



## UCI Mountain Bike World Championships MTB - Championnats du Monde UCI

Sierra Nevada, ESP - 3-11.6.2000



### Spain Wins Team Relay World Championship

For the second year in a row, Spain won the team relay race on Wednesday afternoon, coming from 8th place to the front of the race and giving the Spanish crowd an early treat at these World Championships.

In its second year as an official World Championship event, the Team Relay was held on the cross-country course Wednesday, as the first event of the championships. The relay is a four lap race around the XC course where nations field teams in a tag-team format. Each team consists of at least one woman, and riders from each racing category - from juniors to seniors. As one rider comes into a transition area, he or she hands off an armband to the next rider.

Racing began at 1:00pm and quickly showed the three strongest teams as *Italy*, *Canada* and *France*. But nearly every team had one problem or the other, so the order changed often. First the *Spanish* team had trouble in the very beginning of the race when **Roberto Lezaun** (ESP) dropped to last position, giving his team much ground to make up.

Then in the third lap the *Canadians*, who were leading, fell back to 13th place, due to **Jamie Douglas** having a rear derailleur problem. This opened the door for Italy, who had been running in second position, *Switzerland* behind them. Current World Champion **Marga Fullana** (ESP) rode her lap and kept her team in the running.



Hermida - ESP



In lap three Italy took over the lead, with Spain one and a half minutes behind, with two excellent riders going for the win. **Paola Pezzo** (ITA) was riding the anchor leg for Italy, while Spain's anchorman was **Jose Antonio Hermida** (ESP).

In the final lap Hermida passed Pezzo and arrived a half hour later at the finishline in the lead, giving his team its second-consecutive win in two years. Switzerland, anchored by **Silvio Bundi**, moved into second position in the final lap to win the silver, with Italy capturing the bronze.



Suisse | Espagne | Italia

Rank	Bib	Nation / Pays	Time	Gap
1	1	SPAIN	2:08:14.00	
2	9	SWITZERLAND	2:13:04.00	4:50.00
3	8	ITALY	2:14:17.00	6:03.00
4	19	POLAND	2:15:44.00	7:30.00
5	7	AUSTRALIA	2:16:46.00	8:32.00
6	13	GREAT BRITAIN	2:18:31.00	10:17.00
7	4	USA	2:18:44.00	10:30.00
8	5	GERMANY	2:18:56.00	10:42.00
9	18	RUSSIA	2:19:05.00	10:51.00
10	16	BELGIUM	2:19:09.00	10:55.00
11	20	BRASIL	2:25:37.00	17:23.00
12	3	CANADA	2:26:46.00	18:32.00
13	11	CZECH REPUBLIC	2:29:38.00	21:24.00
	2	FRANCE	DNF	
	21	COLOMBIA	DNF	