

DH/DL#5: ARAI, JAP – 28-29.7.2001

Bootes and Donovan Win Round 4 in Arai:



World Champion **Wade Bootes** (AUS, Trek-Volkswagen) and overall world cup leader **Leigh Donovan** (USA, Schwinn) captured wins in this round, racing under the lights in front of a crowd of several thousand, in an event that ended well into the night and was punctuated by a live concert and spectacular fireworks show for the crowd.

The course was full of jumps and obstacles this week, with hot dry weather keeping the sculpted course fast and hard throughout racing. Riders needed not only jumping and pedaling skills for this event, but also strategy in knowing which line to take from the start - and which line their opponent would be taking.

This week's course went straight out of the start into a critical left turn, followed soon by another difficult right turn - both with a jump on the inside line and a sweeping berm on the outside. The men especially needed to use tactics to get into position - and capitalize on that position if they wanted to win their round and advance.



Wade Bootes, AUS

Wade Bootes (AUS, Trek-Volkswagen) had qualified third-fastest, and thus had lane choice, until he met up with second-fastest qualifier **Cedric Gracia** (FRA, Volvo-Cannondale) in the semi-finals. But he kept Gracia way inside on the first turn of that run, winning the round and advancing to the finals to race **Mickael Deldycke** (FRA, Schwinn) - as Gracia went to the

consolation round.

Deldycke had beaten the number-one qualifier in **Brian Lopes** (USA, Fox/GT) in the semi's to advance to the finals, when Lopes crashed in his run against the Frenchman and earned a matchup with Gracia in the consolation round. That set up two final exciting runs.

First, in the consolation round, Gracia and Lopes dived it out in a close battle, as Gracia got the lead going into turn two - until Lopes got the inside line and took the lead, then jumped a difficult double-jump to secure the win and finish third for the day.

"Cedric caught me sleeping at the start, so I wasn't first out of the gate," said Lopes of his run. As the overall series leader, he earned enough points to maintain his lead and keep the Tissot leader's jersey.

The final run then saw Bootes and Deldycke meet up for another intense run. Deldycke got an early lead going into the first turn, but Bootes came back quickly into his rear wheel, as Deldycke went down and Bootes went around him to take the lead and a solo win.

"You have to plan, and know what the other guy's doing," said Bootes afterward, adding *"It came down to tactics."* This marks Bootes' first win of the season, and he is now ranked #2 overall, while Deldycke is ranked third.

images: Mark Dawson - www.fattirefotos.com

words: Ari Chere

Rk	Bib	Code	Surname	Firstname	Team
1	3	AUS19740530	BOOTES	Wade	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN
2	4	FRA19800826	DELDYCKE	Mickael	SCHWINN
3	1	USA19710906	LOPES	Brian	GT FOX
4	2	FRA19780323	GRACIA	Cedric	VOLVO CANNONDALE
5	5	USA19690630	KING	Mike	HARO/LEE DUNGAREES
6	6	AUS19771105	MCCARROLL	Sean	GLOBAL RACING
7	7	AUS19831121	HANNAH	Mick	GLOBAL RACING
8	9	USA19780320	HOUSEMAN	Rich	TOMAC
9	8	RSA19811113	MINNAAR	Greg	GLOBAL RACING
10	10	USA19800903	HOUSEMAN	Gary	TOMAC
11	11	USA19700306	CARTER	Eric	MONGOOSE HYUNDAI
12	12	CZE19780529	MAROSI	Michal	AUTHOR - RB SKODA AUTO
13	14	CAN19760523	WATSON	David	DIRTWORKS
14	15	GER19760514	TSCHUGG	Guido	WHEELER
15	16	GER19780620	MEYENBORG	Sascha	INTENSE
16	20	JPN19800422	IDEGAWA	Naoki	GLOBAL RACING
17	13	USA19740531	VOREIS	Kirt	HARO/LEE DUNGAREES
18	17	JPN19701123	TSUKAMOTO	Takasi	MX MONGOOSE
19	18	GBR19780602	BEAUMONT	Scott	TEAM KONA FORD FOCUS
20	19	USA19700506	LAWWILL	Joe	TREK / FOX SHOX
21	21	JPN19760511	INOMATA	Koichi	HAYES INTENSE
22	22	JPN19820503	KURISE	Yuta	TREK JAPAN
23	23	JPN19761015	ADACHI	Yasushi	TEAM TMX
24	24	JPN19810420	ONO	Atsushi	MOVE RACING
25	25	JPN19720720	YANAGIHARA	Yasuhiro	WWW YANS COM
26	26	CAN19820908	ROBERTS	Jesse	INDEPENDENT
27	27	JPN19830115	MUKAIHARA	Kenji	TEAM KUWAHARA
28	28	JPN19770923	GAMAN	Takashi	TEAM TMX
29	29	JPN19740314	TADA	Nobuyuki	SCHWINN HID
30	30	JPN19720201	KASHIWAGI	Kenichi	COSMIC CREATE
31	31	JPN19740105	ICHIKAWA	Jun	TEAM CHEETA
32	32	JPN19770220	ASAHI	Masahiko	TEAM TMX