

## Sunn-Un Riders Give France Grundig-UCI World Cup Double

**Nicolas Vouilloz** (FRA, Sunn-Un) and **Anne-Caroline Chausson** (FRA, Sunn-Un) surprised nobody by winning the men's and women's downhill mountain bike world cup titles on 30 August. For Chausson this was the first world cup title; for Vouilloz the third. In addition, Sunn-Un earned the award for the number-one downhill trade team after a memorable final event.

### MEN

On a muddy course described by 'Nico' **Vouilloz** as *"Very, very, very, very slippery,"* skill was the main requisite. The world cup series had come down to a battle between the two best exponents of this: Vouilloz and **David Vazquez** (ESP, Volvo-Cannondale). But on the day, Vouilloz showed that it takes a lot more than skill to be a great champion. Even though he needed only a sixth place finish to claim the title, he took first.

*"This afternoon I heard that David (Vazquez) had not finished his run so I said I will try to ride fast. But then when I was on my bike I thought that I could crash so I put my foot out a lot of time. But it's okay because I won,"* smiled the 22 years-old from near Monaco.

Vazquez had crashed hard in the final and took more than seven minutes to complete his run - giving him last place on the day. It was a disappointing season's end for the 19 years-old from Spain.

Sunn-Un's **Mickael Pascal** (FRA) came closest to Nico's time. The up-and-coming rider was only 2.11 seconds off the win after also posting the second-fastest qualifying time and said: "I hope to win a race next year."

Vouilloz was typically modest in his assessment of this own ride. He claimed surprise at having won at Arai, *"because I rode really bad today. Really."* And about his being world cup champion, said *"I'm very happy, because I wanted to start last and ride spectacularly. I wanted to win the last race with panache."*

And now Vouilloz turns his attention to World's. Will he also try to win that with panache, or might he adopt an aggressive style? *"To win there I must ride much better than today. I don't like the mud, and here this afternoon it wasn't slippery... it was terrible. But the fans were exceptional, cheering all the way down the track... they made a very good race - it was very nice. So I hope we will come again."*

### WOMEN

A small field of the world's best female downhillers competed here. The injured **Sabrina Jonnier** (FRA, Sintesi Verlicchi) was the only absentee from the top ten. Yet none of them could match the skill of Chausson today on this treacherous course. Many women slid to the ground during the course's long route to the finish line.

Chausson was seemingly unaffected by the mud as she not only qualified fastest with aggressive style, but duplicated her speed in the final event. *"I knew that if I didn't crash, it would be good,"* she said. Asked why she rode so aggressively when a win wasn't necessary, Chausson replied *"It was important to make a good impression in the mud."*

**Missy Giove** (USA, Volvo-Cannondale), who for two years has beaten Chausson in the final rounds, was unable to recreate the past as she finished 7th today - and second in the series. **Nolvenn LeCaer** (FRA, GT) finished second on the day, and third for the season. *"My run was very clean"* said LeCaer. *"I'm surprised because this morning I crashed three times."*

The world cup title has eluded Chausson many times, but it finally became hers in a season marked by her most consistent riding yet. *"It's very good. Now I try for the world championships, and if I can't do both it's still perfect."* Said the overjoyed 21 years-old from Dijon.

*By Ari Cheren*

**DH#8 - final- Men/Hommes**

<i>rank</i>	<i>bib</i>	<i>name/nom</i>		<i>nat</i>	<i>UCIcode</i>	<i>t</i>
1	1	VOUILLOZ	NICOLAS	FRA	FRA19760208	: 6:24.23
2	7	PASCAL	MICKAEL	FRA	FRA19791011	: 6:26.34
3	30	PETERS	GERWIN	NED	NED19770409	: 6:30.17
4	4	GRACIA	CÉDRIC	FRA	FRA19780329	: 6:30.94
5	27	MCCARROLL	SEAN	AUS	AUS19771105	: 6:37.15
6	6	ENGSTRÖM	JOHAN	SWE	SWE19770802	: 6:38.96
7	19	DE BEVER	BAS	NED	NED19680416	: 6:40.01
8	3	PEAT	STEVE	GBR	GBR19740617	: 6:42.05
9	11	KLAUSMANN	MARCUS	GER	GER19770808	: 6:44.22
10	20	CARTER	ERIC	USA	USA19700306	: 6:44.67
11	13	VOREIS	KIRT	USA	USA19740531	: 6:46.30
12	22	ROCKWELL	MYLES	USA	USA19720822	: 6:47.66
13	9	BENEKE	JÜRGEN	GER	GER19720223	: 6:48.61
14	26	SAIZ	OSCAR	ESP	ESP19730828	: 6:49.17
15	46	RONNING	MICHAEL	AUS	AUS19750623	: 6:52.03
16	51	PALMER	SHAUN	USA	USA19681114	: 6:55.49
17	37	JOSEPH	MICHEL	SUI	SUI19761109	: 6:59.02
18	39	LONGDEN	WILL	GBR	GBR19741123	: 6:59.19
19	108	YANAGIHARA	YASUHIRO	JPN	JPN19720720	: 6:59.26
20	12	LOPES	BRIAN	USA	USA19710908	: 7:00.59
21	24	CULLINAN	DAVE	USA	USA19691029	: 7:00.96
22	58	ODRISCOLL	CHRIS	USA	USA19730308	: 7:13.45
23	5	SHARPLES	SCOTT	AUS	AUS19671023	: 7:13.68
24	50	BÜELER	ANDY	SUI	SUI19780609	: 7:15.39
25	150	NABESHIMA	KENICHI	JPN	JPN19721221	: 7:16.02
26	29	PURDY	JEREMY	USA	USA19691126	: 7:19.00
27	97	BEAUMONT	SCOTT	GBR	GBR19780602	: 7:19.44
28	40	TOMAC	JOHN	USA	USA19671103	: 7:20.20
29	59	POLC	FILIP	SVK	SVK19820410	: 7:20.29
30	152	TAKEMOTO	MASASHI	JPN	JPN19770605	: 7:22.73
31	162	OSHIMA	REJI	JPN	JPN19750316	: 7:23.46
32	10	TAILLEFER	CHRISTIAN	FRA	FRA19700829	: 7:25.98
33	160	MARUYAMA	HIROKI	JPN	JPN19760302	: 7:28.46
34	151	TSUKAMOTO	TAKASHI	JPN	JPN19701123	: 7:32.25
35	173	ADACHI	YASUSHI	JPN	JPN19761015	: 7:40.79
36	164	FELIX	CRAIG	AUS	AUS19750622	: 7:40.98
37	163	MIYAKE	KAZUYUKI	JPN	JPN19740605	: 7:46.97
38	165	VERCOE	ED	AUS	AUS19750106	: 8:01.87
39	169	HYUNG RAE	CHUNG	KOR	KOR19760527	: 8:29.33
40	8	MISSER	PAU	ESP	ESP19760807	: 9:23.47
41	161	UCHIJIMA	RYO	JPN	JPN19770105	: 9:58.33
42	170	CHO	KYEONG-HO	KOR	KOR19800111	:11:53.75

43 2 VAZQUEZ DAVID ESP ESP19790210 :13:29.57

0 172 SASAKI TAKETOSHI JPN JPN19760315 DNS

0 166 PHANNARONG KONGSAMUT THA THA19700505 DNS

0 168 ARUNROEK THANDO THA THA19611207 DNS