

# MTB World Cup XC #6 & DH #5 - CDM

Maribor, Slovenia, September 14-16, 2007

## September 16: Elite Men Downhill

### Hill finishes off World Cup in style

By Rob Jones in Maribor – [cyclingnews.com](http://cyclingnews.com)

Sam Hill of Australia took his third win of the five race series in Maribor today, adding to the world title he won in Scotland last weekend and cementing the fact that he is the strongest downhiller in the world. Today's victory gives Hill a massive winning margin of 384 points over Great Britain's Gee Atherton in the World Cup standings.

Rain, which had been forecast for the morning, never materialized, and the large and enthusiastic crowd of spectators were treated to perfect blue skies and temperatures in the mid-20s Celcius. This left the 2.57 kilometre course bone dry, and the soft loamy ground began to get more and more churned up as the day went on, making some corners ragged, and exposing roots all the way down the course.

Dan Stanbridge (Great Britain) set the first strong time of 3:02.42 which stood up for nearly half the field before it finally fell to Aurelien Giordanengo (France). After that, it dropped rapidly, with a new time going up every few riders.



Australia's Sam Hill (Iron Horse/Monster Energy)  
Photo ©: MTB.si



Great Britain's Gee Atherton (Animal Commencal)  
Photo ©: MTB.si

Defending champion Steve Peat (Santa Cruz) had his hopes dashed when he flatted high on the course. Julien Camellini (France) took the top time below 2:57 at ten riders to go, and it wasn't until Gee Atherton (Animal Commencal), at four to go, came over the last jump that the time dropped by a second.

Atherton's time was barely a second faster than Hill's qualifier, so there was every expectation that Hill could go faster, and he did - almost two seconds quicker to win by 1.33 seconds.

"I think this track suited me more than last week," commented Hill afterwards. "I really like it like this, with turn after turn, lots of technical bits and not as much pedalling. Everything went pretty smooth, but it was a fair bit looser than in qualifying, and some turns were completely blown out."

Hill's three wins in five events meant that he had won the World Cup prior to the final, and it was really a race for second. Peat's flat and Matti Lehtikainen's (G-Cross Honda) seventh place allowed the Finn to jump ahead into second overall.

### Race Notes

- Fabien Barel (Kona Les Gets) crashed heavily in the semifinal, hard enough to have been knocked unconscious. He was taken to hospital and there is no report on his condition at this time.

- Crowds for the entire weekend were a reported 23,000 - 10,000 on Saturday and 13,000 today.

