

Tissot/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 2000 - Coupe du Monde MTB

DH #6 - Arai Mountain, JPN - 22-23.7.2000

Lopes and Chausson Tested, Still Win Dual #6

The two best dual riders of the season, **Brian Lopes** (USA, Volvo-Cannondale) and **Anne-Caroline Chausson** (FRA, Volvo-Cannondale), used all their speed and skill before a huge Japanese crowd to show why they're both leading the Tissot-UCI Mountain Bike World Cup Dual series Saturday evening.

Under clear skies and warm evening temperatures, round six of the Dual World Cup entertained thousands of spectators in the waning afternoon light, a small but powerful field of international riders flying high above a twisting course - and landing to the loud cheers of the crowd. After its debut here in 1998, the world cup series returned to the Arai Mountain & Snow Park for the first of three scheduled years of downhill here - four hours from Tokyo.



Brian Lopes - USA

The course, designed by *Glen Jacobs*, was in perfect shape for racing as no rain has fallen on the venue since riders arrived last week. The run begins with a nearly vertical stall wall, followed by several creative turns and then a huge mogul field of bumps. Then a table-top jump launched bikes before a hard banked turn and one last table-top before the finish.

Between the qualifying and final runs, organizers threw a big-air jumping contest, which was a huge hit with the fans. Several men competed for a Tissot wristwatch, with four judges selected from the crowd, holding score cards. **Cédric Gracia** (FRA, Volvo-Cannondale) was not only the crowd favorite, but the scorers' favorite as well, winning the relaxed competition with several impressive jumps over the course's first table-top.

But then it was time for racing, and the men were all business as they competed for valuable world cup points. The men's race featured several exciting runs en route to the final two rounds, with riders doing whatever they had to, to remain on their bikes and in the running.

But in the final run, Brian Lopes (USA, Volvo-Cannondale) met up with **Wade Bootes** (AUS, Trek-Volkswagen) for the evening's title, the two meeting in the finals for the first time since the recent World Championships, where Bootes had beaten Lopes in a close run. This weekend's race was close as well, the two champions staying within inches of each other the entire run until the final table-top jump when Lopes barely edged out his rival to keep his season nearly perfect with five wins in six tries. In the men's consolation round, **Mike King** (USA, Haro/Lee Dungarees) beat **Rich Houseman** (USA, Tomac) for third place. Afterward the riders moved down to a huge awards ceremony, where fireworks and traditional dancing entertained the assembled crowd.

Ari Cheren



place	UCIcode	name	nom	tt / gs
1	USA19710906	LOPES	Brian	VOLVO CANNONDALE
2	AUS19740530	BOOTES	Wade	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN
3	USA19690630	KING	Mike	HARO/LEE DUNGAREE
4	USA19780320	HOUSEMAN	Rich	TOMAC
5	USA19700306	CARTER	Eric	TEAM GT
6	GBR19740617	PEAT	Steve	TEAM GT
7	GBR19780602	BEAUMONT	Scott	TEAM KONA FORD FOCUS
8	FRA19780323	GRACIA	Cédric	VOLVO CANNONDALE
9	AUS19771105	MCCARROLL	Sean	GIANT
10	USA19800903	HOUSEMAN	Gary	HARO/LEE DUNGAREE
11	AUS19810603	RENNIE	Nathan	YETI
12	SUI19770916	CALUORI	Claudio	TOMAC
13	JPN19831001	KASAKAWA	Yuichiro	MX/HARO
14	GBR19741120	LONGDEN	Will	MB UK/JAMIS
15	JPN19760511	INOMATA	Koichi	
16	JPN19810626	YOSHIDA	Jun	SCOTT WILD CATS
17	FRA19750118	AMOUR	Karim	VOUILLOZ RACING TEAM
18	JPN19720720	YANAGIHARA	Yasuhiro	WWW.YANS.COM
19	GBR19721010	PONTING	Tim	ANIMAL ORANGE
20	JPN19820503	KURISE	Yuta	CREDI
21	USA19671103	TOMAC	John	TOMAC
22	JPN19701123	TSUKAMOTO	Takashi	MX/MONGOOSE
23	JPN19761015	ADACHI	Yasushi	TEAM TMX
24	JPN19760413	TAKAMATSU	Kenji	SCHWINN JAPAN
25	JPN19810420	ONO	Atsushi	MOVE RACING.YANS.COM
26	JPN19830115	MUKAIHARA	Kenji	TEAM KUWAHARA.LAZER
27	JPN19760610	SHIRAKURA	Hiroshi	AMIGO CS CHEETA KOWA
28	JPN19720201	MIYATA	Kenichi	MC INTERNATIONAL
29	JPN19740105	ICHIKAWA	Jun	AMIGO CS CHEETA KOWA
30	JPN19661110	YAMAMOTO	Akira	TEAM YRS ANCHOR
31	JPN19770605	TAKEMOTO	Masashi	ANCHOR
32	JPN19790322	YOKOO	Taiji	TEAM ACQUOSO

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