

## DH#2 : Maribor, SLO : 08-09.06.2002

### Chausson & Kovarik Win Maribor Downhill

**Anne-Caroline Chausson** (*FRA, Volvo-Cannondale*) returned to the top of the podium this weekend in Maribor, Slovenia when the champion rider won both qualifying and the finals of round 2 to earn a perfect 250 points and vault from 15th overall to 3rd. Then, in the men's final **Chris Kovarik** (*AUS, Intense Cycles*) won his third-straight world cup - his second this season in a closely-fought battle of the world's best.

The **Tissot-UCI Mountain Bike World Cup** continued its European racing this weekend, stopping for the fourth time on the Pohorje mountain in Maribor, Slovenia. Weather was sunny during Saturday's well-attended 4X event, but was cloudy Sunday and rained during the women's downhill finals.

With improving and stable weather, the men's race saw the top qualifiers nearly match their speed from the semi-finals, and produce very close times as was expected. When it was finished, series leader **Chris Kovarik** (*AUS, Intense Cycles*) had beaten last year's Maribor winner **Steve Peat** (*GBR, Orange England*) by the narrowest of margins, just .01 of a second.

Kovarik had surprised everyone in Scotland last week when won by 14 seconds, and did it again by beating top-qualifier Peat and **Fabien Barel** (*FRA, Maxxis*) by 1.27. It was another spectacular finish for the risk-taking Australian, who this week did his homework to extract all the speed and time he could.



*Chris Kovarik, AUS*

Peat set the mark in qualifying, posting a time of 2:54. Kovarik was only .09 slower, and Barel just .22 slower. It promised to be a close final, and Kovarik was ready even if the track conditions were not ideal.

The rains stopped as the men began their runs and began to post close times with ten men remaining. Then fourth-seeded

Vouilloz broke the three-minute barrier, posting a time of 2:59.42 after a disappointing seeding run.

Barel was next, and claimed the hotseat with a run of 2:59.05 - leaving just Kovarik and Peat on the hill. Kovarik came down the mountain to post a 2:57.78. Then Peat finally came into view on the mountain, speeding between the grassy sections and bumpy tree paths through the woods.



*Steve Peat, GBR*

Peat had posted an intermediate time that was .32 seconds faster than Kovarik, promising a close finish. But in the final tree section Peat had a bit of trouble, and lost just enough time to see his chance of a win disappear. *"Going into the wooded section I hit the braking bumps and lost my line,"* said Peat right after his run.

*"I'm disappointed about that small mistake, but the track had changed and I'm happy with the way I'm riding,"* Peat added. *"And I got some good points in qualifying, so every point counts."*

Asked if he knew he had a winning run, Kovarik replied *"I didn't know how I was doing until I came across the line. The only information you have is from qualifying, and I knew I was going a bit slower because it was more slippery."*

Kovarik said the key was to be smooth. *"There was no room for mistakes on this course, you just had to ride smooth and hold your speed around the corners."*

Third-place Barel said he was pleased with his run. *"I had a good qualifying run and was riding pretty aggressively with my new bike. I just wanted to make some points this afternoon. When I saw it was not too wet I tried to go faster and faster all the way down. I had a good sensation; smooth and not too much mistakes, so I'm happy."*

Vouilloz matched his qualifying performance as well as his final from last week with 4th place, while Pascal rounded out the podium at 5th place. With his win, Kovarik increases his lead in the overall series to 55 points over #2 ranked Vouilloz.

