

**Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike  
World Cup - 1999**



**Kaprun, AUT - dh#8 - Final/Finale - 14-15 August 1999 - Report / Rapport**

## **Rain Can't Stop the Racing**

Rain played a disruptive role in the eighth, final round of the 1999 series, held on a new course at Kaprun. But it did not prevent **Nicolas Vouilloz (FRA)** and **Anne-Caroline Chausson (FRA)** from becoming the deserving winners of the 1999 Downhill Mountain Bike World Cup.

Torrential downpours during both the women's and men's races skewed the results after some riders had a chance to ride the new Kaprun course in drier conditions while the remainder rode through a torrent. Anne-Caroline Chausson (FRA) and **Gerwin Peters (NED)** won their respective races after profiting from the unpredictable mountain weather.

In the women's race, Chausson completed the new Kaprun course early in the ranks, thanks to a crash and a poor result in the semi-finals. Heavy rain started falling just after she crossed the line with what would turn out to be a winning time of 7'22.48". Chausson watched the rest of the race from the "hot seat" of the race leader, where she sheltered from the rain under an umbrella while her rivals slipped and slogged their way down the track.

Chausson was characteristically fair in assessing her performance: *"I was lucky because I wasn't really focussed here. I had some problems with my training, so I was lucky with the rain. I went early and it started to rain... I only wanted to not crash."*

Yet even had Chausson finished last today, she still would have won the World Cup. The monumental series lead of 530 points she carried into the final round was unassailable by the 250 points one of her rivals would have scored for a round win.

Of the riders who rode through the rain, **Sari Jorgensen (SUI)** recorded the fastest time to finish second, 13.58" slower than Chausson. **Sabrina Jonnier (FRA)**, **Sarah Stieger (SUI)** and **Florentina Moeser (AUT)** rounded out the top five.



The overall results sheet showed that most of the top results went to riders who normally finish in the upper middle order, rather than at the top. Indeed, this was the first time this year, probably in the history of the World Cup, that no women from the USA have stood on the five-rider winner's rostrum.

**Marla Streb (USA)** had posted the fastest qualification time of 7'29", but in the final run she fell five times. *"I was in denial. I wanted it to be dry, so I was riding like it was dry. I had a spike on my rear and I was trying to rely on it too much, so I would just lean it over and it just wasn't*

working," Streb said, and added: *"I felt really confident because I knew I could make up some time here in the bottom, but my crashes ate up my time."*

**Missy Giove (USA)** struggled down the steep, root-strewn course in the rain. She crashed twice and finished ninth. *"I was scared after the first crash, it's slick and some of the rocks are showing now. It was so wet in the top half and I rode it well. I think if everyone rode it in the wet, it was a winning top-half,"* said Giove, who finished second overall in the series. **Katja Repo (FIN)** was third overall.

Chausson's second consecutive World Cup title was won with relative ease. The 21-year-old from Dijon triumphed in seven out of eight rounds this season. Giove, who finished a massive 700 points behind Chausson's 1,950 points, was the only rider who knocked Chausson off the top spot (at Round four at Big Bear Lake).

Now that the series is over, Giove - who has entertained throughout the season with her blustering rivalry with Chausson - said what she really felt: *"I'm not as fast as Anne-Caroline every day but I can beat her on some days. She won seven races, that's incredible for any athlete... She's racing against some of the best athletes. I'm good and there's a lot of others out here that are good. It's still fun to do. Today she got more of a freebie, but still, she's a great rider and she would have been the one to beat."*



<i>place</i>	<i>UCIcode</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>nom</i>	<i>nat</i>	<i>team</i>	<i>t</i>
1	FRA19771008	CHAUSSON	ANNE-CAROLINE	FRA	VOLVO CANNONDALE	7:22.485
2	SUI19800725	JÖRGENSEN	SARI	SUI	TOMAC/MANITOU	7:36.071
3	FRA19810819	JONNIER	SABRINA	FRA	TEAM SUNN	7:38.631
4	SUI19790825	STIEGER	SARAH	SUI	FIAT ROTWILD	7:48.715
5	AUT19670106	MÖSER	FLORENTINA	AUT	BANK AUSTRIA NATION	7:50.478
6	FIN19730304	REPO	KATJA	FIN	FINLAND	7:51.122
7	ITA19660724	BONAZZI	GIOVANNA	ITA	DH RACING KASTLE	7:51.141
8	FRA19830128	GROS	CÉLINE	FRA	SCOTT/LA CLUSAZ	7:51.260
9	USA19720102	GIOVE	MISSY	USA	FOES/AZONIC	7:55.095
10	GBR19711206	VAN MEERBECK	KAREN	GBR	GIANT UK DOWN HILL	7:55.505
11	GER19770705	JÜLLICH	MAREN	GER	MONGOOSE	7:56.049
12	GBR19760801	MORTIMER	HELEN	GBR	MBUK SPECIALIZED FOX	7:59.250
13	USA19650624	STREB	MARLA	USA	YETI	8:00.601
14	CZE19780621	KURANDOVA	HELENA	CZE	KANGAROO/DIRT	8:03.110
15	ESP19790704	BLAS	MIRIAM	ESP	SUNN SPAIN	8:06.988
16	GER19801208	RÜBEL	JOHANNA	GER	FIAT ROTWILD	8:12.346
17	GER19681231	KOBES	BRITTA	GER	WHEELER	8:13.190
18	GER19750419	WINTERHALDER	PETRA	GER	CYCLE-CRAFT/LION/SIGG	8:13.817
19	SUI19810719	WALKER	SANDRA	SUI		8:14.630
20	USA19690419	SHER	LISA	USA	FOES/AZONIC	8:14.635
21	GBR19751005	CROXON	ADELE	GBR	ANIMAL ORANGE	8:14.727
22	SUI19770322	SANER	MARIELLE	SUI	HOT CHILI	8:19.884
23	ESP19630711	GONZALEZ	MERCEDES	ESP	TEAM GT	8:21.599
24	GBR19700503	GUY	EMMA	GBR	TEAM RALEIGH	8:22.322

25	GBR19830116	GASKELL	HELEN	GBR	HOPE	8:24.536
26	HUN19770803	BOER	JULIA	HUN	POSTAS MATAV SE	8:30.789
27	GER19731205	HASSELBECK	STEFANIE	GER	DIAMOND/STEPPENWOLF	8:42.070
28	USA19711112	DONOVAN	LEIGH	USA	INTENSE CYCLES	8:44.901
29	GER19661011	STIEFL	REGINA	GER	FIAT ROTWILD	0