

Venue: St Wendel, Germany- XC#3- 26/27 April 1997

A booming **Thomas Frischknecht** (SUI, Ritchey) proved too powerful for the young pretender, **Cadel Evans** (AUS, DiamondBack International), in an enthralling struggle between youth and experience, which went right to the wire.

Despite the rainy conditions, some 10,000 spectators turned out to watch the third round of the Grundig/UCI World Cup. Perhaps the St Wendel course is not the most technically demanding on the world cup circuit, but it tends to produce the best racing. With three of the six laps completed today, the win looked like it could have gone to any one of seven riders. Evans and Frischknecht led, but in close attendance were **Dario Cioni** (ITA, Mapei-Kona), **Andres Brenes** (CRC, Ritchey), **Filip Meirhaeghe** (BEL, Record), **Miguel Martinez** (Sunn-Nike), and **Jerome Chiotti** (FRA, GT).

As the race unfolded on this fast, undulating circuit, nobody in particular was forcing the pace. *"Every lap someone different looked strong... it was open until the final two laps. Until then you could only get a few metres ahead before being caught,"* reported Frischknecht.

In the slippery conditions, riders had to dismount and run several of the climbs that last year they had ridden up. The fact that line honours were fought out between Frischknecht, one of the larger riders on the circuit, and Evans, one of the smaller, shows how little the course in these conditions suited any one type of rider.



Frischknecht at [XC#1- Napa, CA](#)

The shakedown move was not a calculated attack. On the fourth lap, Evans and Frischknecht emerged from the woods and started the two kilometre descent to the finish with a ten-second lead over Martinez and Brenes *"Everyone was on their limit and our limits are different,"* noted Evans, *"It was just a matter of survival,"* said the 20 year-old Australian.

Frischknecht and Evans extended their lead and left the chasers to contest the minor placings between themselves. On the last lap, *"I just lacked that bit of extra punch,"* said Evans, who felt somewhat in awe of Frischknecht. *"Here I was, on my own with the best tactician in the sport, the best world cup racer in men's mountain biking, and I was wondering what I was going to do,"* said Evans.

The youngster tried to leave Frischknecht behind on the steep woodland climbs, but was unable to get away.

Frischknecht took the lead on the sweeping downhill corners of the final two kilometres and had little trouble winning the sprint. *"See, I've got track sprinting skills as well!"* Quipped Frischknecht, who has twice won the world cyclo-cross championships: once as an amateur; once as a junior.

Christophe Dupouey (FRA, Sunn-Nike), who had good form but the wrong tyres for these slippery conditions was never more than 45 seconds behind the leaders, until the final lap, and as other legs fatigued in the fifth and sixth laps, the 1996 World Cup champion's remained fresh enough to carry him to third place.

Second place today extends Evans' lead in the World Cup series Elite category, and in the Under 23 category, Martinez, who finished fourth today, moved up to one hundred and four points behind Evans. Rated as one of the most talented riders on the circuit, Martinez is already thinking of setting his sights on the World Championships, not the World Cup. Frischknecht, 27, from Uster, has now won both editions of this St Wendel World Cup race. It is the 14th World Cup round win of his career.

Paul Skilbeck

Course: 8.9km, 270m climbing each lap.

Course characteristics: road, forest path, rocky tracks, low technical difficulty

Spectators: 10,000;

Weather: cool, overcast, showers during the race

Laps/Distance: 6/48.6km.

