

Budapest, HUN- 2-3.5.98- XC#3-

Frischknecht makes his bid

Thomas Frischknecht (SUI, Ritchey), the greatest male World Cup racer, proved on Sunday that not only is he again ready to fight for a spot on the highly competitive men's podium, he is ready to climb all the way to the top. Frischknecht, 28, rode away from a fast moving field at the start of the race and performed a triumphant solo that lasted all the way to the finish. His win at the third round of the Grundig/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup completed a Swiss double this weekend.



Chased by World Champion **Hubert Pallhuber** (ITA, Diamondback) and **Miguel Martinez** (FRA, Sunn-un) in the closing laps, Frischknecht was untouchable today, using a combination of powerful running and deft bike handling on a muddy course to win by one minute, 43 seconds. Weather conditions were dry and cloudy as the men raced a parade and seven laps for a total of 50.5 km.

Third in the World Cup coming into today's race, Frischknecht was favoured by some observers when the course became wet and muddy on Saturday. The silver medallist at the 1997 Cyclo-Cross World Championships, Frischknecht's strong body and mud running skills put him at an advantage over the pure mountain bikers, **Rune Hoydahl** (NOR, Giant), and second-ranked **Cadel Evans** (AUS, Volvo-Cannondale), who are currently Frischknecht's main rivals in the World Cup overall. Hoydahl and Evans finished 9th and 4th respectively.

Although the course was drier than on Saturday, it was still slippery enough to demand riders dismount and port their bikes over several sections. Also, as Frischknecht pointed out, "I'm good on slippery descents." After a hectic start on the slippery single-track, Frischknecht and **Christophe Dupouey** (FRA, Sunn) led **Dario Cioni** (ITA, Mapei-Kona) and Hoydahl by several seconds after one lap, with **Ludovic Dubau** (FRA, Sunn) and Pallhuber leading a chase group. Dropping Dupouey but gaining Pallhuber at 20 seconds after the

Cioni was now alone 25 seconds behind Evans and Martinez, with Sauser and Dupouey at well back.

While Frischknecht continued in a smooth, unassailable rhythm at the head of the race, Martinez once again upped the pace, left Evans behind, and moved forward up the eternal last climb to attack the tiring Pallhuber. He passed the Italian at the final feed zone and went on to claim a brilliant second place in what will be remembered as one of the great rides in mountain bike racing.

Evans staved off Dupouey, last year's winner here, and Cioni stayed strong for 6th place. The man of the day, of course, was Frischknecht who had a comfortable 1:43 over Martinez and 2:03 over Pallhuber. Crossing the finish to loud cheers of a medium-sized crowd on the running track, Frischknecht pumped his fists in the air and was all smiles, the great rider happy to have captured his 15th world cup victory - an amazing achievement.

Comment

Taken as a whole, today's race was a study in pacing among the top finishers, compared to yesterday's test of will and fortitude. Frischknecht went off immediately in today's race, hoping to put as much time on the field as possible. "I worked hard to maintain my gap, and hoped I wouldn't fade late in the race," he said. Chased by world champion Pallhuber, Frischknecht no doubt was concerned that the svelte Italian might catch him. As Hubi put it, "I rode not so smart, chasing Frishy too hard. I'm happy with my result today though, and am still not in form. It was a good race for me." By riding for the win instead of settling into a second-place pace, Hubi used up his energy and was eventually caught in the last lap by a surging Martinez, to whom he joked "Where were you? I waited!" after the race.

"I had a bad start and tried to get back up quickly, which hurt me and I lost positions" Martinez explained. "But I came back slowly and rode with Cadel, then was able to pass him and later Pallhuber at the last feed zone." Evans had been hoping his chase group might eventually catch Pallhuber, but he got impatient and it broke up with a mid-race attack. Evans looked good for third place until Martinez appeared. "I was pretty surprised to see Martinez come back so quickly," said Evans. "I couldn't stay with him- he

second lap, Frishy began his dominance early, clicking off laps in approximately 20 minutes.



Pallhuber lost 10 seconds on the third lap, while Dupouey, **Christoph Sauser** (SUI, Diamondback), Hoydahl and Evans worked together in a chase group. It was another race where so many good riders vied for the podium spots that at the half way point the outcome was anybody's guess.

Frischknecht kept up an unrelenting pace, taking advantage of his chasers' group disadvantage in the slippery conditions. But his strength was decisive. Pallhuber lost a further 10 seconds on the fourth lap, as Cioni took a turn leading the chase group two minutes, 10 seconds back. **Nick Craig** (GBR, Diamondback) lead the second chase group with team-mate **Pavel Tcherkassov** (RUS), country-mate **Barry Clarke** (Raleigh) and **Jan Erik Ostergaard** in tow.

