



## **REBECCA HENDERSON AND THOMAS LITSCHER WIN THE FIRST RACE IN THE JAM-PACKED AGENDA OF THE 2024 HERO ABU DHABI HUDAYRIYAT ISLAND**

*The Cross-Country Short Track XCC kicked off the first edition of the 2024 Abu Dhabi Hudayriyat Island. The tracks of the Hudayriyat Island sports facilities welcomed the first scheduled race, part of the UCI calendar, which saw Rebecca Henderson and Thomas Litscher win the event. The amateur race takes place tomorrow, while on Sunday, 11 February, the much-awaited Cross-Country Olympic XCO will take the stage.*

**Hashtag: #heroabudhabihudayriyatiland #abudhabi #hudayriyatiland #hero #heroseries**



HERO Abu Dhabi Hudayriyat Island 2024 - Photo by Action Media Production - [www.actionmpro.com](http://www.actionmpro.com)

Abu Dhabi (UAE), 9 February 2024 – The much-awaited first edition of the HERO Abu Dhabi Hudayriyat Island has finally begun. The first race of a jam-packed agenda, the only UCI cycling event in the Middle East, was the Cross-Country Short Track.



HERO Abu Dhabi Hudayriyat Island 2024 - Photo by Action Media Production - [www.actionmpro.com](http://www.actionmpro.com)

The Men's rankings were spearheaded by **Thomas Litscher** from team LAPIERRE MAVIC UNITY, finishing the race in 21:51:75, followed by **Luca Braidot** from Santacruz RockShox Pro Team at 21:52:48. **Ben Oliver** from team Denver Disruptors completed the podium, crossing the finish line at 21:52:53.

An exciting race for the Women's event, too, as **Rebecca Henderson** from team Primafior Mondraker was the first to cross the finish line in 18:46:29. She was followed by **Martina Berta** from Santacruz RockShox Pro Team at 18:46:69, and **Noëlle Buri** from team LAPIERRE MAVIC UNITY was hard on her heels, finishing the race at 18:47:07.



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## SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

Saturday is dedicated to the amateur race and the HERO Kids for younger cyclists. Sunday will be the turn of the élite athletes competing on the Cross-Country Olympic – a qualifying race for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Out of the many cyclists, some names stand out more than others: **Peter Sagan**, **Luca Braidot** – the reigning Italian champion and 2023 World Bronze –, **Gustav Pedersen**, Danish XCO champion, and **Diego Alfonso Arias Cuervo**, Colombian XCO champion. The reigning Italian XCO champion **Martina Berta** will also race, as will **Ingrid Jacobsen** – seven-time Norwegian XCO Champion. Joining them at the starting line is UCI World Series champion **Lejla Njemčević**, ready for her second HERO experience, and **Rebecca Henderson** from Australia.

## RANKINGS

### XCC HERO Abu Dhabi Hudayriyat Island, Women

1. Rebecca HENDERSON – NZL – Primaflor Mondraker – 18:46:29
2. Martina BERTA – ITA – Santacruz RockShox – 18:46:69
3. Noëlle BURI – SUI – LAPIERRE MAVIC UNITY – 18:47:07
4. Giada SPECIA – ITA – WILIER-VITTORIA FACTORY TEAM XCO – 18:48
5. Sofie Heby PEDERSEN – DEN – WILIER-VITTORIA FACTORY TEAM XCO – 18:49

### XCC HERO Abu Dhabi Hudayriyat Island, Men

1. Thomas LITSCHER – SUI – LAPIERRE MAVIC UNITY – 21:51:75
2. Luca BRAIDOT – ITA – Santacruz RockShox Pro Team – 21:52:48
3. Ben OLIVER – NZL – Denver Disruptors – 21:52:53
4. Jofre CULLELL ESTAPE – SPA – BH COLOMA TEAM – 21:53
5. Timon RÜEGG – SUI – Bixs Performance Race Team – 21:55

Full rankings available on [my.raceresult.com](https://my.raceresult.com)

Download pictures at [IMG - Google Drive](#)

## Organising Committee

**HERO ABU DHABI Hudayriyat Island**

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