

Miller and Flying Lopes Win Dual World Cups

Illuminated by floodlights and spurred on by the roar of the crowd, *American Brian*

Lopes (Mongoose) and *Australian Katrina Miller (Jamis)* became the first Swatch-UCI Dual World Cup champions.

These two denizens of the dirt overcame mud and night time darkness to put on a display of riding that sent the crowd of nearly 10,000 at Arai City, Japan, into a roaring frenzy.

Men

Lopes ended a thrilling season of head-to-head with a surprise win, coming from a 10 point deficit in the world cup series to pass leader *David Cullinan (USA, Schwinn-Toyota)* in the series final.

For Lopes, 27, a resident of Mission Viejo, California, this was the first major international title in mountain biking. His talent has long been recognised, and he has won the US national downhill series three times, but the demands of the international downhill circuit seemed too severe for him. *"When they said they were going to do this format (Dual) I knew it would suit my style, and I'm so stoked to win the title."* He said after the finish.

Cullinan who had looked the likely series winner earlier in the season was hindered in the final event by his shoe jamming in his pedal and was eliminated in the quarter finals to finish fifth on night and second overall.

Eric Carter (USA, GT) finished second here in Japan and moved up from fourth overall to third, completing a US 1-2-3 in one of the few cycling disciplines this has not been dominated by French riders this year.

Women

Miller came into these finals with a perfect record of 250 points. Her nearest rival was *Sari Jorgenson (SUI, Yeti)* who was over a hundred points back in the overall standings. Jorgenson finished third this evening, behind the surprisingly strong *Miwa Sakamoto (JPN, Tack Night Hatto)*.

The Arai City course was a classic Glen Jacobs creation to begin with, but the addition of several days' rain and the dark of night combined to give the undulating course many dark secrets. The floodlights overhead dazzled riders as they launched into the air off the jumps, and on landing the problem was readjusting vision to the dark of land level.

Lopes' friend *Shaun Palmer (USA, Specialized)* who gained extensive experience with jumping under floodlights as a professional freestyle snowboard rider before becoming a downhill racer knew just how it would be. *"Palmer warned me about the lights before I ever made a run,"* Lopes recounted, adding *"It was unbelievable! I just jumped and hoped I'd land right. What a crowd though - the Japanese are crazy!"*

The crowd - the largest ever for this sport at 8,620 - was loud, enthusiastic and elated by the fine performance of their countrywoman Sakamoto. The rain, which had stopped briefly during competition, began to fall immediately after it ended, and a sea of people moved down to the large podium stage to watch a live band and the season-ending awards ceremony. The men were presented with trophy cups and Japanese lanterns and after spraying full magnums of Champagne over all and sundry, further thrilled the crowd by hurling items of their outer clothing into the throng. It was joyous and good humoured end to a great season.

by *Ari Cheren*

Men/Hommes-

<i>rank</i>	<i>bib</i>	<i>name/nom</i>		<i>nat</i>	<i>points</i>	<i>UCIcode</i>
1	1	LOPES	BRIAN	USA	50	USA19710908
2	3	CARTER	ERIC	USA	40	USA19700306
3	12	BEAUMONT	SCOTT	GBR	30	GBR19780602
4	7	POLC	FILIP	SVK	20	SVK19820410
5	2	CULLINAN	DAVE	USA	10	USA19691029
5	4	PALMER	SHAUN	USA	10	USA19681114
5	6	BÜELER	ANDY	SUI	10	SUI19780609
5	8	TOMAC	JOHN	USA	10	USA19671103
9	5	ENGSTRÖM	JOHAN	SWE	5	SWE19770802
9	9	YANAGIHARA	YASUHIRO	JPN	5	JPN19720720
9	10	VOREIS	KIRT	USA	5	USA19740531
9	14	TAKAMATSU	KENJI	JPN	5	JPN19760413
9	15	TSUKAMOTO	TAKASHI	JPN	5	JPN19701123
9	17	IDEGAWA	NAOKI	JPN	5	JPN19800422
9	20	KANEKO	SHINGO	JPN	5	JPN19790827
9	22	HYUNG RAE	CHUNG	KOR	5	KOR19760527
17	13	MCCARROLL	SEAN	AUS	0	AUS19771105
17	16	PHANNARONG	KONGSAMUT	THA	0	THA19700505
17	19	LONGDEN	WILL	GBR	0	GBR19741123
17	21	KASAKAWA	YUICHIRO	JPN	0	JPN19831001
17	23	KUAPUNYA	NIKORN	THA	0	THA19740316
17	24	GAMAN	TAKASHI	JPN	0	JPN19770923
17	25	ARUNROEK	THANDO	THA	0	THA19611207
17	26	KAWASAKI	MASAKI	JPN	0	JPN19740724
17	27	KURISE	YUTA	JPN	0	JPN19820503
17	28	MIYATA	KENICHI	JPN	0	JPN19720201
17	29	SASAKI	TAKETOSHI	JPN	0	JPN19760315
0	11	BENEKE	JÜRGEN	GER	0	GER19720223 DNS
0	18	KANO	SHINICHIRO	JPN	0	JPN19800326 DNS

Knock Out Table

DUAL #8 , ARAI FINALS, Elite Men									
		1/16		1/8		1/4		Semi-Finals	Finals
Qual.	Bib	Name		Bib	Name		Bib	Name	
32	32								
1	1	LOPES Brian		1	LOPES Brian				
17	17	IDEGAWA Naoki		17	IDEGAWA Naoki				
16	16	PHANNARONG Kong-				1	LOPES Brian		
25	25	ARUNROEK Thando				8	TOMAC John		
8	8	TOMAC John		8	TOMAC John				
24	24	GAMAN Takashi		9	YANAGIHARA, Yas.				
9	9	YANAGIHARA, Yas.				1	LOPES Brian		
29	29	SASAKI Taketoshi				12	BEAUMONT Scott		
4	4	PALMER Shaun		4	PALMER Shaun				
20	20	KANEKO Shingo		20	KANEKO Shingo				
13	13	MCCARROLL Sean				4	PALMER Shaun		Final
28	28	MIYATA Kenichi				12	BEAUMONT Scott		1 LOPES Brian
5	5	ENGSTROM Johan		5	ENGSTROM Johan				3 CARTER Erie
21	21	KASAKAWA Yuichiro		12	BEAUMONT Scott				
12	12	BEAUMONT Scott							
31	31								Consolation
2	2	CULLINAN Dave		2	CULLINAN Dave				7 POLC Filip

18	18	KANO Shinichiro	15	TSUKAMOTO Takashi	12	BEAUMONT Scott
15	15	TSUKAMOTO Takashi			2	CULLINAN Dave
26	26	KAWASKI Masaki			7	POLC Filip
7	7	POLC Filip	7	POLC Filip		
23	23	KUAPUNYA Nikorn	10	VOREIS Kirt	7	POLC Filip
10	10	VOREIS Kirt			3	CARTER Eric
30	30					
3	3	CARTER Eric	3	CARTER Eric		
19	19	LONGDEN Will	14	TAKAMATSU Kenji		
14	14	TAKAMATSU Kenji			3	CARTER Eric
27	27	KURISE Yuta			6	BUELER Andy
6	6	BUELER Andy	6	BUELER Andy		
22	22	HYUNG RAE Chung	22	HYUNG RAE Chung		