

## Big Bear Lake, CA- 20-21.6.98-

### Vouilloz Topped 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, which cost her time and took her mental edge off the finals. The significance of the results was not lost on

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

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."*



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*

## H#4- Women/Femmes

<i>Pos</i>	<i>bib</i>	<i>name/nom</i>		<i>nat</i>	<i>UCICODE</i>	<i>time</i>
1	2	CHAUSSON	ANNE-CAROLINE	FRA	FRA19771008	: 4:44.95
2	1	GIOVE	MISSY	USA	USA19720120	: 4:53.35
3	18	ELLIOTT	CHERI	USA	USA19700417	: 4:57.70
4	11	REPO	KATJA	FIN	FIN19730304	: 5:02.02
5	14	LE CAER	NOLVENN	FRA	FRA19780223	: 5:02.94
6	8	BRUTSAERT	ELKE	USA	USA19680508	: 5:04.66
7	7	SONIER	KIM	USA	USA19630731	: 5:05.03
8	6	MORTIMER	HELEN	GBR	GBR19760801	: 5:05.64
9	13	SANER	MARIELLE	SUI	SUI19770322	: 5:06.47
10	9	STREB	MARLA	USA	USA19650624	: 5:06.66
11	5	JONNIER	SABRINA	FRA	FRA19810819	: 5:09.96
12	10	BONAZZI	GIOVANNA	ITA	ITA19660724	: 5:10.13
13	17	MOSELEY	TRACY	GBR	GBR19790412	: 5:12.41
14	15	SHER	LISA	USA	USA19690419	: 5:13.23
15	19	STIEFL	REGINA	GER	GER19661011	: 5:13.24
16	25	GUY	EMMA	GBR	GBR19700503	: 5:14.26
17	4	JORGENSEN	SARI	SUI	SUI19800725	: 5:15.11
18	21	PHELPS	NATHALIE	AUT	AUT19690108	: 5:15.89
19	12	GONZALEZ	MERCEDES	ESP	ESP19630711	: 5:17.48
20	51	QUIN	VANESSA	NZL	NZL19761015	: 5:19.18
21	24	STIEGER	SARAH	SUI	SUI19790825	: 5:19.73
22	3	DONOVAN	LEIGH	USA	USA19711211	: 5:21.10
23	58	LAWYER	APRIL	USA	USA19750401	: 5:27.66
24	26	MILLER	KATRINA	AUS	AUS19750915	: 5:34.08
25	54	SKELTON	DAAMIANN	CAN	CAN19710605	: 6:57.32