



Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 1999

Nevegal, ITA - dl#3 - 4-6 June 1999 - Report / Rapport

Vouilloz Back On Top

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.

Victory for *French* Downhill superstar **Nicolas Vouilloz** caused a change in the Men's World Cup overall standings, while for the women it was business as usual with *Frenchwoman* **Anne-Caroline Chausson** winning for the third successive World Cup round.

Vouilloz Masters the Men

"Every race is like the world's" announced Nicolaz Vouilloz (FRA) after winning on the steep, sharp-rocked Dolomite course at Nevegal. Since he has only ever come first in all of his seven world championships races, this new philosophy cannot be a comfort to his rivals. Points earned by this win put Vouilloz back on top in the close-fought World Cup battle between riders from the old rival teams *GT* and *Sunn*.

After two rain-marred events in the past two years, the UCI had decided to put the Nevegal event back in the calendar this year in the hope of better weather. This decision paid off and the race was held under bright mountain sun on a track that was in excellent condition. Yet as the day progressed, temperatures soared and course conditions deteriorated. Many riders noted that the course was easier to ride in the morning's semi-final runs. Such is the paradox of Downhill racing.

The winning time of Vouilloz was 4 minutes, 16.19 seconds with an average speed of 42.16 km/h. *"The course was very hard, with a lot of loose rocks. I made some mistakes so I am happy to win,"* he said, adding that *"I was riding my maximum..."*

Vouilloz' Sunn team-mate **Mickael Pascal** (FRA) posted his best result of the season, with a time 3.22" slower than Vouilloz, but good enough for second place. This result proved expensive for **Steve Peat** (GBR), who was third at 3.68" back and thus slipped 50 points behind Vouilloz in the World Cup



Nicolas Vouilloz - FRA



Nevegal - ITA

contest. In a season where every result counts, each point is valuable. *"There were a few sections that I know I was losing some time. I spun out in the last corner and that cost me a little bit,"* said Peat, winner of the opening round at Les Gets, France two weeks ago. *"It pisses me off (losing the jersey). I lost those points to Pascal and that hurts too,"* added the frustrated Englishman.

Gerwin Peters (NED) posted a fast time early in the day and occupied the Hot Seat in the finish arena for a long while. By the end of the day he was fourth, 8.60" behind Vouilloz, a result that moved him third in the Diesel-UCI World Cup overall standings.

For one popular rider, this race banished a ghost. **Myles Rockwell** (USA), who finished fifth today, two years ago smashed his patella into five pieces in a crash on this course. Not only is this his best result since, but he achieved it on the course that nearly ended his career.

Chausson Flushes Her System

In the women's race, Anne-Caroline Chausson (FRA) easily won her third-straight World Cup round to increase her overall lead. Riding with her trademark style, which embodies fluidity and strength, over the demanding, rocky course Chausson overcame pre-race nerves and blazed to victory in 4'52.1" with an average speed of 36.97 km/h. *"I really wanted to win this week so I could go into the next races with a nice lead in the overall standings,"* she said. In the semi-final, Chausson suffered a blow-out in her hydraulic rear brake to finish 10th in the semis. *"I was nervous in the beginning section because that's where I crashed last year. I was kind of stressed because of what happened in the semis."*



Anne-Caroline Chausson - FRA

Chausson's long-time rival **Missy Giove** (USA), who was fastest in qualifying, was closest at 8.24" back and **Marielle**

Saner (SUI) was third at 12.74" back. Giove voiced her frustration after the race. *"I know I can beat (Chausson). I know I have a faster bike and I know I'm as strong (as Chausson). I'm sick of patient. I want to win,"* said Giove, who is second in the overall standings. *"I hit a pole and almost came to a complete stop. I came so close to crashing and I was way over the bars."*

Leigh Donovan (USA) and **Mercedes Gonzales** (ESP) rounded out the top five. *"I know I can't beat (Chausson). I just wanted to get out of here with some points. I'm happy with that,"* said Donovan, who finished fourth.

The Downhillers take a two-week break before heading to North America for Round four of the series, at Big Bear Lake, California on 26-27 June.



place	name	nom	nat	team	t	t+
1	CHAUSSON	Anne-caroline	FRA	VOLVO CANNONDALE	4:52.11	
2	GIOVE	Missy	USA	FOES/AZONIC	5:00.35	08.24
3	SANER	Marielle	SUI	HOT CHILI	5:04.86	12.74
4	DONOVAN	Leigh	USA	INTENSE CYCLES	5:04.98	12.86
5	GONZALEZ	Mercedes	ESP	TEAM GT	5:08.26	16.14
6	REPO	Katja	FIN	GT FINLAND	5:09.86	17.74
7	BRUTSAERT	Elke	USA	SCHWINN TOYOTA RAV 4	5:13.57	21.46
8	LINDGREN	Malin	SWE	SCOTT ONE LIFE LIVE IT	5:18.10	25.98
9	BONAZZI	Giovanna	ITA	DH RACING KASTLE	5:18.52	26.40
10	STREB	Marla	USA	YETI	5:18.63	26.52
11	LE CAER	Nolvenn	FRA	TEAM GT	5:18.67	26.56
12	SHER	Lisa	USA	FOES/AZONIC	5:20.10	27.99
13	STIEGER	Sarah	SUI	FIAT ROTWILD	5:22.88	30.77
14	JÖRGENSEN	Sari	SUI	TOMAC/MANITOU	5:24.92	32.81
15	LLANES	Tara	USA	MT DEW SPECIALIZED	5:28.95	36.83
16	MÖSER	Florentina	AUT	BANK AUSTRIA NATION	5:33.06	40.95
17	HASSELBECK	Stefanie	GER	DIAMOND/STEPPENWOLF	5:34.03	41.91
18	STIEFL	Regina	GER	FIAT-ROTWILD	5:34.57	42.46
19	GROS	Céline	FRA	SCOTT/LA CLUSAZ	5:34.81	42.69
20	FAGERSTRÖM	Sofia	SWE	BE-ONE TEAM	5:38.14	46.02
21	KOBES	Britta	GER	WHEELER	5:40.52	48.41
22	BEERTEN	Anneke	NED	BE-ONE TEAM	5:42.86	50.74
23	BLAS OTONDO	Miriam	ESP	SUNN 99	5:44.43	52.32
24	REES JONES	Anja	GBR		5:44.48	52.36
25	CROXON	Adele	GBR	ANIMAL ORANGE	5:48.56	56.45
26	KURANDOVA	Helena	CZE	KANGAROO/DIRT	5:49.52	57.40
27	GUY	Emma	GBR	TEAM RALEIGH	5:54.02	1:01.90
28	MORTIMER	Helen	GBR	MBUK SPECIALIZED FOX	5:55.29	1:03.17
29	VALLAZZA	Irene	GER	TRC BERGMANN	6:41.70	1:49.58
	JÜLLICH	Maren	GER	MONGOOSE	DNF	