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.

no better than second, while Jonnier finished third and Llanes 4th.



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.

A small, but fast and elite, women's field took to the 4X course in this second running of the new four-person format. Current

World Dual Champion Chausson qualified fastest, followed by former champion **Katrina Miller** (AUS, Jamis) and **Tara Llanes** (USA, Yeti/Pearl Izumi). Former world cup winner **Sabrina Jonnier** (FRA, Intense Cycles) qualified 4th-fastest.

The first heat held the most action, when **Melissa Buhl** (USA) made an inside move on **Fionn Griffiths** (GBR, Ancillotti) down a fast and bumpy section, but both riders crashed onto the dirt. Griffiths was the first to get back on her bike and continue to the finish, taking second place and moving into the Semi-Final 1. She and **Vanessa Quin** (NZL, Intense) were subsequently beaten by Chausson and Jonnier, moving them to the small final.

In that small final **Celine Gros** (FRA, Morzine Avoriaz) beat Quin and Griffiths - along with **April Lawyer** (USA, Maxxis), who had come from the Semi-Final 2.



Chausson | Miller

Then it was time for the showdown of the four-fastest women. Chausson had the inside lane and used it to her advantage, taking an early lead and fending off the other women by seconds. Miller made a strong run of it but could do With her second-straight win, Chausson retains the Tissot 4X leader's jersey for another week.

Words: Ari Cheren

Images: Mark Dawson www.fattirefotos.com



Rank	Bib	Code	Surname	Firstname	Team
1	1	FRA19771008	CHAUSSON	Anne-Caroline	VOLVO-CANNONDAL
2	5	AUS19750915	MILLER	Katrina	
3	2	FRA19810819	JONNIER	Sabrina	
4	4	USA19761128	LLANES	Tara	
5	3	FRA19830128	GROS	Celine	MORZINE-AVORIAZ
6	20	NZL19761015	QUIN	Vanessa	
7	10	GBR19820827	GRIFFITHS	Fionn	
8	16	USA19750401	LAWYER	April	
9	6	USA19820125	BUHL	Melissa	
10	9	ECU19840319	MARGGRAFF	Diana	
11	11	GER19790228	GRANZOW	Sonja	
12	13	AUT19830811	FRUHWIRTH	Helene	