



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	MILLER	Katrina	AUS	JAMIS/MANITOU/ARNETT	50
2	LLANES	Tara	USA	MT DEW/SPECIALIZED	40
3	DONOVAN	Leigh	USA	INTENSE CYCLES	30
4	JÖRGENSEN	Sari	SUI	TEAM TOMAC INTERNAT.	20
5	LINDGREN	Malin	SWE	SCOTT ONE LIFE LIVE IT	10
5	GUY	Emma	GBR	TEAM RALEIGH	10
5	STREB	Marla	USA	YETI	10
5	BONAZZI	Giovanna	ITA	DH RACING KASTLE	10
9	WALKER	Sandra	SUI		
9	KISS	Dalma	HUN	MAGELLAN TEAM	
9	FAGERSTRÖM	Sofia	SWE	BE-ONE	
9	MOLCIK	Anita	AUT		
9	KURANDOVA	Helena	CZE	KANGAROO/DIRT	
9	STIEGER	Sarah	SUI	FIAT ROTWILD	
9	HINUM	Melanie	AUT	GMK 4 SPORTS	