



Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 1999

BIG BEAR LAKE, CA - USA - xc#6 - 26-27 June 1999

US Riders Do Big Bear Double

Popular wins for US riders **Missy Giove** and **Shaun Palmer** at World Cup round 4 were the results of a thrilling day in the hot alpine sun when the circuit went to Big Bear Lake, California.

Palmer's First

It was the closest of finishes, and when the clock stopped only 0.12" separated best friends Shaun Palmer, 31 (USA), with 3'50.29" and **Steve Peat**, 25 (GBR) with 3'50.41". Palmer, from Meeks Bay, California, now in his fourth season of racing, scored his first World Cup round win.

Palmer, who has won two NORBA series races here (in '96 and '97), appears to be on a comeback after a troubled period in his downhill racing career. Let the podium pictures tell the story, but Palmer stated: *"I'm happy for my first World Cup (round) win... I have had some struggles with my bike and mentally. Now I'm looking forward to the rest of the season. I want to make it a Steve Peat, Nicolas Vouilloz, Shaun Palmer show, that's what I'm going for,"* said a jubilant Palmer at the finish. He added: *"It feels good to beat Nicolas Vouilloz, he rides his bike all winter: I have to snowboard."*

Nicolas Vouilloz (FRA) finished sixth today after an uncharacteristic mental aberration. *"I crashed, not because I was going too fast but because..."* his mind wandered. *"I made several mistakes at the start, and after the rocky jump (about 600m into the course) I said, ok, now it is time to stop making mistakes and start racing. Almost immediately after this I crashed!... C'est la vie."* said Vouilloz.



Steve Peat, whose second place puts him back into the overall lead of the series, was delighted to see his friend Palmer win. *"I'm stoked for Palm. He's always been good at Big Bear."* As for the overall contest, the close battle between Peat, now on 820 points, and Vouilloz now on 765 continues. *"My main aim is to stay consistent. My confidence is booming. This is the way I want to carry on,"* said Peat.

Vouilloz expressed a different view: *"The World Cup is not a problem. It will be close until the the last race. I am not thinking about the World Cup, I think about each race as it comes. In two weeks I will not worry (about this result)."*

Dutchman Gerwin Peeters finished third with a time of 3'53.01", a result that strengthens his grip on third place overall with 570. Palmer's win moves him up to fifth place with 471.

Giove At Last

When the last rider down the course, **Anne-Caroline Chausson**, 22, (FRA), crossed the finish line Missy Giove, 27, (USA) roared with joy. This was the win that Giove had been waiting for since the start of the season. While only 0.46" separated Giove and second-placed Chausson, **Marla Streb** (USA) finished third 11.35" back.

Deep dust and ruts on the course made it somewhat treacherous, and Chausson had thought this would suit her excellent technical ability. But when both her feet lost contact with the pedals near the top of the course, for an awful moment the six times world champion and World Cup title holder was flailing in the dust. *"When you have a bad start, you have this on you mind for the whole race."* Said Chausson at the finish.



Missy Giove

Although she did not lose much time to this error, Chausson lost her composure. *"I made too many mistakes to win, I was feeling stressed and not confident,"* said the rider who has won every round of the World Cup so far this year and in 1998 won seven out of eight.

For Missy Giove, this was a critical moment in her season. After world cup round three, signs of frustration were beginning to show in her facade. But the psychological boost Giove gains from this win will enable her, as one of the greatest campaigners in women's mountain biking, to put the kind of pressure on Chausson that has seen the Frenchwoman crack in the past, 1997 for example. *"I'm feeling really good about this, I knew it would be tight... we have a competition now... this is good for the sport,"* said Giove.

Asked about making mistakes, she admitted to some error in some of the technical sections in the semi-final, but she made a cleaner run - although still imperfect - in the final. In the semi-final, Giove had posted a time of 4'17.35" compared to Chausson's 4'16.23". *"Anne-Caroline makes mistakes too. My problem is that I've been riding at 100%+. Today I went at 90%, and then at 100% in the pedalling sections."*



Giove, a resident of Durango, Colorado, who regards Big Bear as her home course, went on: *"The course is very bitching this year. It is fast and slidy in the technical sections. It is an improvement over last year.. It feels great to win on home turf. My bike is brilliant and I have got unprecedented support."*



