

## **Venue: Vail, CO, USA- XC#8- 12-13 July 1997**

Australian **Cadel Evans** (DiamondBack) took the top podium spot and the Grundig/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup leader's jersey today at the 8th round of World Cup competition in Vail, CO.

Evans was followed by Dane **Michael**

**Rasmussen** (Trek-Volkswagen) and **Jerome Chiotti** (FRA, GT), both of whom lead the race before finally falling victim to cramps and a very well prepared Evans.

"Aghhh, the altitude, it's not good for me at all," said **Miguel Martinez** (FRA, Sunn-Nike) before the start of the 32.4 mile race. Indeed, the altitude proved to be fatal both to Martinez' podium hopes and his ownership of the World Cup lead - he finished 6th, two places away from the minimum he needed to hold on to the No. 1 standing.

Martinez was the only Sunn-Nike rider who finished the race - both **Christophe Dupouey** (FRA) and **Ludovic Dubau** (FRA) dropped out, Dupouey having crashed shortly after the start and Dubau calling it quits after two laps.

Swiss rider **Thomas Frishknecht** (SUI, Ritchey) fell ill the day before the race with a fever, and opted not to start.

"Even if this course had been at sea level, it would have been very hard," said **Rune Hoydahl** (NOR, Giant), who dropped from competition before the second lap.

Of the top five positions at the end of the race, three were occupied by DiamondBack riders, with **Hubert Pallhuber** (ITA) and **Pavel Tcherkassov** (RUS, Diamondback/Tissot) finishing fourth and fifth behind Evans. The DiamondBack riders had been in Vail for two weeks acclimatizing, while team Sunn-Nike and Hoydahl had been in Vail for two days. Clearly, Vail race belonged to those who had time to become used to the altitude.

After an attack at the start from Tcherkassov and American **Rishi Grewal** (Klein), Jerome Chiotti took the lead, a lead which he kept for the first hour, surrendering then to Rasmussen, who said, "I maybe was the strongest today, but not the smartest."

Rasmussen's strength enabled him to surge ahead of Chiotti, with Evans, Tcherkassov and Pallhuber giving chase going into the second full lap.

But the Greg LeMond coached Rasmussen was overtaken on the climbs of the course by Evans, who had done a dance of places with Pallhuber and Chiotti, and now set sights on the faltering red jersey worn by Rasmussen.

"I was cramping, and, I had thought at one point I could win, but then, I just wanted to finish," said Chiotti, who, with Rasmussen, was cramping.

Miguel Martinez (FRA, Sunn-Nike) was nowhere to be seen at 4 minutes behind the leaders.

The final lap saw Evans widen his lead, finally ending with a 1:26 margin of victory over Rasmussen, who led Chiotti by thirty seconds.

The finish puts Evans in the leader's jersey, with Martinez five points behind - Houffalize will be the next battleground for the two young riders who now sit at the top of the World Cup scene.

**Race conditions:** Dry, dusty course,  
**Conditions:** 80 degrees under clear skies with light wind.  
**Attendance:** Crowd estimated at 10,000.



*Cadel Evans (AUS) and Michael Rasmussen (DEN) face the press*

**Men's XC Results**

Pos	Bib	Name	First Name	Nat	Team	WCPTS	Time
1	2	EVANS	CADEL	AUS	DIAMONDBACK	100	2:33:40.30
2	7	RASMUSSEN	MICHAEL	DEN	TREK-VOLKSWAGEN	93	2:35:06.69
3	8	CHIOTTI	JEROME	FRA	TEAM GT FRANCE	87	2:35:47.28
4	6	PALLHUBER	HUBERT	ITA	DIAMONDBACK/TISS	82	2:37:48.50
5	26	TCHERKASSOV	PAVEL	RUS	DIAMONDBACK/TISS	78	2:38:52.00
6	1	MARTINEZ	MIGUEL	FRA	SUNN-NIKE	75	2:39:29.02
7	20	MOLDAY	KIRK	CAN	MARIN	72	2:40:18.30
8	153	GREWAL	RISHI	USA	KLEIN	70	2:42:27.54
9	10	BRENES	ANDRES	CRC	RITCHEY	68	2:43:03.90
10	47	PRICE	DARYL	USA	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	66	2:43:21.58
11	14	BRENTJENS	BART	NED	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	65	2:43:32.35
12	39	JUAREZ	DAVID 'TINKER'	USA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	64	2:43:43.64
13	82	SWENSON	PETER	USA	POLO SPORT	63	2:44:01.04
14	118	HOWE	MARK	USA	POLO SPORT	62	2:44:43.80
15	201	BROWN	TRAVIS	USA	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	61	2:45:25.47
16	17	LARSEN	TOM	NOR	NORWAY NAT/AMER	60	2:45:38.09
17	63	GULLICKSON	MARC	USA	TEAM GT	59	2:45:57.50
18	28	GREEN	ROLAND	CAN	KONA FACTORY	58	2:46:08.60
19	117	KILLEN	JIMI	USA	DIAMONDBACK	57	2:47:26.36
20	109	SWENSON	CARL	USA	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	56	2:47:45.56
21	168	GREWAL	RANJEET	USA	MERCEDES BENZ/AM	55	2:48:32.99
22	41	ROWNEY	PAUL	AUS	GIANT/ZUUZ	54	2:49:26.11
23	49	GOULD	TIM	GBR	SCHWINN/TOYOTA R	53	2:49:54.84
24	217	OVEREND	NED	USA	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	52	2:50:42.43
25	99	ARIAS SANCHEZ	JHON RAMIRO	COL	TREK - CEMDE	51	2:51:43.44

