

Hill secures World Cup with victory

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Minnaar holds onto second overall with bronze in Austria



Sam Hill's ride left no doubts (Image credit: Tour of Japan)

While the women's World Cup downhill title had been decided prior to the final race, the men's was completely open. Sam Hill (Monster Energy / Specialized / Mad Catz) was leading, but by the slimmest of margins; the Australian sat only 16 points ahead of Greg Minnaar (Santa Cruz Syndicate), with new world champion Steve Peat (Santa Cruz Syndicate) also still in the race, 69 points behind Hill. Gee Atherton (Animal Commencal) was also in with a shout, holding a tally of 141 points.

Hill's lead was padded when he picked up 50 valuable points by winning qualifying, while Minnaar crashed, but the race between the two basically came down to final: if Minnaar won and Hill didn't finish second, the South African would take the title.

"I was alright until 20 minutes before the start of my race," revealed Hill afterwards. "Greg had done a good run, so I started to get a bit nervous. I was pretty shaky, and all I could think about was the overall, and that I had to get down fast to beat Greg. I think it's been a good strong battle all year. I had some bad luck at some races, and so did others, so it is definitely pretty special to come out on top here."

Josh Bryceland (Santa Cruz Syndicate) set the first time under 4:10, but barely had a chance to climb into the Hot Seat before his teammate Minnaar came down two riders later to obliterate his time with a 4:04.71. This run began to look pretty solid, as names such as Mick Hannah (GT Bicycles), Justin Leov (Yeti Fox Shox), Peat and Gee Atherton all came up short.

"I felt that I had it in me to do well," said Minnaar, "but I had a bad start, made some mistakes and lost my rhythm. I kept making small mistakes through the top until I was able to regroup halfway down. I was surprised that my time held up so long. It's kind of hard to lose the title when I had the most wins for the season."

However, Minnaar's hopes received a blow when Sam Blenkinsop (Yeti Fox Shox) knocked nearly a second and a half off his time.

Blenkinsop took the Hot Seat and held it through the remaining riders until it was Hill's turn. The Australian came through the first split over two seconds up on Blenkinsop, and continued on to finish 2.33 seconds in front, taking his second World Cup win of the season and confirming him as the World Cup winner for 2009. Minnaar stayed in second while Peat remained in third.

Results

#	Rider Name (Country) Team	Result
1	Samuel Hill (Aus) Monster Energy / Specialized / Mad Catz	0:04:01.10
2	Samuel Blenkinsop (NZL) Yeti Fox Shox Factory Race Team	0:00:02.33
3	Greg Minnaar (RSA) Santa Cruz Syndicate	0:00:03.61
4	Aaron Gwin (USA) Yeti Fox Shox Factory Race Team	0:00:06.97
5	Brendan Fairclough (GBr) Monster Energy / Specialized / Mad Catz	0:00:07.83
6	Justin Leov (NZL) Trek World Racing	0:00:08.18
7	Steve Peat (GBr) Santa Cruz Syndicate	0:00:08.25
8	Josh Bryceland (GBr) Santa Cruz Syndicate	0:00:08.27
9	Luke Strobels (USA) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	0:00:08.49
10	Mickael Pascal (Fra) MSC Bikes	0:00:08.79
11	Nick Beer (Swi) Scott 11	0:00:08.85
12	Markus Pekoll (Aut) Solid Aclass Factory Team	0:00:09.00
13	Gee Atherton (GBr) Animal Commencal	0:00:09.35
14	Marc Beaumont (GBr) GT Bicycles	0:00:10.90
15	Mitchell Delfs (Aus) Kenda Morewood	0:00:12.20
16	Fabien Barel (Fra) Subaru Mountain Bike Pro Team	0:00:12.83
17	Joseph Smith (GBr) Kona	0:00:12.90
18	Robin Wallner (Swe)	0:00:13.04
19	Thibaut Ruffin (Fra)	0:00:13.06
20	Fabien Pedemanaud (Fra) Scott 11	0:00:13.39
21	Bernard Kerr ^o (GBr)	0:00:14.09
22	Wyn Masters (NZL) Ancillotti Doganaccia Racing Team	0:00:14.10
23	Boris Tetzlaff (Aut) Solid Aclass Factory Team	0:00:14.26
24	Damien Spagnolo (Fra) Subaru Mountain Bike Pro Team	0:00:14.34
25	Bernat Guardia Pascual (Spa) Massi	0:00:14.57
26	Thomas Braithwaite (GBr)	0:00:14.71
27	Michael Hannah (Aus) GT Bicycles	0:00:15.13
28	Toni Berg (Fin)	0:00:15.14
29	Cesar Rojo Vidal (Spa)	0:00:15.75
30	Danny Hart ^o (GBr) Lapierre Powered By Saab Salomon	0:00:16.36
31	Adam Vagner (Cze)	0:00:16.44
32	Marcel Beer (Swi)	0:00:16.55
33	Marcus Klausmann (Ger) Ghost A.T.G. Pro Team	0:00:16.61
34	Joris Bigoni (Fra)	0:00:17.09
35	Ivan Oulego Moreno (Spa) Massi	0:00:17.19
36	Chris Kovarik (Aus) Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense	0:00:17.73