## Results

1 Samuel Hill (Aus) Iron Horse / Monster Energy	2.53.78
2 Gee Atherton (GBr) Animal Commencal	0.01.33
3 Julien Camellini (Fra)	0.02.56
4 Fabien Pedemanaud (Fra)	0.02.68
5 Marc Beaumont (GBr) Team MBUK Santacruz	
6 Florent Payet (Fra) Ssangyong-Fusion Pro Team	0.03.28
7 Matti Lehtikainen (Fin) Team G-Cross Honda	0.03.56
8 Brendan Fairclough (GBr) Team G-Cross Honda	0.03.80
9 Josh Bryceland (GBr)	0.04.65
10 Michael Hannah (Aus) Cannondale The Cut	0.04.95
11 Oscar Saiz Castane (Spa)	0.06.27
12 Filip Polc (Svk) Gravity Group	0.06.60
13 Andrew Neethling (RSA)	0.07.53
14 Matthew Simmonds (GBr)	0.07.98
15 Ivan Oulego Moreno (Spa) Massi	0.08.05
16 Dan Atherton (GBr) Animal Commencal	0.08.12
17 Aurelien Giordanengo (Fra)	0.08.17
18 Samuel Blenkinsop (NZl) Gravity Group	0.08.31
19 Dan Stanbridge (GBr)	0.08.64
20 James Maltman (Aus) Ssangyong-Fusion Pro Team	0.08.92
21 Ben Reid (Irl)	0.09.04
22 Thomas Braithwaite (GBr)	0.09.12
23 Luke Strobels (USA)	0.09.19
24 Herman Olund (Swe)	0.09.21
25 Nathan Rennie (Aus) Santa Cruz Syndicate	0.09.40
26 Kieran Bennett (NZl)	0.09.49
27 Dominik Gspan (Svi)	0.09.59
28 Thibaut Ruffin (Fra)	0.10.30
29 Mitchell Delfs (Aus)	0.10.97
30 Ramon Antonio Leiva Figueroa (Chi) Ssangyong-Fusion Pro Team	0.11.14
31 Jonas Westmann (Swe)	0.11.47
32 Robin Wallner (Swe)	0.11.63
33 Joris Bigoni (Fra)	0.11.99
34 Georg Sieder (Aut)	0.12.21
35 Neil Donoghue (GBr) Team Mbuk Santacruz	0.12.44
36 Cole Bangert (USA)	0.12.48
37 Karim Amour (Fra)	0.12.66
38 Jared Rando (Aus) Giant Mountain Bike Team	0.12.70
39 Pasqual Canals Flix (Spa) Massi	0.12.90
40 Chris Kovarik (Aus) Ms-Intense Factory-Racing Team	0.13.05
41 Mike Skinner (NZl)	0.13.11
41 Marco Milivinti (Ita)	
43 Steve Smith (Can)	0.13.63
44 Patrik Kotrla (Cze)	0.13.66
45 Adam Brayton (GBr) Mtb-Direct.Co.Uk	0.13.81
46 Chris Ball (GBr)	0.13.94
47 Tyler Morland (Can)	0.13.96
48 Chris Hutchens (GBr)	0.14.07
49 Samuel Zbinden (Svi)	0.14.49
50 Joseph Smith (GBr)	0.14.75
51 Daniel Wolfe (Irl)	0.14.77
52 Amiel Cavalier (Aus) Giant Mountain Bike Team	0.14.90
53 Quentin Derbier (Fra)	0.14.91
54 Florent Wolter (Fra)	0.14.99
55 Lorenzo Suding (Ita)	0.15.15
56 Ruairidh Cunningham (GBr)	0.15.28
57 Esteban Deronzier (Fra) Chatel Mountain Cycle	0.15.40
58 Mathias Haas (Aut)	0.15.96
59 Valentin Juillard (Fra)	0.16.18
60 Jan Javornik (Svk)	0.16.49
61 Rowen Sorrell (GBr)	0.16.51
62 Falco Ruppert (Ger)	0.17.75
63 Gerard Wolfe (Irl)	0.18.19
64 David Vazquez Lopez (Spa) Msc Bikes	0.18.39
65 Chris Boice (USA)	0.18.51

66 Mathieu Troquier (Fra)	0.19.32
67 Jan Cestnik (Slo)	0.19.75
68 Bostjan Volf (Slo) Arb Rsp Downhill Racing Team	0.20.76
69 Ralph Jones (GBr)	0.22.01
70 Livio Zampieri (Ita)	0.22.93
71 Mads Weidemann (Den)	0.23.73
72 Claudio Cozzi (Ita)	0.24.72
73 Andreas Sieber (Ger)	0.24.79
74 Marcus Klausmann (Ger) Ghost International Racing Team	0.27.05
75 Bernat Guardia Pascual (Spa) Msc Bikes	0.30.89
76 Jeff Beatty (Can)	0.32.94
77 Claudio Caluori (Swi) Ms-Intense Factory-Racing Team	0.39.95
78 Steve Peat (GBr) Santa Cruz Syndicate	0.48.84
79 Alan Beggin (Ita)	1.12.58
80 Marco Bugnone (Ita)	1.31.30
DNF Frederico Xavier Temporal Bassa (Spa)	
DNF Sasa Merljak (Slo)	
DNS Fabien Barel (Fra) Kona Les Gets	