

Venue: San Francisco, California, USA- XC#1- 5/6 April 1997

Italian, **Luca Bramati** (*Selle Italia - Colnago*), stamped his authority on a top quality Grundig/UCI mountain bike world cup field, winning the gruelling series opener by almost one minute.

The tough Skyline course in the Napa Valley, near San Francisco and only thirty minutes' drive from Mount Tamalpais - where the sport of mountain biking was born - provided a stern test for an on-form field of the world's best mountain bike racers. Commencing at the start line, a climb of almost four kilometres softened the riders up before some six kilometres of intricate singletrack descending over rocks and drop-offs.

German rider, **Mike Kluge** (*Focus*) got the race off to a flying start, leading the field for the first lap. Even before the top of the climb, Kluge had taken three other riders away from the field - the three who went on to fill the top places. These were: Bramati, **Rune Hoydahl** (*NOR, Giant*) and World Champion, **Jerome Chiotti** (*FRA, GT*), who finished in that order.

The next selection was made on the second lap, when it was Hoydahl's turn to attack on the long, rocky climb. Hoydahl took with him Bramati, and it was Chiotti and Kluge who



Bramati celebrates

Second time down the singletrack descent, Hoydahl paid for his hard work with a crash in the singletrack he thought was attributable in part to over-exertion. Bramati wasted no time in capitalising on the opportunity and soon had a ten-second lead, which he gradually extended as the race went on.

With the top three placings set, it was a question of who filled the next few. One of the key battles was in the Under 23 series. Reigning champion, **Miguel Martinez** (*FRA, Sunn-Nike*) and Australian champion, **Cadel Evans** (*DBR*) exchanged places in a battle that

Several riders struggled to find their best form for this race. Riders such as Olympic champion, **Bart Brentjens** (*NED, Specialized-Mountain Dew*), **Thomas Frischknecht** (*SUI, Ritchey*) and reigning World Cup champion, **Christophe Dupouey** (*Sunn-Nike*) all found themselves unable to keep up today. As Frischknecht observed: There is still a lot of the season left. Nine races, to be exact.

What they said:

Bramati: *"I decided after finishing third in the cyclo-cross world championships to keep my form. I will take a break from the mountain bike world cup series after the Wellington race, then return in August."*

Hoydahl: *"I'm really pleased to finish second. It is so important to me to have a good start to the season."*

Chiotti: *"This is only my first mountain bike race of the season, so I'm really pleased to finish so high up."*

Paul Skilbeck

Course: 10km, 400m climbing each lap. dusty, rocky surface, very technical

Spectators: 16,000 over two days;

were left behind. By the top of the climb Chiotti was some 15 seconds down on the leading duo, while Kluge was thirty seconds down and on his way to a 15th place finish.

eventually took Martinez to fourth and Evans to sixth place.

On the third lap Evans went past Martinez without the Frenchman realising it. Once Martinez apprehended the situation he started chasing, and with the later help of his teammate **Ludovic Dubau**, eventually caught and passed Evans on the final lap. Dubau finished fifth - the best result of his career to date.

Weather: Warm, spring conditions
5 laps/50km. Average speed: 19.1km/h
Next race: [Wellington, New Zealand](#), 12-13 April

Men's XC Results:

Pos	Bib	Name	First Name	NATION	TEAM	Points	Time
1	72	BRAMATI	LUCA	ITA	GS SELLE ITALIA	100	2:37:04.05
2	7	HÖYDAHL	RUNE	NOR	GIANT	93	2:38:00.28
3	15	CHIOTTI	JEROME	FRA	TEAM GT	87	2:39:19.99
4	3	MARTINEZ	MIGUEL	FRA	TEAM SUNN-NIKE	82	2:39:43.99
5	50	DUBAU	LUDOVIC	FRA	TEAM SUNN-NIKE	78	2:40:36.87
6	18	EVANS	CADEL	AUS	DIAMONDBACK	75	2:40:54.90
7	6	KRISTENSEN	LENNIE	DEN	GIANT	72	2:42:07.99
8	61	NOTARIO	FRANCISCO JAVI	ESP	CORONAS	70	2:42:21.74
9	9	BAKER	DAVID	GBR	TEAM GT	68	2:42:36.85
10	1	DUPOUEY	CHRISTOPHE	FRA	TEAM SUNN-NIKE	66	2:43:05.34
11	36	TCHERKASSOV	PAVEL	RUS	DIAMONDBACK/TISS	65	2:43:34.28
12	63	MOLDAY	KIRK	CAN	MARIN	64	2:43:58.00
13	21	DJERNIS	HENRIK	DEN	AMERICAN EAGLE	63	2:44:05.78
14	42	LARSEN	TOM	NOR	AMERICAN EAGLE	62	2:44:13.17