Average speed: 24km/h

Men's XC Results

Pos	Bib No	Name	First Name	Nat	Team	WCPTS	Time
1	42	FRISCHKNECHT	THOMAS	SUI	RITCHEY	100	2:31:05.80
2	1	EVANS	CADEL	AUS	DIAMONDBACK	93	2:31:08.25
3	5	DUPOUEY	CHRISTOPHE	FRA	SUNN-NIKE	87	2:32:38.26
4	19	MARTINEZ	MIGUEL	FRA	SUNN-NIKE	82	2:33:17.63
5	117	MEIRHAEGHE	FILIP	BEL	RECORD	78	2:34:26.73
6	2	CHIOTTI	JEROME	FRA	TEAM GT	75	2:34:55.12
8	38	WABEL	BEAT	SUI	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	72	2:34:56.51
7	4	DUBAU	LUDOVIC	FRA	SUNN-NIKE	70	2:34:56.92
9	52	BRENES	ANDRES	CRC	RITCHEY	68	2:35:13.44
10	18	RASMUSSEN	MICHAEL	DEN	TREK-VOLKSWAGEN	66	2:35:35.93
11	22	CIONI	DARIO	ITA	MAPEI-KONA	65	2:36:17.97
12	7	MOLDAY	KIRK	CAN	MARIN	64	2:36:49.21
13	111	BRUSCHI	DANIELE	ITA	MARIN/TISSOT	63	2:36:55.65
14	8	BAKER	DAVID	GBR	TEAM GT	62	2:37:10.98
15	25	KRISTENSEN	LENNIE	DEN	GIANT	61	2:37:39.30
16	10	HERISSET	CHRISTOPHE	FRA	SUNN-NIKE	60	2:37:44.48
17	41	CRAIG	NICK	GBR	DIAMONDBACK	59	2:37:44.81
18	21	ARNOULD	DOMINIQUE	FRA	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	58	2:38:48.31
19	6	HÖYDAHL	RUNE	NOR	GIANT	57	2:38:48.69
20	32	KLUGE	MIKE	GER	FOCUS	56	2:39:29.54
21	110	GOULD	TIM	GBR	SCHWINN/TOYOTA R	55	2:39:34.46
22	70	CLARKE	BARRIE	GBR	TEAM RALEIGH	54	2:39:35.16
23	135	NOEL	DENIS	FRA	SPECIALIZED	53	2:39:46.29
24	11	PALLHUBER	HUBERT	ITA	DIAMONDBACK/TISS	52	2:40:07.18

25	132	HANISCH	MARC	GER	HERCULES	51	2:40:30.57
26	30	DJERNIS	HENRIK	DEN	AMERICAN EAGLE	50	2:41:11.22
27	164	KORINEK	RADIM	CZE	CESKA SPORITELIN	49	2:41:23.13
28	27	NOTARIO	FRANCISCO JAVI	ESP	CORONAS REEBOK	48	2:41:34.19
29	233	HEJDUK	STANISLAV	CZE	AUTHOR EXPANDIA	47	2:42:12.65
30	29	ORCEL	DAVID	FRA	SUNN-NIKE	46	2:42:15.28
31	121	HELLER	MARCEL	SUI	SCHÖTZ-UNIVEGA	45	2:42:26.77
32	125	GIL	DARIUSZ	POL	LKS, POM	44	2:42:34.28
33	170	ROLANDEZ	DAVID	FRA	CYCLES LAPIERRE	43	2:42:39.89
34	126	STÖCKLI	LUKAS	SUI	GT-SUISSE	42	2:42:59.82
35	213	HEYLEN	BENNY	BEL	BATAVUS	41	2:43:04.10
36	14	HESTLER	ANDREAS	CAN	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	40	2:43:14.38
37	45	BRENTJENS	BART	NED	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	39	2:43:18.88
38	123	MANIN	CHRISTOPHE	FRA	MBK	38	2:43:19.40
39	142	DELION	GILLES	FRA	CYCLES LAPIERRE	37	2:43:22.20
40	139	STAUDER	ROLAND	ITA	RAINER BIKE TEAM	36	2:43:25.23
41	37	LANDIS	FLOYD	USA	TWP	35	2:43:52.51
42	194	HERMIDA	JOSÉ ANTONIO	ESP	SCOTT INTL	34	2:44:07.31
43	156	POSPICHAL	KURT	AUT	KONA-AUSTRIA	33	2:44:28.92
44	60	SLAVICEK	JAN	CZE	AUTHOR EXPANDIA	32	2:44:38.70
45	109	DIETSCH	THOMAS	FRA	CYCLES LAPIERRE	31	2:44:52.13
46	44	GERRITSEN	MARCEL	NED	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	30	2:45:05.54
47	83	WIEJAK	JAN	POL	HARO/LKS PRIM KO	29	2:45:11.81
48	127	VAN DOOREN	BAS	NED	VSB BATAVUS	28	2:45:19.77
49	115	GALINSKI	MAREK	POL	LKS OPTEX SA GIA	27	2:45:39.45
50	99	GROVER	NEIL	CAN	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	26	2:45:51.86
51	35	SHEPPARD	CHRIS	CAN	HARO	25	2:46:01.59
52	77	VAN DEN ABEELE	PETER	BEL	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	24	2:46:14.42

