

Big Bear Lake, CA- 20-21.6.98-

Vouilloz Toppled as Volvo-Cannondale go into All Wheel Drive

A Spanish newcomer and a young French veteran were two youthful Europeans who snatched the home ground advantage from US riders in the warm sun of the San Bernadino mountains in California this weekend. While **Missy Giove** (USA, Volvo-Cannondale) retains the Orange Jersey, today's winner, **David Vazquez** (ESP, Volvo-Cannondale), whisked the bright garment from the shoulders of multiple World Champion, **Nicolas Vouilloz** (FRA, Sunn-Un).

Round four of the Grundig/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup was a sizzler. Among the youngest Elite racers in the world, at 19 and 21 years of age, David Vazquez and **Anne-Caroline Chausson** (FRA, Sunn-Un) put their speed and finesse to work on this steep downhill course to beat all comers and orchestrate breathtaking four-plus minute runs of speed, technique and guts.



Anne-Caroline Chausson

For Chausson, today was a matter of pacing and pedalling. Now with two consecutive wins, and three wins from four World Cup starts this year, she looks in great shape. Her hard winter's physical training appears to be paying off. She arrived at the finish more out of breath than usual, and said: *"It's hard, because on the top there is a lot of pedalling. But after that it is just fast, so I tucked in. I said to myself, 'don't go too fast' because I should be okay as long as I don't crash."*

Giove had suffered a broken "jackshaft" chain (thought to be the chain linking the pedals to the chainring mechanism, but we are not quite certain) on her complex Cannondale downhill bike in qualifying,

The perennial pre-race favorite, **Nicolas Vouilloz** (FRA, Sunn-Un), said he had ridden a strong final run and wasn't bothered by a sore hand, sustained in a practice crash. Curiously, Vouilloz couldn't explain his relatively low 12th place finish, which just goes to show, doesn't it?

The slippery conditions had deteriorated since Saturday's practice runs. This factor encouraged conservative racing on the dusty, rutted course. Australian star, **Scott Sharples** (Trek Volkswagen) seemed to have found a good balance between speed and safety. He saved himself through the fast top pedaling section and rode to his best result in World Cup racing. *"I feel like I still had something left in me,"* Sharples said after finishing second. He added: *"I made a few mistakes and lost time. I tried to ride intelligent and make sure I wasn't overcooked."* This strategy seemed to be borne out after a look at the mid-course interval times shows that several of the sport's top riders; including Vouilloz, **Corrado Herin** (ITA, Sintesi Verlicchi) and **Johan Engstrom** (SWE, Scott Int'l.) were out of the top-20 by mid-race. But Vouilloz must have had quite a second half ...



Men's podium

Number-one in qualifying was local rider **Brian Lopes** (USA, Moose) who won on this course a month ago in a NORBA NCS. Lopes was unable to parlay his fast semi-final run into victory after two minor mistakes, which knocked him back to fourth position, but he commented that the race was won with pedalling. *"I crashed twice but pedalled much harder in the final and still beat my qualifying time by a second,"* he commented. Both Vazquez and Sharples are accomplished cross country riders.

With points earned from today's wins, teammates Giove and Vazquez received the Grundig leader's

which cost her time and took her mental edge off the finals. The significance of the results was not lost on her. *"I'm riding and feeling good, and got second place today,"* Giove commented. *"I really could have used a first place today to continue the streak (sic), but we'll see what happens. It's not over until it's over."* Although she has yet to record a win, against Chausson's three, the consistent Giove managed to retain the Orange Jersey because the sometimes erratic young Frenchwoman picked up only four points at Nevegal in round two when she crashed early and failed to recover her composure on that run.



Women's podium

David Vazquez has not been there yet. His debut on the top of the podium came in the afternoon at Big Bear. The win left this young Barcelona man nearly speechless with joy. *"I'm so happy - this is the best finish I've ever had... I made a few mistakes, but I think everyone did - this was a difficult course."*

jersey which signifies the current leaders of this 8-race series. The Grundig/UCI World Cup awards points to the world's best racers who compete on alpine courses around the world, including stops in South Africa, Europe, North America and Japan.



Missy Giove & David Vazquez

Overview

The title race is increasingly interesting at the season's midpoint. A mere seven points separate Chausson and her rival Missy Giove in the women's field.

Vazquez now has the lead in the Elite Men's division, but he is only six points clear of the legendary Vouilloz.

But the Volvo-Cannondale team is not complaining. With a good compliment of international riders, it now has leaders jerseys in XC Mens and Womens to go with today's two DH leader's jerseys - another first in this ground breaking '98 season.

