

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**.



<i>place</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>nom</i>	<i>nat</i>	<i>team</i>	<i>points</i>
1	MILLER	Katrina	AUS	TEAM JAMIS	50
2	GUY	Emma	GBR	TEAM RALEIGH	40
3	DONOVAN	Leigh	USA	INTENSE CYCLES	30
4	JONNIER	Sabrina	FRA	SUNN	20
5	STREB	Marla	USA	YETI	10
5	BONAZZI	Giovanna	ITA	DH RACING KASTLE	10
5	LINDGREN	Malin	SWE	SCOTT ONE LIFE LIVE IT	10
5	SANER	Marielle	SUI	HOT CHILI	10
9	MORTIMER	Helen	GBR	MBUK SPECIALIZED FOX	
9	KURANDOVA	Helena	CZE	KANGAROO/DIRT	
9	BRUTSAERT	Elke	USA	SCHWINN/TOYOTA	
9	LLANES	Tara	USA	MT DEW/SPECIALIZED	
9	JÖRGENSEN	Sari	SWI	MTB CYCLETECH	
9	WALKER	Sandra	SUI		
9	SHER	Lisa	USA	FOES/AZONIC	
9	CROXON	Adele	GBR	ANIMAL/ORANGE	

Qualification

1	MILLER	Katrina	AUS	TEAM JAMIS	36.21	
2	STREB	Marla	USA	YETI	37.24	01.03
3	MORTIMER	Helen	GBR	MBUK SPECIALIZED FOX	38.18	01.96
4	BONAZZI	Giovanna	ITA	DH RACING KASTLE	38.30	02.08
5	DONOVAN	Leigh	USA	INTENSE CYCLES	38.80	02.59
6	LINDGREN	Malin	SWE	SCOTT ONE LIFE LIVE IT	39.05	02.83
7	GUY	Emma	GBR	TEAM RALEIGH	39.28	03.07
8	KURANDOVA	Helena	CZE	KANGAROO/DIRT	39.83	03.61
9	SANER	Marielle	SUI	HOT CHILI	40.21	03.99
10	BRUTSAERT	Elke	USA	SCHWINN/TOYOTA	40.39	04.17
11	LLANES	Tara	USA	MT DEW/SPECIALIZED	40.82	04.60
12	JÖRGENSEN	Sari	SWI	MTB CYCLETECH	41.30	05.08
13	WALKER	Sandra	SUI		41.58	05.36
14	JONNIER	Sabrina	FRA	SUNN	41.72	05.50
15	SHER	Lisa	USA	FOES/AZONIC	42.15	05.93
16	CROXON	Adele	GBR	ANIMAL/PLAYSTATION	42.37	06.15
17	FAGERSTRÖM	Sofia	SWE	BE-ONE	46.85	10.63
	STIEGER	Sarah	SUI	FIAT ROTWILD	DNS	