO UCI Marathon World Cup's overall ranking looks as follows: after three rounds, Rosa Van Doorn from Buff Megamo, who during today's race finished 8th, maintains overall leadership with 610 points, with Sandra Mairhofer, from Italy, nipping at her heels with 590 points. The men's leadership suffered a change, with Andreas Seewald, from Germany, taking over with his 580 points, knocking Wout Alleman down in second place with 540 points.

AN INTERNATIONAL RACE

The HERO Südtirol Dolomites is a truly international race - its starting grid alone boasted nearly 3,000 cyclists for this 15th edition, representing 46 countries from around the world. The same can be said for the top positions of the rankings: the women boast a **good six countries among the first ten positions**, while the **men boast eight countries**. The race's coverage will also be truly global, with the HERO Südtirol Dolomites being broadcast in **106 countries**.

View the complete rankings at www.datasport.com

www.herodolomites.com

MEN'S RANKING

1.

WOMEN'S RANKING

1.

For further information visit www.herodolomites.com

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