

MTB World Cup DH & 4X #3 - CDM

Vallnord, Andorra, May 15-17, 2009

May 16: Elite men four cross

Upsets continue as Wichman wins men's final

By Rob Jones – www.cyclingnews.com

Dutch rider Joost Wichman slipped past World Cup leader Jared Graves (Yeti Fox Shox) in the final to claim the round win. Coming off two consecutive wins Graves and Wichman were joined by Australian Luke Madill (GT Bicycles) and Roger Rinderknecht (GT Bicycles) in the final.

Graves had easily won all of his heats up to the final and was in control from the start of the medal race. However he drifted wide after carrying too much speed into the first corner, giving Wichman and Rinderknecht the chance to get through in a tight squeeze at the second corner.

Rinderknecht also made a mistake near the end, opening the door for Madill to get by and then crashing with Graves. Graves managed to outrun Rinderknecht to the line for third.



Joost Wichman rides away
Photo ©: Enric Moran Gimeno



Roger Rinderknecht (GT Bicycles) goes down
Photo ©: Enric Moran Gimeno

"I think that was aggressive enough, wasn't it," said a very excited Wichman. "I think it was a clean move, because I didn't hit him. It was awesome, man! I'm really happy. It was close but a clean move."

Graves was philosophical about his winning streak being broken. "It was getting pretty loose in the corners," he said. "If I can take something positive from the final, I was still third, and Roger fourth, so my points lead grows a bit. But I kind of feel I threw away a gold opportunity a bit, I just drifted in a straight line coming into that first corner, and didn't even get close to recovering my line."

"It was just one of those things," he added. "I'm a disappointed with that, but my lead grows, so that's the main thing."

The men's racing saw world champion Rafael Alvarez de Lara Lucas (Specialized) once again become a victim of a crash, this time in the 1/8 final round. Another favourite Guido Tschugg (Ghost ATG) went out in the quarter finals.

Results

- 1 Joost Wichman (Ned)
- 2 Luke Madill (Aus) GT Bicycles
- 3 Jared Graves (Aus) Yeti Fox Shox Factory Race Team
- 4 Roger Rinderknecht (Svi) GT Bicycles
- 5 Tomas Slavik (Cze)
- 6 Romain Saladini (Fra) Team Sunn
- 7 Filip Polc (Svk) MS Evil Racing
- 8 Jurg Meijer (Ned)
- 9 David Graf (Svi)
- 10 Michal Prokop (Cze)
- 11 Guido Tschugg (Ger) Ghost A.T.G. Pro Team
- 12 Patrick Campbell-Jenner (GBr)
- 13 Michal Marosi (Cze)
- 14 Sascha Meyenborg (Ger)
- 15 Lukas Mechura (Cze) Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense
- 16 Marek Pesko (Svk)
- 17 Mickael Deldycke (Fra)
- 18 Quentin Derbier (Fra)
- 19 Dominik Gspan (Svi)
- 20 Javier Guijarro Villacieros (Spa) XMS-Devinci World Cup Team
- 21 Pascal Seydoux (Svi)
- 22 Florian Gottschlich (Ger)
- 23 Tom Dowie (GBr)
- 24 Felix Beckeman (Swe)
- 25 Kamil Tatarkovic (Cze)
- 26 Rafael Alvarez De Lara Lucas (Spa) Specialized Factory Racing
- 27 Nico Seidel (Ger) Ghost A.T.G. Pro Team
- 28 Martin Frei (Svi)
- 29 Jan Ersek (Svk)
- 30 Ziga Knez (Slo)
- 31 Matej Vitko (Svk)
- 32 Randal Huntington (Aus)
- 33 Matthieu Faury (Fra)
- 34 Lewis Lacey (GBr) Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense
- 35 Rastislav Pirman (Svk)
- 36 Joey Van Veghel (Ned)
- 37 Scott Roberts (GBr)
- 38 William Evans (GBr)
- 39 Duncan Ferris (GBr)
- 40 David Axelsson (Swe)
- 41 Adrian Kiener (Svi)
- 42 Adam Stasek (Cze) Ghost A.T.G. Pro Team
- 43 Adrien Loron (Fra)
- 44 Nicolas Gspan (Svi)
- 45 Bernard Kerr (GBr)
- 46 Peter Prajczar (Hun)
- 47 Ludovic Gadois (Fra) Team Vario Racing
- 48 Borja Carrasco Morera (Spa)
- 49 Thomas SchOfer (Ger) Solid Aclass Factory Team
- 50 Tilen Frank (Slo)
- 51 Francisco Javier Gutierrez Trigo (Spa)
- 52 Vincent Rasera (Fra)
- 53 Adrian Hanko (Ger)
- 54 Ghislain Ricci (Fra)
- 55 Scott Beaumont (GBr) Rocky Mountain UK
- 56 Oskar Harnstrom (Swe)