15	8	KLUGE	MIKE	GER	FOCUS	61	2:44:40.13
16	4	PALLHUBER	HUBERT	ITA	DIAMONDBACK/TISS	60	2:45:17.10
17	45	WEBBER	PETER		GARY FISHER	59	2:45:17.88
18	35	HESTLER	ANDREAS	CAN	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	58	2:45:18.21
19	55	ROWNEY	PAUL	AUS	GIANT/AIS	57	2:45:30.93
20	54	HERISSET	CHRISTOPHE	FRA	TEAM SUNN-NIKE	56	2:45:42.88
21	39	SHEPPARD	CHRIS	CAN	HARO	55	2:45:48.63
22	84	LANDIS	FLOYD		TWP	54	2:46:07.11
23	12	WABEL	BEAT	SUI	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	53	2:46:31.90
24	31	CRAIG	NICK	GBR	DIAMONDBACK	52	2:46:37.17
25	2	FRISCHKNECHT	THOMAS	SUI	RITCHEY	51	2:46:42.83
26	25	GERRITSEN	MARCEL	NED	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	50	2:47:08.53
27	10	BRENTJENS	BART	NED	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	49	2:47:28.85
28	33	WIENS	DAVID		TEAM KONA	48	2:47:43.51
29	23	JUAREZ	DAVID 'TINKER'		VOLVO/CANNONDALE	47	2:48:34.95
30	34	PRICE	DARYL		TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	46	2:48:59.15
31	5	FONTANA	ALESSANDRO	ITA	DIAMONDBACK/TISS	45	2:49:00.45
32	17	BRENES	ANDRES	CRC	RITCHEY	44	2:49:01.61
33	73	HOCHSTRASSER	THOMAS	SUI	TISSOT-WHEELER	43	2:49:05.79
34	82	GREEN	ROLAND	CAN	KONA FACTORY	42	2:49:17.23
35	43	PAULISSEN	ROEL	BEL	AMERICAN EAGLE	41	2:49:28.80
36	37	WEEVERS	JAN	NED	GIANT	40	2:49:29.01
37	13	RASMUSSEN	MICHAEL	DEN	TREK-VOLKSWAGEN	39	2:49:40.19
38	127	SLAVICEK	JAN	CZE	AUTHOR EXPANDIA	38	2:50:15.40
39	66	KILLEN	JIMI		DIAMONDBACK	37	2:50:21.00
40	100	SWENSON	PETER		POLO SPORT	36	2:50:38.17

41	83	WYSSEIER	RETO	SUI	SCOTT INTL	35	2:50:46.38
42	62	JUNGÄKER	ERIK	SWE	SCOTT INTL	34	2:50:57.08
43	41	VOLLET	GRÉGORY	FRA	GIANT	33	2:51:08.38
44	30	CLARKE	BARRIE	GBR	TEAM RALEIGH	32	2:51:09.26
45	28	MYRAH	DON		TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	31	2:51:19.40
46	92	WELLS	TODD		MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	30	2:51:27.39
47	19	TOMAC	JOHN		GIANT/ANSWER/MAN	29	2:51:28.42
48	32	VAN DEN ABEELE	PETER	BEL	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	28	2:51:36.44
49	56	TILFORD	STEVE	USA	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	27	2:51:51.68
50	47	PERSSON	ROGER	SWE	CRESCENT	26	2:51:53.61
51	59	WIEJAK	JAN	POL	HARO	25	2:51:54.54
52	113	ARNOULD	DOMINIQUE	FRA	PROFLEX	24	2:52:01.68
53	108	PORTUGAL	GUILLERMO	ESP	CORONAS	23	2:52:29.84
54	27	HOLLERBACH	MARTIN	GER	SUNN/SUNSHINE	22	2:52:30.06
55	26	GREWAL	RISHI		KLEIN	21	2:53:23.29
56	16	SAVIGNONI	JEAN-CHRISTOPH	FRA	LOOK MTN BIKES	20	2:53:47.13
57	75	WILLERTON	PAUL		BONTRAGER	19	2:53:50.39
58	104	MCGRATH	SEAMUS	CAN	TEAM KONA	18	2:54:01.25
59	52	JULIEN	FABRICE	FRA	HARO	17	2:54:37.00
60	57	GRONBECH	MICHAEL	DEN	IKO-CORRATEC	16	2:54:37.70
61	85	BLACK	WILL		IBIS	15	2:55:08.16
62	44	BISHOP	ANDY		GARY FISHER	14	2:55:19.74
63	115	FUMIC	LADO	GER	ROCKY MOUNTAIN F	13	2:55:42.08
64	22	OSTERGAARD	JAN ERIK	DEN	IKO-CORRATEC	12	2:56:27.54
65	119	STARK	KEITH	CAN	NORCO	11	2:57:47.55
66	77	HOWE	MARK		POLO SPORT	10	2:58:33.11