By the end of the fifth lap the result was starting to become apparent. Evans attacked the chase group and dropped Dupouey. Dupouey was soon caught by his team-mate, **Miguel Martinez** (FRA, Sunn-un) - the U-23 World Champion. Martinez was riding an inspired race, making his own bit of history with a charge through the field that began after he got held up in the single-track on lap one and started the second in 18th place.

Tcherkassov, **Filip Meirhaeghe** (BEL, Mt. Dew/Specialized) and Craig formed the only other chase group.

Lap six saw Frischknecht increase his lead to 1:28 over Pallhuber, who was now moving backward and paying for his attempt to catch the Swiss rider. In a scene reminiscent of Annecy '97, Martinez moved up and took on Evans for third place. Three rounds into the Cup, Martinez paid Evans the respect of declaring he was "afraid" of him today.

was very strong today." Dupouey, who had ridden the third and fourth lap in 3rd place, dipped to 7th before climbing back to 5th by race's end and a spot on the podium.



Fourth overall in the World Cup, **Jerome Chiotti** (FRA, GT) was the first victim of today's demanding course, dropping out of the event in the second lap after he realized he wasn't going to have much success with running. Spotted relaxing trackside on the last lap, the '96 world champion smiled and joked: "I am a cyclist, not a runner." 26 competitors eventually dnf'd, including **Andres Brenes** (CRC, Ritchey), **Roland Green** (CAN, Kona Mapei) and **Christophe Herrisset** (FRA, Sunn).



A solid ninth place in his World Cup campaign kept series leader, Rune Hoydahl in the Blue Jersey as the tour now heads for St. Wendel, Germany and the next round of cross-country racing. But with Frischknecht now breathing down his neck, the eight race series is getting very tense

Men/Hommes

Place	bib	UCIcode	name/nom	nat	team	time	+
			FRISCHKNECHT				
1	3	SUI19700217	Thomas	SUI	RITCHEY	2:23:38.71	
2	17	FRA19760117	MARTINEZ Miguel *	FRA	SUNN	2:25:21.92	1:43.21
3	43	ITA19650917	PALLHUBER Hubert	ITA	DIAMONDBACK	2:25:42.20	2:03.48
4	2	AUS19770214	EVANS Cadel *	AUS	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:26:16.90	2:38.19
5	29	FRA19680808	DUPOUEY Christophe	FRA	SUNN	2:26:38.28	2:59.56
6	6	ITA19741202	CIONI Dario	ITA	MAPEI-KONA	2:27:08.81	3:30.09
7	11	SUI19760413	SAUSER Christoph *	SUI	DIAMONDBACK	2:27:27.17	3:48.45
8	10	RUS19720513	TCHERKASSOV Pavel	RUS	DIAMONDBACK	2:27:48.05	4:09.33
9	1	NOR19691210	HÖYDAHL Rune	NOR	GIANT	2:28:03.85	4:25.14
10	9	BEL19710305	MEIRHAEGHE Filip	BEL	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	2:28:19.92	4:41.21
11	8	GBR19690403	CRAIG Nick	GBR	DIAMONDBACK	2:28:20.28	4:41.57
12	22	GBR19661211	CLARKE Barrie	GBR	RALEIGH	2:28:39.64	5:00.92
			OSTERGAARD Jan				
13	21	DEN19610220	Erik	DEN	IKO/CORRATEC	2:29:08.86	5:30.14
14	47	FRA19661119	ARNOULD Dominique	FRA	K2 BIKE	2:29:09.19	5:30.48
15	16	NED19730825	VAN DOOREN Bas	NED	BE-ONE	2:29:09.90	5:31.18
16	37	ITA19770721	FRUET Martino *	ITA	CARRARO	2:29:22.53	5:43.81
17	111	ITA19681106	BRAMATI Luca	ITA	SELLE ITALIA COL	2:30:01.48	6:22.76
18	19	USA19700313	LARSEN Steve	USA	SCHWINN/TOYOTA	2:30:10.46	6:31.75
19	118	ITA19750812	BELLONI Flippo	ITA	LE RUN BIKING	2:30:32.34	6:53.63
20	60	ESP19681117	GARRO Juan Carlos	ESP	LIBERTO MEGAMO A	2:30:40.14	7:01.42
21	41	DEN19660422	DJERNIS Henrik	DEN	AMERICAN EAGLE	2:31:08.75	7:30.04
22	24	GER19680328	BERNER Ralph	GER	THE GREENERY/HAW	2:31:36.83	7:58.11
23	32	GBR19640530	GOULD Tim	GBR	SCHWINN/TOYOTA	2:31:46.27	8:07.56
24	34	SUI19721112	STÖCKLI Lukas	SUI	SCHÖTZ-UNIVEGA	2:31:48.52	8:09.81
25	18	NOR19780305	AUSTAD Haakon *	NOR	GIANT	2:32:28.03	8:49.31
26	92	DEN19700411	PETERSEN Jorgen Bo	DEN	IKO/CORRATEC	2:32:31.67	8:52.95
27	109	ITA19750310	ACQUAROLI Dario	ITA	BIANCHI MARTINI	2:32:45.04	9:06.32
28	7	USA19610304	JUAREZ David 'tinker'	USA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:32:50.74	9:12.03
29	35	BEL19760427	PAULISSEN Roel *	BEL	AMERICAN EAGLE	2:32:54.62	9:15.91
30	61	FRA19720501	MARTINEZ Raphael	FRA	DIAMONDBACK	2:33:08.01	9:29.29
31	119	ITA19740521	CHECUZ Alessandro	ITA	SCOTT INTERNATIO	2:33:11.80	9:33.09
32	63	SUI19670523	WABEL Beat	SUI	K2 BIKE	2:33:40.91	10:02.19
33	27	CZE19731201	KORINEK Radim	CZE	CESKA SPORITELNA	2:33:46.26	10:07.54
34	136	FRA19750616	MOREL Christophe	FRA	SINTESI VERLICCH	2:33:49.93	10:11.21
35	30	FRA19660717	MANIN Christophe	FRA	AMERICAN EAGLE	2:34:01.33	10:22.62
36	5	FRA19750321	VOLLET Grégory	FRA	GIANT	2:34:10.02	10:31.30
37	67	GER19620925	KLUGE Mike	GER	FOCUS	2:34:21.34	10:42.63
38	45	ITA19700324	FONTANA Alessandro	ITA	FULL-DYNAMIX	2:34:47.61	11:08.90
39	65	SUI19770213	KALBERER Thomas *	SUI	RITCHEY	2:34:56.56	11:17.84
40	52	DEN19750218	AGERGAARD Jesper	DEN	BE-ONE	2:35:08.16	11:29.44

