

MTB World Cup DH & 4X #4 - CDM

Fort William, Scotland, Great Britain, June 5-7, 2009

June 6: Elite men four cross

Graves repeats in Fort William and extends World Cup lead

By Rob Jones in Fort William – www.cyclingnews.com

Round four of the men's four cross in Fort William, Scotland saw all of the top-eight qualifiers except Graves knocked out before the medal final, most victims of poor starts and few passing opportunities after the first corner.

After a third in the previous World Cup round broke his winning streak, Graves made it clear that it wasn't going to happen again here in Fort William, where he is the defending champion. The Australian won all of his heats leading up to the final convincingly, and left nothing to chance in the final, leading out of the first straight and easily holding off Romain Saladini (Team Sunn) in the final.

"Graves is still too strong for me," said Saladini, "especially in the first straight, but I'm just happy to finally make the finals for the first time this season."



Jared Graves, Lukas Mechura and Johannes Fischbach
Photo ©: Rob Jones



Men's podium
Photo ©: Rob Jones

Graves had qualified third, behind round three winner Joost Wichman (Netherlands) and Roger Rinderknecht (GT Bicycles), however, Wichman was knocked out in the quarter finals, and Rinderknecht in the semi finals, leaving Graves the only one of the top eight qualifiers to make it to the medal round. Lukas Mechura (Chain Reaction/Intense) and Jurg Meijer (Netherlands) were the other riders to make the final, finishing third and fourth respectively, while former world champion Michale Prokop (Czech Republic) took the fifth podium spot after winning the consolation race.

"I'm really, really happy to win here, to be back at the top after losing out in Vallnord [round three]," said Graves. "For me, Fort William is the best World Cup of the series, and to win here for the second year in a row is pretty special."

Graves now holds a commanding lead in the World Cup series standings, with 450 points to second placed Saladini's 240, who is just five points ahead of Rinderknecht.

Results

- 1 Jared Graves (Aus) Yeti Fox Shox Factory Race Team
- 2 Romain Saladini (Fra) Team Sunn
- 3 Lukas Mechura (Cze) Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense
- 4 Jurg Meijer (Ned)
- 5 Michal Prokop (Cze)
- 6 Roger Rinderknecht (Swi) GT Bicycles
- 7 Pascal Seydoux (Swi)
- 8 Rafael Alvarez De Lara Lucas (Spa) Specialized Factory Racing
- 9 Guido Tschugg (Ger) Ghost A.T.G. Pro Team
- 10 Scott Beaumont (GBr) Rocky Mountain UK
- 11 William Evans (GBr)
- 12 Lewis Lacey (GBr) Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense
- 13 Joost Wichman (Ned)
- 14 Dan Atherton (GBr) Animal Commencal
- 15 Johannes Fischbach (Ger) Ghost A.T.G. Pro Team
- 16 Will Longden (GBr)
- 17 Quentin Derbier (Fra)
- 18 Matej Vitko (Svk)
- 19 Sascha Meyenborg (Ger)
- 20 Joey Van Veghel (Ned)
- 21 David Graf (Swi)
- 22 Thomas Schfer (Ger) Solid Aclass Factory Team
- 23 Daniel Yeomans (GBr)
- 24 Patrick Campbell-Jenner (GBr)
- 25 Filip Polc (Svk) MS Evil Racing
- 26 Kamil Tatarkovic (Cze)
- 27 Tom Dowie (GBr)
- 28 Michal Marosi (Cze)
- 29 Dominik Gspan (Swi)
- 30 Ludovic Gadois (Fra) Team Vario Racing
- 31 Bernard Kerr (GBr)
- 32 Werner Muther (Swi)
- 33 Javier Guijarro Villacieros (Spa) XMS-Devinci World Cup Team
- 34 Thomas Tokarczyk (USA)
- 35 Scott Roberts (GBr)
- 36 Petrik Bröckner (Ger)
- 37 Duncan Ferris (GBr)
- 38 Matthieu Fauray (Fra)
- 39 Richard Cunynghame (GBr)
- 40 Sidney Gerber (Swi)
- 41 Martin Frei (Swi)
- 42 Nicolas Gspan (Swi)
- 43 Dave Richardson (GBr)
- 44 Tom Knight (GBr)
- 45 Adrian Weiss (Swi) Scott 11
- 46 James Norton (GBr)
- 47 Bela Thalmann (Ger)
- 48 Kieran Mcavoy (GBr)
- 49 Adrian Kiener (Swi)
- 50 Heikki Hall (USA)
- 51 Ghislain Ricci (Fra)
- 52 Richard Norton (GBr)
- 53 Stefan Scherz (Ger)
- 54 Stephen Simms (GBr)
- 55 Jan Svub (Cze)
- 56 Mark Van Lankveld (Ned)