



Anton Sintsov surprises at the Chies d'Alpago

The Russian rider won the last stage of the Internazionali d'Italia series from the back of the grid, ahead of Nadir Colledani and Gioele Bertolini, who went on to win the general classification.

Anton Sintsov (Ktm Alchemist Powered Brenta Brakes) stunned everyone in Chies d'Alpago (BL). The Russian rider took advantage of the scoring between the big favourites Daniele Braidot (CS Carabinieri Cicli Olympia), Nadir Colledani (Santa Cruz Rockshox Pro Team), Filippo Fontana (CS Carabinieri Cicli Olympia) and Gioele Bertolini (KTM-Protek-Elettrosystem) to win the fourth and final stage of the Internazionali d'Italia series held today, Saturday 29th June. Gioele Bertolini, who finished third, can nevertheless celebrate victory in the general classification of the most important Italian cross-country race.

"It was a tough race right from the start," commented Bertolini shortly after the finish, "the heat increased and Daniele started strongly and tried to make the difference. Me, Nadir and Filippo tried to stay on the bike a bit, then Nadir set a very fast pace, I managed to follow him and in the end Anton came back and surprised me. It's a great feeling to win the Internazionali d'Italia Series jersey, this is an important circuit and it's undoubtedly an honour to have won it, I'm overjoyed and I dedicate it to the team and the sponsors who help us at every race. We couldn't have asked for more this weekend, we are a great team, very united and the results show it. I am very happy with this victory.

Today's winner Anton Sintsov: "I'm really surprised with this result, like everyone in the group. I haven't raced a UCI XCO for two years, but I had a weekend off from team commitments and wanted to try cross-country again to see what has changed over the years. I missed it and I always liked the Internazionali d'Italia series, so I took advantage. I started from the back of the grid and made it straight into the lead. I seized the moment and then everything went perfectly. I used the best parts of the track and defended myself where I was slower than the others. The only card I had was to go first on the last climb and play everything there. I was expecting Nadir to catch me, but I gave it my all. The course here in Chies d'Alpago is beautiful, I'm pleasantly surprised, there are technical parts that suit me, short and explosive climbs that I like, a demanding and fast descent. I had a lot of fun. I have to thank the team for allowing me to be here".

The race

The open men's race started at 15:00. Expectations were high for both the stage win and the general classification, the latter still wide open with Gioele Bertolini and Filippo Fontana only 10 points apart in the elite. In the U23 category, Matteo Siffredi, Tommaso Ferri and Fabio Bassignana were all within 11 points of each other. On the second lap, the first attack came from Daniele Braidot (Cs Carabinieri Cicli Olympia), closely followed by a small group made up of his teammate Filippo Fontana, Nadir Colledani (Santa Cruz Rockshox Pro Team) and the general classification leader Gioele Bertolini (Ktm - Protek - Elettrosystem). At the start of the penultimate lap Colledani opened up a gap. Bertolini followed very quickly along with Anton Sintsov, who started from the back row and was the author of an amazing comeback.



Thanks to this attack, the three caught up with Daniele Braidot and Filippo Fontana. Over the next few kilometres, the gap between the two CS Carabinieri Cicli Olympia riders widened and the three leaders began to fight for victory. Sintsov was able to anticipate his two rivals on the last ramp, which allowed him to cross the finish line in the centre of Lamosano with his arms raised. Second was Colledani at 3", third Bertolini at 14". Further back was Braidot, fourth at 2'40", and Fontana, fifth at 2'56", who was unable to take the leader's jersey from Bertolini.

U23

It was a difficult day in the U23s for leader Matteo Siffredi. The Scott Racing Team rider suffered right from the start and finished in 14th place, while the victory went to Marco Betteo (Ktm-Protek-Elettrosystem) ahead of Fabio Bassignana (Ktm-Protek-Elettrosystem) and Alberto Capoa (Team Sogno Veneto). Thanks to this second place, Bassignana also won the overall U23 classification of the 2024 Internazionali d'Italia series, overtaking both Matteo Siffredi and Tommaso Ferri (BCL Factory Team).