

## Suzanne Walsham and Thomas Dold are 2012 Towerrunning World Cup champions after thrilling final in Bogota

December 8th is a public holiday in Colombia (Inmaculada Concepción). And this day also is a holiday for the Towerrunning sport. It is the traditional date of Carrera Ascenso Torre Colpatria, which hosts the Towerrunning World Cup final since 2010. As in the previous year many of the leading international stair climbers had been invited to the race in the heart of Colombian capital Bogota and joined the event to fight for the decisive World Cup points. Year after year the main challenge for the international athletes is to beat the Colombian runners being used to the 2600m altitude.

The venue is Torre Colpatria, a 50-story skyscraper, which is a landmark of the 8 million metropolis Bogota, illuminated every night by thirty-six color changing Xenon lights. In fact the event started the night before with fireworks and a special light show attracting thousands of people in the surrounding downtown streets.



On race morning action on stairs began as early as 8:00 am and within 3 hours about 5,000 athletes climbed up more than 900 stairs to the 48<sup>th</sup> floor after a short prerun. The elites had the privilege to ascend to the very top - the heliport of Colombia's tallest building.



In respect to the women's World Cup only one medal-decision was open. Behind Suzanne Walsham (AUS), who dominated the season and managed to secure her second World Cup title weeks before the final, Kristin Frey (USA) was the definite silver medallist. Cindy Harris (USA) had to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> at least in Bogota to overtake Cristina Bonacina in the fight for the bronze medal. The defending World Cup champion from Italy missed the race due to undergoing a surgery. Nevertheless it was clear, that for Harris the medal race would become a very difficult task in view of the strong Colombian field. 10 female elite athletes lined up at the start to climb Torre Colpatria in groups of two.

Surprise race winner became Blanca Liliana Moreno (COL) with a new track record for female athletes (6:14.0) beating two times previous champion Maria Eugenia Rodriguez (COL, 6:27.0) starting together with Cindy Harris in the penultimate pair and four time winner Angela Figueroa (6:38.8), who climbed with Suzanne Walsham in the last pair. Walsham narrowly missed the podium (6:47.0) and finished 6<sup>th</sup> – 28 seconds before Cindy Harris (7<sup>th</sup>, 7:15.4) so Cristina Bonacina remained on the World Cup Bronze medal rank. Although Suzanne Walsham wasn't able to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> podium rank in her 10<sup>th</sup> season race, she achieved a total of 1380.0 World Cup points, which means a new points record in the Towerrunning history.



Even more exciting was the pre-race situation for the males. As World Cup leader Thomas Dold (GER) was not in Bogota Piotr Lobodzinski (POL) had the small chance to win the World Cup by winning the race in Torre Colpatria. Behind Dold and Lobodzinski not less than five further athletes were in the medal race too. Four of them participated in Bogota. Only Omar Bekkali (BEL), who was third in the ranking after his second place in Singapore two weeks before, did not join the World Cup final and therefore had to fear for his medal rank.

Finally on this sunny day track record holder Juan Pablo Rangel (COL) clocked his 4<sup>th</sup> win in a time of 4:44.1. Frank Nicolas Carreno became runner-up for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in a row (4:58.5) and Nicolas Herrera finished third (5:11.7) so in the end again all six podium places went to the Colombian hosts and the international elite athletes must wait another year for the first top 3 result on the maybe hardest 980 stairs in the world.

Best foreign athlete became Bartosz Swiatkowski (POL) on the 9<sup>th</sup> position (5:33.4). Although giving everything and being completely exhausted after the race this place did not bring him enough points to secure a World Cup medal. In the end he missed the required 5<sup>th</sup> rank by just 6 seconds so once more a few seconds in the last one of 157 races counting towards the World Cup ranking made the difference between the chance on a medal and the 6<sup>th</sup> position, which finally remained for Swiatkowski – another bitter decision for the Polish Towerrunner, who already had the misfortune to lose the victory at this year's Masters Race in Prague by 0.05 seconds (against compatriot Lobodzinski). The situation of Swiatkowski strikingly reminds us of Lobodzinski's Bogota race in 2011, where he missed the World Cup bronze medal by 6.8 seconds. This year things went better for him. Despite again being without a chance and finishing 17<sup>th</sup> in Torre Colpatria Lobodzinski could celebrate his first silver medal (1001.0 points) behind defending and new Towerrunning World Cup champion Thomas Dold.



