



Grundig/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup

Kaprun- AUT 15-16.8.98

Results/Resultats-1998	Reports/Rapport	Results/Resultats-1997	Results/Resultats-Dual
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men/Hommes • Women/Femmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downhill • Dual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men/Hommes • Women/Femmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men/Hommes • Women/Femmes

Sunn-Un Unstoppable at Kaprun

Vouilloz and Chausson repeat downhill wins for second consecutive week.

It was a total domination. Close finishing times at Kaprun's Grundig/UCI World Cup were seen only among the runners-up. Once again, the star riders *Nicolas Vouilloz* (FRA, Sunn-Un) and *Anne-Caroline Chausson* (FRA, Sunn-Un) were simply too good for their rivals. This duo, whose race jerseys vary between blue (Sunn- Un), rainbow (World Championship) and orange (points leaders), decided on metallic skinsuits today to cheat the wind and get even further ahead. These wins today virtually seal the World Cup titles for the French riders.

With the exception of the men's fastest qualifier, *Bas DeBever* (NED, Be-One), today's runs were mostly free of crash and mechanical incident - a marked contrast to last week's troubled event. De Bever made his run last, but as is the pattern for leader Vouilloz, arrived in the finish arena with the race already decided.

WOMEN:

While Chausson's run was polished, her perennial rival, **Missy Giove**, had a couple of near crashes. *"I made mistakes,"* said the disappointed Giove at the finish. *"I almost had to stop at one point after I almost crashed, and I pretty much blew it in the three fireroad turns."* Giove now needs to



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win the Arai City finals - with Chausson 22nd or worse - to win the World Cup.

Second at Kaprun was **Nolvenn LeCaer** (FRA, GT), parlaying a strong ride last week. *"The top was so slow,"* recalled LeCaer, and added: *"I'm very happy with today because there was a lot of pedalling."* LeCaer, who is viewed as a technique rather than a strength rider, is now ranked third overall.

Chausson was visibly pleased to have one more race behind her, one more win under her belt as she moves closer to the goal that has eluded her for so long. *"I had a very good run with no big mistakes,"* she said. *"I didn't go too fast on the top to conserve power, because at the bottom it's more technical."*

Asked why she is so dominant this season, she said *"Compared to last year I race with more power, and in my head I am very strong right now."* In this state of mind it is hard to see her losing a race anywhere before the season's end.

MEN:

Nicolas Vouilloz doesn't like to qualify in the top spot, and last week sat before the finish line for several seconds during qualifying before rolling across the timing lights. He again rode the last section of Kaprun's course slowly, evidenced by his slow pace captured by the Swatch speed trap near the finish.

The finals were a very different story. It was pure speed as the world's best downhillers gave no quarter when he flew down the course. Until that point the lead had been occupied mostly by two men: **Scott Sharples** (AUS, Trek Volkswagen) and then **David Vazquez** (ESP, Volvo-Cannondale), who finished the day in third and second respectively. Although the slightly built Vouilloz was 20 seconds faster than De Bever's qualifying mark of the day before, the course was also faster on Sunday than it had been 24 hours earlier. So Vouilloz anxiously watched the television monitor as the powerful Dutchman, five times a bmx



Women's podium



Men's podium



world champion, made his descent. But when the camera showed De Bever's tyre puncture on a rock and flap loosely on its rim, Vouilloz knew instantly that he had won the race.

"On the top it was very slippery, so I think I rode that well," said Vouilloz. "After that I pedalled, and made maybe one or two mistakes. At the flat part the French manager told me 'less 4 seconds' so I thought it's cool and tried to give all at the end." Asked about his prospects against Vazquez going into the finals, Vouilloz said, "Well, we can lose easily and David rode well today... he finished second. So we have one week off and we'll see what will happen. But it should be David or me."

