

Venue: Houffalize, BEL- XC#9- 30-31 August 1997

The powerful *Sunn-Nike* team showed its late season strength just one week before a Grundig-UCI World Cup final from where one of three riders will emerge with the title. **Miguel Martinez** and **Christophe Dupouey** - both Sunn-Nike riders and in a class of their own - easily controlled the race from the first lap of four. At the end, in a gesture of team solidarity, they crossed the finish line hand in hand, arms raised in a joint victory salute.

There had been some speculation in the past weeks that perhaps a rift was opening between these two stars on the same team, but the events of today showed this not to be the case. Both Dupouey (29) and Martinez (21) are in the running for the World Cup overall, but today the older rider gave the younger the clear upper hand.

The large Houffalize crowd is composed of both traditional cycling fans and mountain bike fans, which makes it almost unique among mountain bike events. In front of this passionate assembly Dupouey attacked early on the first lap. The reason for this was that if he were left out on his own, team orders were that he was to try for the victory. But on the second lap Martinez made an astonishingly fast bid to catch him, three kilometres into the circuit, and left behind the distinguished climber **Hubert Pallhuber** (*ITA, DBR-Tissot*), Belgian star,

Filip Meirhaeghe (*Recordbank*) and former pro road racer, **Dominique Arnould** (*FRA, Pro-Flex/Mastercard*). "He just sprinted away, there was nothing I could do," said Pallhuber, who went on to finish fourth. Pallhuber says he has been slowed recently by having to ride road races in an effort to improve his endurance for the world championships.

Dupouey, hearing of Martinez's solo bid to catch him, eased a little and Martinez arrived on his wheel within just two kilometres. "From then onwards we controlled the race," explained Martinez, who had been chatting with Dupouey as they rode away to a lead that grew to three minutes at the start of the final lap.

The battle for third place brought the chasers up towards the triumphant Frenchmen as three times world champion, **Henrik Djernis** (*DEN, American Eagle*), moved up a couple of places and pressured Pallhuber on the final lap. Djernis went past into third place on the series of short, technical climbs two kilometres from the finish. Djernis, who won the national championships two weeks ago, is again showing the famous September form that has graced his career.

As Dupouey and Martinez approached the line the expected sprint didn't happen. Martinez coasted across the line half a wheel in front. This win gives him a lead of 13 points over **Cadel Evans** (*AUS, DBR International*) going into the final.

Evans has been unable to regain his form since the VTT Tour, where he finished third overall.

He struggled in the warm sun to finish seventh. This means that he has to win at Annecy to take the World Cup overall, but if Martinez finishes second the Frenchman will get it. According to Martinez, "Evans wasn't so good today, but I'm sure he will be strong for Annecy." With Dupouey poised in third spot overall and in striking range, the title could even go to him. The final promises to be the closest battle yet seen for the Grundig/UCI title.

Paul Skilbeck

Next race: *World Cup final, Annecy, France, 5/6 September.*

Course: 10.75km, 425m climbing each lap. Mixture of wide roads and narrow woodland tracks featuring tight corners, steep drops and tree roots.

Spectators: 30,000

Weather: cool, sunny

Laps/distance: 4 laps, 43km

Average speed: 21kp/h.

