



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."*



place	name	nom	nat	t	t+
1	GIOVE	MISSY	USA	4:10.49	0.00
2	CHAUSSON	ANNE-CAROLINE	FRA	4:10.95	0.46
3	STREB	MARLA	USA	4:21.84	11.35
4	DONOVAN	LEIGH	USA	4:22.52	12.03
5	GONZALEZ	MERCEDES	ESP	4:24.86	14.37
6	REPO	KATJA	FIN	4:25.46	14.97
7	LE CAER	NOLVENN	FRA	4:26.78	16.29
8	ELLIOTT	CHERI	USA	4:28.56	18.07
9	MORTIMER	HELEN	GBR	4:29.57	19.08
10	MILLER	KATRINA	AUS	4:34.00	23.51
11	SHER	LISA	USA	4:34.63	24.14
12	BRUTSAERT	ELKE	USA	4:35.66	25.17
13	LINDGREN	MALIN	SWE	4:35.78	25.29
14	JÖRGENSEN	SARI	SUI	4:36.62	26.13
15	QUIN	VANESSA	NZL	4:36.92	26.43
16	MUXLOW	TAI-LEE	AUS	4:39.88	29.39
17	STIEGER	SARAH	SUI	4:40.43	29.94
18	LAWYER	APRIL	USA	4:45.70	35.21
19	BUHL	MELISSA	USA	4:46.16	35.67
20	PRUITT	KATHY	USA	4:46.23	35.74
21	DAHLAGER	GALE	USA	4:47.11	36.62
22	LLANES	TARA	USA	4:48.23	37.74
23	SKELTON	DAAMIANN	CAN	4:49.16	38.67
24	SANER	MARIELLE	SUI	4:51.68	41.19
25	LOUREIRO	PATRICIA	BRA	4:56.98	46.49
26	CROXON	ADELE	GBR	4:58.33	47.84
27	HALEY	BARBARA	CAN	5:04.38	53.89
28	BLANCHER	LORRANIE	CAN	5:07.46	56.97
29	MEADE	TERA	CAN	5:07.51	57.02