41	49	GER19750517	KURSCHAT Wolfram	GER	GT GERMANY	2:35:23.36 11:44.65
42	23	SUI19760713	HOCHSTRASSER Thomas *	SUI	SCOTT INTL	2:35:28.78 11:50.06
43	14	ESP19780824	HERMIDA José Antonio *	ESP	SCOTT INTL	2:35:29.09 11:50.37
44	54	ESP19700929	GARCIA Luis	ESP	LIBERTO MEGAMO A	2:35:41.30 12:02.59
45	39	FRA19731117	DUBAU Ludovic	FRA	SUNN	2:35:49.64 12:10.93
46	162	SVK19760629	KONDIS Lubos *	SVK	SEAT MERIDA KCK	2:36:10.58 12:31.86
47	76	SUI19721016	WYSSEIER Reto	SUI	SCOTT ELVIA	2:36:17.80 12:39.08
48	33	CAN19760305	MCGRATH Seamus *	CAN	HARO	2:36:21.22 12:42.51
49	214	SLO19790526	DRASLER Rok *	SLO	SCOTT CERIN TEAM	2:36:23.95 12:45.23
50	128	CZE19770913	JEZEK Vaclav *	CZE	AUTHOR EXPANDIA	2:36:43.66 13:04.94
51	105	POL19740801	GALINSKI Marek	POL	LKS OPTEX	2:36:51.35 13:12.64
52	147	GER19720204	KÄSER Bernhard	GER	IKO/CORRATEC	2:37:03.69 13:24.98
53	130	CZE19690814	SLAVICEK Jan	CZE	AUTHOR EXPANDIA	2:37:36.66 13:57.94
54	55	FRA19740808	DIETSCH Thomas	FRA	BE-ONE	2:37:42.33 14:03.62
55	73	ITA19680808	DEHO Marzio	ITA	BIANCHI MARTINI	2:37:49.89 14:11.17
56	96	CAN19770331	GROVER Neil *	CAN	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	2:38:10.13 14:31.42
57	13	CAN19730419	SHEPPARD Chris	CAN	CATERA/PURE ENER	2:38:19.65 14:40.94
58	172	SVK19710119	SPAK Jan	SVK	SEAT MERIDA KCK	2:38:26.36 14:47.64
59	115	CZE19680606	STICHA Pavel	CZE	AUTHOR EXPANDIA	2:38:50.81 15:12.10
60	72	SUI19740817	BINKERT Markus	SUI	PARKPRE	2:38:54.79 15:16.07
61	80	FRA19660806	SAVIGNONI Jean- christoph	FRA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:39:04.33 15:25.62
62	113	GER19700904	BRESSER Carsten	GER	K2/LION	2:39:05.19 15:26.48
63	144	SLO19771207	GOLCER Jure *	SLO	GT	2:39:25.10 15:46.39
64	84	FRA19781126	RAVANEL Cédric *	FRA	EGS	2:39:30.39 15:51.68
65	150	GBR19750424	GUY Matt	GBR	TEAM ORANGE	2:40:02.96 16:24.25
66	44	NZL19780620	LEUCHS Kashi *	NZL	CANNONDALE JDT	2:40:51.31 17:12.60
67	157	CZE19680210	KONECNY Petr	CZE	CESKA SPORITELNA	2:41:58.25 18:19.53
68	205	NED19690923	DE LOUW Lucien	NED	DUTCH NATIONAL T	2:42:11.85 18:33.14
69	134	GBR19731214	STURGEON Carl	GBR	RALEIGH	2:42:25.66 18:46.95
70	38	CAN19700512	HESTLER Andreas	CAN	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:43:13.29 19:34.57
71	129	IRL19710406	SEYMOUR Robin	IRL		2:45:07.31 21:28.60
72	213	POL19780331	BODNAR Grzegorz *	POL	LKS BASZTA BYTOW	- 1 lap
73	110	POL19730514	GIL Dariusz	POL	LKS POM WARTA	- 1 lap
74	93	SUI19770918	FLEURY Patrik *	SUI	SWISS BIKE NATL	- 1 lap
75	46	SWE19770427	JUNGÄKER Erik *	SWE	SCOTT INTL	- 1 lap
76	220	AUT19731010	KNAUBERT Matthias	AUT	ORU BANK AUSTRIA	- 1 lap
77	107	DEN19740601	RASMUSSEN Michael	DEN	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	- 1 lap
78	171	DEN19760304	BARNECHOW Christian *	DEN	ROSKILDE	- 1 lap
79	121	DEN19740819	GRONBECH Michael	DEN	AMAGER	- 1 lap
80	75	ITA19720501	STAUDER Roland	ITA	RAINER BIKE TEAM	- 1 lap
81	153	CZE19770517	HRACH Michal *	CZE	IKO/CORRATEC	- 1 lap