Men's XC Results

Pos	Bib	Name	First Name	Nat	TEAM RALEIGH	WCPTS	UCIcode	Time
1	2	MARTINEZ	MIGUEL	FRA	SUNN-NIKE	100	FRA19760117	2:04:16.65
2	3	DUPOUEY	CHRISTOPHE	FRA	SUNN-NIKE	93	FRA19680808	2:04:17.15
3	34	DJERNIS	HENRIK	DEN	AMERICAN EAGLE	87	DEN19660422	2:06:36.51
4	7	PALLHUBER	HUBERT	ITA	DIAMONDBACK/TISS	82	ITA19650917	2:06:39.58
5	27	MEIRHAEGHE	FILIP	BEL	RECORDBANK	78	BEL19710305	2:07:33.65
6	16	ARNOULD	DOMINIQUE	FRA	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	75	FRA19661119	2:08:25.12
7	1	EVANS	CADEL	AUS	DIAMONDBACK	72	AUS19770214	2:08:53.44
8	63	BONNAND	CYRILLE	FRA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	70	FRA19690104	2:09:36.35
9	12	MOLDAY	KIRK	CAN	MARIN	68	CAN19720916	2:09:39.72
10	177	SAVIGNONI	JEAN-CHRISTOPH	FRA	LOOK MTN BIKES	66	FRA19660806	2:09:49.77
11	4	DUBAU	LUDOVIC	FRA	SUNN-NIKE	65	FRA19731117	2:10:07.93
12	25	OSTERGAARD	JAN ERIK	DEN	CORRATEC-IKO	64	DEN19610220	2:11:20.48
13	64	MANIN	CHRISTOPHE	FRA	MBK	63	FRA19660712	2:11:48.33
14	35	VAN DEN ABEELE	PETER	BEL	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	62	BEL19660501	2:12:47.56
15	68	ORCEL	DAVID	FRA	SUNN-NIKE	61	FRA19701215	2:12:53.42
16	60	HOCHSTRASSER	THOMAS	SUI	TISSOT-WHEELER	60	SUI19760713	2:13:04.01
17	41	PAULISSEN	ROEL	BEL	AMERICAN EAGLE	59	BEL19760427	2:13:26.01
18	56	HEYLEN	BENNY	BEL	VSB-BATAVUS	58	BEL19620920	2:13:47.03
19	19	BISHOP	ANDY	USA	GARY FISHER	57	USA19650526	2:13:59.31
20	53	DELION	GILLES	FRA	CYCLES LAPIERRE	56	FRA19660805	2:14:08.19
21	29	WABEL	BEAT	SUI	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	55	SUI19670523	2:15:10.42
22	31	ROWNEY	PAUL	AUS	GIANT/ZUUZ	54	AUS19701202	2:15:16.89
23	21	FRISCHKNECHT	THOMAS	SUI	RITCHEY	53	SUI19700217	2:15:35.08
24	18	TCHERKASSOV	PAVEL	RUS	DIAMONDBACK/TISS	52	RUS19720513	2:15:36.73
25	81	DIETSCH	THOMAS	FRA	CYCLES LAPIERRE	51	FRA19740808	2:15:53.80

26	100	CERTAIN	LAURENT	FRA	CYCLES LAPIERRE	50	FRA19740202	2:16:12.62
27	6	HÖYDAHL	RUNE	NOR	GIANT	49	NOR19691210	2:16:44.08
28	44	KLUGE	MIKE	GER	FOCUS	48	GER19620925	2:17:15.80
29	9	BRENES	ANDRES	CRC	RITCHEY	47	CRC19641218	2:17:18.24
30	24	CLARKE	BARRIE	GBR	TEAM RALEIGH	46	GBR19661211	2:17:22.45
31	28	JUAREZ	DAVID 'TINKER'	USA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	45	USA19610304	2:17:40.98
32	15	HERISSET	CHRISTOPHE	FRA	SUNN-NIKE	44	FRA19720910	2:17:54.02
33	13	BRENTJENS	BART	NED	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	43	NED19681010	2:18:06.22
34	51	VAN DOOREN	BAS	NED	VSB BATAVUS	42	NED19730825	2:18:26.16
35	217	LEZAUN	ROBERTO	ESP	ORBEA ZEUS	41	ESP19670723	2:19:05.52
36	105	AUSTAD	HAAKON	NOR	NORWAY NAT/GIANT	40	NOR19780305	2:19:12.93
37	74	HELLER	MARCEL	SUI	SCHÖTZ-UNIVEGA	39	SUI19740621	2:19:21.12
38	103	LEUCHS	KASHI	NZL	VOLVO CANNONDALE	38	NZL19780620	2:19:41.03
39	46	AGERGAARD	JESPER	DEN	H + H	37	DEN19750218	2:19:45.74
40	37	GOULD	TIM	GBR	SCHWINN/TOYOTA R	36	GBR19640530	2:20:01.41
41	137	TAVELL	PHILIP	SWE	NATIONAL TEAM SW	35	SWE19750603	2:20:12.87
42	61	JUNGÅKER	ERIK	SWE	SCOTT INTL	34	SWE19770427	2:20:25.86
43	176	NIJBOER	ERWIN	NED	AMERICAN EAGLE	33	NED19640502	2:20:27.38
44	125	HOLLERBACH	MARTIN	GER	SUNN/SUNSHINE	32	GER19690806	2:20:42.13
45	8	RASMUSSEN	MICHAEL	DEN	TREK-VOLKSWAGEN	31	DEN19740601	2:21:14.91
46	78	STÖCKLI	LUKAS	SUI	GT-SWISS	30	SUI19721112	2:21:21.70
47	275	JANSEN	WIM	BEL	SCOTT	29	BEL19710121	2:21:47.92
48	258	SOLER	DANIEL	SUI	AMC GRISCHA ZIZE	28	SUI19740324	2:21:53.56
49	160	SEYMOUR	ROBIN	IRL	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	27	IRL19710406	2:22:00.58
50	313	GROENENDAAL	RICHARD	NED	RABOBANK	26	NED19710713	2:22:05.83
51	89	ROLANDEZ	DAVID	FRA	CYCLES LAPIERRE	25	FRA19750518	2:22:38.20
52	82	POSPICHAL	KURT	AUT	GT-AUSTRIA	24	AUT19690816	2:23:50.98
53	229	BECKINSALE	OLIVER	GBR	SCOTT UK	23	GBR19760607	2:24:19.40

