

4X#2 : Maribor, SLO : 08-09.06.2002

King and Chausson Win Maribor Four-Cross

Mike King (USA, Haro/Lee Dungarees) and **Anne-Caroline Chausson** (FRA, Volvo-Cannondale) dominated a steep and fast course on the slopes above Maribor, Slovenia Saturday night, winning round two of the **Tissot-UCI Mountain Bike World Cup 4X** competition.



While for Chausson it was her second-straight win, for the veteran rider King it was a sweet confirmation of his speed - against friend and rival **Brian Lopes** (USA, Fox/GT). Crowds were large and enthusiastic at this night-time event, filling the ski slope above the finish line for more than an hour of exciting racing.

The men's event was a large and fast-moving series as usual on this steep hill at Maribor, as 64 riders qualified for the main event. Racing got underway at 8:00 p.m., so riders competed under the bright lights of the ski slope, finishing the track in just over 30 seconds as they attempted to get the best position out of the first turn and thus dominate the run.



Mike King, USA

And King, who has double duty as both 4X racer and team manager of his Haro/Lee Dungarees team, won his first 4X as well as his first world cup in several seasons when he out-maneuvered rival and champion Brian Lopes (USA, Fox/GT) in the first crucial turn.

"The big thing for me is that I beat Brian, whom I've been racing for years," said a happy King afterward. "I knew I was strong out of the gate, and I also knew it would be a drag race. I rested a lot this weekend, and things worked out great."

King, who has raced and won every discipline of the downhill, commented on the new 4X format, saying *"The new format's exciting, and everything went my way. There's lot of action, and three other people to worry about. This course was different, and I ran a full-suspension bike which helped me."*

Fifth-seeded King had his work cut out for himself in the final run, as he went up against third-seeded Lopes - a rival against whom he has raced since they were children. He also had **Steve Peat** (GBR, Royal/Orange) to contend with - along with teammate **Kirt Voreis** (USA, Haro/Lee Dungarees). The four left the gate and things quickly heated up from there. With a long and bumpy straight-away that dropped into a hard, high-banked right hand turn, Maribor's course demanded a strong start and nerves of steel.

"Mike made a good move and we battled into that first turn," said Lopes after he finished second just ahead of Peat. *"He got inside me, then I crashed trying to catch up to him again."* Lopes crashed after drifting too far and losing tire grip on the track, finishing his run with an injured leg for the second week in a row. *"I thought I had him, but he ran a great race,"* said Lopes.



Brian Lopes

Peat, who finished third, called the finals a "war zone," adding *"Brian went down and Kirt came inside of him, but his bike was sideways. I went right over the top of them. I got lucky today, because I was seeing stars during the finals."*

Peat was referring to a crash he had with top-seeding **Cedric Gracia** (FRA, Volvo-Cannondale) in a previous run, where he ran across the finish to advance. With his second-place finish, Lopes retains the Tissot leader's jersey for another week as the series leader.

