



Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 1999

An Amazing Day in the Alps

Thanks to Annie Robillard for information used in this report. Ms Robillard is the UCI Press Chief for the Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup.

The opening round of the Diesel-UCI Downhill World Cup was full of fantastic feats and big surprises when afternoon sun changed the ground conditions changed from wet to tacky. **Steve Peat (GBR)** and UCI-ranked number one **Anne-Caroline Chausson (FRA)** emerged victorious.

The most remarkable ride of the day must have been by Chausson to win women's event, ahead of **Missy Giove (USA)** and **Marla Streb (USA)**. Chausson's finishing margin of over 17 seconds over Giove hardly told of the drama she experienced on her way down the mountain.

A big, tumbling crash separated the Dijonaise 22 years-old downhill superstar from her bicycle by what appeared to be some 50 metres. She ran back up the hill to where it lay, ensnared by the course marking tape, and remounted with the Diesel ribbons streaming from her handlebars.

"I thought then that I was out of contention, so I just rode as hard as I could for the practice," a happy Chausson explained at the finish line. She also stated that this season she has two main goals: to repeat her feat of 1998 by winning the World Cup and the World Championship. Remarkably, Chausson has won each of the six world championships she has entered. She has won the World Cup once.



Anne-Caroline Chausson - FRA

Chausson had also been fastest by a long way on Sunday morning's semi- final run, which seeds the start order for the final in the afternoon. Until Chausson arrived, Missy Giove had occupied the *"Hot Seat"* of the fastest rider.

Giove, who is now riding in an unregistered team having left the mighty Volvo-Cannondale squad last year (for which Chausson now competes), was pleased with her result.



It was a day when the ground conditions made the final run an act of spontaneity and quick thinking - as in slalom skiing. The mud was so deep in the morning that the race organisers laid sawdust on the course after the semi-final.

Then the sun came out and the well drained course dried very rapidly in the fierce mountain light.

True to form, Giove explained it how it was. *"After the sawdust was laid I couldn't find my lines any more and at times I just didn't know where to go. I crashed twice."*

Giove, who had undergone emergency root canal dental treatment the day before the race said that her plan for the eight-race series is to ride conservatively and aim for a top five result in each round.

In the current format of the series, where every result counts, consistency, rather than brilliance, is likely to be the marker of success.

Steve Peat, 26, claimed his second world cup round win on a new bike with radical design features that has so far served him well this season. Peat, who being British knows a thing or two about muddy conditions, showed on the previous weekend that he can also do it in the dust by winning a NORBA race at Big Bear, California.

"That win gave me confidence, and my new bike is working really well," said the big-grinning Yorkshireman. After the semi-final, in which he finished second to Sweden's **Johan Engstrom**, Peat ground down the knobs on his tyres to reduce rolling resistance in the fast-drying mud.



Steve Peat - GBR

The brilliant, but somewhat inconsistent *Frenchman*, **Cedric Gracia**, was on a winning run until the final corner, where he was involved in one of the smoothest crashes imaginable. According to eye-witness Steve Boehmke of Rock Shox, *"It was awesome, he went over the bars, still holding on to his handlebars with his left hand, rolled over and slid right back on to the bike,"* all in one fluid action.

Chuck Yeager himself might have been impressed by this exhibition of spatial genius, which kept Gracia in contention although the aberrance almost certainly cost him the win. Peat's time was 0.16 of a second faster.

"I don't know how it happened, I just fell," said the bewildered 21 years- old from Saint Gaudens in the French Pyrenees - who like Peat is one of the most likable characters on the circuit.

Third fastest was the seven-times world champion, **Nicolas Vouilloz (FRA)**. Vouilloz crashed at least once on what he declared to be a terrible ride. *"It was just not my day, not my weekend, I have been very tired this weekend."* He said while sitting in the leader's hot seat watching the track gradually get faster and expressing surprise that he was still there in the lead.

Vouilloz, who turned in a poor result in the semi-final, started 24th from the end of the 70 riders. He seemed almost relieved when his former team- mate Gracia relieved him of the lead.

From here the downhill circuit moves for the first time to Maribor, Slovenia, for 29-30 May, and then on to the famous Dolomite track at Nevegal, Italy on 5-6 June.



