

MTB World Cup DH 4X #4 - CDM

Schladming, Austria, July 7-8, 2007

July 8: Elite Downhill

Australian world champions win world cup downhill double

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Reigning Australian world champions Tracey Hannah and Sam Hill won the elite women's and men's downhills at the fourth round of the World Cup in Schladming, Austria Sunday.

Racing her first season in the elite ranks, Hannah became the youngest Australian to win a World Cup event. Hannah, 2006 junior world champion downhill racer, just turned 19 just three weeks ago.

After qualifying second fastest, Hannah went on to beat hot favourite and current world champion, Sabrina Jonnier (Iron Horse / Monster Energy) from France. Hannah rode an impressive 4:41.50 beating Jonnier by more than one second on the 2,100m course. Marielle Saner (Bikepark.Ch Tui) finished third.

Hannah moved up into fourth position in the World Cup overall standings, but Jonnier looks certain to take the series with only one remaining event.

Michael Hannah, Tracey's older brother, who took eighth in the men's race, said his younger sister has a future in the sport. "In all the World Cups, she's been consistent. For someone her age that shows there's a lot of promise."

Making it an Australian double, world champion Sam Hill (Iron Horse / Monster Energy) won the elite men's event with a massive margin over his nearest rival, Gee Atherton (Animal Commencal) from Great Britain. The 21 year-old rode a blistering 3:51.44 over five seconds faster than Atherton with both riders being the only two competitors to break the four minute barrier.

Greg Minnaar (Team G-Cross Honda) rounded out the top three. After the race, he said, "I'm happy with today's result. I was third here last year and I guess this is consistent. I was struggling a little bit earlier in the week trying to find a good rhythm on this track. After my semi, I knew I had to move outside of my control zone and take a few more chances. I hate to say it though, I always think about my shoulder before the start, especially after what happened two weeks back in Canada [Minnaar's shoulder dislocated while racing. - ed.], but I just had to give it my best shot.

"Sam was pretty impressive today," finished Minnaar. He deserves to be in the black jersey right now."

Hill now leads the series with a comfortable 807 points, 168 points ahead of Britain's Steve Peat. Hill looks set to take the series with one remaining final round in Slovenia in September.

With just two months until the World Championships, riders will now prepare for the challenging course in Fort William, Scotland.