37	Matej Charvat (Cze)	0:00:17.77
38	Oscar Harnstrom (Swe)	0:00:17.81
39	Ben Reid (Irl) Just Reid Race Team	0:00:18.04
40	Cyrille Kurtz (Fra) Team Sunn	0:00:18.21
41	Ruaridh Cunningham (GBr) Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense	0:00:18.45
42	Herman Olund (Swe)	0:00:18.89
43	Duncan Riffle (USA) Duncan Riffle Racing	0:00:19.01
44	Nico Vink (Bel)	0:00:19.09
45	Steve Smith (Can) MS Evil Racing	0:00:19.20
46	Gareth Brewin ^o (GBr)	0:00:19.38
47	Curtis Keene (USA)	0:00:19.49
48	Shaun O'connor ^o (Aus) Iron Horse-Kenda-Playbiker	0:00:19.55
49	Joe Barnes (GBr)	0:00:19.69
50	Remi Thirion (Fra) Team Sunn	0:00:20.19
51	Georg Sieder (Aut) Solid Aclass Factory Team	0:00:20.42
52	David Eme (Fra)	0:00:20.57
53	Antonio Ferreiro Pajuelo (Spa) XMS-Devinci World Cup Team	0:00:20.96
54	Maxime Remy (Fra) Suspension Center	0:00:20.99
55	Nejc Rutar (Slo) MBK Orbea	0:00:21.11
56	Marco Bugnone (Ita) Argentina Bike Gravity Team	0:00:21.43
57	Will Rischbieth (Aus)	0:00:21.72
58	Andrew Neethling (RSA) Trek World Racing	0:00:22.12
59	Alexander Kangas (Swe)	0:00:22.33
60	Romain Paulhan (Fra)	0:00:22.85
61	Sam Dale (GBr)	0:00:23.38
62	Scott Mears (GBr)	0:00:23.50
63	Vlastimil Hyncica (Cze)	0:00:23.60
64	Kyle Strait (USA) Specialized Team America	0:00:23.67
65	David Vazquez Lopez (Spa) Lapierre Powered By Saab Salomon	0:00:23.81
66	Simon Cardon (Fra)	0:00:24.68
67	Benny Strasser (Ger)	0:00:25.10
68	Dan Atherton (GBr) Animal Commencal	0:00:26.44
69	Maciej Jodko (Pol)	0:00:26.48
70	Cameron Cole (NZl) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	0:00:26.60
71	Ralph Jones (GBr)	0:00:27.24
72	Felix Groizard ^o (Fra) Team Sport Bike	0:00:27.69
73	Kim Petersson ^o (Swe)	0:00:29.24

74	Richard Thomas (GBr)	0:00:29.73
75	Pierre Charles Georges (Fra) Solid Aclass Factory Team	0:00:32.25
76	Dominik Gspan (Swi)	0:00:33.64
77	Bertrand Gilles° (Bel)	0:00:34.73
78	Joshua Button (Aus)	0:00:37.13
79	Mitch Ropelato° (USA)	0:00:38.28
80	Dan Stanbridge (GBr)	0:00:51.30

Teams

1	Yeti Fox Shox Factory Race Team	85	pts
2	Santa Cruz Syndicate	79	
3	Monster Energy / Specialized / Mad Catz	68	
4	Trek World Racing	66	
5	Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	52	
6	Iron Horse-Kenda-Playbiker	35	
7	Ancillotti Doganaccia Racing Team	35	
8	Morzine-Avoriaz 74	32	
9	Scott 11	31	
10	Solid Aclass Factory Team	27	
11	Suspension Center	24	
12	Chain Reaction Cycles/Intense	23	
13	Team Vario Racing	22	
14	Subaru Mountain Bike Pro Team	22	
15	MSC Bikes	21	
16	GT Bicycles	21	
17	Team Sunn	19	
18	Animal Commencal	18	
19	Kenda Morewood	16	
20	2Stagefactory	16	
21	Kona	14	
22	Massi	6	
23	Lapierre Powered By Saab Salomon	1	