

## DH/DL#1: MARIBOR, SLO 9-10.6.2001

### Peat and Chausson Win Downhill Opener

**Steve Peat** (GBR, Team GT) and **Anne-Caroline Chausson** (FRA, Volvo-Cannondale) opened the 2001 world cup downhill season with wins in the men's and women's finals - signaling a close season among the top competitors. Conditions were perfect for racing Sunday, as sunny blue skies and warm temperatures greeted an enormous crowd of spectators, along with loud music and plenty of champagne for the winners.

Maribor's course was shortened this year, producing closer racing and faster times. The track is 2km in length, with an average slope of 20% - one of the steepest on the circuit. Top speeds were reported as 90 km/h.

**Anne-Caroline Chausson** (FRA, Volvo-Cannondale) came into this season with both a new bike and new motivation - to defend her world cup title vigorously and maybe even improve her record from last season, where she was defeated only twice.



Anne-Caroline Chausson - FRA

She posted fast times in training and qualifying, where she was the fastest rider. She therefore came down the mountain as the last rider in the finals, improving her semi-final run by three seconds to post a time of 3:21 and beat her next-closest rival **Leigh Donovan** (USA, Schwinn) by just one second.

Chausson said she thought she could shave three seconds off her final run based on the men's qualifying time, which turned out to be true. *"I wanted a 3:20," she smiled. "I made a little mistake," she continued "but I used my brakes less in the final to save a few seconds, and I'm happy to win."*

Chausson wanted to open the season with a win, to gain momentum for next week's round two in Vars. *"It's important for me to do well in the first race of the season - I have new motivation this season and am looking forward to next week, where I know a lot of people."*

Second-place Leigh Donovan (USA, Schwinn) was close behind Chausson, just one second slower after qualifying third. *"I didn't ride that well," said Donovan. "I had massive hand-pump, but knew I'd probably get top-three."* Donovan is in her final season racing and won here last year.

**Missy Giove** (USA, Global Racing Team) finished third, two seconds slower than Chausson, with **Marla Streb** (USA, Foes/Azonic) finishing fourth and **Fionn Griffiths** (GBR, Ancillotti Zeal) making her world cup podium debut at 5th place. Griffiths was the first contender to occupy the hotseat with a time of 3:29, but was replaced by Giove, and then Donovan.

*"This is a deceptive course," said Streb. "The harder you try, the slower you seem to go."*



	#	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>3:21.47</b>	<b>+0.0</b>
<b>2</b>	3	<b>USA19711211</b>	<b>DONOVAN</b>	<b>Leigh</b>	<b>SCHWINN MTB TEAM</b>	<b>3:22.51</b>	<b>+1.03</b>
<b>3</b>	2	<b>USA19720120</b>	<b>GIOVE</b>	<b>Missy</b>	<b>GLOBAL RACING TEAM</b>	<b>3:23.55</b>	<b>+2.08</b>
<b>4</b>	6	USA19650624	STREB	Marla	FOES AZONIC	3:27.98	+6.50
<b>5</b>	21	GBR19820827	GRIFFITHS	Fionn	ANCILLOTTI ZEAL	3:29.09	+7.61
<b>6</b>	5	FIN19730304	REPO	Katja	TEAM GT	3:29.55	+8.08
<b>7</b>	9	SUI19770322	SANER	Marielle	GLOBAL RACING TEAM	3:30.33	+8.86
<b>8</b>	4	FRA19810819	JONNIER	Sabrina	RSP IMPORT INTENSE	3:31.62	+ 10.14
<b>9</b>	18	GBR19790412	MOSELEY	Tracy	TEAM KONA FORD FOCUS	3:33.54	+ 12.06
<b>10</b>	7	GBR19760801	MORTIMER	Helen	GIANT TOYOTA	3:34.98	+ 13.50
<b>11</b>	14	FRA19830128	GROS	Celine	SCOTT USA	3:39.66	+ 18.18
<b>12</b>	43	SUI19820708	THEVOZ	Amelie	SUSPENSION CENTER	3:42.83	+ 21.36
<b>13</b>	38	CHI19851019	PIZARRO	Bernardita	CHILE	3:44.40	+ 22.92
<b>14</b>	19	SUI19810719	WALKER	Sandra	SWITZERLAND	3:45.62	+ 24.14
<b>15</b>	22	NED19820707	BEERTEN	Anneke	BE-ONE TEAM	3:45.80	+ 24.32
<b>16</b>	45	NZL19771019	MACLEOD	Sheryl	NZMBA	3:46.84	+ 25.36
<b>17</b>	25	GBR19830116	GASKELL	Helen	TEAM SANTA CRUZ	3:50.20	+ 28.72
<b>18</b>	56	AUT19801118	BERNHARD	Petra	BANK AUSTRIA NATIONALTEAM	3:51.11	+ 29.63
<b>19</b>	11	USA19761128	LLANES	Tara	YETI- PEARL IZUMI	3:54.62	+ 33.15
<b>20</b>	17	JPN19740606	MASUDA	Mami	MX HARO	3:55.62	+ 34.14
<b>21</b>	53	CZE19780621	KURANDOVA	Helena	KANGAROO	3:56.71	+ 35.23
<b>22</b>	62	AUS19750915	MILLER	Katrina	TEAM JAMIS	3:57.49	+ 36.01
<b>23</b>	49	SUI19720921	HOHL	Sandra	AZONIC INTENSE	3:58.39	+ 36.91
<b>24</b>	54	ESP19660404	SOLER	Fina	MAXXIS-MSC	3:58.94	+ 37.46
<b>25</b>	59	USA19690531	DAHLAGER	Gale	RAZOR ROCK MTN CYCLE	4:00.01	+ 38.53
<b>26</b>	55	SWE19770707	FAGERSTROM	Sofia	LAHOLMS CYKLISTEN	4:02.82	+ 41.35
<b>27</b>	47	ESP19821008	JANEIRO	Violeta	KASTLE CAIXA GALICIA	4:03.56	+ 42.08
<b>28</b>	57	ECU19840319	MARGGRAFF	Diana	SOCAL - NICOLAI	4:05.83	+ 44.35
<b>29</b>	68	GER19661019	LOHNDORF	Marion	TEAM GMP	4:07.85	+ 46.37
<b>30</b>	58	AUT19691005	OSBITSCH	Petra	BIKE TEAM PECH GRAZ	4:12.35	+ 50.87