

Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 1999

Les Gets, FRA - dl#1 - 22-23 May 1999 - Report / Rapport Lopes and Miller: Winning as Usual



The leading names of the 1998 began this year's Swatch-UCI Dual World Cup campaign in much the same way as they finished last year's - on top.

Deep mud at Les Gets, in France's Haute Savoie department, was a hindrance to all contestants on 22 May in the opening round of the eight-race Swatch-UCI Dual series.

Brian Lopes, 28, (USA) and **Katrina Miller**,

24, (AUS) slipped and slid their ways through the mud to reassert themselves as the world's top dual riders at the start of the new season.

Brian Lopes - USA

Lopes, from Laguna Beach, California, racing with his distinctive new "Lefty" one-armed fork, had to fight hard to overwhelm the young Slovakian contender, **Filip Polc**, 17.

A certain amount of physical contact and blocking is permitted in the sport of dual racing, and Lopes, seeing that Polc was about to go around him on a faster outside line, made a move that slowed the Slovakian's progress.

"I saw he was making a move on the outside, so I tried to slow him so he couldn't get past," explained Lopes. About his unorthodox new one-legged front suspension, Lopes said: *"I have used it for two weeks now, and feel very confident with it - it works!"*

The third place final was won by **Cedric Gracia** (FRA). *"I am pleasantly surprised, I did not expect to do so well here. It is a good course for me, it is steep so I did not have to pedal much."* Gracia beat **Eric Carter** of the USA.

The steep gradient of the Les Gets dual course was the subject of some discussion among riders. While Gracia liked it, Lopes said that on very steep courses passing manoeuvres are more difficult and that to get in front a rider has to go faster than he would like.

Katrina Miller had a comfortable win over **Emma**

Guy (GBR) in the women's final. *"I didn't like the mud, you just had to follow ruts and stay loose,"* she said after her race.



Katrina Miller - AUS

Guy thought that her previous cross country racing experience had helped her gain the fitness for good results on the downhill. *"I had a good winter's training and I'm really fit now...I pedal at every opportunity I get.... I am getting used to the start gates (used in dual racing)."*

The race for third place was won by **Leigh Donovan** (USA), who beat **Sabrina Jonnier**.



1	LOPES	Brian	USA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	50
2	POLC	Filip	SVK	SEAT MERIDA KCK OSLA	40
3	GRACIA	Cédric	FRA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	30
4	CARTER	Eric	USA	TEAM GT	20
5	DELDYCKE	Mickael	FRA	SCHWINN FRANCE	10
5	PETERS	Gerwin	NED	BE-ONE	10
5	DE BEVER	Bas	NED	BE-ONE	10
5	O'BRIEN	Glyn	IRL	ANIMAL/ORANGE	10
9	ENGSTRÖM	Johan	SWE	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	5
9	BEAUMONT	Scott	GBR	KONA	5
9	STEFFEN	Andreas	SUI	CYCLECRAFT/OBV	5
9	AMOUR	Karim	FRA	GT FRANCE	5
9	TLASEK	Vlastimil	CZE	ROCK MACHINE	5
9	O'DRISCOLL	Chris	USA	SOLID-ELLSWORTH	5
9	PONTING	Tim	GBR	ANIMAL/ORANGE	5
9	MAROSI	Michal	CZE	ROCK MACHINE	5
17	MEUNIER	Julien	FRA		
17	KING	Mike	USA	HARO	
17	MAZERES	Christophe	FRA	SUNN	
17	STRATHMANN	Dennis	GER	INTENSE	
17	BLUM	Holger	GER	NICOLAI	
17	GOLAY	Florian	SUI	SCOTT ELVIA	
17	CULLINAN	David	USA	SCHWINN/TOYOTA	
17	RYSER	Thomas	SUI		
17	O'HARA	Dave	IRL		
17	MEYER	Holger	GER	GT GERMANY	
17	OCHIN	Olivier	FRA	ANCILLOTTI	
17	HASLINGER	Harald	AUT	BANK AUSTRIA NATIONA	
17	GUTIERREZ BOE	Jose Angel	ESP	KASTLE	
17	MOLIMARD	Thierry	FRA		
17	KIRKALDIE	John	NZL	SCHWINN TOYOTA	
17	GEALL	Steve	GBR	SPOOKY	