Words: **Ari Cheren**

Images: **Mark Dawson** [www.fattirefotos.com](http://www.fattirefotos.com)



Pascal | Peat | **Kovarik** | Barel | Vouilloz

	<b>Bib</b>	<b>UCI Code</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Firstname</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Gap</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>AUS19780301</b>	<b>KOVARIK</b>	<b>Christopher</b>		<b>2:57.78</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>GBR19740617</b>	<b>PEAT</b>	<b>Steve</b>		<b>2:57.79</b>	<b>0.01</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>FRA19800726</b>	<b>BAREL</b>	<b>Fabien</b>	<b>MAXXIS-MSC</b>	<b>2:59.05</b>	<b>1.27</b>
<b>4</b>	4	FRA19760208	VOUILLOZ	Nicolas	VOUILLOZ RACING	2:59.42	1.64
<b>5</b>	5	FRA19791011	PASCAL	Mickael	TEAM BE ONE	3:01.19	3.41
<b>6</b>	17	ESP19760604	OULEGO MORENO	Ivan		3:03.44	5.66
<b>7</b>	2	FRA19780323	GRACIA	Cedric	VOLVO-CANNONDAL	3:03.92	6.14
<b>8</b>	7	AUS19831121	HANNAH	Mick	HAROLEEDUNGAREE	3:04.64	6.86
<b>9</b>	14	ESP19810417	ROJO	Cesar	GLOBAL RACING	3:06.75	8.97
<b>10</b>	28	FRA19820124	POOMANS	Julien		3:07.86	10.08
<b>11</b>	25	RSA19811113	MINNAAR	Greg	GLOBAL RACING	3:07.87	10.09
<b>12</b>	82	SUI19770916	CALUORI	Claudio	MAXXIS-MSC	3:08.72	10.94
<b>13</b>	37	GBR19700526	CARRICK-ANDERSON	Crawford		3:09.14	11.36
<b>14</b>	15	ESP19730828	SAIZ	Oscar	MAXXIS-MSC	3:09.15	11.37
<b>15</b>	50	FRA19760719	LAGNEAU	Cyril	MAXXIS-MSC	3:09.20	11.42
<b>16</b>	10	ESP19790210	VAZQUEZ LOPEZ	David	GIANT GLOBAL	3:09.34	11.56
<b>17</b>	21	FIN19840419	LEHIKONEN	Matti	GLOBAL RACING	3:09.62	11.84
<b>18</b>	84	GER19770808	KLAUSMANN	Marcus		3:10.67	12.89
<b>19</b>	12	GBR19720201	PAGE	Nigel		3:11.11	13.33
<b>20</b>	18	AUS19771105	MCCARROLL	Sean	GLOBAL RACING	3:11.71	13.93
<b>21</b>	47	CZE19780529	MAROSI	Michal		3:12.36	14.58
<b>21</b>	120	GBR19850226	ATHERTON	George		3:12.36	14.58
<b>23</b>	19	ESP19820930	GUARDIA PASCUAL	Bernat	MAXXIS-MSC	3:12.38	14.6
<b>24</b>	94	SUI19780409	RYSER	Thomas		3:12.46	14.68
<b>25</b>	33	BRA19800209	BERCHTOLD	Markolf	GLOBAL RACING	3:13.18	15.4
<b>26</b>	89	CZE19810425	VAGNER	Adam		3:13.46	15.68
<b>27</b>	40	GBR19810310	WARDELL	Dave		3:13.55	15.77
<b>28</b>	9	NZL19760430	KIRCALDIE	John		3:13.62	15.84
<b>29</b>	98	FRA19830509	ORTIZ	Nicolas		3:13.68	15.9
<b>30</b>	23	GBR19700916	WARNER	Rob	GIANT GLOBAL	3:14.12	16.34
<b>31</b>	30	LAT19800702	SKOLINS	Zigs		3:14.46	16.68
<b>32</b>	27	GBR19840925	BEAUMONT	Mark		3:14.99	17.21
<b>33</b>	117	GER19801021	GOINY	Nathaniel		3:15.39	17.61
<b>34</b>	90	SUI19750923	STEFFEN	Andreas		3:15.91	18.13
<b>35</b>	111	ESP19791001	GONZALEZ SALVADOR	Roger		3:16.17	18.39
<b>36</b>	85	SUI19761023	WILDHABER	Rene		3:16.56	18.78
<b>37</b>	48	GBR19821017	THOMSON	Stuart		3:16.64	18.86
<b>38</b>	184	SWE19781017	POSSMAN	Johan		3:16.89	19.11
<b>39</b>	97	ITA19731110	ZANCHI	Bruno		3:17.56	19.78
<b>40</b>	86	ITA19660804	HERIN	Corrado		3:17.67	19.89
<b>41</b>	44	FRA19750110	AMOUR	Karim		3:17.89	20.11
<b>42</b>	13	NED19680416	DE BEVER	Bas	TEAM BE ONE	3:17.98	20.2
<b>43</b>	26	GBR19741120	LONGDEN	Will		3:19.42	21.64
<b>44</b>	31	CZE19780316	HYNCICA	Vlastimil		3:19.49	21.71
<b>45</b>	20	NED19720125	VAN DE HATERD	Wilfred		3:19.71	21.93
<b>45</b>	38	GBR19780602	BEAUMONT	Scott		3:19.71	21.93
<b>47</b>	105	GER19781225	SCHATZKI	David		3:19.82	22.04
<b>48</b>	81	SVK19820410	POLC	Filip		3:19.88	22.1
<b>49</b>	102	NOR19800807	JOHNSEN	Espen		3:20.75	22.97
<b>50</b>	39	SUI19810120	MERMOUD	Damien		3:20.84	23.06
<b>51</b>	42	NED19800318	THOLEN	Gertje		3:20.89	23.11
<b>52</b>	128	ESP19840915	CANALS FLIX	Pascual		3:22.30	24.52
<b>53</b>	34	GER19760514	TSCHUGG	Guido		3:22.80	25.02
<b>54</b>	125	ESP19800620	AGUIN CASTRO	Jorge		3:24.18	26.4
<b>55</b>	135	SLO19730413	JAMNIK	Janez		3:25.11	27.33
<b>56</b>	101	CRO19750120	ANTIC	Nino		3:26.22	28.44
<b>57</b>	113	SUI19840330	SCHURTER	Mario		3:26.34	28.56