Shaun Palmer

place	name	nom	nat	t	t+
1	PALMER	SHAUN	USA	3:50.29	0.00
2	PEAT	STEVE	GBR	3:50.41	0.12
3	PETERS	GERWIN	NED	3:53.01	2.72
4	VAZQUEZ	DAVID	ESP	3:53.93	3.64
5	VOREIS	KIRT	USA	3:53.99	3.70
6	VOUILLOZ	NICOLAS	FRA	3:54.47	4.18
7	PASCAL	MICKAEL	FRA	3:55.03	4.74
8	MINNAAR	GREG	RSA	3:55.19	4.90
9	BAILEY	COLIN	USA	3:55.51	5.22
10	WARNER	ROBERT	GBR	3:56.03	5.74
11	MCCARROLL	SEAN	AUS	3:56.44	6.15
12	KOCH	GUILLAUME	FRA	3:56.84	6.55
13	ROCKWELL	MYLES	USA	3:56.91	6.62
14	KING	MIKE	USA	3:56.98	6.69
15	KIRKCALDIE	JOHN	NZL	3:57.00	6.71
16	CARTER	ERIC	USA	3:57.53	7.24
17	SHARPLES	SCOTT	AUS	3:58.10	7.81
18	TINSTMAN	PHILIP	USA	3:58.82	8.53
19	GRACIA	CÉDRIC	FRA	3:59.20	8.91
20	ENGSTRÖM	JOHAN	SWE	3:59.48	9.19
21	SAIZ	OSCAR	ESP	3:59.82	9.53
22	RONNING	MICHAEL	AUS	4:00.21	9.92
23	DE BEVER	BAS	NED	4:00.53	10.24
24	CARRICK ANDERSON	CRAWFORD	GBR	4:00.87	10.58
25	KOVARIK	CHRISTOPHER	AUS	4:00.89	10.60
26	JANY	STÉPHANE	FRA	4:00.91	10.62
27	LOPES	BRIAN	USA	4:01.16	10.87
28	AMOUR	KARIM	FRA	4:01.74	11.45
29	SIGFRID	JASON	USA	4:01.99	11.70
30	MARCH	SHAUMS	USA	4:02.17	11.88
31	BALAUD	WILLIAM	FRA	4:03.17	12.88
32	HOUSEMAN	GARY	USA	4:03.69	13.40

33	ERIKSSON	KRISTIAN	SWE	4:04.10	13.81
34	PONTING	TIM	GBR	4:04.13	13.84
35	O'DRISCOLL	CHRIS	USA	4:04.47	14.18
36	SEARS	ROB	USA	4:05.08	14.79
37	MELONCON	GIRARD	USA	4:05.58	15.29
38	HERIN	CORRADO	ITA	4:06.53	16.24
39	PURDY	JEREMY	USA	4:07.65	17.36
40	PAGE	NIGEL	GBR	4:07.86	17.57
41	RENNIE	NATHAN	AUS	4:08.16	17.87
42	LAWRENCE	RANDY	USA	4:08.20	17.91
43	GEALL	STEVE	GBR	4:08.22	17.93
44	RANKIN	NATHAN	NZL	4:08.65	18.36
45	HOUSEMAN	RICHARD	USA	4:08.78	18.49
46	LAWWILL	JOE	USA	4:08.93	18.64
47	PANOZZO	JOEL	AUS	4:09.45	19.16
48	PORTER	TREVOR	CAN	4:09.54	19.25
49	BÜELER	ANDY	SUI	4:09.61	19.32
50	SNIDER	TODD	USA	4:10.31	20.02
51	KLAUSMANN	MARKUS	GER	4:10.44	20.15
52	MISSE	PAU	ESP	4:10.68	20.39
53	OULEGO MORENO	IVAN	ESP	4:10.89	20.60
54	HIRST	MICHAEL	CAN	4:11.33	21.04
55	BEAUMONT	SCOTT	GBR	4:11.69	21.40
56	PATERSON	KARL	NZL	4:11.79	21.50
57	POLC	FILIP	SVK	4:12.27	21.98
58	VICK	IRA	USA	4:12.42	22.13
59	LONGDEN	WILL	GBR	4:12.66	22.37
60	BISHOP	AIDEN	GBR	4:14.74	24.45
61	LUNDMAN	JAN	SWE	4:17.42	27.13
62	JOHANSSON	TOMMY	SWE	4:18.07	27.78
63	PIZARRO	FRANCISCO	CHI	4:18.55	28.26
64	COBHAM	GEORGE	CAN	4:19.25	28.96
65	ADAMS	GLENN	AUS	4:21.02	30.73
66	CSEFF	ERIC	CAN	4:26.96	36.67
67	RANDO	JARED	AUS	4:36.67	46.38
68	MARCOTTE	VINCENT	CAN	4:56.34	1:06.05
69	WHITE	RYAN	USA	18:33.25	14:42.96
70	HEWITT	ROB	CAN	DSQ	