

## DH/DL#5: ARAI, JAP – 28-29.7.2001

### France Continues to Dominate Downhill

**Anne-Caroline Chausson** (FRA, Volvo-Cannondale) continued her perfect downhill season with win number-five in Japan this weekend, maintaining her overall lead with superb racing on the Tissot-UCI Mountain Bike World Cup. **Nicolas Vouilloz** (FRA, Vouilloz Racing Team) also won in Japan - his first world cup victory of the season as he works hard to overcome his #2 ranking in the overall and secure another overall title.

The Arai Mountain & Snow Park in Japan took centre stage this weekend, as record crowds of 30,000 lined the 3km downhill course in unseasonably hot and dry weather. The course, shortened by 600 metres this year, was faster than ever as riders pushed their limits in the ever-increasingly competitive world cup circuit.

**Anne-Caroline Chausson** has renewed motivation in this season of racing, after pre-season injuries - and an ongoing knee injury - gave her new appreciation for the sport she dominates year after year. Determined to enjoy her time on the mountain, she practiced throughout the weekend and then, in the final, used the technique that has made her famous to beat a small women's field for the win.

*"Downhill is my sport," she said. "You just do what you can, and it's just you all by yourself, unlike the pressures of the dual. I'm more inspired this season than last year. This morning I was not feeling good - I was a bit scared to hurt my knees and inside something was blocking me. But once I got to the second part of the course I felt fast."*

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Anne-Caroline Chausson, FRA

Chausson had qualified third-fastest behind #1 seed **Missy Giove** (USA, Global Racing Team), then accelerated to the win when it counted in the afternoon's finals. Giove came in a close second, just 1.9 seconds slower as she holds on to second overall in the standings.

*"I came close to crashing really hard," said Giove, "I don't know how I stayed on the bike. I would have liked to win, but that's the breaks. Otherwise I'm on target for the season and feel good - but it would have been nice to win here in Japan for my sponsors."*

Missy Giove, USA



**Sabrina Jonnier** (FRA, RSP Import Intense) posted her season's best finish to take third, while one of the season's brightest up-and-coming riders **Fionn Griffiths** (GBR, Ancillotti Zeal) remained consistent to finish fourth. **Leigh Donovan** (USA, Schwinn) rounded out the podium with fifth place.



Rk	#	UCI Code	Surname	Firstname	Team	Time	Gap
<b>1</b>	1	<b>FRA19771008</b>	<b>CHAUSSON</b>	<b>Anne-Caroline</b>	<b>VOLVO CANNONDALE</b>	<b>4:52.39</b>	<b>+0.0</b>
<b>2</b>	2	<b>USA19720120</b>	<b>GIOVE</b>	<b>Missy</b>	<b>GLOBAL RACING</b>	<b>4:54.34</b>	<b>+1.95</b>
<b>3</b>	7	FRA19810819	JONNIER	Sabrina	FRANCE	5:00.32	+7.93
<b>4</b>	5	GBR19820827	GRIFFITHS	Fionn	ANCILLOTTI UK ZEAL	5:00.40	+8.01
<b>5</b>	3	USA19711211	DONOVAN	Leigh	SCHWINN	5:01.01	+8.62
<b>6</b>	9	SUI19770322	SANER	Marielle	GLOBAL RACING	5:02.63	+ 10.24
<b>7</b>	6	FIN19730304	REPO	Katja	TEAM GT	5:04.05	+ 11.66
<b>8</b>	17	USA19750401	LAWYER	April	MAXXIS	5:18.79	+ 26.40
<b>9</b>	20	USA19821226	PRUITT	Kathy	DIRTWORKS USA	5:18.93	+ 26.54
<b>10</b>	35	JPN19830401	SUEMASA	Mio	TEAM GT JAPAN	5:20.25	+ 27.86
<b>11</b>	26	AUS19730205	MUXLOW	Tai-Lee	DIRTWORKS USA	5:31.01	+ 38.62
<b>12</b>	4	GBR19790412	MOSELEY	Tracy	TEAM KONA FORD FOCUS	5:31.19	+ 38.80
<b>13</b>	40	CAN19730808	ALLEN	Sylvie	ROCKY MOUNTAINS	5:33.32	+ 40.93
<b>14</b>	33	ECU19840319	MARGGRAFF	Diana	SOCAL-NICOLAI	5:39.04	+ 46.65
<b>15</b>	41	CAN19670907	WATANABE	Karey	MOM & POP	5:40.58	+ 48.19
<b>16</b>	22	JPN19740606	MASUDA	Mami	MX HARO	5:43.23	+ 50.84
<b>17</b>	37	JPN19760122	MIZUKURA	Hitomi	MOM&POP	6:16.15	+1:23.76
<b>18</b>	39	JPN19700518	IKEDA	Kyouko	TEAM FUN FANCY	6:19.50	+1:27.11
<b>19</b>	38	JPN19680401	KUGA	Maki	DD BIKES	6:29.44	+1:37.05