53	168	DEBOU	ERICK	FRA	MBK	23	2:46:17.26
54	160	ACHARD	ERIC	FRA	SCOTT-FRANCE	22	2:46:25.76
55	136	VAN DER VEN	JOHAN	NED	VSB BATAVUS	21	2:46:53.82
56	232	JEZEK	VACLAV	CZE	AUTHOR EXPANDIA	20	2:47:02.11
57	224	PETERS	BAS	NED	GRISLEY	19	2:47:07.92
58	17	VOLLET	GRÉGORY	FRA	GIANT	18	2:47:11.90
59	88	HOLLERBACH	MARTIN	GER	SUNN/SUNSHINE	17	2:47:13.36
60	159	BRESSER	CARSTEN	GER	PROFLEX/ FIT 4 F	16	2:47:16.04
61	131	CAMRDA	PAVEL	CZE	BUDVAR	15	2:47:23.26
62	163	KALLNBACH	JÜRGEN	GER	PROFLEX /FIT 4 F	14	2:47:27.00
63	16	MYRAH	DON	USA	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	13	2:47:39.98
64	133	GUY	MATT	GBR	GIANT	12	2:47:53.55
65	81	PERSSON	ROGER	SWE	CRESCENT	11	2:48:01.74
66	113	SCHWEDLER	JENS	GER	GIANT	10	2:48:13.58
67	199	BINKERT	MARKUS	SUI	PARKPRE FORD WIN	9	2:48:34.14
68	186	SARGENTI	MOSSIMO	ITA	LE RUN BIKING	8	2:48:39.59
69	24	ACQUAROLI	DARIO	ITA	BIANCHI MARTINI	7	2:48:47.46
70	219	NIJBOER	ERWIN	NED	AMERICAN EAGLE	6	2:49:23.18
71	138	CERTAIN	LAURENT	FRA	CYCLES LAPIERRE	5	2:50:00.94
72	244	DEREPAS	DAVID	FRA	CYCLES LAPIERRE	4	2:50:14.30
73	197	REIN	AXEL	GER	H+H	3	2:50:21.45
74	254	PALLHUBER	HANNES	ITA	RAINER BIKE TEAM	2	2:50:31.58
75	167	BAXTER	ELLIOT	GBR	TEAM RALEIGH	1	2:50:32.68
76	23	BISHOP	ANDY	USA	GARY FISHER	0	2:50:40.56
77	96	FUMIC	LADO	GER	ROCKY MTN/ FIT 4	0	2:50:55.75
78	176	CHMIEL	RAFAL	POL	LKS, POM	0	2:50:56.42
79	28	AGERGAARD	JESPER	DEN	SORE B.C	0	2:51:39.74
80	26	GRONBECH	MICHAEL	DEN	CORRATEC-IKO	0	2:51:45.66