54	CEARD	CLAUDE	FRA	JOSE ALVAREZ	22	FRA19730316	2:24:25.95	
55	136	MADRIGAL	ZIRANDA	MEX	TURBO	21	MEX19770523	2:24:29.29
56	230	GARRO	JUAN CARLOS	ESP	LIBERTO MEGAMO A	20	ESP19681117	2:24:31.29
57	239	DE BIE	RUDY	BEL	KONA	19	BEL19551007	2:24:49.08
58	62	VAN DER VEN	JOHAN	NED	VSB BATAVUS	18	NED19751108	2:25:29.34
59	225	KURCHAT	WOLFGANG	GER	TOP GEAR RACING	17	GER19750517	2:25:41.67
60	305	MICHEL	YANNICK	FRA	GT FRANCE	16	FRA19760315	2:25:50.68
61	85	GRONBECH	MICHAEL	DEN	CORRATEC-IKO	15	DEN19740819	2:26:27.67
62	83	SLAVICEK	JAN	CZE	AUTHOR EXPANDIA	14	CZE19690814	2:27:20.69
63	263	HANCKART	DAVID	BEL	ADAM SMOL	13	BEL19761101	2:27:47.02
64	272	HATZ	GOTTFRIED	AUT	UNION KRESTA ST	12	AUT19680225	2:28:25.56
65	256	AERTS	PETER	BEL	KEMPEN	11	BEL19700514	2:28:39.83
66	162	LASENBY	PAUL	GBR	MERCEDES/MARIN	10	GBR19730411	2:28:48.27
67	43	WYSSEIER	RETO	SUI	SCOTT INTL	9	SUI19721016	2:28:52.40
68	212	BAXTER	ELLIOT	GBR	TEAM RALEIGH	8	GBR19780305	2:29:17.33
69	146	DE KNEGT	GERBEN	NED	AMERICAN EAGLE	7	NED19751211	2:29:23.35
70	216	FLEMING	JOSH	AUS		6		2:29:37.21
71	117	BENNETT	TIM	AUS	BARRACUDA	5	AUS19780925	2:29:38.93
72	315	HOUSEN	RONNY	BEL	SCOTT	4	BEL19731112	2:29:42.22
73	255	GALLE	DAVID	BEL	LUGANO	3	BEL19750321	2:30:28.71
74	299	MILESI	RICCARDO	ITA	SCAPIN RACING	2	ITA19710623	2:30:32.22
75	292	RUDDOCK	GEDDON	RSA		1	RSA19750911	2:30:40.84
76	266	MAESTRONI	ROBERTO	ITA	SCAPIN RACING	0	ITA19660412	2:30:49.24
77	205	ZOLI	JADER	ITA	DIAMONDBACK-TISS	0	ITA19751001	2:31:07.69
78	243	SUZUKI	RAITA	JPN	BRIDGESTONE	0	JPN19720811	2:31:10.10
79	237	REDENBACH	PAUL	AUS		0		2:31:23.42
80	235	BARRIGA	SALVADOR	MEX	TURBO	0	MEX19770729	2:31:41.24
81	290	GILISSEN	DION	NED		0	NED19760225	2:31:58.34