By Ari Cheren

DH#4- Men/Hommes

<i>Pos</i>	<i>bib</i>	<i>name/nom</i>		<i>nat</i>	<i>UCICODE</i>	<i>time</i>
1	4	VAZQUEZ	DAVID	ESP	ESP19790210	: 4:23.15
2	33	SHARPLES	SCOTT	AUS	AUS19671023	: 4:25.01
3	7	PASCAL	MICKAEL	FRA	FRA19791011	: 4:25.04
4	21	LOPES	BRIAN	USA	USA19710908	: 4:25.85
5	6	KLAUSMANN	MARCUS	GER	GER19770808	: 4:26.45
6	32	MISSER	PAU	ESP	ESP19760807	: 4:26.47
7	14	PEAT	STEVE	GBR	GBR19740617	: 4:26.55
8	12	CARTER	ERIC	USA	USA19700306	: 4:26.95
9	9	VOREIS	KIRT	USA	USA19740531	: 4:27.74
10	112	TINSTMAN	PHILIP	USA	USA19740816	: 4:27.94
11	47	STEFFEN	ANDREAS	SUI	SUI19750923	: 4:28.24
12	1	VOUILLOZ	NICOLAS	FRA	FRA19760208	: 4:28.88
13	19	CULLINAN	DAVE	USA	USA19691029	: 4:29.39
14	38	BONANOMI	GIANLUCA	ITA	ITA19680219	: 4:29.60
15	15	POUSSIN	FLORENT	FRA	FRA19770306	: 4:30.06
16	16	MISSER	TOMAS	ESP	ESP19740930	: 4:30.09
17	28	AMOUR	KARIM	FRA	FRA19750118	: 4:30.43
18	10	DE BEVER	BAS	NED	NED19680416	: 4:30.76
19	11	HERIN	CORRADO	ITA	ITA19660604	: 4:30.98
20	54	KIRKCALDIE	JOHN	NZL	NZL19760430	: 4:31.05
21	27	LAGNEAU	CYRIL	FRA	FRA19760719	: 4:31.35
22	5	BENEKE	JÜRGEN	GER	GER19720223	: 4:31.61
23	172	ROCKWELL	MYLES	USA	USA19720822	: 4:31.73
24	62	OULEGO	IVAN	ESP	ESP19760604	: 4:31.75
25	39	PURDY	JEREMY	USA	USA19691126	: 4:32.09
26	104	BAILEY	COLIN	USA	USA19790809	: 4:32.15
27	41	WARNER	ROBERT	GBR	GBR19700916	: 4:32.81
28	23	MCCARROLL	SEAN	AUS	AUS19771105	: 4:33.15
29	2	ENGSTRÖM	JOHAN	SWE	SWE19770802	: 4:33.29
30	18	TAILLEFER	CHRISTIAN	FRA	FRA19700829	: 4:33.38
31	73	RONNING	MICHAEL	AUS	AUS19750623	: 4:33.58
32	25	PETERS	GERWIN	NED	NED19770409	: 4:33.61
33	50	ZANCHI	BRUNO	ITA	ITA19731110	: 4:33.69
34	3	GRACIA	CÉDRIC	FRA	FRA19780329	: 4:34.11
35	43	KING	MIKE	USA	USA19690630	: 4:34.23
36	125	SIGFRID	JASON	USA	USA19730223	: 4:34.30
37	36	JOSEPH	MICHEL	SUI	SUI19761109	: 4:34.84
38	30	GARDELLA	MAXIME	FRA	FRA19780220	: 4:35.28
39	120	BERCHTOLD	MARKOLF ERASMU	BRA	BRA00000000	: 4:36.26
40	75	BALAUD	WILLIAM	FRA	FRA19770217	: 4:36.49
41	17	MIGLIORINI	STEFANO	ITA	ITA19690708	: 4:36.85

42	8	KOCH	GUILLAUME	FRA FRA19730605 : 4:37.16
43	56	MARCH	SHAUMS	USA USA19740216 : 4:37.17
44	77	SANTANA	JACOBO	ESP ESP19720217 : 4:37.25
45	82	LAWWILL	JOE	USA USA19700506 : 4:37.94
46	140	YBARRA	SCOTT	USA USA19781028 : 4:39.32
47	61	POLC	FILIP	SVK SVK19820410 : 4:39.56
48	35	HOLE	WOODY	GBR GBR19670628 : 4:39.81
49	20	LONGDEN	WILL	GBR GBR19741123 : 4:39.90
50	51	PONTING	TIM	GBR GBR19721010 : 4:40.71
51	130	MCDANIEL	BART	USA USA19640221 : 4:41.00
52	89	RANKIN	NATHAN	NZL NZL19790430 : 4:41.15
53	84	STOCKTON	DERIN	USA USA19681030 : 4:42.55
54	68	SCOFIELD	GEOFF	USA USA19730724 : 4:42.61
55	66	SIMCIK	DANIEL	CZE CZE19780109 : 4:43.25
56	119	VICK	IRA	USA USA19740101 : 4:43.46
57	52	BÜELER	ANDY	SUI SUI19780609 : 4:43.55
58	80	YANAGIHARA	YASUHIRO	JPN JPN19720720 : 4:44.13
59	129	HOUSEMAN	RICHARD	USA USA19780320 : 4:44.25
60	67	GEALL	STEVE	GBR GBR19700506 : 4:44.36
61	37	VAN DE HATERD	WILFRED	NED NED19720125 : 4:44.58
62	31	KRUIPER	MICHEL	NED NED19730920 : 4:48.06
63	63	JANY	STÉPHANE	FRA FRA19730717 : 4:48.25
64	147	MELANCON	GIRARD	USA USA19740211 : 4:50.35
65	49	WARNER	RICHARD	GBR GBR19760219 : 4:51.88
66	83	SHANDRO	ANDREW	CAN CAN19710520 : 4:56.78
67	152	NELSON	MAX	USA USA19750803 : 4:58.43
68	81	MILLER	GREG	RSA RSA19760326 : 5:20.26
69	94	LAWRENCE	RANDY	USA USA19671008 : 5:37.20
	22	TOMAC	JOHN	USA USA19671103 DNF