82	138	ITA19780312	ZANOTTI Leonardo *	ITA	SCAPIN RACING	- 1 lap
83	141	SVK19740114	BARENYI Milan	SVK	SEAT MERIDA KCK	- 1 lap
84	140	SLO19720916	STRANCAR Primož	SLO	MBK MERKUR	- 1 lap
85	59	SWE19740601	PERSSON Roger	SWE	CRESCENT	- 1 lap
86	152	GER19770122	SCHLOSSER Roman *	GER	SCOTT-POLAR RACI	- 1 lap
87	79	GER19690806	HOLLERBACH Martin	GER	H + H	- 1 lap
88	225	SLO19790000	MASNY Marian *	SLO		- 1 lap
89	176	AUT19770630	KIRCHER Robert *	AUT	OAMTC/ASVO HERMA	- 1 lap
90	132	SWE19740408	LARSSON Tommy	SWE	CRESCENT	- 1 lap
91	126	NED19650520	WEEVERS Jan	NED	DUTCH NATIONAL T	- 1 lap
92	222	HUN19680412	OTTO Jozsef	HUN	POSTAS MATAV	- 1 lap
93	196	HUN19760829	HASENFRATZ Peter *	HUN	PCCC	- 1 lap
94	42	AUS19701202	ROWNEY Paul	AUS	HARO	- 1 lap
95	195	HUN19790113	BÜRUCZKI Szilard *	HUN	ZKSE	- 2 lap
96	170	AUT19761214	RAMTESTEINER Roman *	AUT	ORU BANK AUSTRIA	- 2 lap
97	226	HUN19760831	SZORADI Balazs *	HUN	MEDITECH SE	- 2 lap
98	215	SLO19760703	HABE Ales *	SLO	CULI-MTK CRNI UR	- 2 lap
99	193	SWE19741122	KARLSSON Roger	SWE		- 2 lap
100	192	GER19740906	HALBAUER Heiko	GER	JKO CORRATEC	- 2 lap
101	163	GER19760308	DONATH Ray *	GER	ROCKY MTN/XENOFI	- 2 lap
102	173	USA19780811	HORGAN KOBELSKI Jeremy *	USA	COOL MAX DEVO	- 2 lap
103	219	AUT19710222	FRAUENSCHUH Thomas	AUT	OAMTC RV SCOTT L	- 3 lap
104	168	HUN19740504	BOGAR Gabor	HUN	PCCC	- 3 lap
105	208	SUI19790124	RICHNER Andreas *	SUI	SWISS BIKE NATL	- 3 lap
106	224	SLO19790000	LEVCIK Peter *	SLO		- 3 lap
107	191	GER19751211	GREINSBERGER Samuel	GER	H + H	- 3 lap
108	190	HUN19771013	MARO Jozsef *	HUN	KKE	- 3 lap
109	145	AUT19760317	HILBE Christian *	AUT	ORU BANK AUSTRIA	- 3 lap
110	83	ARG19790403	BLANCO Gabriel *	ARG	FEDERACION CORDO	- 3 lap
111	200	ROM19710819	MIRCEA Gustav Robert	ROM	ROMANIA	- 3 lap
112	201	ROM19730920	MIRCEA Otto	ROM	ROMANIA	- 3 lap
113	197	HUN19780214	VIZDAK Janos *	HUN	PCCC	- 4 lap
114	194	IRL19730121	STARRETT Colin	IRL		- 4 lap
115	223	AUT19730228	WIELTSCHNIG Sivio	AUT	OAMTC/ASVO HERMA	- 4 lap
116	217	RUS19790706	MELNIKOV Alexandre *	RUS	RUSSIAN NATL TEA	- 4 lap
117	204	ROM19730614	BURGHELEA Ovidiu	ROM	ROMANIA	- 4 lap
118	202	ROM19710812	GYORGY Levente	ROM	ROMANIA	- 4 lap

