

## **Venue: Massanutten, VA, USA- DH#5- 5-6 July 1997**

While the women's series is now finely balanced, round five of the Grundig-UCI Mountain Bike World Cup downhill series did nothing to reduce **Corrado Herin's** comfort margin. The 31 year-old Italian, riding for Sintesi Verlicchi, finished eleventh on a course not ideally suited to him, but his lead in the series remained unaltered.

**Steve Peat** (GBR, GT) second overall in the series and a pre-race favourite here went out of contention in the semii-final when he flatted near the top. Another top rider, **Bas De Bever** (NED, VSB Batavus) flatted in the semi-final, putting the onus onto **Juergen Beneke** (GER, Schwinn Toyota) and **Rob Warner** (GBR, Giant) to get the win and thereby put pressure on Herin. Beneke was second today, 0.89 of a second behind winner, **Thomas Misser** (ESP, Volvo-Kona), while Warner, overcooked it a bit and crashed.

Herin now must finish seventh or better in the final at Kaprun to guarantee his overall series win. It would not be a surprise to see World Champion, **Nicolas Vouilloz** (FRA, Sunn-Nike), take the round win at Kaprun. Still on the comeback trail from a broken wrist, and improving in confidence each race, the 21 year-old from the French Riviera took his second consecutive fifth place finish today.

Winner, Tomi Misser, was tearful in his joy at finally winning a race in a season that was turning into a disaster for him. After third place in the opening round, he followed up with a 21st, 31st and 26th. *"One race I had bad luck with the rain, the next it was a chain problem, and then I had a fall - which was my problem... but at the end of it all to have a win is perfect."* Misser won two rounds of the series last year and looked set to win the series, but had a disastrous race in the final at Hawaii and lost the World Cup to Vouilloz.

In a thrilling climax to the women's race, **Leigh Donovan** 26, (USA, Moose) held onto her lead to win ahead of a hard charging **Anne-Caroline Chausson**, 21, (FRA, Sunn-Nike). *"I'm all happy, now I get to go to Kaprun!"* announced Donovan at the finish. Before the race, she had told herself that if she didn't win here, she would miss the final round of the series. **Missy Giove's** third place was not the result she was looking for (*"I shoulda won here,"* said Giove), but the result left her gap to Chausson at five points. The women's series again comes down to a final showdown between Giove and Chausson. Chausson has the finesse, Giove has the character. It will be a thrilling final.

*Downhill final, Kaprun, Austria, 14-15 August 1997.*

**Paul Skilbeck**

**Crowd size:** 5,000.

**Course Length:** 2.93km;

**Vertical Drop:** 353m;

**Slope:** 12% **Course Description:** rocky, woodland trails, fast straights, pedalling section at bottom.

**Technical difficulty:** moderate.

**Weather:** warm, moderately humid; dry.

**Average Speeds:** Men: 39.3kph; Women: 34.8kph

## DSL55 Dual Challenge

**Leigh Donovan** (*Mongoose*) made it a double here today by winning the DSL55 Dual Challenge after a spirited performance by **Tara Llanes** (*Rotec-White Bros*). Donovan did not have it all her own way, and had to delve into her reserves to finish ahead of the young Californian.

**Brian Lopes** (*Mongoose*) flatted in the semi final and had to content himself with third place in an event he would normally win. The final round came down to a close battle between **Rich Houseman** (*Rotec-White Bros*) and Austrian, **Harald Haslinger** (*Heavy Tools*). Houseman had the edge. This course was the conventional lay-out, not the new design as tested at Mont-Sainte-Anne last week.

**Paul Skilbeck**

### Women's DH Results

Pos	Bib	Name	First Name	Nat	Team	WCPTS	Time
1	7	DONOVAN	LEIGH	USA	MONGOOSE	50	: 5:03.01
2	1	CHAUSSON	ANNE-CAROLINE	FRA	SUNN-NIKE	45	: 5:03.62
3	2	GIOVE	MISSY	USA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	40	: 5:07.20
4	3	BRUTSAERT	ELKE	USA	SCHWINN TOYOTA	36	: 5:12.31
5	4	BONAZZI	GIOVANNA	ITA	SINTESI VERLICCH	32	: 5:15.10
6	13	JÖRGENSEN	SARI	SUI	MTB CYCLETECH	29	: 5:15.57
7	5	GONZALEZ	MERCEDES	ESP	TEAM GT	26	: 5:16.42
8	9	SONIER	KIM	USA	VOLVO CANNONDALE	23	: 5:17.23
9	8	STREB	MARLA	USA	MARIN	20	: 5:18.24
10	12	REPO	KATJA	FIN	TUNTURI FINLAND	17	: 5:20.25
11	15	SHER	LISA	USA	NAUTILUS/BARACUD	15	: 5:20.30
12	10	GRANGE	CAROLE	FRA	SCOTT	14	: 5:22.56
13	35	LINDGREN	MALIN	SWE	CYCLEPRO	13	: 5:27.98
14	11	SANER	MARIELLE	SUI	SCOTT INTL	12	: 5:29.16
15	33	VAN MERBEECK	KAREN	GBR	TEAM GIANT UK	11	: 5:36.60
16	29	BROWN	ELLADEE	CAN	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	10	: 5:39.32

17	55	MILLER	MELISSA	USA	ROCK SHOX DEVO	9	: 5:40.06
18	14	MORTIMER	HELEN	GBR	TEAM SINTESI	8	: 5:42.78
19	49	GUY	EMMA	GBR	TEAM ANIMAL/GIAN	7	: 5:45.49
20	45	BASON	KERRY	GBR	TEAM SINTESI	6	: 5:51.98
21	53	SCHMITZ	HEATHER	USA	MOUNTAIN CYCLE	5	: 5:52.31
22	58	BOURQUE	DAWN	USA	TURNER/MR DIRT	4	: 5:53.76
23	54	INOMATA	HIROKO	JPN	HARO	3	: 5:59.53
24	47	WALLACE	KATHRYN	USA		2	: 6:01.57
25	19	GRANT	NICOLE	USA	PRO-DYNAMIX	1	: 8:24.61