



Giada Specia and Simone Avondetto are the new Italian Short Track Champions

On the first day of racing in Nervesa della Battaglia (TV), the two riders from the Wilier-Vittoria Factory Team XCO beat the competition and set the tone for tomorrow's Internazionali d'Italia Series.

Giada Specia and **Simone Avondetto** reacted immediately on the first day of the big MTB weekend in Montello.

This morning, in the splendid setting of **Podere Rive degli Angeli in Nervesa della Battaglia (TV)**, were the short track trials for the Italian championships.

The last few days of rain gave the athletes, organisers and spectators some reprieve and left a very muddy and particularly demanding course.

The women's race featured the best of the national scene and was fiercely contested until the final lap, with the winner being, somewhat surprisingly, the home rider **Giada Specia** (Wilier-Vittoria Factory Team XCO), who beat **Chiara Teocchi** and **Martina Berta**, both of whom now wear the Centro Sportivo Esercito jersey.

The words of the winner: *"I'm really happy because I didn't expect it, I've been going through quite a tough time lately, and today I can say I won more with my head than with my legs. I was really determined to perform well in this race, especially because I'm practically racing at home. This result gives me confidence for tomorrow's race, so what can I say, let's hope for the best."*

Despite finishing third at the finish line, the outgoing Italian champion, **Martina Berta**, delivered a strong performance that provided her with a valuable insight into tomorrow's Internazionali d'Italia Series: *"Coming to race and coming away with a win is never a given, but I'm still happy. It's a very competitive Italian championship, there were four of us contending for the win, which I think is a good sign for the entire movement. The course was inevitably very tough due to the rain in recent days, and I believe it will be the same tomorrow. I hope this is a good starting point after Brazil."*

Immediately after the women's race, it was the turn of the men's race, again featuring the best on the Italian scene.

It was a very tactical race that was only decided in the final lap, when the rider in the best shape at the moment, **Simone Avondetto** (Wilier-Vittoria Factory Team XCO), came out on top, anticipating an excellent **Gioele Bertolini** (riding today with Centro Sportivo Esercito), who beat **Nadir Colledani** (Santa Cruz Rockshox Pro Team) in the sprint for second place.

Avondetto commented on his victory: *"It was a very controlled race until the end with a bit of a tug of war, going strong on the climbs and regrouping on the flat. I tried to attack on the top of the climb in*



the last lap, made a small hole and then held on until the finish. I'm very happy, I've been riding well in this period, so what can I say, I'm satisfied".

On the first day, the most important personalities of the national movement were present, such as the Technical Commissioner **Mirko Celestino** and the FCI President **Cordiano Dagnoni**, who confirmed the importance of this event.

These are his words: *"It was very emotional just to arrive in this beautiful place, surrounded by hills, woods and vineyards. Congratulations to the organisers for doing such a great job, after all, this has always been a land of cycling. I will be following this weekend with enthusiasm, because I love to take part, to watch the races, even before my institutional role".*

Tomorrow, from 10am, it is time for the Olympic Cross Country, the highlight of the event, with the **third round of the Internazionali d'Italia series**.