82	234	WALLACE	MATT	AUS		0		2:32:21.31
83	211	DESCHEPPER	SAMMY	BEL	BALANCE	0	BEL19680522	2:32:43.05
84	247	CANDAU	OLAF	FRA	CYCLES LAPIERRE	0	FRA19680120	2:33:02.64
85	241	DANGELMEIER	CLAUDIUS	GER	BSE TEAM	0	GER19770418	2:33:25.33
86	291	SOUREN	ROBERT	NED		0	NED19710609	2:33:40.35
87	306	BUXANT	DAVID	BEL	SCOTT	0	BEL19760410	2:33:44.74
88	218	GARCIA	LUIS	ESP	LIBERTO MEGAMO A	0	ESP19700929	2:33:50.09
89	311	VAN WASSENHOVE	DIRK	BEL	BIANCHI	0	BEL19710210	2:34:30.59
90	228	TANZEN	BRENT	AUS		0		2:34:53.34
91	269	MEERSCHAERT	PATRICK	BEL	GIANT	0	BEL19591112	2:35:27.56
92	293	FINKE	BERND	RSA		0	RSA19781006	2:35:31.18
93	303	SMEETS	ROGER	NED	AMERICAN EAGLE	0	NED19770124	2:36:15.79
94	268	DE ROO	HUIB	NED		0	NED19720821	2:36:40.58
95	307	CORBEELS	KURT	BEL	SMOUT	0	BEL19720116	2:37:01.64
96	304	VROEMEN	BAS	NED	NATIONAL TEAM	0	NED19761116	2:37:31.13
97	259	BERCKMANS	BERT	BEL	GT BELGIUM	0	BEL19730406	2:37:58.25
98	314	SYNE	LIONEL	BEL	ARDENNES	0	BEL19760518	2:38:48.02
99	244	SAUTOIS	OLIVIER	BEL	SUNN	0	BEL19750123	2:39:28.47
100	282	BROEKMANS	ARNE	BEL	RITCHEY	0	BEL19780614	2:40:05.53
101	294	NIXON	CHRIS	RSA		0	RSA19680927	2:40:07.00
102	300	SOENEN	JOHN	BEL	UNIVEGA	0	BEL19740217	2:40:30.82
103	285	TJALLINGII	MAARTEN	NED		0	NED19771105	2:41:37.88
104	301	MAES	GEOFFRY	BEL	VINK	0	BEL19720618	2:41:45.59
105	295	VAN DER PUTTEN	EWART	NED		0	NED19751008	2:43:19.65
106	245	ABARCA	RODOLFO	MEX	TURBO	0	MEX19710604	2:43:39.55
107	316	BUSCH	WILLIAM	BEL	UNIVEGA	0	BEL19650810	2:44:16.56
108	308	LUIKENS	FRANK	NED		0	NED19740506	2:50:22.69
109	267	MCCARNEY	CRAIG	AUS		0		2:51:10.44

