

World Cup Dual Championship is Final - Lopes, Chausson Win Round 8 and Titles

Anne-Caroline Chausson (*FRA, Volvo-Cannondale*) and **Brian Lopes** (*USA, Volvo-Cannondale*) officially completed what they had unofficially started two weeks ago in Kaprun, when the teammate dual standouts tied up the overall points series with yet another pair of victories in round eight.

With the Dual season now officially over, a look back at the overall points is all the more impressive when noting that both Chausson and Lopes won seven of the series' eight rounds. In Lopes' case it was one slip in round five that kept him from a perfect record, while for Chausson it was round one - where she didn't even compete in the dual. Other than those individual events the two have been perfect - from the mud of Vail to the dust of Cortina.



This week's action took place in the small mountain village of Leysin, Switzerland - up the mountain from scenic Lake Geneva in an area where both the downhill/dual and cross-country finals will be contested this season in celebration of the UCI's 100 year centenary. Thousands of spectators stood on the steep hillside to watch Saturday's dual finals - as late afternoon sun set behind the mountains and ominous clouds. With the exception of rains that delayed the start of Vail's round five, it hasn't rained on a single dual world cup this season.

Organizers therefore damped down the dual course with hoses, keeping the dust down and increasing traction on one of the season's steepest and wildest courses. The track began with a sharp right-hand hairpin just metres after the start gate, followed by a huge double jump before evening things up with a banked left-hand turn. From there the course featured stutter jumps, hard turns and even a jump right over the road en route to the common DH/DL finish line.

Brian Lopes (USA, Volvo-Cannondale) was a bit nervous about the physical challenges set forth by the track, wearing full body armour to protect himself from a possible collision. He had qualified only seventh-fastest, meaning he would most likely not have lane choice in the final runs - as the higher qualifying racer has choice of lane. In this case it was the right-hand lane which gave riders a big advantage from the first turn, a situation that had the champion concerned.

And, in one of the latter runs, his concern was justified as he went up against second-ranked **Steve Peat** (*GBR, Team GT*) and thus made contact on



Brian Lopes - USA

that left-hand turn when the two riders arrived at the same point at the same time. Lopes got back up to speed first though, moving on to the final rounds as Peat ended the day in 5th place.

Lopes then met up with **Mickael Deldycke** (*FRA, Taillefer*) in the finals, after the Frenchman beat the fastest qualifier - **Cédric Gracia** (*FRA, Volvo-Cannondale*). Deldycke crashed at the start, however, leaving Lopes with a free run to the win.

Gracia, who is ranked second overall in the series, moved to the consolation round after losing to Deldycke, meeting up with one of the fast young men of the sport, **Petr Joch** (*CZE*). But Joch was no match for the high-flying Gracia, giving Cédric 3rd place for the day and securing his runner-up status for the season behind his teammate and friend Lopes. **Wade Bootes** (*AUS, Trek-Volkswagen*) - who won this season's World Championship - is ranked third behind Lopes and Gracia, and finished the day 12th place. Second-place Mickael Deldycke is ranked 4th overall for the season.

Ari Cheren



Deldycke | Lopes | Gracia

<i>place</i>	<i>bib</i>	<i>UCIcode</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>nom</i>	<i>tt / gs</i>
1	7	USA19710906	LOPES	Brian	VOLVO CANNONDALE
2	5	FRA19800826	DELDYCKE	Mickael	TAILLEFER BICYCLES
3	1	FRA19780323	GRACIA	Cédric	VOLVO CANNONDALE
4	19	CZE19770622	JOCH	Petr	
5	2	GBR19740617	PEAT	Steve	TEAM GT
6	4	GER19760514	TSCHUGG	Guido	WHEELER
7	6	CZE19810925	VAGNER	Adam	ROCK MACHINE
8	8	FRA19750118	AMOUR	Karim	VOUILLOZ RACING TEAM
9	9	SUI19770916	CALUORI	Claudio	
10	10	SVK19820410	POLC	Filip	
11	11	GBR19780602	BEAUMONT	Scott	TEAM KONA FORD FOCUS
12	13	AUS19740530	BOOTES	Wade	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN
13	16	NED19680416	DE BEVER	Bas	BE-ONE TEAM
14	18	AUS19810603	RENNIE	Nathan	YETI
15	21	USA19780320	HOUSEMAN	Rich	TOMAC
16	30	GER19810206	SHELL	Mathias	INTENSE
17	3	CZE19780529	MAROSI	Michal	AUTHOR-RB SKODA AUTO
18	12	GBR19741120	LONGDEN	Will	MBUK/JAMIS
19	14	RSA19811113	MINNAAR	Greg	ANIMAL ORANGE
20	15	ESP19730828	SAIZ CASTAÑE	Oscar	SUBARU-SPECIALIZED
21	17	USA19700306	CARTER	Eric	TEAM GT
22	20	SUI19761109	JOSEPH	Michel	TAILLEFER BICYCLES
23	22	SUI19750315	HEUTSCHI	Remo	
24	23	GBR19810310	WARDELL	David	MBUK/JAMIS
25	24	GER19780620	MEYENBORG	Sascha	INTENSE CYCLES
26	25	GBR19720201	PAGE	Nigel	INTENSE UK
27	26	AUT19810330	HAAS	Mathias	UNION ZWEIRAD GNAS
28	27	CZE19780109	SIMCIK	Daniel	AUTHOR-RB SKODA AUTO
29	28	IRL19770906	O'BRIEN	Glynn	
30	29	SUI19740122	SELMONI	Marco	
31	31	SUI19810504	RINDERKNECHT	Roger	
32	32	SUI19810829	SCHWEGLER	Tomas	