81	246	BENZENHOFER	DANIEL	SUI	TEMPO ARROW TEAM	0	2:52:02.89
82	143	SAUTOIS	OLIVIER	BEL	SUNN	0	2:52:10.35
83	149	LARSSON	TOMMY	SWE	SWEDEN NAT TEAM	0	2:52:17.42
84	227	LUNGER	HANSJORG	ITA	RAINER BIKE TEAM	0	2:52:34.07
85	180	WEICHERT	MARC-TIMO	GER	SCHWALBE RACING	0	2:53:28.25
86	171	CHRISTEN	MARTIN	SUI	SCHÖTZ-UNIVEGA	0	2:53:36.63
87	174	NESTLE	TOBIAS	GER	FOCUS	0	2:53:50.69
88	231	AUSTAD	HAAKON	NOR	GIANT	0	2:53:54.08
89	158	SCHLOSSER	ROMAN	GER	SCOTT	0	2:54:14.61
90	198	KURCHAT	WOLFGANG	GER	TOP GEAR RACING	0	2:55:02.75
91	211	LANGHANS	CHRISTIAN	GER	KASTLE	0	2:56:25.18
92	208	JURETZEK	HANS-JURGEN	GER	SCHWALBE RACING	0	2:56:25.75
93	118	CUTHBERTSON	IAN	GBR	TEAM RALEIGH	0	2:57:34.35
94	223	RAATS	EDWIN	NED	GRISLEY	0	3:03:00.00
97	57	LEUCHS	KASHI	NZL	DIAMONDBACK NZL	0	-1 LAP
98	65	MOTE	LAURENCE	NZL	GIANT NZL	0	-1 LAP
99	67	LUNDBERG	MARTIN	SWE	TREK SWEDEN	0	-1 LAP
96	172	BERGER	CHRISTOPH	GER	GT-GERMANY	0	-1 LAP
95	253	STRELKOV	ALEXANDER	RUS	LOKOMOTIV	0	-1 LAP
0	203	LAMBORELLE	PIERRE	BEL	GRISLEY	0	DNF
0	214	BARTOLOME	PAU	ESP	BUFF-OF3 SHAD	0	DNF
0	212	REYNAUD	MICKAÉL	FRA	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	0	DNF
0	215	SANCHEZ	JORGE	ESP	BUFF-OF3 SHAD	0	DNF
0	206	TAVELLA	IGOR	ITA	S.C ALTA BADIA	0	DNF
0	15	FONTANA	ALESSANDRO	ITA	DIAMONDBACK/TISS	0	DNF
0	20	JUNGÄKER	ERIK	SWE	SCOTT INTL	0	DNF
0	31	LARSEN	TOM	NOR	AMERICAN EAGLE	0	DNF
0	36	OSTERGAARD	JAN ERIK	DEN	CORRATEC-IKO	0	DNF

0	40	BONNAND	CYRILLE	FRA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	0	DNF
0	46	HUMMELSIEP	DENNIS	GER	TEAM H + H	0	DNF
0	48	DAN	TAKUMA	JPN	SCOTT-JAPAN	0	DNF
0	51	BALCELLS	ALBERT	ESP	BUFF-OF3 SHAD	0	DNF
0	54	GREEN	ROLAND	CAN	KONA FACTORY	0	DNF
0	56	PAULISSEN	ROEL	BEL	AMERICAN EAGLE	0	DNF
0	58	WEEVERS	JAN	NED	GIANT	0	DNF
0	63	RANDOLPH	GREG	USA	TEAM GT	0	DNF
0	66	WYSSEIER	RETO	SUI	SCOTT INTL	0	DNF
0	108	BERNER	RALPH	GER	DIAMONDBACK	0	DNF
0	112	ARNTZ	MARCEL	NED	PROFLEX/MASTERCA	0	DNF
0	124	GARCIA	LUIS	ESP	LIBERTO MEGAMO A	0	DNF
0	128	BRUSCHI	MIRKO	ITA	MARIN/TISSOT	0	DNF
0	134	CANDAU	OLAF	FRA	CYCLES LAPIERRE	0	DNF
0	140	GUNNER	ALAN	GBR	GIANT	0	DNF
0	141	ZOLI	JADER	ITA	DIAMONDBACK TISS	0	DNF
0	150	BONNE	THOMAS	DEN	AARHUS M.K.	0	DNF
0	154	TRIEBEL	PASCAL	LUX	L.C.KAYL	0	DNF
0	173	INDUNI	MASSIMO	ITA	TEAM MAPEI KONA	0	DNF
0	181	BELLONI	FLIPPO	ITA	LE RUN BIKING	0	DNF
0	183	KRUSE	MORITZ	GER	SCHWALBE RACING	0	DNF
0	187	GUERCY	LAURENT	FRA	LOOK MTN BIKES	0	DNF
0	240	LATSCHEN	ROBERT	AUT		0	DNF
0	39	GREGORY	JOHN	AUS	TIS/GIANT	0	DNF
0	9	TCHERKASSOV	PAVEL	RUS	DIAMONDBACK/TISS	0	DNS
0	53	HOCHSTRASSER	THOMAS	SUI	TISSOT-WHEELER	0	DNS