67	53	DAN	TAKUMA	JPN	SCOTT JAPAN	9	2:58:38.81
68	48	BONNAND	CYRILLE	FRA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	8	2:59:06.59
69	49	GROVER	NEIL	CAN	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	7	2:59:16.81
70	70	KLOSER	MICHAEL		MOOTS	6	2:59:29.85
71	79	AGERGAARD	JESPER	DEN	SORE B.C	5	2:59:54.99
72	71	MILLER	BRYAN		MOOTS CYCLES	4	3:00:21.50
73	95	GREWAL	RANJEET		MERCEDES BENZ/AM	3	3:00:30.50
74	101	BALCELLS	ALBERT	ESP	BUFF-OF3 SHAD	2	3:00:48.00
75	64	WEISSENRIEDER	JOHN		HARO	1	3:00:58.05
76	68	LEMAIRE	ERIC		CHARMOR/KLEIN	0	3:01:06.60
77	90	HUMMELSIEP	DENNIS	GER	TEAM H + H	0	3:01:08.30
78	98	NESTLE	TOBIAS	GER	FOCUS	0	3:01:09.13
79	67	STOLTE	CALEB	USA	ALPINE DESIGNS	0	3:01:57.80
80	29	ARNTZ	MARCEL	NED	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	0	3:03:46.15
81	121	AUSTAD	HAAKON	NOR	GIANT	0	3:04:07.65
82	118	BRUNNER	JÖRG	SUI	MTB CYCLETECH/PO	0	3:04:24.55
83	110	NIJBOER	ERWIN	NED	AMERICAN EAGLE	0	3:05:26.67
84	123	BAKER	ALDON	RSA	MAXXIS-OUTLAND	0	3:06:44.72
85	125	WALKER	ADAM	CAN	NORCO	0	3:07:11.77
86	69	BICKNELL	JEFF		NAUTILUS/BARACUD	0	3:07:53.80
87	116	MÜLLER	CHRISTOPH	GER	SCOTT/LOCOMOTION	0	3:10:18.06
88	96	SCHÜTZ	ROGER	SUI	MTB CYCLETECH	0	3:11:13.60
89	99	PALMER	MIKE	CAN	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	0	3:12:13.74
90	112	LAWSON	MAX	USA	JAMIS	0	3:14:14.67
91	129	NORDSTRÖM	THOMAS	FIN		0	2:39:22.00
92	122	BARRY	PAUL	RSA	MERCEDES BENZ/AM	0	2:39:23.00

93	126	SCHÄUBLE	RALF	GER	KONA-EMS	0	2:39:21.00
94	65	HALL	JEFF	USA	BREEZER/NEXUS	0	2:39:24.00
95	105	STARR	OLIVER		CHAMPION/OTIS GU	0	2:39:10.00
96	102	FREEMANTLE	MARK	CAN		0	2:39:25.00
97	124	RYALLS	CHRIS	GBR	TEAM KONA	0	2:39:11.00
dnf							
	46	SCHWEDLER	JENS	GER	GIANT	0	
	11	FOORD	GARY	GBR	SCOTT INTL	0	
	24	GOULD	TIM	GBR	SCHWINN/TOYOTA R	0	
	60	ORCEL	DAVID	FRA	TEAM SUNN-NIKE	0	
	109	DE KNEGT	GERBEN	NED	AMERICAN EAGLE	0	
	89	MARQUEZ	JOSÉ	ESP	MARIN TISSOT	0	
	51	GULLICKSON	MARC		TEAM GT	0	
	40	LARSEN	STEVE		SCHWINN/TOYOTA R	0	
	107	ROLL	BOB		LITESPEED	0	
	106	GIOIA	DANILO	ITA	TM CECINI SPORT	0	
	81	ACQUAROLI	DARIO	ITA	BIANCHI MARTINI	0	
	20	CIONI	DARIO	ITA	MAPEI-KONA	0	
	117	KALLNBACH	JÜRGEN	GER	PROFLEX-FIT FOR	0	
	88	JONES	ERIC		PLYMOUTH/ELLSWOR	0	
	128	RIEPE	BRIAN		IBIS	0	
	87	GERKEN	MATT		COOLMAX DEVO	0	
	97	WYANDT	DAVE		SCHWINN	0	
	38	BROWN	TRAVIS		TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	0	
	94	FEID	NICK	USA	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	0	
	80	SWENSON	CARL		PROFLEX/MASTERCA	0	

	130	REYNAUD	MICKAÉL	FRA	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	0	
	93	CROUZET	FABRICE	FRA	SPECIALIZED FRA	0	
	86	ARENZ	JÖRG	GER	FOCUS	0	
	120	SCHULTZ	NATHAN		SCHWINN/TOYOTA R	0	
	103	WEDGE	PETER	CAN	KONA FACTORY	0	
	91	BLY	DAVID			0	
	111	HARA	NOBUKATSU	JPN	SHIMANO	0	