Qualification

1	GRACIA	Cédric	FRA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	31.12
2	POLC	Filip	SVK	SEAT MERIDA KCK OSLA	32.27 01.15

3	CARTER	Eric	USA	TEAM GT	32.38	01.25
4	LOPES	Brian	USA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	32.50	01.37
5	ENGSTRÖM	Johan	SWE	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	32.87	01.74
6	DELDYCKE	Mickael	FRA	SCHWINN FRANCE	33.12	01.99
7	BEAUMONT	Scott	GBR	KONA	33.15	02.03
8	STEFFEN	Andreas	SUI	CYCLECRAFT/OBV	33.19	02.06
9	MEUNIER	Julien	FRA		33.34	02.21
10	PETERS	Gerwin	NED	BE-ONE	33.38	02.26
11	AMOUR	Karim	FRA	GT FRANCE	33.66	02.53
12	DE BEVER	Bas	NED	BE-ONE	33.79	02.66
13	TLASEK	Vlastimil	CZE	ROCK MACHINE	33.80	02.68
14	KING	Mike	USA	HARO	33.87	02.74
15	O'DRISCOLL	Chris	USA	SOLID-ELLSWORTH	33.88	02.75
16	MAZERES	Christophe	FRA	SUNN	33.98	02.86
17	PONTING	Tim	GBR	ANIMAL PLAYSTATION	34.02	02.89
18	STRATHMANN	Dennis	GER	INTENSE	34.11	02.98
19	MAROSI	Michal	CZE	ROCK MACHINE	34.26	03.13
20	BLUM	Holger	GER	NICOLAI	34.28	03.15
21	GOLAY	Florian	SUI	SCOTT ELVIA	34.34	03.21
22	CULLINAN	David	USA	SCHWINN/TOYOTA	34.36	03.24
23	RYSER	Thomas	SUI		34.40	03.27
24	O'BRIEN	Glyn	IRL	ROTEC	34.42	03.30
25	O'HARA	Dave	IRL		34.44	03.31
26	MEYER	Holger	GER	GT GERMANY	34.48	03.36
27	OCHIN	Olivier	FRA	ANCILLOTTI	34.49	03.36
28	HASLINGER	Harald	AUT	BANK AUSTRIA NATIONA	34.59	03.46
29	GUTIERREZ BOE	Jose Angel	ESP	KASTLE	34.65	03.52
30	MOLIMARD	Thierry	FRA		34.70	03.57
31	KIRKALDIE	John	NZL	SCHWINN TOYOTA	34.80	03.67
32	GEALL	Steve	GBR	SPOOKY	34.85	03.73
33	SIMCIK	Daniel	CZE	KANGAROO D.I.R.T.	34.97	03.84
34	TSUKAMOTO	Takashi	JPN	MX/MONGOOSE	34.99	03.86
35	FUHRMANN	Oliver	GER	DOWNHILL-MAGAZIN	35.02	03.89
36	GADEN	Loie	FRA	VARIO	35.02	03.89
37	HERRMANN	Stefan	GER	FIAT ROTWILD	35.04	03.91
38	GROSSMAN	Oliver	GER	GMP	35.14	04.01
39	BUCCIARELLI	Vincent	FRA		35.21	04.08
40	HOREMANS	Koen	BEL		35.28	04.16
41	VAN DER HATERD	Wilfred	NED	BE ONE	35.31	04.18
42	RHYNER	Raffael	SUI	ANIMAL/PLAYSTATION	35.36	04.23
43	BÜELER	Andy	SUI	FIAT ROTWILD	35.39	04.26
44	MAYRHOFFER	Reinhard	AUT	U-RC TEAM GT LINZ	35.42	04.29
45	DEMELENNE	Sebastien	BEL	NICOLAY	35.44	04.31
46	LONGDEN	Will	GBR	MBUK SPECIALIZED FOX	35.50	04.37
47	PAGE	Nigel	GBR	INTENSE/KAWASKI	35.52	04.39

