

MTB World Cup XC #3 & 4X #2 - CDM - CDM

Houffalize, Belgium, May 2-3, 2009

May 2: Elite men four cross

Graves gets Houffalize glory

By Rob Jones in Houffalize – www.cyclingnews.com

The four cross is a new event for the Houffalize World Cup venue, which lived up to its history of providing exciting racing with numerous lead changes and crashes. Jared Graves (Yeti Fox Shox) took his second consecutive win to cement his overall series lead.

With wide open turns, the term "hole shot" meant less than usual. "You could see by the number of crashes that guys were taking chances," said Graves. "There was no one line, which made it very hard to protect a lead, and a fast start wasn't that meaningful."

One rider that was impacted by the crashes was men's UCI World Champion Rafael Alvarez de Lara Lucas (Specialized), who was run into from behind coming out of the first corner by someone trying to cut the corner. His day was over after his front wheel resembled a pretzel following the crash.



Jared Graves was unstoppable
Photo ©: Rob Jones

Despite the mayhem Graves was clearly the class of the men's field, unbeaten through all the rounds, constantly jumping away out of the gate and then holding off late attempts to catch him. By the time the men reached the quarter finals, Graves had a shadow - Dan Atherton (Animal Commencal), who finished second to Graves in the quarterfinals, semifinals and the medal final. Roger Rinderknecht (GT) and Joost Wichman (RSP) rounded out the final four.

Results

- 1 Jared Graves (Aus) Yeti Fox Shox Factory Race Team
- 2 Dan Atherton (GBr) Animal Commencal
- 3 Roger Rinderknecht (Swi) GT Bicycles
- 4 Joost Wichman (Ned)
- 5 Romain Saladini (Fra) Team Sunn
- 6 Mickael Deldycke (Fra)
- 7 Gee Atherton (GBr) Animal Commencal
- 8 Kamil Tatarkovic (Cze)
- 9 Johannes Fischbach (Ger) Ghost A.T.G. Pro Team
- 10 Quentin Derbier (Fra)
- 11 Joey Van Veghel (Ned)
- 12 Lukas Mechura (Cze) Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense
- 13 Michal Prokop (Cze)
- 14 Jurg Meijer (Ned)
- 15 Matej Vitko (Svk)
- 16 Adam Stasek (Cze) Ghost A.T.G. Pro Team
- 17 Dominik Gspan (Swi)
- 18 Lewis Lacey (GBr) Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense
- 19 Matthieu Faury (Fra)
- 20 Florian Gottschlich (Ger)
- 21 Tom Dowie (GBr)
- 22 Daniel Prijkel (Ned)
- 23 Adrian Kiener (Swi)

24 Ludovic Gadois (Fra) Team Vario Racing
 25 David Graf (Swi)
 26 Bernard Kerr (GBr)
 27 William Evans (GBr)
 28 Jakub Riha (Cze)
 29 Will Longden (GBr)
 30 Stefan Scherz (Ger)
 31 Dominik Gladen (Ger)
 32 Oliver Fuhrmann (Ger)
 33 Gracia Cedric (Fra)
 34 Filip Polc (Svk) MS Evil Racing
 35 Duncan Ferris (GBr)
 36 Thomas Schfer (Ger) Solid Aclass Factory Team
 37 Radim Kvacek (Cze)
 38 Lukas Jaeger (Swi)
 39 Sidney Gerber (Swi)
 40 Kevin Locquet (Fra)
 41 Marek Pesko (Svk)
 42 Reto Schmid (Swi)
 43 Scott Roberts (GBr)
 44 Petr Muhlans (Cze)
 45 Jan Ersek (Svk)
 46 Jan Novak (Cze)
 47 Laurent Georges (Bel)
 48 Werner Muther (Swi)
 49 Guido Tschugg (Ger) Ghost A.T.G. Pro Team
 50 Scott Beaumont (GBr) Rocky Mountain UK
 51 Johnny Magis (Bel)
 52 Nico Seidel (Ger) Ghost A.T.G. Pro Team
 53 Aiko Gohler (Ger)
 54 Pascal Seydoux (Swi)
 55 David Axelsson (Swe)
 56 Jeremy Morland (Fra)
 57 Martin Frei (Swi)
 58 Kristof Lenssens (Bel)
 59 Randal Huntington (Aus)
 60 Patrick Campbell-Jenner (GBr)
 61 Ziga Knez (Slo)
 62 Jordan Gould (GBr)
 63 Jens Volker (Ger)
 64 Rafael Alvarez De Lara Lucas (Spa) Specialized Factory Racing

Teams

1 Animal Commencal	53 pts
2 Yeti Fox Shox Factory Race Team	40
3 GT Bicycles	30
4 Suspension Center	30
5 Team Sunn	22
6 Ghost A.T.G. Pro Team	19
7 Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense	9