

Canmore, Alberta, CAN- 4-5.7.98- XC#6-

Evans Puts The Hammer Down

A devastating last lap attack by 22 years old **Cadel Evans** (AUS, Volvo- Cannondale) established him as the clear favourite for the overall World Cup win this year. Evans' victory capped a winning weekend for the Volvo- Cannondale team, with the young Australian's second win of the season adding to the victory of his teammate, Alison Sydor in Saturday's [women's race](#).

The style of Evans' win will live long in the minds of spectators. After powering back from a one minute deficit at the fourth lap of five and a half, he ruthlessly attacked the lead of **Miguel Martinez** (FRA, Sunn-Un) and **Filip Meirhaeghe** (BEL, Mt. Dew/Specialized). It was a brutal slog up the last climb of the final lap, *"suddenly he was with us, then he just took off again, and neither of us could go with him,"* recalled Meirhaeghe, who had led for much of the race and ended up finishing third.

"I can't keep racing like that - it's too hard" an exhausted but happy Evans joked to team manager Charlie Livermore after flying across the finish 2 hours and 38 minutes after starting. It was perhaps the Aussie's hardest-fought win this season but coming with only two races remaining in the series, it was also arguably his most valuable one. After losing the series last year to his arch rival Martinez, 23, Evans appears to have put himself into a winning position for the 1998 World Cup.

ACTION

Racing began under sunny skies, although it was on ground made damp by heavy rain showers the night before. The figure eight course had been challenging enough in dry conditions, but now a mixture of shallow mud, slippery roots and steep descents, it was a formidable circuit for this top quality field. **Thomas Frischknecht** (SUI, Ritchey), ill from a heavy cold he caught in Tuscany recently, was the only top-25 rider absent from the line-up. The pack flew through the stadium with a large lead group, followed by the rest of the 117 starters. **Hubert Pallhuber** (ITA, Diamondback) led the first loop, and by the first full lap **Rune Hoydahl** (NOR, Giant) took over with Filip Meirhaeghe close behind.

Meirhaeghe attacked on the final climb of the first full lap and took the lead. By the end of the second lap he had opened a 24 seconds lead ahead of the chase group. Evans and Martinez led the chase, with Hoydahl, Pallhuber and **Bas Van Dooren** (NED, Be-One) also present. The remainder of the field was already an astonishing 2:51 behind the charging Belgian.

Mid-race saw Meirhaeghe increase his lead, trying to unnerve his chasers who had now broken apart in their effort to catch him. Martinez rode at 35 seconds, and Evans at 52. At this point in the race Evans was far from certain about his position. *"At the start of the race I didn't feel so good and was losing a lot of time and was having to work really hard to get back up with the front group. I thought that might have taken too much energy from me,"* he commented. As it happened, Meirhaeghe was the one whose legs gave out. In his own words he *"completely died"* during the fourth lap. At that point Martinez caught up and Meirhaeghe grimly hung onto his wheel, too tired to lead the two-man group, but too determined to give the race away.

Starting the fifth full lap, Evans was some 20 seconds behind the leading duo, and looking every bit the race winner. His legs clearly had the energy to attack the pedals, and his rivals. *"I started to feel better coming into the last lap. I was just in sight of Filip and Miguel, and thought 'well, it's all or nothing.'"* For most of the lap he stalked his rivals, waiting for the right moment. And on the final climb he knew he could wait no longer.

Evans' attack blew Martinez and Meirhaeghe apart. Martinez held on for a strong second place and was happy to be back on the podium. *"I had to go at my maximum today - I couldn't sit around and wait for something to happen,"* he commented. *"I didn't know what I would do today because I'm not aware of my capacity and nothing's automatic this season."*

Meirhaeghe was able to salvage third, although not without a worry about being caught. *"I had to go at my own pace, and once I saw Cadel I just tried to hold onto third."*

Rune Hoydahl took fourth place, which consolidated his position of second overall in the World Cup series.

Source: **Ari Cheren**

Men/Hommes



Cadel Evans- AUS

<i>place</i>	<i>bib</i>	<i>name/nom</i>		<i>nat</i>	<i>WCPTS</i>	<i>UCIcode</i>	<i>time</i>
1	1	EVANS	CADEL	AUS	100	AUS19770214	2:38:58.29
2	12	MARTINEZ	MIGUEL	FRA	93	FRA19760117	2:39:36.72
3	2	MEIRHAEGHE	FILIP	BEL	87	BEL19710305	2:40:43.24
4	3	HÖYDAHL	RUNE	NOR	82	NOR19691210	2:41:24.05
5	6	VAN DOOREN	BAS	NED	78	NED19730825	2:41:40.66
6	70	BRAMATI	LUCA	ITA	75	ITA19681106	2:42:51.67
7	11	PALLHUBER	HUBERT	ITA	72	ITA19650917	2:43:53.44
8	8	CRAIG	NICK	GBR	70	GBR19690403	2:44:17.92
9	20	AGERGAARD	JESPER	DEN	68	DEN19750218	2:44:59.30
10	98	MOLDAY	KIRK	USA	66	USA19720916	2:46:35.43
11	42	KRISTENSEN	LENNIE	DEN	65	DEN19680516	2:47:16.78
12	14	OSTERGAARD	JAN ERIK	DEN	64	DEN19610220	2:48:26.31
13	69	BRENTJENS	BART	NED	63	NED19681010	2:49:04.69
14	29	GOULD	TIM	GBR	62	GBR19640530	2:49:57.93
15	44	DJERNIS	HENRIK	DEN	61	DEN19660422	2:51:28.98
16	35	MARTINEZ	RAPHAEL	FRA	60	FRA19720501	2:52:19.54
17	103	SWENSON	CARL	USA	59	USA19700420	2:52:56.82
18	39	PAULISSEN	ROEL	BEL	58	BEL19760427	2:53:40.42
19	21	LARSEN	STEVE	USA	57	USA19700313	2:53:56.19
20	36	SHEPPARD	CHRIS	CAN	56	CAN19730419	2:53:56.43
21	109	KILLEN	JIMI	USA	55	USA19730328	2:54:34.87
22	93	WEDGE	PETER	CAN	54	CAN19720918	2:54:50.71
23	47	PETERSEN	JORGEN BO	DEN	53	DEN19700411	2:54:54.03
24	50	SAVIGNONI	JEAN-CHRISTOPH	FRA	52	FRA19660806	2:54:57.43
25	112	WALLACE	MATT	AUS	51	AUS19720707	2:55:14.95
26	77	BROWN	TRAVIS	USA	50	USA19690807	2:55:18.86
27	34	WABEL	BEAT	SUI	49	SUI19670523	2:55:35.90
28	131	GORDON	CRAIG	AUS	48	AUS19710207	2:55:37.71
29	15	KORINEK	RADIM	CZE	47	CZE19731201	2:55:57.23
30	51	KANKOVSKY	MARTIN	CZE	46	CZE19671019	2:55:58.36
31	18	TOLHOEK	PATRICK	NED	45	NED19650626	2:56:11.84
32	41	HESTLER	ANDREAS	CAN	44	CAN19700512	2:56:25.72