Men Final

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| 1 Samuel Hill (Aus) Iron Horse / Monster Energy | 3.51.44 |
| 2 Gee Atherton (GBr) Animal Commencal | 0.05.14 |
| 3 Greg Minnaar (RSA) Team G-Cross Honda | 0.05.52 |
| 4 Matti Lehtikainen (Fin) Team G-Cross Honda | 0.05.57 |
| 5 Steve Peat (GBr) Santa Cruz Syndicate | 0.06.37 |
| 6 David Vazquez Lopez (Spa) MSc Bikes | 0.06.49 |
| 7 Brendan Fairclough (GBr) Team G-Cross Honda | 0.06.69 |
| 8 Nathan Rennie (Aus) Santa Cruz Syndicate | 0.08.83 |
| 9 Marc Beaumont (GBr) Team Mbuk Santacruz | 0.09.95 |
| 10 Ben Reid (Irl) | 0.10.38 |
| 11 Fabien Barel (Fra) Kona Les Gets | 0.12.11 |
| 12 Michael Hannah (Aus) Cannondale The Cut | 0.12.49 |
| 13 Mickael Pascal (Fra) Q By Saab-Salomon | 0.12.68 |
| 14 Julien Camellini (Fra) Mojo Orange | 0.14.12 |
| 15 Ben Cathro (GBr) Q By Saab-Salomon | 0.14.28 |
| 16 Neil Donoghue (GBr) Team Mbuk Santacruz | 0.14.61 |
| 17 Ruairidh Cunningham (GBr) | 0.15.08 |
| 18 Dan Atherton (GBr) Animal Commencal | 0.15.56 |
| 19 Luke Strobels (USA) | 0.15.62 |
| 20 Alan Beggin (Ita) | 0.17.48 |
| 21 Pasqual Canals Flix (Spa) Massi | 0.17.62 |
| 22 Nico Vink (Bel) Dolphin Bike Team | 0.17.88 |
| 23 Chris Kovarik (Aus) MS-Intense Factory-Racing Team | 0.17.92 |
| 24 Thibaut Ruffin (Fra) | 0.18.67 |
| 25 Antoine Badouard (Fra) | 0.19.01 |
| 26 Justin Leov (NZl) | 0.19.14 |
| 27 Florent Payet (Fra) Ssangyong-Fusion Pro Team | 0.19.24 |
| 28 Andrew Neethling (RSA) | 0.19.55 |
| 29 Oscar Saiz Castane (Spa) | 0.20.89 |
| 30 Bernat Guardia Pascual (Spa) MSc Bikes | 0.21.28 |
| 31 Adam Vagner (Cze) | 0.21.38 |
| 32 Nathan Rankin (NZl) | 0.22.09 |
| 33 Remy Charrier (Fra) | 0.22.15 |
| 34 Samuel Zbinden (Sui) | 0.22.44 |
| 35 Chris Ball (GBr) | 0.22.57 |
| 36 Matthew Simmonds (GBr) | 0.22.83 |
| 37 Samuel Blenkinsop (NZl) Gravity Group | 0.23.04 |
| 38 Marcus Klausmann (Ger) Ghost International Racing Team | 0.23.43 |
| 39 Marcel Beer (Sui) | 0.23.75 |
| 40 Nick Beer (Sui) | 0.23.77 |
| 41 Claudio Caluori (Sui) MS-Intense Factory-Racing Team | 0.24.49 |
| 42 Nicolas Ortiz (Fra) | 0.24.57 |
| 43 Elias Somvi (Ita) Playbiker - Iron Horse | 0.24.89 |
| 44 Marco Milivinti (Ita) | 0.24.91 |
| 45 Pierre Charles Georges (Fra) | 0.25.14 |
| 46 Toni Berg (Fin) | 0.25.21 |
| 47 Jared Graves (Aus) | 0.25.39 |
| 48 Kamil Tatarkovic (Cze) Kona Les Gets | 0.25.59 |
| 49 Dominik Gspan (Sui) | 0.25.92 |
| 50 Mathieu Troquier (Fra) | 0.26.26 |
| 51 Damien Spagnolo (Fra) Q By Saab-Salomon | 0.26.75 |
| 52 Tom Deacon (GBr) | 0.26.84 |
| 53 Duncan Riffle (USA) | 0.27.10 |
| 54 Glenn Haden (NZl) | 0.27.34 |
| 55 Richard Cheetham (GBr) | 0.27.36 |
| 56 Herman Olund (Swe) | 0.27.79 |
| 57 Markus Pekoll (Aut) | 0.28.76 |
| 58 Marco Bugnone (Ita) | 0.29.31 |
| 59 Mike Skinner (NZl) | 0.29.36 |
| 60 Alex Stock (GBr) | 0.29.51 |
| 61 Jonathan Cheetham (GBr) | 0.29.54 |
| 62 Mario Sieder (Aut) | 0.29.60 |
| 63 Markus Schwab (Sui) | 0.29.75 |
| 64 Florent Wolter (Fra) | 0.29.90 |
| 65 Jorge Aguin Castro (Spa) | 0.31.34 |

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| 66 Dave Wardell (GBr) Gt / Burgtec | 0.31.89 |
| 67 Nimrod Hemmo (Isr) | 0.32.24 |
| 68 Ralph Jones (GBr) | 0.33.89 |
| 69 Dan Harper (GBr) | 0.34.69 |
| 70 Matej Charvat (Cze) | 0.36.79 |
| 71 Mathias Haas (Aut) | 0.37.83 |
| 72 Gaetan Reilhan (Fra) | 0.39.03 |
| 73 Josh Bryceland (GBr) | 1.20.31 |
| 74 Matthew Scoles (NZl) | 1.29.15 |
| 75 Joris Bigoni (Fra) | 1.44.99 |
| DSQ Adam Brayton (GBr) Mtb-Direct.Co.Uk | |
| DSQ Frank Schneider (Ger) | |
| DSQ Karim Amour (Fra) | |
| DNF Michael Staufer (Aut) | |
| DNF Lee Bertram (GBr) | |
| DNF Johan Potgieter (RSA) | |