By Ari Cheren

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Kaprun is a charming alpine village in the northwest mountains of Austria, a favorite of not only the mountain bike world cup, but the snowboard tour as well. The high scenic walls of the mountains, capped with a permanent snowcap, are a lush green during the summer months with dairy cows munching just outside the race course tape.

The 4km course proper begins at approximately 840 metres elevation, dropping 600 metres to the venue below which is situated next to a cold mountain river. The track is predominantly cut through grass, and is at times a half meter deep in the hillside.

The top is a fast open section of sweeping turns on doubletrack and gravel road. After a tree section the course follows the peak of a hillside before plunging toward the village below. Two short asphalt sections break up the dirt and grass conditions which are several metres wide at some points.

The bottom section is the most challenging as riders fly into a right hairpin and begin a fast and rocky lower speed section. After the second asphalt portion the course drops left, down the fall line with a spectacular off-camber jump. A Swatch speed trap, right-hander and steep drop to the finish and the run is over.

MTB World Cup Index

<i>place</i>	<i>bib</i>	<i>UCIcode</i>	<i>name/nom</i>	<i>nat</i>	<i>team</i>	<i>points</i>
1	3	USA19700306	CARTER Eric	USA	TEAM GT	50
2	1	USA19710206	LOPES Brian	USA	MONGOOSE	40
3	4	USA19691029	CULLINAN Dave	USA	SCHWINN/TOYOTA	30
4	7	SVK19820410	POLC Filip	SVK	SEAT MERIDA KCK	20
5	2	USA19690630	KING Mike	USA	TEAM GT	10
5	5	FRA19800826	DELDYCKE Mickael	FRA	PEUGEOT-PALASEA	10
5	6	GBR19741123	LONGDEN Will	GBR	MBUK/SPECIALIZED	10
5	25	CZE19681204	MRAZEK Frantisek	CZE	KANGAROO D.I.R.T	10
9	11	GBR19721010	PONTING Tim	GBR	ANIMAL/PLAYSTATI	5
9	13	GBR19780602	BEAUMONT Scott	GBR	KONA	5
9	14	JPN19701123	TSUKAMOTO Takashi	JPN	DIRT BROS	5
9	15	SUI19780609	BÜELER Andy	SUI	SCOTT INTL	5
9	16	IRL19770906	O'BRIEN Glyn	IRL	ROTEC	5
9	21	SUI19761109	JOSEPH Michel	SUI	BE-ONE	5
9	23	GBR19720201	PAGE Nigel	GBR	CLUBROOST-ROTWIL	5
9	24	RSA19761214	RUMBELOW Robin	RSA		5
17	8	GER19720223	BENEKE Jürgen	GER	SCHWINN/TOYOTA	
17	10	CZE19720521	MAROSI Michal	CZE	MTB SPORT BECVAR	
17	12	BEL19731205	CLOSSET Pascal	BEL	DIESEL-BIANCHI	
17	17	HUN19731202	NAGY Attila	HUN	GEORGE SE GT	
17	18	GBR19700506	GEALL Steve	GBR	GIANT DH TEAM	
17	19	GBR19730529	PLUNKETT Paul	GBR	ROTEC	
17	22	CZE19780316	HYNCICA Vlastimil	CZE	GRAFOBAL-GT	
17	26	BRA19800000	BERCHTOLD M. E.	BRA	YETI/BRETZKE	
17	27	CZE19810425	VAGNER Adam	CZE	GRAFOBAL-GT	
17	28	SUI19751013	MEIER Philippe	SUI	YETI PEAK PERFORMANCE	
17	29	AUT19720501	HASLINGER Harald	AUT	TEAM HEAVY TOOLS	
17	30	GER19690420	RAU Herbert	GER	STEPPENWOLF SUNS	
17	31	GER19700921	BOOST Karl-heinz	GER	STARFLIGER/SCOTT	
17	32	BEL19720308	SALIEN Werner	BEL		
	9	SWE19780312	LUNDMAN Jan	SWE		DNS
	20	SWE19761026	ERIKSSON Kristian	SWE		DNS