

Canada's Upperton wins 2nd bobsled gold

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Calgary's Helen Upperton continued her stellar World Cup season after winning the women's two-man bobsleigh event Saturday morning in Cesana, Italy.

Upperton and brakeman Jenny Ciochetti, of Edmonton, won in a two-run time of one minute, 55.23 seconds.

Americans Shauna Rohbock and Valerie Fleming finished second in 1:55.40, and World Cup leader Sandra Kiriasis of Germany and brakeman Berit Wiacker took the bronze in 1:55.45.

Calgary's Kaillie Humphries and teammate Shelly-Ann Brown, from Pickering, Ont., had a solid performance with a fifth-place showing (1:55.95), while Lisa Szabon of Calgary and Heather Moyses of Summerside, P.E.I., finished 13th (1:56.75).

Upperton and Ciochetti led from the start by winning the first heat in 57.54 seconds and never looked back.

It appeared Rohbock might have a shot at upsetting the fastest sleds after grabbing the lead with the fastest second run. Sitting in fifth place following the first heat, the American watched as Kiriasis, Humphries and Germany's Cathleen Martini all failed to beat her blistering time of 57.63.

But Upperton took control from the push start to drive a near-flawless race and win her second World Cup event of the season. Upperton won the season's first event in Calgary and also has two silver-medal finishes.

"It was a really great race and we're really lucky to have such a great group of people supporting us and helping us out," Upperton told FIBT television.

Kiriasis, who clinched the European title with her third medal performance, remains on top of the World Cup standings with 1,075 points. Upperton sits in second with 1,062 and Martini, who finished fourth on Saturday, is third with 1,004.

Upperton, 28, is enjoying the best season of her young career, reaching the podium in four of the first five World Cup events. Upperton said her consistency has been the difference this year.

"I think that's the goal that every pilot has, and we always have such good starts," she said. "I'm lucky to have great brakeman."



Canada's Helen Upperton, left, and brakeman Jenny Ciochetti share a smile after winning the women's World Cup bobsled race Saturday in Cesana, Italy. (Massimo Pinca/Associated Press)