



2003 Luna Women's Mountain Bike Team

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Dunlap Wins National Cross Championship to Claim Her Sixth Title Luna Team Director Paul McKenzie Wants to See the Word "Quagmire" in Race Report



Dunlap crosses the line for her sixth 'Cross title



Portland, OR: Luna's Alison Dunlap came back from the fourth degree shoulder separation that ended her 2003 mountain bike season to claim her sixth U.S. Cyclo-Cross Championship, 19 seconds in front of second place finisher Rachel Lloyd.

Dunlap rode a characteristically smart race and was content to let Clif Bar's Gina Hall, and then Rachel Lloyd, set the early pace before making her move. Only Rachel Lloyd was able to stay anywhere near Dunlap as they pulled away from the field.

Dunlap's sights are now firmly set on one of the few things that have eluded her during her illustrious career - the World Cyclo-Cross Championship which takes place January 31- February 1 in Pont-Château, France. She plans to contest the last two European World Cup races to get fine-tuned for the Worlds.

Conditions were less than ideal for the most important race of the U.S. Cyclo-Cross season as pre-race rain left the course a veritable quagmire that became increasingly difficult to negotiate as it congealed. In fact the glutinous goop was so thick that some of the flat sections were not navigable on the bike, forcing the racers to dismount and slog through afoot.

The technical aspects of this race were not limited to the contestants as even the spectators found it tough going simply walking the course. The fun didn't end there as numerous cars, and the Luna Team truck, got stuck in the goo and had to be towed out. In the case of the Luna support vehicle it took two four-wheel drive trucks to tug it out of Lago di Luna.

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Alison cruises through the mud like a knife through butter

As usual, the Luna Team mechanics kept things running smoothly (and cleanly) as Dunlap changed to a clean bike every lap.

Clif Bar Racers Fill Top Places



In other news Clif Bar's Gina Hall repeated her performance from last season, claiming third place after leading early. Clif Bar teammate Carmen D'Aluisio followed Gina across the line to claim fourth place.

In the hotly contested men's event, Clif Bar's Jackson Stewart crossed the line in fifth place, two spots ahead of teammate Andy Jacques-Maynes.

End...



Jackson Stewart on his way to fifth place



When the race announcer said "mud racing," this guy heard "mud wrestling" and broke out his best mask



Gina Hall blasting towards third

