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# 42<sup>ND</sup> EDITION AND 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOR A MARCIAGRANPARADISO DOMINATED BY THE NORDIQ CANADA SKI TEAM

*You need to know different languages to congratulate the athletes on today's podiums at the Marcia. Most of the skiers who made it to the podium are from abroad. A great celebration took place on the Prati di Sant'Orso, also thanks to the sun, which managed to find its place in the sky despite the forecasts predicting otherwise.*

As many as thirteen nations were represented, with nearly 400 participants at the 42nd edition of the MarciaGranParadiso. The "bisons" set off promptly at 10:00 from the Prati di Sant'Orso, eager to make the most of a day on narrow skis that will surely go down in history. On February 16, 1975, the story of this beautiful competition began to be written, and fifty years later, the emotions remain just as strong, vivid, and powerful.

From a purely sporting perspective, the starting line featured several notable athletes, including members of the Canadian national cross-country ski team: Antoine Cyr, Remi Dolet, Olivier Leveille, Pierre Grall-Johnson, and Olivia Nesbitt-Bouffard. Also present were French skier Maurice Manificat, the Carabinieri team members Tommaso Cuc, Lorenzo and Alessio Romano, and the local favorite, Cogne native Mikael Abram. Additionally, three-time Winter Triathlon world champion, Russian athlete Daria Rogozina, and Chiara Caminada—who has now also become a Cogne resident for work—were among the participants.

The race started at a fairly fast pace, despite the snow being anything but quick. Canadian skier Cyr took the lead right away, setting the pace for the first part of the race, aiming to thin out the group as quickly as possible over the 30-kilometer course. By the time the race reached Valnontey, a cooperative quartet had broken away, consisting of Cyr, Abram, Leveille, and Romano. Their strong push created a significant gap from the rest of the pack. Maurice Manificat, who had started at a steadier pace, followed behind, trying to maintain a consistent rhythm.

As the race continued towards Lillaz, Cyr made a decisive move, breaking away from the quartet and going solo. Behind him, the trio of Abram, Romano, and Leveille tried to keep up, while a second group, consisting of Pierre Grall-Johnson, Alessio Romano, Matteo Arlian, and Tommaso Cuc, started making up ground. Manificat, on the other hand, lost pace and dropped to ninth position, while Russian athlete Pavel Andreev fell even further behind.

Cyr was the first to cross the finish line, completing the race in one hour and eighteen minutes, securing victory with about a 30-second lead over Mikael Abram and 35 seconds over his teammate Olivier Leveille.

In the women's race, Olivia Bouffard-Nesbitt dominated the marathon, finishing in one hour and thirty-one minutes, with a lead of over five and a half minutes ahead of Russia's Daria Rogozina and more than nine minutes ahead of Chiara Caminada.





Here are the results of the MarciaGranParadiso for the two courses, Marathon and Light, covering 30 and 15 kilometers.

#### Marathon Course Men

1°	CYR Antoine	(CAN)	Nordiq Canada Ski Team
2°	ABRAM Mikael	(ITA)	Centro Sportivo Esercito
3°	LEVEILLE Olivier	(CAN)	Nordiq Canada Ski Team

#### Marathon Course Ladies

1 <sup>a</sup>	BOUFFARD-NESBITT O.	(CAN)	Nordiq Canada Ski Team
2 <sup>a</sup>	ROGOZINA Daria	(RUS)	n/a
3 <sup>a</sup>	CAMINADA Chiara	(ITA)	n/a

#### Light Course Men

1°	RESTANO Fabio	(ITA)	Sci Club Drink
2°	MARGUERET Gilles	(ITA)	Sci Club Gran San Bernardo
3°	CARRARO Orlando	(ITA)	Sci Club Brusson

#### Light Course Ladies

1 <sup>a</sup>	BISSON Martina	(ITA)	Sci Club Pollein
2 <sup>a</sup>	FRUTAZ Claire	(ITA)	Sci Club Drink
3 <sup>a</sup>	BELTRAMI Corinne	(ITA)	Sci Club Drink

Bruno Zanivan absolutely deserves a mention: at 72 years old, he has completed all 42 editions of the MarciaGranParadiso. His dream? To keep competing for another 10 years so he can celebrate his granddaughter's coming of age by participating together.

