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

cyclingngews.com

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.

Women Final

<pre>1 Tracey Hannah (Aus) 2 Sabrina Jonnier (Fra) Iron Horse / Monster Energy 3 Marielle Saner (Swi) Bikepark.Ch Tui 4 Tracy Moseley (GBr) Kona Les Gets 5 Celine Gros (Fra) 6 Vanessa Quin (NZl) MS-Intense Factory-Racing Team 7 Emmeline Ragot (Fra) 8 Fionn Griffiths (GBr) 9 Helen Gaskell (GBr) 10 Petra Bernhard (Aut)</pre>	4.41.50 0.01.56 0.02.71 0.04.57 0.08.69 0.11.50 0.17.77 0.19.09 0.19.59 0.21.77
11 Floriane Pugin (Fra) Chatel Mountain Cycle	
12 Anja Rees Jones (GBr) Stendec Racing	0.25.25
13 Mio Suemasa (Jpn)	0.28.39
14 Claire Buchar (Can)	0.30.51
15 Silja Stadler (Swi)	0.41.28
16 Emily Horridge (GBr) Chatel Mountain Cycle	0.41.72
17 Calamaty Jayne Cann (GBr)	0.45.02
18 Miriam Ruchti (Swi)	0.49.23
19 Helene Fruhwirth (Aut)	0.55.28
20 Olivia Johnston (NZ1)	0.55.67
21 Elisa Canepa (Ita) Playbiker - Iron Horse	0.57.05
22 Dalma Kiss (Hun)	1.02.74
23 Sue Mahony (GBr)	1.14.58
24 Aimee Dix (GBr)	1.16.66
25 Jaymie Mart (Bar)	1.18.18
26 Katarina Tothova (Cze)	1.30.66
27 Monika Maria Rosifka (Aut)	2.13.99
DSQ Daniela Bossard (Swi)	
DSQ Harriet Rucknagel (Ger)	
DNF Pascaline Reusser (Swi)	