26	76	WEBBER	PETER	USA	GARY FISHER	50	2:52:19.98
27	33	WABEL	BEAT	SUI	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	49	2:52:21.51
28	18	HESTLER	ANDREAS	CAN	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	48	2:53:04.73
29	107	ARNTZ	MARCEL	NED	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	47	2:53:40.75
30	98	PAYNE	GARRY	AUS	DIAMONDBACK AUS	46	2:54:04.30
31	104	TILFORD	STEVE	USA	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	45	2:54:42.51
32	19	BISHOP	ANDY	USA	GARY FISHER	44	2:55:35.88
33	37	MYRAH	DON	USA	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	43	2:56:14.68
34	202	BENNETT	TIM	AUS	BARRACUDA	42	2:56:18.04
35	86	WIENS	DAVID	USA	KONA FACTORY	41	2:57:00.91
36	204	ZACARIAS	ARMANDO	MEX	MERCURTO	40	2:57:18.79
37	79	WELLS	TODD	USA	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	39	2:57:37.02
38	44	SHEPPARD	CHRIS	CAN	HARO	38	2:58:10.21
39	163	BLANCO	GABRIEL	ARG	MARIN	37	2:59:28.41
40	210	SMITH	MATT	USA	BOURE' SPORTSWEA	36	2:59:48.09
41	222	DOYLE	CHRISTOPHER	USA	DEAN/VAIL	35	2:59:52.45
42	191	KLOSER	MICHAEL	USA	MOOTS	34	3:00:21.78
43	203	MADRIGAL	ZIRANDA	MEX	TURBO	33	3:02:03.55
44	108	GERKEN	MATT	USA	COOLMAX DEVO	32	3:03:08.30
45	95	DAN	TAKUMA	JPN	SCOTT-JAPAN	31	3:03:40.28
46	184	JONES	ERIC	USA	PLYMOUTH/ELLSWOR	30	3:04:16.91
47	125	LLOYD	NATHAN	USA	BIANCHI MARTINI	29	3:04:48.82
48	196	WEEKES	CHANDLER	USA	CANE CREEK	28	3:05:03.41
49	221	OBERPRILLER	GENE	USA	BIANCHI/MARTINI	27	3:05:05.58
50	215	HEGGEM	CHARLIE	USA	SOFTTRIDE WORLD T	26	3:05:10.94
51	224	MOTACHEK	JERRY	USA	PROFLEX	25	3:07:53.15
52	218	BICKNELL	JEFF	USA	NAUTILUS/BARACUD	24	3:08:31.09
53	167	DE BELIN	MATT	AUS		23	3:14:17.20

54	223	SCHULTZ	NATHAN	USA	SCHWINN/TOYOTA R	22	3:19:20.70
55	175	SHRIVER	ZACH	USA	COOL MAX DEVO	21	3:27:03.20
56	220	NORDSTRÖM	THOMAS	FIN	FINLAND	20	3:50:19.43
dnf							
	5	HÖYDAHL	RUNE	NOR	GIANT	0	
	4	DUBAU	LUDOVIC	FRA	SUNN-NIKE	0	
	3	DUPOUEY	CHRISTOPHE	FRA	SUNN-NIKE	0	
	162	WILLERTON	PAUL	USA	CHUMS-MICRO SUPR	0	
	193	MILLER	BRYAN	USA	MOOTS CYCLES	0	
	219	RIEPE	BRIAN	USA	IBIS	0	
	216	JANELLE	MIKE	USA	NAUTILUS/BARACUD	0	
	120	RANDOLPH	GREG	USA	TEAM GT	0	
	187	HORGAN KOBELSKI	JEREMY	USA	COOL MAX DEVO	0	
	13	ARNOULD	DOMINIQUE	FRA	PROFLEX MASTERCA	0	
	205	BARRIGA	SALVADOR	MEX	TURBO	0	
dns							
	16	FRISCHKNECHT	THOMAS	SUI	RITCHEY	0	
	89	LARSEN	STEVE	USA	SCHWINN/TOYOTA R	0	