Words: **Ari Cheren**

Images: **Mark Dawson** www.fattirefotos.com



Lopes | **King** | Peat

Rank	Bib	Code	Surname	Firstname	Team
1	14	USA19690630	KING	Mike	HAROLEEDUNGAREE
2	3	USA19710906	LOPES	Brian	GT BICYCLES
3	4	GBR19740617	PEAT	Steve	
4	7	USA19740531	VOREIS	Kirt	HAROLEEDUNGAREE
5	15	FRA19800826	DELDYCKE	Mickael	FIAT ROTWILD
6	10	GBR19741120	LONGDEN	Will	
7	6	GBR19711006	HOLMES	Dale	
8	2	AUS19740530	BOOTES	Wade	TREK VOLKSWAGEN
9	16	GBR19780602	BEAUMONT	Scott	
10	24	GBR19720201	PAGE	Nigel	
11	130	NZL19760430	KIRCALDIE	John	
12	36	JPN19760413	TAKAMATSU	Kenji	
13	1	FRA19780323	GRACIA	Cedric	VOLVO-CANNONDAL
14	17	AUS19810531	RENNIE	Nathan	
15	5	CZE19810401	PROKOP	Michal	TEAM BE ONE
16	31	AUS19771105	MCCARROLL	Sean	GLOBAL RACING
17	19	GER19760514	TSCHUGG	Guido	
18	11	FRA19750110	AMOUR	Karim	
19	12	SVK19820410	POLC	Filip	
20	132	CZE19810425	VAGNER	Adam	
21	54	ESP19760604	OULEGO MORENO	Ivan	
22	41	CZE19780316	HYNCICA	Vlastimil	
23	48	NED19720125	VAN DE HATERD	Wilfred	
24	85	SLO19830916	NOVAK	Luka	
25	9	CZE19780529	MAROSI	Michal	
26	26	CZE19850705	TATARKOVIC	Kamil	
27	27	FRA19730717	JANY	Stephane	
28	42	CZE19840828	MATUS	Filip	
29	46	GER19781225	SCHATZKI	David	
30	92	GER 19810626	TSCHUG	Arne	
31	70	NOR19811220	HANSEN	Trond	
32	29	JPN19800422	IDEGAWA	Naoki	GLOBAL RACING
33	93	SLO19821104	VAUH	Miran	
34	35	BRA19800209	BERCHTOLD	Markolf	GLOBAL RACING
35	22	GBR19810310	WARDELL	Dave	
36	53	SWE19771031	SJOBLOM	Frans	
37	51	USA19730705	EBBETT	Kyle	
38	87	AUT19740801	HWANG	Johannes	
39	135	GER 19850306	BAHLO	Derek	
40	82	CZE 19851126	CHARVAT	Matej	
41	64	SVK19771119	CILLIK	Filip	
42	91	GER 19800220	SCHAUMBURG	Enrico	
43	50	BEL19770608	DEFERM	Stijn	
44	63	ROU19850316	PARAU	Sorin	
45	115	GER19810206	SCHELL	Mathias	
46	94	GER 19830927	SEIDEL	Nico	
47	38	BEL19830209	LENSSENS	Kristof	
48	84	CZE 19831108	HOFEREK	Martin	
49	13	GER19780620	MEYENBORG	Sascha	
50	83	FRA19780106	FALCO	Carmine	
51	25	ESP19820930	GUARDIA PASCUAL	Bernat	MAXXIS-MSC
52	45	GER19770808	KLAUSMANN	Marcus	
53	75	GER19801021	GOINY	Nathaniel	
54	117	ESP19791001	GONZALEZ SALVADOR	Roger	
55	55	GER19830421	AUERSWALD	Daniel	
56	49	AUT19750504	LAGLER	Roman	
57	37	BEL19830323	VINK	Nico	
58	120	ESP19840915	CANALS FLIX	Pascual	

59	96	GER 19810813	ULRICH	Christoph	
60	68	SUI19831031	ZBINDEN	Samuel	
61	66	SUI19841205	HUNZIKER	Ramon	
62	60	JPN19740314	TADA	Nobuyuki	
63	30	FIN19791019	MIETTLNEN	Kalle	
64	81	AUT19820718	ENGEL	Georg	
65	78	FIN19820207	LEHTINEN	Eino	
66	67	ROU19830716	KINDA	Geza	
67	59	GER19820804	ANGERER	Leander	
68	77	AUT19820513	DOBLER	Daniel	
69	88	SLO19760624	ERZEN	Simon	
70	134	GER 19850127	MUSALL	Alexander	
71	72	AUT19810426	JIRSAK	Ernst	
72	79	SLO19720510	ZAJEC	Gorazd	
73	39	AUT19800927	FAHRGRUBER	Robert	
74	69	SUI19840330	SCHURTER	Mario	
75	90	SLO19830424	LOGAR	Jure	
76	71	FIN19770417	HANHILAHTI	Antti	
77	21	USA19821113	NOBLE	Caile	
78	119	SLO19780114	GORENC	Dejan	
79	61	GER19850429	SCHAFER	Thomas	
80	131	ESP19810629	ECHEVARRIA	Javier	
81	18	AUS19780301	KOVARIK	Christopher	
82	40	AUT19800707	BUBLA	Thomas	
83	103	SLO19760727	HRAST	Iztok	
84	8	NED19680416	DE BEVER	Bas	TEAM BE ONE
85	20	RSA19811113	MINNAAR	Greg	GLOBAL RACING
86	23	GBR19820125	ATHERTON	Daniel	
87	28	GBR19850226	ATHERTON	George	
88	34	GBR19821017	THOMSON	Stuart	
89	43	AUS19831121	HANNAH	Mick	HAROLEEDUNGAREE
90	52	SVK19820516	KOZAR	Milan	
91	73	GER19740521	ZOELLNER	Heiko	
92	74	NOR19800807	JOHNSEN	Espen	
93	116	SUI19810829	SCHWEGLER	Tomas	
94	118	GER19640213	HERRMANN	Stefan	
95	121	USA19840901	BEYTAGH	Gerrit	
96	133	CRO19750120	ANTIC	Nino	