

MTB World Cup DH #2 - CDM

La Bresse, France, May 9-10, 2009

Race 3 - May 10: Elite men downhill Peat matches Vouilloz record with win

By Rob Jones – cyclingnews.com

Steve Peat (Santa Cruz Syndicate) is one victory away from taking the all-time lead in downhill World Cup victories after an incredible ride to record his 16th career victory in the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup at the second round in La Bresse, France. Peat now matches French rider Nicolas Vouilloz in wins. He also took over the lead in the World Cup standings with his win.

"I'm very happy to win after such a long time, and happy to break Vouilloz's record," said Peat afterwards, referring to the fact that this is his first World Cup victory since Willingen, Germany in 2006. "It's good to keep the jersey in the team."

Kyle Strait (Specialized Team America) was the men's top US finisher in 11th place, just ahead of Australia's Mitchell Delfs (Kenda Morewood). Steve Smith (MS Evil Racing) was Canada's top finisher in 15th place.



Steve Peat on his way to a win.
Photo ©: Gary Perkin

The short course required the skills of an all around rider to perform well, with fast pedaling and jumping sections at the top, followed by steep, technical and rocky sections in the lower half. Many a rider started out fast, only to lose precious seconds in the final third of the 1.2 kilometre course.

The men's race had a potential upset in the making, when heavy rain swept in shortly after Strait grabbed the hot seat. Strait was 29th to start, and the track had been dry and hard until that point. Favoured Chris Kovarik (Chain Reaction/Intense) crashed shortly afterwards, showing how slippery it was getting.



Huge crowds
Photo ©: Gary Perkin

Strait's time of 2:12.33 held up for over 30 riders before Justin Leov (Trek World Racing) finally managed to displace him by a mere five one hundredths of a second. Leov also settled in for an extended sit in the Hot seat, remaining in the top spot until the final 10 riders began their runs. Strait would finish 11th, just behind Leov.

Leov's teammate Andrew Neethling was the first to better Leov, dropping the leading time to below 2:12 (2:11.98). However, he was replaced immediately by Mikael Pascal (MSC Bikes). World Cup leader Greg Minnaar (Santa Cruz Syndicate) was next to take the lead, but again it was a short lived reward, as Great Britain's Brendan Fairclough (Monster Energy-Specialized) became the first rider to go under 2:10, with a 2:09.99 run.

Fairclough hung onto the lead through Sam Blenkinsop (Yeti Fox Shox) before his teammate, and perennial favourite, Sam Hill knocked an impressive second and a half off the leading time. There were only three riders to go, and the rain continued to fall.

Michael "Mick" Hannah (GT Bicycles) was next, and he slotted in between Hill and Fairclough, and then it was world champion Gee Atherton (Animal-Commencal), who came in behind Fairclough and ahead of Minnaar, guaranteeing himself a podium spot.

Finally, it was "Peaty", the legendary rider from Sheffield, Yorkshire. Only 17th fastest through the speedtrap, Peat kept getting faster as the course got harder. By the first intermediate timer, he was up to second, by the second intermediate station he was more than a second in front, and at the finish line he was a full 1.27 seconds ahead of Hill to record his 16th World Cup win.

Heading into the third downhill round of the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup next week in Vallnord, Andorra, Peat holds a 25-point lead over Hannah at 415 points, with Minnaar 62 points back in third. Duncan Riffle (Duncan Riffle racing) is the top ranked American in 14th, two spots ahead of Smith, with Gwin 19th overall.