Not only Dold, another German had a reason to celebrate too: Christian Riedl (GER) became 12<sup>th</sup> in Bogota (5:42.7). With a total of 961.2 World Cup points he finished the season on the bronze medal rank – with a razor-thin edge over Omar Bekkali (954.0) and Tomas Celko (948.0), who was not able to improve his score in Bogota with his 22<sup>nd</sup> rank. Fabio Ruga became 16<sup>th</sup> in Bogota and 7<sup>th</sup> in the World Cup ranking.

## Towerrunning World Cup



Besides the World Cup athletes and Colombian elite runners thousands of children and amateur runners accepted the challenge to climb Torre Colpatria and thereby raised funds for Operacion Sónrisa, the leading global foundation to provide surgery to children with cleft lip and palate, facial tumors or burns. It was a logistical masterpiece of the race organizers to manage an event with so many climbers and to provide fair and safe conditions for everyone. Additionally there was a lot of supporting programme for athletes, visitors and the press.



The exciting race day in Bogota was terminated in the spotlight of the media, when the coveted trophies and medals of the Towerrunning World Cup 2012 were handed out to the champions. In the end everyone agreed, that Carrera Ascenso Torre Colpatria once more was a worthy final for a great Towerrunning season - a season with almost 200 events in 27 countries attracting about 105,000 participants from 54 nations.

Further information, the World Cup rankings and season statistics are provided at [www.towerrunning.com](http://www.towerrunning.com).

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### Towerrunning World Cup 2012 – Top 10

Towerrunning World Cup 2012				World Cup Points
Male Athletes				
01	Thomas Dold	GER		1158,0
02	Piotr Lobodzinski	POL		1001,0
03	Christian Riedl	GER		961,2
04	Omar Bekkali	BEL		954,0
05	Tomas Celko	SVK		948,0
06	Bartosz Swiatkowski	POL		927,5
07	Fabio Ruga	ITA		923,0
08	Jesse Berg	USA		834,0
09	Norbert Lechner	AUT		781,0
10	Justin Stewart	USA		675,0



## Towerrunning World Cup 2012



### Female Athletes

World Cup  
Points

01	Suzanne Walsham	AUS		1380,0
02	Kristin Frey	USA		1138,0
03	Cristina Bonacina	ITA		884,0
04	Cindy Harris	USA		798,0
05	Valentina Belotti	ITA		670,0
06	Kourtney Dexter	USA		591,6
07	Melissa Moon	NZL		570,0
08	Marie-Fee Breyer	GER		556,0
09	Katarina Schwartz	SVK		506,7
10	Roxanne Sanchez	USA		447,6

## Towerrunning World Cup 2012



















### Nations Cup

World Cup  
Points

01	Germany	GER		3111,0
02	United States of America	USA		2841,4
03	Italy	ITA		2645,0
04	Australia	AUS		2392,0
05	Poland	POL		2296,0
06	Austria	AUT		1968,1
07	Czech Republic	CZE		1899,0
08	Slovakia	SVK		1326,7
09	Colombia	COL		1200,0
10	Spain	ESP		1161,9