<b>58</b>	11	USA19740531	VOREIS	Kirt	HAROLEEDUNGAREE	3:26.59	28.81
<b>59</b>	112	AUT19750422	GOLLES	Michael		3:27.72	29.94
<b>60</b>	45	CAN19720629	PORTER	Trevor		3:28.30	30.52
<b>61</b>	83	FRA19800826	DELDYCKE	Mickael	FIAT ROTWILD	3:28.46	30.68
<b>62</b>	158	SVK19820311	PECHO	Lubos		3:29.74	31.96
<b>63</b>	52	JPN19800422	IDEGAWA	Naoki	GLOBAL RACING	3:29.90	32.12
<b>64</b>	95	IRL19770906	O'BRIEN	Glyn		3:30.02	32.24
<b>65</b>	190	BEL19830323	VINK	Nico		3:30.08	32.3
<b>66</b>	22	POL19800623	ZIELINSKI	Gregorz		3:30.10	32.32
<b>67</b>	88	GER19781003	SCHNEIDER	Frank		3:30.38	32.6
<b>68</b>	148	SVK19820516	KOZAR	Milan		3:30.52	32.74
<b>69</b>	51	FRA19820826	PROST	Mathieu		3:30.91	33.13
<b>70</b>	130	ITA19781118	IANNIS	Giorgio		3:31.37	33.59
<b>71</b>	29	GBR19811029	BARKER	Steve		3:31.56	33.78
<b>71</b>	35	IRL19790605	LAWLOR	John		3:31.56	33.78
<b>73</b>	109	FIN19830831	TUUNAINEN	Aku		3:33.00	35.22
<b>74</b>	186	SWE19800614	SYLVAN	Ragnar		3:33.38	35.6
<b>75</b>	114	JPN19770605	TAKEMOTO	Masashi		3:34.99	37.21
<b>76</b>	108	GER19811231	KUDELLA	Stefan		3:45.37	47.59
<b>77</b>	103	ESP19810629	ECHEVARRIA	Javier		3:45.80	48.02
	92	ESP19771229	SANCHEZ	Himar	MAXXIS-MSC	DNF	
	191	GER19740313	SCHIMPFLE	Norbert		DNF	
	152	SUI19690113	GRASIC	Janez		DNS	