

MTB World Cup DH #1 - CDM

Maribor, Slovenia, May 9-11, 2008

May 10: 4X Finals, New Names Dominate

By Luke Webber – www.cyclingnews.com

As predicted, with team changes and star riders missing it was a case of learning the new names in the four cross this evening at the first round of the World Cup in 2008.

The Maribor track was very dry, made up of dust and rocks producing a very difficult surface to race on. With a lot of braking points, the track became cut up and looser as the race went on and for many, bad luck dictated an early exit from the competition.

From the gate, the track went into a series of jumps, a left turn and then a right. It was this last opening turn that ended the hopes for many riders as everyone accelerated frantically to have any chance of making the triple that followed. In practice, fastest qualifier Dan Atherton looked fast as he dialled the outside line on one bend with immense speed. However, in heat one he had to come from dead last to squeak through into round two. Unfortunately, there would be no rerun in this heat and a bad first third of the race made any comeback impossible.



Alvares takes his first
Photo: Luke Webber

It was left to Cedric Gracia, Romain Saladini and Guido Tschugg in the two semi finals to hold the old guard strong, but only Tschugg could advance to the final leaving Gracia to claim the small event.

Just as in every heat that came before, Rafael Alvarez dominated the finals to take a convincing win ahead of Tschugg. Johannes Fischbach was third and Tomas Slavik fourth.

The women's races were less of a new-names affair, with three of the top four qualifiers making it to the final, but there was the notable absence of Jill Kintner. She is concentrating on the Olympic BMX, which left the door wide open for Anneke Beerten to squeeze through. In the past three years Beerten has always been competitive even beating Kintner on occasions but it was consistency at the very top level that defied her. Today however, she looked like the new winning face of fourcross.

Second place was something of a surprise Anita Molcik put in three solid rides and in the process confirmed second step on the box ahead of the far more experienced Fionn Griffiths and Melissa Buhl.

Tomorrow is the first World Cup Downhill race and everyone's eyes are on Sam Hill.

Results

Elite men

Big final

1	Lara De Alvarez (Spa)	Lu Rafael	250 pts
2	Guido Tschugg (Ger)		200
3	Johannes Fischbach (Ger)	Team Ghost International	150
4	Tomas Slavik (Cze)		120

Small final

5	Cedric Gracia (Fra)	Commencal - Furious	100 pts
6	Romain Saladini (Fra)	Team Sunn	80
7	Mickael Deldycke (Fra)		60
8	Jurg Meijer (Ned)		50

1/4 finals

9	Kamil Tatarkovic (Cze)	Suzuki-Rb	0.53.40
10	Tomas Haluza (Cze)		0.55.67
11	Dave Wardell (GBr)		0.55.77
12	Sidney Gerber (Swi)		0.56.68

13 Filip Polc (Svk) Kenda Tomac	0.54.20
14 William Evans (GBr)	0.56.58
15 Miroslav Jirka (Cze)	0.56.97
16 Livio Zampieri (Ita)	0.55.20

1/8 finals

17 Dan Atherton (GBr) Animal Commencal	0.52.35
18 Ross Milan (USA) Yeti Fox Shox	0.53.69
19 Tilen Frank (Slo) Team Scott Lactat	0.54.70
20 Lewis Lacey (GBr)	0.55.51
21 Lukas Mechura (Cze)	0.55.96
22 Matthew Simmonds (GBr) Chain Reaction Cycle	0.56.22
23 Luka Novak (Slo) Team Enduro Mulisha	0.56.71
24 Bernard Kerr (GBr)	0.57.91
25 Joost Wichman (Ned) Cannondale Factory Racing	0.54.26
26 Dominik Gspan (Swi)	0.55.35
27 Scott Beaumont (GBr) Rocky Mountain Uk	0.55.44
28 Nathan Rennie (Aus) Santa Cruz Syndicate	0.55.48
29 Radim Kvacek (Cze)	0.55.68
30 Premek Tejchman (Cze)	0.55.98
31 Markus Sedlak (Aut)	0.56.51
32 Federico Ravizzini (Ita)	0.57.93

1/16 finals

33 Brian Lopes (USA)	0.54.20
34 Matej Stapic (Slo) Team Enduro Mulisha	0.55.70
35 Mathieu Fauray (Fra)	0.55.72
36 Robert Michael Haderer (USA)	0.55.75
37 Sascha Meyenborg (Ger)	0.55.97
38 Thomas Schöfer (Ger)	0.56.11
39 Rastislav Pirman (Svk)	0.56.32
40 Jakub Pytlik (Cze)	0.56.43
41 Peter Prajczner (Hun)	0.56.61
42 Gabor Vigh-Kiss (Hun)	0.56.74
43 Adrian Kiener (Swi)	0.56.89
44 Patrick Campbell-Jenner (GBr)	0.56.91
45 Marek Pesko (Svk)	0.57.02
46 Nicolas Siedl (Aut)	0.57.06
47 Thomas Warmuth (Aut)	0.57.07
48 Mattia Federico Gemme (Ita)	0.57.29
49 Joey Van Veghel (Ned)	0.57.30
50 Daniel Prijskel (Ned)	0.57.66
51 Peter Novacic (Svk)	0.57.73
52 Adrian Weiss (Swi) Tomac Factory Racing	0.57.78
53 Sascha Vetsch (Swi)	0.57.84
54 Zdenek Nasinec (Cze)	0.57.86
55 Frederic Lange (Bel)	0.58.04
56 Lukasz Baran (Pol)	0.58.48
57 Nicolas Gspan (Swi)	0.58.60
58 Alejandro Lozano (Spa) Motril-Sierra Nevada Bike	0.55.73
59 Hannes Slavik (Aut)	0.57.97
60 Peter Fernbach (Aut)	0.58.18
61 Matej Vitko (Svk)	0.54.87
62 Martin Frei (Swi)	0.57.33
63 Ales Rogozan (Cze)	0.57.38
64 Will Longden (GBr) Team Bike Radar	0.55.74