

## **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.



Anne-Caroline Chausson - FRA

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.

Anne-Caroline Chausson (FRA, Volvo-Cannondale) had few challenges in her final round of the season, as only eight women entered the dual this week. Representing four nations, the women began their round of eight by eliminating anyone who couldn't clear the huge double jumps or handle the challenging course.

Only four women could jump the first double jump, and they were the four who went to the final and consolation round. Chausson met up with longtime rival **Tara Llanes** (USA, Subaru-Specialized) in the final round. Anne had qualified fastest, Llanes third-fastest. That gave Chausson lane choice which, as was noted, was the right-hand inside lane. This gave the undefeated duallist an added advantage in the final run and she quickly built up a lead of several metres.

From there she stayed steady and low to the ground to win her first-ever Dual championship in a season where she will also win the dual World Championship. Llanes finished second behind Chausson both in this final round as well as in the points, the two ranked one and two overall.

Third-ranked **Leigh Donovan** (USA, Schwinn/Toyota) didn't race, while 4th-ranked **Sabrina Jonnier** (FRA, Team GT) was eliminated in an early round. **Sari Jorgensen** (SUI, Tomac/Manitou) earned her season's best finish with third, when she beat **Lisa Sher** (USA, White Bros./Azonic) in the women's consolation round. Jorgensen finishes the season ranked 5th overall, and Sher is 10th.



<i>place</i>	<i>bib</i>	<i>UCIcode</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>nom</i>	<i>tt / gs</i>
1	1	FRA19771008	CHAUSSON	Anne-Caroline	VOLVO CANNONDALE
2	3	USA19761128	LLANES	Tara	SUBARU-SPECIALIZED
3	2	SUI19800725	JÖRGENSEN	Sari	TOMAC
4	5	USA19690419	SHER	Lisa	WHITE BROS INTENSE
5	4	SUI19790825	STIEGER	Sarah	FIAT-ROTWILD
6	6	FRA19810819	JONNIER	Sabrina	TEAM GT
7	7	GBR19751005	CROXON	Adele	ANIMAL ORANGE
8	9	GBR19771228	BURCHAM	Kate	BN3
9	8	USA19711211	DONOVAN	Leigh	SCHWINN TOYOTA RAV 4