

## 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- Women/Femmes**

<i>rank</i>	<i>bib</i>	<i>name/nom</i>		<i>nat</i>	<i>UCIcode</i>	<i>t</i>
1	1	CHAUSSON	ANNE-CAROLINE	FRA	FRA19771008	: 7:17.97
2	3	LE CAER	NOLVENN	FRA	FRA19780223	: 7:45.15
3	10	JORGENSEN	SARI	SUI	SUI19800725	: 7:53.44
4	7	STREB	MARLA	USA	USA19650624	: 7:55.21
5	5	DONOVAN	LEIGH	USA	USA19711211	: 7:56.23
6	8	BRUTSAERT	ELKE	USA	USA19680508	: 8:04.50
7	2	GIOVE	MISSY	USA	USA19720120	: 8:13.12
8	4	GONZALEZ	MERCEDES	ESP	ESP19630711	: 8:14.56
9	20	MILLER	KATRINA	AUS	AUS19750915	: 8:21.17
10	6	SONIER	KIM	USA	USA19630731	: 8:21.48
11	14	MORTIMER	HELEN	GBR	GBR19760801	: 8:24.91
12	75	KAMAKURA	SACHIKO	JPN	JPN19710921	: 9:14.74
13	16	SHER	LISA	USA	USA19690419	: 9:21.54
14	42	MASUDA	MAMI	JPN	JPN19740606	: 9:59.92
15	80	INOMATA	HIROKO	JPN	JPN19780620	:10:28.24
16	82	MIZUTANI	YUKIKO	JPN	JPN19710524	:10:50.40
17	76	MIZUKURA	HITOMI	JPN	JPN19760122	:15:13.97