48	KEINECKE	Elmar	GER	NICOLAI/WIESSMANN	35.52	04.39
49	CALUORI	Claudio	SUI	TEAM TOMAC	35.70	04.57
50	REVELL	Anthony	GBR	SARACEN/NO FEAR	35.71	04.58
51	CILLIK	Filip	SVK	GRAFOBAL ZAMO	35.74	04.61
52	LAWRENCE	Randy	USA	INTENSE CYCLES	35.92	04.79
53	LARREGOLA	Benjamin	FRA	BIKE-UP	35.99	04.86
54	BRECHBÜHLER	Martin	SUI	KRAFTWERK-SECURITAS	36.07	04.95
55	CLOSSET	Pascal	BEL	DIESEL-BIANCHI	36.38	05.25
56	YOONG	Andrew	IRL		36.41	05.29
57	HIRZBRUCH	Heiko	GER	NICOLAI/WIESSMANN	36.43	05.31
58	HAUS	Joachim	GER	NICOLAI	36.51	05.38
59	LAWLOR	John	IRL		36.53	05.40
60	HOOKE	Chico	GBR	SPOOKY CYCLES	36.63	05.50
61	TSCHUGG	Guido	GER	WHEELER	36.75	05.62
62	NOACK	Alexander	GER	NICOLAI	36.83	05.71
63	SCHIECK	Sebastian	GER		37.36	06.23
64	HANHILAHTI	Antti	FIN	FINLAND	37.45	06.33
65	HYNCICA	Vlastimil	CZE	GRAFOBAL-ZAMO	37.65	06.52
66	BRASSEUR	Geoffrey	BEL		37.66	06.53
67	AALTONEN	Ari	FIN		37.67	06.54
68	KELLNER	Jurgen	GER	HOT CHILI	37.75	06.63
69	BÜELER	Markus	SUI	FIAT ROTWILD	37.91	06.78
70	BISHOP	Aidan	GBR	SINTESI UK	37.99	06.86
71	MCCARROLL	Sean	AUS	TEAM GIANT	38.24	07.11
72	PIRES	Carlos	POR	BKE COMP	38.80	07.67
73	VESIKKO	Jani	FIN	TEAM RIDE FREE	39.11	07.98
74	BERNIERE	Jérôme	FRA	BIKE UP RECYCLE	40.78	09.65
75	BELL	Steven	IRL		40.85	09.72
76	RAPOSO	Rodrigo	POR	BKE COMP	42.38	11.26
77	GERDES	Reiner	GER	FOCUS	46.77	15.65
78	MÜLLER	Alexander	GER	NICOLAI/WIESMANN	47.54	16.41
79	SCHUPP	Ralf	GER	SINTESI-NPJ	49.71	18.58
80	ROCKWELL	Myles	USA	TEAM GIANT	53.95	22.82
	PALMER	Shaun	USA	MT DEW/SPECIALIZED	DNS	
	JOSEPH	Michel	SUI	BE-ONE	DNS	
	VOREIS	Kirt	USA	MT DEW/SPECIALIZED	DNS	
	HERIN	Corrado	ITA	SINTESI VERLICCHI	DNS	
	CARRICK ANDERSON	Crawford	GBR	GIANT UK DOWN HILL	DNS	
	KING	Lewis	GBR	GIANT UK DOWN HILL	DNS	
	CASTELLANOS	Jesus	ESP	C. ACTIVO BMX	DNS	
	JANY	Stéphane	FRA	GT FRANCE	DNS	
	PEAT	Steve	GBR	TEAM GT	DNS	
	NORLAND	Sondre	NOR	SANDNES SK	DNS	
	DALL'OZZO	John	AUS		DNS	