



Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 1999

Gracia Takes Series Lead

Thanks to Annie Robillard for information used in this report. Ms Robillard is the UCI Press Chief for the Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup.

Maribor, Slovenia - **Karim Amour** (FRA) won an eventful second round final from **Mike King** (USA) in the Swatch-UCI Dual Series, but the early exit from the race of **Brian Lopes** (USA) opened the door for **Cedric Gracia** (FRA) to move into the series lead. **Katrina Miller** (AUS) remains firmly in control of the women's series.

Men

A sudden switch of line half way through the final run was all it took for Karim Amour to dispose of Mike King and win the final of the knock-out format Dual event.

In this physical, contact cycling event King's front wheel glanced off Amour's rear as the Frenchman unexpectedly cut across his path, and the American hit the dirt. A protest immediately after the finish failed to sway the commissaires and Amour's win was upheld.

Cedric Gracia, 21, from Saint Gaudens, who King had knocked out in the semi-final, took third place in his ride against **Will Longden** (GBR). The 30 points earned from this result added to Gracia's 40 from Les Gets last weekend, and the Frenchman went into the lead with 70 points, ahead of Round One winner Lopes whose 9th place today brought his total to 55. Amour who was 9th in Les Gets, also has 55 points.



Women

In a thrilling climax to the women's final, series leader Katrina Miller (AUS) came from behind to pass **Tara Llanes** (USA) on the final jump about 30 metres from the finish. Miller, who now lives in Durango, Colorado, was the only woman jumping the double jump before the finish, and the time she gained there gave her the winning edge. Last year Llanes beat Miller to win the Dual demonstration event at the mountain bike world championships, and Miller was clear that she would have to produce her best form for the win.



With two wins from two starts Miller now has a good lead in the series.

Third place went to **Leigh Donovan** (USA) who beat **Sari Jorgensen** (SUI) and now occupies second place in the Swatch-UCI series.

A Good Day Out

The atmosphere in the Slovenian mountain resort of Maribor, in the Pohorje Mountains just across the border from south-eastern Austria was warm, sunny and festive as some 3000 enthusiastic fans gathered to welcome this international cycling event. The athletes also were appreciative of the conditions and course here. For many riders, the Dual is an exhilarating prelude to the downhill. **Myles Rockwell** (USA), who was knocked out by Gracia, finished the racing with stars in his eyes, and exclaimed that: *"I've not had so much fun in a long while."*



<i>place</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>nom</i>	<i>nat</i>	<i>team</i>	<i>points</i>
1	AMOUR	Karim	FRA	GT FRANCE	50
2	KING	Mike	USA	HARO	40
3	GRACIA	Cédric	FRA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	30
4	LONGDEN	Will	GBR	MBUK SPECIALIZED FOX	20
5	CARTER	Eric	USA	TEAM GT	10
5	LAWRENCE	Randy	USA	INTENSE CYCLES	10
5	MCCARROLL	Sean	AUS	GIANT	10
5	ROCKWELL	Myles	USA	GIANT	10
9	LOPES	Brian	USA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	5
9	PAGE	Nigel	GBR	INTENSE/KAWASKI	5
9	HERIN	Corrado	ITA	SINTESI VERLICCHI	5
9	O'DRISCOLL	Chris	USA	SOLID-ELLSWORTH	5
9	BÜELER	Andy	SUI	SCOTT ONE LIFE LIVE IT	5
9	BUBLA	Thomas	AUT	GMK 4 SPORTS	5
9	PONTING	Tim	GBR	ANIMAL ORANGE	5
9	BEAUMONT	Scott	GBR	KONA	5
17	TSCHUGG	Guido	GER	NPJ-DUAL SLALMON	
17	POLC	Filip	SVK	SEAT MERIDA KCK OSLA	
17	TSUKAMOTO	Takashi	JPN	MX/MONGOOSE	
17	O'BRIEN	Glyn	IRL	ANIMAL/ORANGE	
17	HYNCICA	Vlastimil	CZE	GRAFOBAL-ZAMO	
17	GROSSMANN	Oliver	GER	GMP	
17	GUTIERREZ BOE	Jose Angel	ESP		
17	BÜELER	Markus	SUI	FIAT ROTWILD	
17	MINNAAR	Greg	RSA		
17	SIMCIK	Daniel	CZE	ROCK MACHINE	
17	REVELL	Anthony	GBR	SARACEN/NO FEAR	
17	FUHRMANN	Oliver	GER	DOWNHILL-MAGAZIN	
17	VRBOVSKY	Tomas	SVK	KAKTUS BIKE UNIVEGA	
17	STEFFEN	Andreas	SUI	CYCLECRAFT/OBV	
17	CILLIK	Filip	SVK	GRAFOBAL ZAMO	
17	MRAZEK	Frantisek	CZE	KANGAROO D.I.R.T.	