

MTB World Cup XC, DH & 4X #1 - CDM
Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, April 10-12, 2009

April 11: Elite men four cross
Brave Graves secures series lead

By Rob Jones in Pietermaritzburg – www.cyclingnews.com

Following the cross country spectators immediately moved over to the four cross course to watch the riders prepare for their competition. Over the course of an hour, 32 men were whittled down to four riders for the final.

The two men who appeared to be the strongest were UCI World Champion and defending World Cup champion Rafael Alvarez de Lara Lucas (Specialized Factory Team) and Australian Jared Graves (Yeti Fox Shox Factory), the fastest qualifier. Both easily moved through the heats to reach the final, along with former world champion Michal Prokop of the Czech Republic and Roger Rinderknecht of the Netherlands.



Jared Graves (Yeti Fox Shox) held the final lead
Photo ©: Sven Martin

Alvarez had problems in the first turn of the final, dropping back to third behind Prokop. Graves once again took over the front spot to claim the win and the series leader's jersey for the first time in his career.

"I think my downhill background helped on this course," said Graves. "I like the high speed stuff, so this suited me well. The jersey will certainly drive me in my training for the next World Cup."

Results

- 1 Jared Graves (Aus) Yeti Fox Shox Factory Race Team
- 2 Michal Prokop (Cze)
- 3 Rafael Alvarez De Lara Lucas (Spa) Specialized Factory Racing
- 4 Roger Rinderknecht (Swi)
- 5 Romain Saladini (Fra) Team Sunn
- 6 Cedric Gracia (Fra)
- 7 Scott Beaumont (GBr) Rocky Mountain UK
- 8 Johannes Fischbach (Ger) Ghost A.T.G. Pro Team
- 9 Dan Atherton (GBr) Animal Commencal
- 10 Guido Tschugg (Ger) Ghost A.T.G. Pro Team
- 11 Sascha Meyenborg (Ger)
- 12 Darryn Stow (RSA)
- 13 Joost Wichman (Ned)
- 14 Filip Polc (Svk) MS Evil Racing
- 15 Lukas Mechura (Cze) Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense
- 16 Premek Tejchman (Cze)
- 17 Kamil Tatarkovic (Cze)
- 18 Bernard Kerr (GBr)
- 19 Jordan O'keefe (RSA)
- 20 Jurg Meijer (Ned)
- 21 Dominik Gspan (Swi)
- 22 William Evans (GBr)
- 23 Oliver Jones (RSA)
- 24 Stefan Scherz (Ger)
- 25 Luke Madill (Aus)
- 26 Joey Van Veghel (Ned)
- 27 Lewis Lacey (GBr) Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense
- 28 Nicolas Gspan (Swi)
- 29 Adrian Hanko (Ger)
- 30 Stefan Garlicki (RSA)
- 31 Fabien Cousinie (Fra)
- 32 Adrian Weiss (Swi) Scott 11

Team

1 Suspension Center	50 pts
2 Yeti Fox Shox Factory Race Team	40
3 Norco World Team	30
4 Specialized Factory Racing	30
5 Ghost A.T.G. Pro Team	28
6 Team Sunn	22
7 Rocky Mountain UK	18
8 Animal Commencal	14
9 MS Evil Racing	7
10 Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense	6