

## Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 1999

### Squaw Valley, CA, USA - dh #5 - - 10-11 July 1999 - Report / Rapport

#### Women - More Chausson Magic

**Anne-Caroline Chausson**, 22, from Dijon in *France*, produced a high altitude performance in the head and dust today that shows she is now able to consistently produce her best performances in races other than the World Championships and those outside Europe.

In the past, Chausson has exhibited a tendency to crack under the extended pressure of World Cup racing. But by posting a time of 4'58.03" and winning with a margin of more than 13 seconds, the young French star seems to have taken a big psychological step forward. Chausson finished ahead of *GT* team-mates **Mercedes Gonzalez** (*ESP*) and **Katja Repo** (*FIN*).

*"It is important for my sponsor for me to win in the USA,"* Chausson told journalists at the finish. She was so tired at the end that she had to be helped off her bike. Then she sat down at that point and from there told the story of her race.



Anne-Caroline Chausson

*"I was really fast at the start, and then I heard about Missy Giove's crash, and that I was 7" faster (this is the first race in which Chausson has received in-race information), so I felt really confident. But then 2" later I crashed! Then I got tired and I lost my confidence."* After a further crash, Chausson arrived at the finish to discover her massive winning margin - which just goes to show how tough it must have been for the others.



About 15" earlier, Gonzalez, who was celebrating her 36th birthday anniversary and plans to retire and the end of the season, had taken the lead with a time of 5'11.19". *"I felt fatigued like I used to in moto-cross,"* said Gonzalez, a former professional motorcycle racer. Her run was far from normal, as she explained: *"At the first big drop-off, all the photographers sang Happy Birthday, and that set the mood. From then on I just went for it... Not bad for a veteran, eh?"*

Gonzalez finished only 0.17" faster than Repo, who she knows from the moto-cross circuit.

Chausson's main series rival, and winner at Big Bear last week, **Missy Giove (USA)** had a frustrating run. After finishing second in the semi-final, with a time of 5'00.56", 14.62" slower than Chausson, she then had two big crashes in the final and finished sixth with a time of 5'18.21". Chausson's lead in the World Cup now stands at a somewhat unassailable 380 points. She has now won four of the five races in the series so far, and a total of 16 in her career. She has entered six world championships and won all of them.

### **Men - Vouilloz Defeats the Newcomer**

**Christopher Kovarik**, 21, from Brisbane, *Australia*, riding in only his second World Cup downhill race, improved his time from 4'28" in the semi-final to 4'04" in the final. This time was almost good enough to win the race. **Nicolas Vouilloz (FRA)**, the last rider down the mountain beat him by a mere 1.43".

Vouilloz was impressed, to say the least. *"When I heard I had to beat 4'04", I thought at first that maybe there had been a mistake with the timing, but they never make mistakes, so I knew it would be hard."* He had not expected to improve significantly on his semi-final time of 4'08.52". This result brings Vouilloz's total of world cup round wins to 10.

As for Kovarik, some say his result was a fluke while others are convinced that here is a potential new star. In his own words, *"I've got a way to go,"* summed up the taciturn Aussie. Although delighted by his result, he seemed unfazed by it all. Sitting coolly in the Hot Seat - which is occupied by the current fastest rider - he quietly answered questions from journalists. *"I was just hoping to beat my semi-final position of 17th. I had no idea that I could go this fast... I rode consistently, I was conservative in places,"* explained the rider who has competed in mountain bike events on the Australian circuit for the past three years. Kovarik expresses a preference for rough, technical courses, which will be interesting with Mont-Sainte-Anne and Bromont approaching.

World Cup leader, **Steve Peat (GBR)**, was slowed in his run by a puncture, which he sustained in the first 600m of racing. Finishing with a time of 4'12.43," Peat was still good enough for sixth place. This puts him back into second place overall, 100 points behind Vouilloz.

**David Vazquez (ESP)** claimed third place with a time of 4'08.89".

The World Cup circuit now adjourns for three weeks, resuming at Mont-Sainte-Anne, Canada on 31 July.



Nicolas Vouilloz





place	name	nom	nat	UCIcode	t	+t
1	CHAUSSON	ANNE-CAROLINE	FRA	FRA19771008	4:58.03	0.00
2	GONZALEZ	MERCEDES	ESP	ESP19630711	5:11.19	13.16
3	REPO	KATJA	FIN	FIN19730304	5:11.36	13.33
4	BRUTSAERT	ELKE	USA	USA19680508	5:15.76	17.73
5	STREB	MARLA	USA	USA19650624	5:16.44	18.41
6	GIOVE	MISSY	USA	USA19720102	5:18.21	20.18
7	ELLIOTT	CHERI	USA	USA19700417	5:19.78	21.75
8	LLANES	TARA	USA	USA19761128	5:20.73	22.70
9	MOSELEY	TRACY	GBR	GBR19790412	5:22.09	24.06
10	SANER	MARIELLE	SUI	SUI19770322	5:23.53	25.50
11	SKELTON	DAAMIANN	CAN	CAN19710605	5:26.79	28.76
12	BONAZZI	GIOVANNA	ITA	ITA19660724	5:31.46	33.43
13	QUIN	VANESSA	NZL	NZL19761015	5:33.92	35.89
14	JÖRGENSEN	SARI	SUI	SUI19800725	5:37.71	39.68
15	STIEGER	SARAH	SUI	SUI19790825	5:37.92	39.89
16	LAWYER	APRIL	USA	USA19750401	5:38.97	40.94
17	LE CAER	NOLVENN	FRA	FRA19780223	5:40.93	42.90
18	MUXLOW	TAI-LEE	AUS	AUS19730502	5:43.62	45.59
19	SHER	LISA	USA	USA19690419	5:46.86	48.83
20	MORTIMER	HELEN	GBR	GBR19760801	6:03.16	1:05.13
21	PRUITT	KATHY	USA	USA19831226	6:40.88	1:42.85
22	CROXON	ADELE	GBR	GBR19751005	6:51.52	1:53.49
23	DONOVAN	LEIGH	USA	USA19711112	7:04.44	2:06.41
24	SCHMITZ	HEATHER	USA	USA19720727	8:27.98	3:29.95
25	GAMBIN	CECILE	CAN	CAN19660713	9:32.63	4:34.60
0	BLANCHER	LORRANIE	CAN	CAN19751029	DNS	
0	SWEET	KAT	USA	USA19690926	DNF	