Elite men's podium.
Photo ©: Gary Perkin

Results

Elite men

1	Steve Peat (GBr) Santa Cruz Syndicate	2.07.14
2	Samuel Hill (Aus) Monster Energy / Specialized / Mad Catz	0.01.27
3	Michael Hannah (Aus) GT Bicycles	0.01.86
4	Brendan Fairclough (GBr) Monster Energy / Specialized / Mad Catz	0.02.85
5	Gee Atherton (GBr) Animal Commencal	0.04.01
6	Greg Minnaar (RSA) Santa Cruz Syndicate	0.04.22
7	Mickael Pascal (Fra) MSC Bikes	0.04.56
8	Andrew Neethling (RSA) Trek World Racing	0.04.84
9	Samuel Blenkinsop (NZl) Yeti Fox Shox Factory Race Team	0.05.01
10	Justin Leov (NZl) Trek World Racing	0.05.14
11	Kyle Strait (USA) Specialized Team America	0.05.19
12	Mitchell Delfs (Aus) Kenda Morewood	0.05.23
13	Julien Camellini (Fra) Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense	0.05.62
14	Aaron Holmes Gwin (USA) Yeti Fox Shox Factory Race Team	0.05.82
15	Steve Smith (Can) MS Evil Racing	0.06.06
16	Aurélien Giordanengo (Fra)	0.06.34
17	Marc Beaumont (GBr) GT Bicycles	0.06.40
18	Nick Beer (Swi) Scott 11	0.06.42
19	Matti Lehtikainen (Fin) MS Evil Racing	0.06.58
20	Adam Vagner (Cze)	0.06.59
21	Tom Deacon (GBr) 2Stagefactory	0.06.62
22	Marcus Klausmann (Ger) Ghost A.T.G. Pro Team	0.06.70
23	David Vazquez Lopez (Spa) Lapierre Powered By Saab Salomon	0.06.81
24	Josh Bryceland (GBr) Santa Cruz Syndicate	0.07.08
25	Bernat Guardia Pascual (Spa) Massi	0.07.10
26	Duncan Riffle (USA) Duncan Riffle Racing	0.07.14
27	Robin Wallner (Swe)	0.07.24
28	Thibaut Ruffin (Fra)	0.07.31
29	Ivan Oulego Moreno (Spa) Massi	0.07.44
30	Filip Polc (Svk) MS Evil Racing	0.07.47
31	Dan Atherton (GBr) Animal Commencal	0.07.61
32	Cody Warren (USA) Specialized Team America	0.07.65
33	Markus Pekoll (Aut) Solid Aclass Factory Team	0.07.87
34	Boris Tetzlaff (Aut) Solid Aclass Factory Team	0.07.95
35	Danny Hart° (GBr) Lapierre Powered By Saab Salomon	0.08.06
36	Pasqual Canals Flix (Spa) XMS-Devinici World Cup Team	0.08.07
37	Jared Graves (Aus) Yeti Fox Shox Factory Race Team	0.08.08
38	Lorenzo Suding (Ita) Dytech DH	0.08.09
39	Nathan Rankin (NZl) Iron Horse-Kenda-Playbiker	0.08.18
40	Cyrille Kurtz (Fra) Team Sunn	0.08.33
41	Dan Stanbridge (GBr)	0.08.34
42	Damien Spagnolo (Fra) Subaru Mountain Bike Pro Team	0.08.41
43	Ben Cathro (GBr)	0.08.46
44	Vlastimil Hyncica (Cze)	0.08.53
45	Rémi Thirion (Fra) Team Sunn	0.08.55
46	Ben Reid (Irl) Just Reid Race Team	0.08.67
47	Brook Macdonald° (NZl) Ancillotti Doganaccia Racing Team	0.08.84
48	Cameron Cole (NZl) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	0.08.86
49	Fabien Cousinie (Fra)	0.08.96
50	Georg Sieder (Aut) Solid Aclass Factory Team	0.09.05
51	Herman Olund (Swe)	0.09.20
52	Matthew Scoles (NZl)	0.09.21
53	Fabien Pedemanaud (Fra) Scott 11	0.09.35
54	Sam Dale (GBr)	0.09.37
55	Thomas Braithwaite (GBr)	0.09.63
56	Benny Strasser (Ger)	0.09.84
57	Luke Strobels (USA) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	0.10.02
58	Pierre Charles Georges (Fra) Solid Aclass Factory Team	0.10.36
59	Kevin Aiello° (USA) GT Bicycles	0.10.41
60	Maximilian Bender (Ger)	0.10.55
61	Esteban Deronzier (Fra) Morzine-Avoriaz 74	0.10.76
62	Rémy Charrier (Fra) Team Sunn	0.10.90
63	Harry Heath° (GBr)	0.11.25
64	Joseph Smith (GBr) Kona	0.11.29

65 Romain Paulhan (Fra)	0.11.49
66 Carlo Gambirasio (Ita) Surfing Shop	0.11.66
67 Matej Charvat (Cze)	0.11.77
68 Bryn Atkinson (Aus)	0.11.80
69 Jared Rando (Aus) Giant Mountain Bike Team	0.11.83
70 David Eme (Fra)	0.11.97
71 Bradley Benedict (USA) Duncan Riffle Racing	0.12.69
72 Kieran Bennett (NZl) X-Fusion-Intense	0.12.85
73 Antoine Badouard (Fra)	0.13.53
74 Joshua Button (Aus)	0.15.53
75 Scott Mears (GBr)	0.15.69
76 Dominik Gspan (Swi)	0.19.18
77 Martin Frei (Swi)	0.20.24
78 Chris Kovarik (Aus) Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense	0.21.26
79 Nathan Rennie (Aus) Kenda Morewood	0.37.46
80 Ryan Condrashoff (USA) X-Fusion-Intense	0.39.19
DNF Robert Smith (GBr)	

° Indicates Under 23

Teams

1 Trek World Racing	79 pts
2 Santa Cruz Syndicate	73
3 Monster Energy / Specialized / Mad Catz	65
4 GT Bicycles	46
5 Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	40
6 Yeti Fox Shox Factory Race Team	39
7 Scott 11	34
8 MS Evil Racing	29
9 Animal Commencal	28
10 Suspension Center	28
11 Morzine-Avoriaz 74	26
12 MSC Bikes	24
13 Norco World Team	24
14 2Stagefactory	24
15 Iron Horse-Kenda-Playbiker	22
16 Ancillotti Doganaccia Racing Team	20
17 Specialized Team America	20
18 Kenda Morewood	19
19 Team Vario Racing	19
20 Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense	18
21 Ghost A.T.G. Pro Team	9
22 Lapierre Powered By Saab Salomon	8
23 Massi	8
24 Duncan Riffle Racing	5