place	name	nom	nat	team	t	t+
1	PEAT	Steve	GBR	GT	6:22.14	
2	GRACIA	Cédric	FRA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	6:22.30	0.16
3	VOUILLOZ	Nicolas	FRA	TEAM SUNN	6:35.72	13.58
4	PALMER	Shaun	USA	MT DEW/SPECIALIZED	6:35.79	13.65
5	KOCH	Guillaume	FRA	SCOTT ONE LIFE	6:38.44	16.30
6	PASCAL	Mickael	FRA	TEAM SUNN	6:38.52	16.38
7	ENGSTRÖM	Johan	SWE	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	6:41.35	19.21
8	BENEKE	Jürgen	GER	GIANT	6:49.38	27.24
9	PETERS	Gerwin	NED	BE-ONE	6:55.21	33.07
10	KIRKALDIE	John	NZL	SCHWINN TOYOTA	6:56.85	34.71
11	DE BEVER	Bas	NED	BE-ONE	6:57.68	35.54
12	BERCHTOLD	Markolf	BRA	SCOTT-MERCEDES	6:59.06	36.92
13	MCCARROLL	Sean	AUS	GIANT	7:00.11	37.97
14	LOPES	Brian	USA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	7:01.44	39.30
15	CARRICK ANDERSON	Crawford	GBR	GIANT UK DOWN HILL	7:01.57	39.43
16	CARTER	Eric	USA	TEAM GT	7:01.81	39.67
17	MISSER	Pau	ESP	MISSER BROS	7:02.22	40.08
18	OULEGO MORENO	Ivan	ESP	KASTLE	7:02.97	40.83
19	RYSER	Thomas	SUI		7:06.69	44.55
20	TSCHUGG	Guido	GER	WHEELER	7:09.28	47.14
21	HERIN	Corrado	ITA	SINTESI VERLICCHI	7:09.86	47.72
22	VOREIS	Kirt	USA	MT DEW/SPECIALIZED	7:11.47	49.33
23	TAILLEFER	Christian	FRA		7:11.50	49.36
24	ERIKSSON	Kristian	SWE	SCOTT ONE LIVE LIVE IT	7:11.82	49.68
25	SHANDRO	Andrew	CAN	K2 BIKE	7:13.07	50.93
26	PAGE	Nigel	GBR	INTENSE/KAWASKI	7:13.37	51.23
27	MISSER	Tomas	ESP	MISSER BROS	7:14.03	51.89
28	SIMCIK	Daniel	CZE	KANGAROO D.I.R.T.	7:14.09	51.95
29	PERIDY	Samuel	FRA		7:14.83	52.69
30	ROCKWELL	Myles	USA	GIANT	7:16.95	54.81
31	PONTING	Tim	GBR	ANIMAL ORANGE	7:17.83	55.69
32	POUSSIN	Florent	FRA	TEAM SUNN	7:18.37	56.23
33	PIERRE	Nicolas	FRA		7:18.53	56.39

34	DELDYCKE	Mickael	FRA SCHWINN FRANCE	7:21.39	59.25
35	KRUIPER	Michel	NED DUTCH NATIONAL TEAM	7:22.08	59.94
36	JOSEPH	Michel	SUI BE-ONE	7:22.15	1:00.01
37	LAIHO	Aniti-pekka	FIN GT FINLAND	7:23.97	1:01.83
38	LAWRENCE	Randy	USA INTENSE CYCLES	7:24.24	1:02.10
39	KLAUSMANN	Markus	GER BE-ONE	7:24.39	1:02.25
40	SANTANA	Jacobo	ESP CC SANT JORDI	7:24.46	1:02.32
41	VAHIE CORDERO	Alexandre	FRA	7:25.26	1:03.12
42	HERRMANN	Stefan	GER FIAT ROTWILD	7:26.67	1:04.53
43	BARCONS	Carlos	ESP SCOTT	7:26.92	1:04.78
44	SERY	Jacky	FRA	7:27.39	1:05.25
45	KING	Lewis	GBR GIANT UK DOWN HILL	7:27.93	1:05.79
46	SHARPLES	Scott	AUS TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	7:28.14	1:06.00
47	AMOUR	Karim	FRA GT FRANCE	7:28.84	1:06.70
48	VESENBECK	Adrian	GER TEAM	7:29.31	1:07.17
49	MERMOUD	Damien	SUI	7:29.65	1:07.51
50	CLOSSET	Pascal	BEL DIESEL-BIANCHI	7:31.32	1:09.18
51	BERNIERE	Jérôme	FRA BIKE UP RECYCLE	7:32.29	1:10.15
52	VAGNER	Adam	CZE GRAFOBAL-ZAMO	7:32.65	1:10.51
53	WESTMAN	Tobias	SWE	7:33.58	1:11.44
54	SAIZ	Oscar	ESP MT DEW/SPECIALIZED	7:36.16	1:14.02
55	MAROSI	Michal	CZE ROCK MACHINE	7:39.91	1:17.77
56	PAROLIN	Franck	FRA SCOTT/LA CLUSAZ	7:40.78	1:18.64
57	ANTELME	Olivier	FRA	7:41.56	1:19.42
58	POLC	Filip	SVK SEAT MERIDA KCK OSLA	7:42.02	1:19.88
59	JADUTA	Taras	BEL RAK BIKE	7:43.43	1:21.29
60	MEIER	Philippe	SUI VEEVEY CYCLE TEAM	7:44.69	1:22.55
61	VAN DER HATERD	Wilfred	NED BE ONE	7:46.84	1:24.70
62	SCHNEIDER	Frank	GER RSV NEUSTADT M	7:48.11	1:25.97
63	TLASEK	Vlastimil	CZE ROCK MACHINE	7:50.39	1:28.25
64	WARNER	Robert	GBR GIANT	7:50.88	1:28.74
65	OCHIN	Olivier	FRA ANCILLOTTI	7:51.83	1:29.69
66	BALAUD	Alexandre	FRA	7:55.09	1:32.95
67	JANY	Stéphane	FRA GT FRANCE	7:57.86	1:35.72
68	O'DRISCOLL	Chris	USA SOLID-ELLSWORTH	7:59.15	1:37.01
	SEARS	Rob	USA DIRTWORKS	DNF	
	STOCLET	Benoit	FRA	DNF	