

MTB World Cup XC, DH & 4X #1 - CDM

Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, April 10-12, 2009

April 11: Elite women four cross

Showdown fizzles as Beerten takes the bacon

By Rob Jones in Pietermaritzburg – cyclingnews.com

The women's four cross race was expected to come down to the defending UCI World Cup champion Anneke Beerten (Suspension Center) and American Jill Kintner, who had previously dominated women's four cross, before leaving the sport for a year to prepare for and win the Olympic Games bronze medal in BMX. The two had qualified one-two, with Kintner four tenths of a second faster.

However the showdown never materialized, after Kintner had a poor first round and did not move on to the final. Beerten on the other hand easily qualified, and was joined in the final by Fionn Griffiths (Norco World Team), and two Czech riders: Romana Labounkova and Jana Horakova.



Dutch rider Anneke Beerten (Suspension Center)
Photo ©: Sven Martin

Beerten was again well out in front to retain the series leader's jersey, followed by Griffiths and Labounkova.

"Over the last three days I have felt really good on this course, " said Beerten. "I'm sort of bummed that I didn't get to meet Jill [Kintner in the Final], but I'm really stoked that I'll be wearing the jersey in Houffalize [Belgium,], which is almost like wearing it in front of a home crowd."

Results

- 1 Anneke Beerten (Ned) Suspension Center
- 2 Fionn Griffiths (GBr) Norco World Team
- 3 Romana Labounkova (Cze)
- 4 Jana Horakova (Cze)
- 5 Jill Kintner (USA)
- 6 Emmeline Ragot (Fra) Suspension Center
- 7 Melissa Buhl (USA)
- 8 Helene Valerie Fruhwirth (Aut)

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