

MTB World Cup XC #6 & DH #4 - CDM
Mont Sainte Anne, Canada, July 25-27, 2008

July 26: Elite men 4X

World champion Alvarez de Lara Lu rides smoothly to victory

By Sue George in Mont-Sainte-Anne, Québec – cyclingnews.com

Under threatening skies that didn't deliver any more rain on an already saturated course, World Champion Rafael Alvarez de Lara Lu made it look easy. Clad in his rainbow striped jersey, he won every round on his way to victory in the big final, and celebrated many of them by crossing the line doing a nose-wheelie. Romain Saladini (Team Sunn), Guido Tschugg and Cedric Gracia rounded out the top four.

"It was an easy race as I was first through each round," said Saladini through a translator after his final run. Saladini was all smiles after his race and he said he was not nervous for his first World Cup appearance since winning the World Championships just over one month ago. "I tried to race as if it was the same as any other race. It wasn't any different."



World Champion Rafael Alvarez De Lara Lu
Photo ©: Dave McElwaine

Behind Alvarez de Lara Lu was a chasing Romain Saladini (Team Sunn). The Frenchman was content after his race, his first back after breaking a finger at the Fort William round of the World Cup in early June. "It was smooth for me," said Frenchman Saladini. "I didn't see the crash."

Neither he nor Alvarez de Lara Lu knew what was going on in their wake, where Tschugg and Gracia tangled.



Romain Saladini (Team Sunn)
Photo ©: Dave McElwaine

"My start was not perfect, and I wanted to go directly to the inside but the right side was a little faster, so I had to brake a little," said Tschugg. "I was thinking 'ok' and 'check the lines of the other guys' as I was in fourth."

"I wanted to go inside of Gracia and my front wheel slipped out and I crashed with Gracia," said Tschugg. "We both went down."

Tschugg got up and rode to the finish into third, while Gracia had a longer journey down to the finish after taco-ing his wheel. He crossed the line to cheers of the waiting crowd.

Despite plenty of rain in the days before, which postponed the qualifications until Saturday, the same day as the final, the course was riding well thanks to an army of people deployed by organizers to repair the course Saturday morning.

"The track in the days before was challenging due to the rain, but today it was perfect," said Alvarez de Lara Lu.

Results

1	Rafael Alvarez De Lara Lucas (Spa)	0.42.78
2	Romain Saladini (Fra) Team Sunn	0.00.27
3	Guido Tschugg (Ger)	0.00.20
4	Gracia Cedric (Fra) Commencal - Furious - Oakley Team	0.01.83
5	Kamil Tatarkovic (Cze) Suzuki-RB	0.01.04
6	Dan Atherton (GBr) Animal Commencal	0.01.99
7	Filip Polc (Svk) Kenda Tomac	0.02.44
8	Tomas Slavik (Cze)	0.01.25
9	Sascha Meyenborg (Ger)	0.01.73
10	Fabien Cousinie (Fra)	0.02.40
11	Thomas Tokarczyk (USA)	0.03.03
12	Jurg Meijer (Ned)	0.15.49
13	Joey Van Veghel (Ned)	0.02.11
14	Ludovic Gadois (Fra)	0.03.17
15	Michael Garcia (Ned)	0.05.11
16	Adrian Weiss (Swi) Tomac Factory Racing	0.09.13
17	Joost Wichman (Ned)	0.01.20
18	Cody Eichhorn (Aus)	0.03.17
19	Bruno Boissin (Fra)	0.03.41
20	Scott Roberts (GBr)	0.03.60
21	Michael Robert Haderer (USA)	0.03.89
22	Dominik Gspan (Swi)	0.03.98
23	Heikki Hall (USA)	0.05.11
24	Scott Beaumont (GBr)	0.09.65
25	Johannes Fischbach (Ger)	0.01.58
26	Lewis Lacey (GBr)	0.02.68
27	Erik Nelson (USA)	0.03.69
28	George Stephenson (USA)	0.03.87
29	Nicolas Gspan (Swi)	0.05.00
30	Adrian Hanko (Ger)	0.07.18

Teams

1	MS-Intense Factory-Racing	50 pts
2	Team Sunn	35
3	Commencal - Furious - Oakley Team	26
4	Norco World Team	25
5	Suzuki-Rb	22
6	Animal Commencal	20
7	Kenda Tomac	18
8	4 Elements Yeti/Hotec/RSP	15
9	Tomac Factory Racing	5