At the end of the race, the author had the chance to speak with some of the Canadian team athletes, who repeatedly praised the Organizing Committee for the outstanding quality with which every detail was managed—both during the World Cup and the granfondo. They particularly appreciated the hospitality in Cogne, the food, and above all, the convenience of reaching the ski trails within just a few minutes' walk from the hotel.

As in recent years, the event also featured races for the Allievi and Ragazzi categories on dedicated 5- and 8-kilometer courses.

Here are the rankings from the second part of the **MiniMarcia**.

#### Ragazzi Ladies category

1 <sup>a</sup>	PIEILLER Eleonora	(ITA)	Sci Club Saint Barthelemy
2 <sup>a</sup>	LONGO BORGHINI Marta	(ITA)	Sci Club Valle Anzasca
3 <sup>a</sup>	BENETTI Alenie	(ITA)	Sci Club Gran Paradiso

#### Ragazzi Men category

1°	FOLCHI Martino	(ITA)	Sci Club Valle Anzasca
2°	IANNIELLO Andrea	(ITA)	Sci Club Gran Paradiso
3°	BENSEVAL Thierry	(ITA)	Fallere ASD





#### Allievi Ladies category

1 <sup>a</sup> LONGO BORGHINI Anna	(ITA)	Sci Club Valle Anzasca
2 <sup>a</sup> BELTRAMI Emilie	(ITA)	Sci Club Drink
3 <sup>a</sup> RIAL Annie	(ITA)	Gressoney Monte Rosa

#### Allievi Men category

1 <sup>o</sup> LAZIER Emil	(ITA)	Gressoney Monte Rosa
2 <sup>o</sup> ZENONI Riccardo	(ITA)	Sci Club Ardesio
3 <sup>o</sup> GLAREY Achille Aiden	(ITA)	Sci Club Gran Paradiso

Here are the final rankings from the second part of the **4<sup>th</sup> Skiri Mini combined** event:

#### Ragazzi Ladies category

1 <sup>a</sup> PIEILLER Eleonora	(ITA)	Sci Club Saint Barthelemy
2 <sup>a</sup> IMPERIAL Justine	(ITA)	Sci Club Valdigne
3 <sup>a</sup> DORIGO Emilia	(ITA)	Sci Club Valdigne

#### Ragazzi Men category

1 <sup>o</sup> FOLCHI Martino	(ITA)	Sci Club Valle Anzasca
2 <sup>o</sup> PERRIN Xavier	(ITA)	Sci Club Saint Barthelemy
3 <sup>o</sup> DONATO Matteo	(ITA)	Gressoney Monte Rosa

#### Allievi Ladies category

1 <sup>a</sup> PICCINNO Sofia	(ITA)	Sci Club Saint Barthelemy
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#### Allievi Men category

1 <sup>o</sup> GLAREY Achille Aiden	(ITA)	Sci Club Gran Paradiso
2 <sup>o</sup> LOMBARD Aimé	(ITA)	Sci Club Saint Barthelemy
3 <sup>o</sup> PLATER Hervé	(ITA)	Sci Club Saint Barthelemy

All the complete rankings can be found here: <https://www.marciagranparadiso.it/pagina.php?id=12>.

Nearly a thousand people once again chose to glide across the Prati di Sant'Orso on their cross-country skis this year, showcasing their deep love for Cogne and the Gran Paradiso National Park.

Press Office MARCIAGRANPARADISO  
Written and translated by Nicolò Caneparo, Nickland Media  
[info@marciagranparadiso.it](mailto:info@marciagranparadiso.it)

