

MTB World Cup DH & 4X #4 - CDM

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

June 6: Elite women four cross

With win, Kintner takes over World Cup lead

Beerten knocked out before finals

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

Round four of the UCI World Cup for four cross in Fort William, Scotland saw a familiar face back on the top of the podium, as Jill Kintner (Red Bull-Oakley) won before large crowds on the slopes of Ben Nevis. The rain of the night before had also let up, with the sun even peeking out at times.

Both the men and women saw top favourites exit early, as the redesigned track gave few options for passing. In the women's competition, World Cup leader Anneke Beerten (Suspension Center) went out in the semi-final round, missing the final for the first time this season. Beerten won the consolation race, taking the fifth and final spot on the podium, but it wasn't enough to save her World Cup jersey, as Kintner grabbed it with her second win of the season.

"I really wanted to win here," said Kintner. "For me, this is a special course, because I won the world title here [in 2007]."



Women's podium
Photo ©: Rob Jones



Kintner, Caroline Buchanan (Australia), round three winner Fionn Griffiths (Norco World Team) and world champion Melissa Buhl (KHS) made to the final four, with Kintner easily taking the gate and cruising to the win ahead of Buchanan and Griffiths.

The win gave Kintner 270 points to Beerten's 255 in the World Cup standings, with Griffiths the only other rider to crack 200 points at 225.

"I just didn't have enough power in the first straightaway," shrugged Beerten. "I prefer it when the tracks are way steeper and more technical. It's too bad to lose the jersey, but there is still half a season to go, so it isn't over."

Anneke Beerten leads Jana Horakova and Anita Molcik
Photo ©: Rob Jones

Results

- 1 Jill Kintner (USA)
- 2 Caroline Buchanan (Aus)
- 3 Fionn Griffiths (GBr) Norco World Team
- 4 Melissa Buhl (USA)
- 5 Anneke Beerten (Ned) Suspension Center
- 6 Jana Horakova (Cze)
- 7 Anita Molcik (Aut)
- 8 Mio Suemasa (Jpn)
- 9 Rachel Seydoux (Swi)
- 10 Lucia Oetjen (Swi)
- 11 Katy Curd (GBr)
- 12 Steffi Marth (Ger)
- 13 Emmeline Ragot (Fra) Suspension Center
- 14 Joanna Pettersen (RSA)
- 15 Charlie Phillips (GBr)
- 16 Helene Valerie Fruhwirth (Aut)