119	203	ROM19691212	BOCOR Romeo Gabriel	ROM ROMANIA	- 4 lap
120	207	HUN19780531	SZTRUHAR Robert *	HUN AVAR TURA KLUB	- 4 lap
	4	FRA19720118	CHIOTTI Jerome	FRA TEAM GT USA	DNF
	12	CRC19641218	BRENES Andres	CRC RITCHEY	DNF
	15	CAN19740729	GREEN Roland	CAN KONA/MAPEI	DNF
	20	SUI19740621	HELLER Marcel	SUI SCHÖTZ-UNIVEGA	DNF
	25	FRA19720910	HERISSET Christophe	FRA SUNN	DNF
	28	NED19650626	TOLHOEK Patrick	NED BE-ONE	DNF
	56	CZE19671019	KANKOVSKY Martin	CZE CESKA SPORITELNA	DNF
	58	GBR19740706	CUTHBERTSON Ian	GBR RALEIGH	DNF
	77	ITA19771017	BUI Marco *	ITA CARRARO	DNF
	86	GER19750820	HUMMELSIEP Dennis	GER H + H	DNF
	88	USA19670209	GREWAL Rishi	USA KLEIN	DNF
	95	GBR19780305	BAXTER Elliot *	GBR RALEIGH	DNF
	106	SWE19760824	ERIKSSON Kim *	SWE	DNF
	120	ITA19711113	SARGENTI Massimo	ITA LE RUN BIKING	DNF
	124	CAN19671108	HURLEY Bill	CAN ORYX-PROCYCLE	DNF
	133	AUT19690816	POSPICHAL Kurt	AUT ORU BANK AUSTRIA	DNF
	155	ITA19740206	PALLHUBER Johann	ITA RAINER BIKE TEAM	DNF
	180	ITA19641118	DI BASCO Alessio	ITA VOLVO/CANNONDALE	DNF
	206	FRA1977	RIGLET Jérôme *	FRA EGS	DNF
	210	SWE19780918	ERIKSSON Fredrik *	SWE	DNF
			EISENKRAMMER		
	211	HUN19690104	Karoly	HUN POSTAS MATAV	DNF
	212	ITA19790507	GIULIETTI Marco *	ITA FULL-DYNAMIX	DNF
	216	YUG19791115	POPOVIC Boris *	YUG YUGOSLAV	DNF
	218	AUT19780617	PRESSLAUER Peter *	AUT OAMTC RV SCOTT L	DNF
			SCHEIDERBBAUER		
	221	AUT19770108	Jörg *	AUT UNION RV DORNBIR	DNF
	227	HUN19770710	KORCSOG Gabor *	HUN POTTO-SPEC	DNF
	198	AUT19660403	GRAH Branko	AUT SPORTUNION PIT S	DSQ
	199	AUT19710824	DEPPNER Peter	AUT SPORTUNION PIT S	DSQ
	209	GER19791123	MENDE Matthias *	GER CANNONDALE	DNS