-1 lap								
110	310	VAN HEUGTEN	RALF	NED		0	NED19761021	- 1 LAP
111	271	MULDERS	CHRIS	NED	G RISLEY-HOLLAND	0	NED19630211	- 1 LAP
112	273	RAATS	EDWIN	NED	GRISLEY-HOLLAND	0	NED19710818	- 1 LAP
113	319	DE VRIES	MICHA	NET		0	NED19710705	- 1 LAP
114	318	GUALA	FRANK	BEL	GARY FISHER	0	BEL19771028	- 1 LAP
115	123	DE BELIN	MATT	AUS		0	AUS19730727	- 1 LAP
116	312	VERWEGEN	WILCO	NED		0	NED19761112	- 1 LAP
117	297	DUDA	GREGORY	BEL	BALANCE	0	BEL19780528	- 1 LAP
dnf								
0	59	GERRITSEN	MARCEL	NED	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	0	NED19670106	DNF
0	66	SCHWEDLER	JENS	GER	GIANT	0	GER19680208	DNF
0	274	GUNNER	ALAN	GBR	GIANT	0	GBR19750103	DNF
0	115	GUY	MATT	GBR	GIANT	0	GBR19750424	DNF
0	107	FOORD	GARY	GBR	SCOTT INTL	0	GBR19700914	DNF
0	22	CRAIG	NICK	GBR	DIAMONDBACK	0	GBR19690403	DNF
0	10	BAKER	DAVID	GBR	TEAM GT	0	GBR19651230	DNF
0	221	CUTHBERTSON	IAN	GBR	TEAM RALEIGH	0	GBR19740706	DNF
0	14	KRISTENSEN	LENNIE	DEN	GIANT	0	DEN19680516	DNF
0	11	LARSEN	TOM	NOR	AMERICAN EAGLE/N	0	NOR19720422	DNF
0	95	POULY	PETER	FRA	SUNN NIKE	0	FRA19770720	DNF
0	91	JULIEN	FABRICE	FRA	HARO	0	FRA19650902	DNF
0	189	BAKER	ALDON	RSA	MAXXIS-OUTLAND	0	RSA19690523	DNF
0	236	LAMBORELLE	PIERRE	BEL	GRISLEY	0	BEL19650809	DNF
0	279	VERVECKEN	ERWIN	BEL	ESPACE CARD	0	BEL19720323	DNF
0	96	WEEVERS	JAN	NED	GIANT	0	NED19650520	DNF
0	87	ARNTZ	MARCEL	NED	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	0	NED19651118	DNF
0	40	PERSSON	ROGER	SWE	CRESCENT	0	SWE19740601	DNF

0	80	GREWAL	RISHI	USA	KLEIN	0	USA19670209	DNF
0	181	PETERS	BAS	NED	GRISLEY-HOLLAND	0	NED19760514	DNF
0	30	ACQUAROLI	DARIO	ITA	BIANCHI MARTINI	0	ITA19750310	DNF
0	17	CIONI	DARIO	ITA	MAPEI-KONA	0	ITA19741202	DNF
0	302	GAUDY	PATRICK	BEL	SAXON	0	BEL19770309	DNF
0	232	VAN DEN DRIESSCH	JURGEN	BEL	SUNN	0	BEL19770910	DNF
0	246	VAN DER POEL	ADRIE	NED	RABOBANK	0	NED19590617	DNF
0	209	REIN	AXEL	GER	H+H	0	GER19770729	DNF
0	185	REYNAUD	MICKAÉL	FRA	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	0	FRA19780615	DNF
0	248	SEVESSAND	CHRISTOPHE	FRA	SCOTT	0	FRA19740730	DNF
0	39	HERMIDA	JOSÉ ANTONIO	ESP	SCOTT INTL	0	ESP19780824	DNF
0	131	MOTE	LAURENCE	NZL	GIANT NZL	0	NZL19740807	DNF
0	270	MANSER	MICHAEL	SUI	TEMPO-ARROW TEAM	0	SUI19720110	DNF
0	224	CHECUZ	ALESSANDRO	ITA	VINER GAERNER/ME	0	ITA19740521	DNF
0	298	BALDUCCI	MIRCO	ITA	VINER GAERNER/ME	0	ITA19781221	DNF
0	257	FLEURY	PATRIK	SUI	SCHOTZ-UNIVEGA T	0	SUI19770918	DNF
0	317	CLARYSSE	NICO	BEL	SEFB	0	BEL19740923	DNF
0	265	KRIEKEMANS	DIRK	BEL	SCOTT	0	BEL19691113	DNF
0	76	PAYNE	GARRY	AUS	DIAMONDBACK AUS	0	AUS19741201	DNF
0	296	CHRISTIANSEN	CHRISTIAN B.	NED	ROSHILDE MTB-KLU	0	DEN19760403	DNF
0	320	VAN BEEK	MAAS	NET		0	NED19551231	DNF
dns								
0	223	VINCENT	SHANE	NZL	AVANTI	0	NZL19740131	DNS