



Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 1999

BIG BEAR LAKE, CA - USA - xc#6 - 26-27 June 1999

Lopes and Miller Win Close Battles

It was close, but experience won out as the series leaders **Brian Lopes**, 28 (USA), and **Katrina Miller**, 24 (AUS), held fast against determined challenges from final round opponents **Eric Carter**, 29 (USA), and **Leigh Donovan**, 28 (USA).

A gentlemanly final round between Carter and Lopes seemed to have been decided when Lopes came out of the first berm ahead of Carter. These two US riders - who in their younger years competed in bmx together - have an unwritten agreement to refrain from physical contact when on the course. But at the *Stall Wall* half way down the course Carter drew level and briefly the outcome was in question. After the landing from this steep, 2m obstacle, Lopes asserted his claim to the win with a powerful sprint that took him clear.

It was all over before the line. *"Eric's a fast rider and I'd never take him for granted, but once I came out of the berm in front I knew I had it as long as I made no mistakes. I didn't expect him to be so close on the Stall Wall but after it I just got on the gas and I don't think there is a rider out there who can out-haul me in a sprint... The good thing about Eric is that if he makes a pass it's a good pass, not a stupid pass."*



In the consolation final, **Cedric Gracia** (FRA) took his fourth consecutive third place again after **Michal Marosi** (CZE) crashed at the berm and prematurely ended what had looked like an exciting race. Lopes now leads Gracia in the series by 155 to 120 points, with Carter third on 70.

Leigh Donovan, who only five hours earlier had finished fourth in the downhill, appeared to be on the verge of her first Dual win over Miller. But a momentary lapse of concentration through the moguls following the bermed corner let Miller slip through. *"I was definitely behind, but I held my line through the moguls and came out in front,"* said Miller who extends her lead over Donovan in the series. Donovan was disappointed, saying, *"I was not nervous all night, but when I got in the gate with Katrina I started to feel antsy. I wanted to win tonight so I wouldn't need to race this sport again!... It is hard to keep a focus on both the dual and the downhill. For me the downhill is more serious and the dual is more fun."*



Miller now leads Donovan by 200 to 110 points, with **Tara Llanes** (USA) third on 90.



place	name	nom	nat	points
1	MILLER	KATRINA	AUS	50
2	DONOVAN	LEIGH	USA	40
3	MUXLOW	TAI-LEE	AUS	30
4	ELLIOTT	CHERI	USA	20
5	LLANES	TARA	USA	10
5	LINDGREN	MALIN	SWE	10
5	SHER	LISA	USA	10
5	JÖRGENSEN	SARI	SUI	10
9	QUIN	VANESSA	NEW	0
9	MORTIMER	HELEN	GBR	0
9	MEADE	TERA	CAN	0
9	BLANCHER	LORRANIE	CAN	0
9	STREB	MARLA	USA	0
9	PRUITT	KATHY		0
9	BUHL	MELISSA	USA	0