

MTB World Cup DH 4X #1 - CDM

Vigo, Spain, May 11-13, 2007

May 12: 4X Elite men final

Gee, what a race!

Cyclingnews.com - By Greg Johnson

British rider Gee Atherton made the most of his rivals' misfortune to take an impressive victory in the Elite Men's 4X final. The Animal Commencal team rider used the simplest of tactics, which his world champion rivals couldn't replicate, to win the event: that tactic was to stay upright.

The pace was hot from the get-go, with Atherton bursting into the lead by the first corner with multiple world champion Brian Lopes and reigning world champion Michael Prokop close behind. Some 20,000 spectators turned out for the event at Vigo's spectacular new 4X circuit and the riders didn't fail to impress, putting on a nail biting and crash-ridden final.

"The circuit is very fast and, because of that, there were too many falls," said eventual winner Atherton. "To gain, I took advantage of Michal Prokop's error in the final."



Great Britain's Gee Atherton (Animal Commencal)
Photo ©: Frank Bodenmuller

Prokop ended any hopes he held of winning the event after a spectacular fall from grace which saw the Czech Republican rider hit the ground after miscalculating a jump. He wasn't the only lead rider to bite the dust, with American Lopes also feeling gravity's effect in full force in a spectacular multi-rider tumble. The duo recovered to finished third and second respectively.

"I jumped too long and I could not control the fall," explained Prokop of his incident.



American Brian Lopes goes down hard...
Photo ©: Frank Bodenmuller

Gravity Group's Netherlands rider Joost Wichman was the four rider across the line.

After being the second quickest qualifier for the event, Australia's Jared Graves finished one step off the podium in sixth place. Top qualifier Dan Atherton (Animal Commencal) couldn't carry his opening form into a strong final result and finished the event in 13th place.



France's Aurelien Giordanengo showed off
Photo ©: Frank Bodenmuller

Results

- 1 Gee Atherton (GBr) Animal Commencal
- 2 Brian Lopes (USA)
- 3 Michal Prokop (Cze)
- 4 Joost Wichman (Ned) Gravity Group
- 5 Romain Saladini (Fra)
- 6 Jared Graves (Aus)
- 7 Roger Rinderknecht (Swi)
- 8 Will Longden (GBr) Team Mbuk Santacruz
- 9 Johannes Fischbach (Ger) Ghost International Racing Team
- 10 Sidney Gerber (Swi)
- 11 Michael Hannah (Aus) Cannondale The Cut
- 12 Dominik Gspan (Swi)
- 13 Dan Atherton (GBr) Animal Commencal
- 14 Kamil Tatarkovic (Cze) Kona Les Gets
- 15 Guido Tschugg (Ger) Ssangyong-Fusion Pro Team
- 16 Tomas Slavik (Cze)
- 17 Filip Polc (Svk) Gravity Group
- 18 Jurg Meijer (Ned) Dolphin Bike Team
- 19 Scott Beaumont (GBr) Rocky Mountain Uk
- 20 Camille Beaulieu (Fra)
- 21 Daniel Auerswald (Ger)
- 22 William Evans (GBr)
- 23 Borja Carrasco Morera (Spa)
- 24 Lewis Lacey (GBr)
- 25 Aurelien Giordanengo (Fra)
- 26 Adrian Kiener (Swi)
- 27 Martin Ogden (GBr) Stendec Racing
- 28 Daniel Yeomans (GBr)
- 29 Robin Wallner (Swe)
- 30 Carmine Falco (Fra)
- 31 Antonio Ferreiro Pajuelo (Spa) Massi
- 32 Rafael Alvarez De Lara Lu (Spa)
- 33 Greg Minnaar (RSA) Team G-Cross Honda
- 34 Lukas Mechura (Cze)
- 35 Christopher Van Dine (USA) Cannondale The Cut
- 36 Duncan Ferris (GBr)
- 37 Luke Strom (Aus) Ssangyong-Fusion Pro Team
- 38 Premek Tajchman (Cze)
- 40 Jordan Gould (GBr) Stendec Racing
- 41 Mario Sieder (Aut)
- 42 Thomas Warmuth (Aut) Team Hotec / Rsp
- 43 Bostjan Volf (Slo) Arb? Rsp Downhill Racing Team
- 44 Patricio Herrero Dura (Spa)
- 45 Nicolas Gspan (Swi)
- 46 Daniel Prijskel (Ned)
- 47 Sascha Meyenborg (Ger)
- 48 Nathan Rennie (Aus) Santa Cruz Syndicate
- 49 Dave Wardell (GBr) Gt / Burgtec
- 50 Georg Engel (Aut)
- 51 Dimitri Jeziorek (Fra)
- 52 Stephen Taylor (GBr) Stendec Racing
- 53 James Norton (GBr) Stendec Racing
- 54 Guido Dracone (Ita)
- 56 Richard Cunynghame (GBr) Mtb-Direct.Co.Uk
- 58 Andrew Neethling (RSA)
- 59 Cole Bangert (USA)
- 60 Peter Fernbach (Aut) Arb? Rsp Downhill Racing Team
- 61 Jesus Castellanos Torres (Spa)
- DNF Cedric Gracia (Fra)