## Race Results Bogota – Male Athletes

Male				World Cup Points	Time	Difference
01	Juan Pablo Rangel	COL		200,0	04:44,1	Winner
02	Frank Nicolas Carreno	COL		170,0	04:58,5	00:14,3
03	Nicolas Herrera	COL		150,0	05:11,7	00:27,5
04	Oscar Nayith Moreno	COL		135,0	05:22,2	00:38,0
05	Franklin Saenz	COL		120,0	05:27,4	00:43,3
06	William Yossa	COL		110,0	05:29,1	00:45,0
07	Mario Alberto Rojas	COL		100,0	05:30,5	00:46,3
08	Miguel Angel Rubiano	COL		90,0	05:31,8	00:47,7
09	Bartosz Swiatkowski	POL		82,5	05:33,4	00:49,3
10	Josep Farfan Piraneque	COL		75,0	05:35,0	00:50,8
11	Duvenilson Sanchez	COL		67,5	05:40,3	00:56,1
12	Christian Riedl	GER		60,0	05:42,7	00:58,5
13	Camilo Camargo	COL		55,0	05:48,0	01:03,8
14	Jacinto Lopez	COL		50,0	05:50,9	01:06,7
15	Oscar Alejandro Aguilar	COL		45,0	05:59,0	01:14,8
16	Fabio Ruga	ITA		40,0	06:00,4	01:16,2
17	Piotr Lobodzinski	POL		35,0	06:04,1	01:20,0
18	Nilson Gonzalez	COL		32,5	06:08,5	01:24,3
19	Francisco Sanchez	COL		30,0	06:09,4	01:25,2
20	Fredy Espinosa	COL		27,5	06:10,4	01:26,2
21	Luis Armando Castro	COL		25,0	06:11,8	01:27,6
22	Tomas Celko	SVK		22,5	06:13,1	01:29,0
23	Raul Montana	COL		20,0	06:51,9	02:07,7
24	Alexander Riano	COL		17,5	06:57,1	02:12,9
25	Troy Alston	USA		15,0	08:16,2	03:32,1
26	Oscar Lesmes	COL		12,5	08:21,9	03:37,7
27	James Harris	USA		10,0	09:35,2	04:51,0
28	Luis Eduardo Diaz Lopez	COL		7,5	Open Category	Rank 1
29	Saul Antonio Rodriguez	COL		5,0	Open Category	Rank 2
30	Pedro Suarez Romero	COL		2,5	Open Category	Rank 3

## Race Results Bogota – Female Athletes

Female				World Cup Points	Time	Difference
01	Blanca Liliana Moreno	COL		200,0	06:14,0	Winner
02	Maria Eugenia Rodriguez	COL		170,0	06:27,0	00:13,0
03	Angela Figueroa	COL		150,0	06:38,8	00:24,8
04	Angie Orjuela	COL		135,0	06:40,1	00:26,1
05	Laura Lozano	COL		120,0	06:41,3	00:27,3
06	Suzanne Walsham	AUS		110,0	06:47,0	00:33,0
07	Cindy Harris	USA		100,0	07:15,4	01:01,4
08	Samanta Guerrero	COL		90,0	07:17,3	01:03,3
09	Yisel Rengifo	COL		82,5	07:18,1	01:04,1
10	Martha Ronceria	COL		75,0	08:13,9	01:59,9
11	Patricia Mojica Gonzalez	COL		67,5	Open Category	Rank 1
12	Angela Parra Sierra	COL		60,0	Open Category	Rank 2
13	Maria Irene Prieto	COL		55,0	Open Category	Rank 3
14	Maritza	COL		50,0	Open Category	Rank 4
15	Carolina Perez Garcia	COL		45,0	Open Category	Rank 5
16	Ana Milena Orjuel Sache	COL		40,0	Open Category	Rank 6
17	Irene Lopez Corredor	COL		35,0	Open Category	Rank 7
18	Miriam Barbosa	COL		32,5	Open Category	Rank 8
19	Bibiana Gonzales B	COL		30,0	Open Category	Rank 9
20	Brisa Maria Segura	COL		27,5	Open Category	Rank 10
21	Salome C. Campos Sarmiento	COL		25,0	Open Category	Rank 11
22	Mile Yohana Rojas Rojas	COL		22,5	Open Category	Rank 12
23	Yenny Sanin	COL		20,0	Open Category	Rank 13
24	Lucia Torres	COL		17,5	Open Category	Rank 14
25	Jacqueline Castri Rodriguez	COL		15,0	Open Category	Rank 15
26	Maria Elena Espinoza	COL		12,5	Open Category	Rank 16
27	Yamile Rivera Romero	COL		10,0	Open Category	Rank 17
28	Patricia Sarmiento Garzon	COL		7,5	Open Category	Rank 18
29	Alicia del C. Rodriguez Quijano	COL		5,0	Open Category	Rank 19
30	Maria Paula Puentes Castillo	COL		2,5	Open Category	Rank 20