33	75	BECKINGSALE	OLIVER	GBR	43	GBR19760607	2:57:10.59
34	32	KLUGE	MIKE	GER	42	GER19620925	2:57:38.91
35	13	TCHERKASSOV	PAVEL	RUS	41	RUS19720513	2:57:47.42
36	87	WELLS	TODD	USA	40	USA19751225	2:57:52.21
37	63	GULLICKSON	MARC	USA	39	USA19680209	2:58:15.31
38	23	HOCHSTRASSER	THOMAS	SUI	38	SUI19760713	2:58:30.05
39	104	SWENSON	PETER	USA	37	USA19671025	2:59:05.19
40	73	RASMUSSEN	MICHAEL	DEN	36	DEN19740601	2:59:14.78
41	25	MANIN	CHRISTOPHE	FRA	35	FRA19660712	2:59:23.21
42	92	WIENS	DAVID	USA	34	USA19640907	2:59:52.75
43	68	ACQUAROLI	DARIO	ITA	33	ITA19750310	3:00:04.71
44	52	MCGRATH	SEAMUS	CAN	32	CAN19760305	3:00:54.93
45	16	CLARKE	BARRIE	GBR	31	GBR19661211	3:00:57.79
46	108	BENNETT	TIM	AUS	30	AUS19780925	3:01:11.66
47	82	WEBBER	PETER	USA	29	USA19700301	3:01:56.23
48	76	BAILLY	FRANCK	FRA	28	FRA19680110	3:02:03.29
49	80	RADOMSKI	RYAH	USA	27	USA19770823	3:02:23.65
50	142	WOODS	ROB	AUS	26	AUS19680305	3:02:45.13
51	111	SCHRIVER	ZACH	USA	25	USA19771129	3:03:12.93
52	94	KABUSH	GEOFF	CAN	24	CAN19770414	3:04:13.44
53	139	SONNTAG	MARC	CAN	23	CAN19771203	3:05:17.15
54	127	SCHULTZ	NATHAN	USA	22	USA19710614	3:07:19.69
55	66	FLEMING	JOSH	AUS	21	AUS19751114	3:07:51.39
56	53	GREEN	ROLAND	CAN	20	CAN19740729	3:11:07.61
57	121	SCHNYDER	RUEDI	CAN	19	CAN19751202	-1 LAP
58	114	TOULOUSE	MATHIEU	CAN	18	CAN19760803	-1 LAP
59	107	TOTSUI	SCHUNSUKE	JPN	17	JPN19731117	-1 LAP
60	136	DECORE	MATT	CAN	16	CAN19680201	-1 LAP
61	56	CUTHBERTSON	IAN	GBR	15	GBR19740706	-1 LAP
62	135	LARGE	GEOF	CAN	14	CAN19730805	-1 LAP
63	134	CHRISTOFFERSON	NICOLAS	CAN	13	CAN19771103	-1 LAP
64	85	RAVANEL	CÉDRIC	FRA	12	FRA19781126	-1 LAP
65	116	VISSER	GEORGE	CAN	11	CAN19710914	-1 LAP
66	100	MOTE	LAURENCE	NZL	10	NZL19740807	-1 LAP
67	122	WALKER	ADAM	CAN	9	CAN19721101	-1 LAP
68	138	PANNELL	RYAN	CAN	8	CAN19761123	-1 LAP
69	160	CURRAN	LUCAS	CAN	7	CAN19760419	-2 LAPS
70	137	HOVEY	CARTER	CAN	6	CAN19761009	-2 LAPS
71	152	MOESCHULER	JASON	USA	5	USA19791119	-2 LAPS
72	86	DRASLER	ROK	SLO	4	SLO19790526	-2 LAPS
73	155	KRESS	DWAYNE	CAN	3	CAN19710616	-2 LAPS
74	140	TEGHTMEYER	JOHN	CAN	2	CAN19770911	-2 LAPS
75	157	LEGA	RODDI	CAN	1	CAN19781212	-2 LAPS

76	148	BARNS	JON	CAN	0 CAN19730510 -2 LAPS
77	161	CROOKHAM	JASON	CAN	0 CAN19721121 -2 LAPS
78	125	GRIFFITH JONES	GWILYM	NZL	0 NZL19720419 -2 LAPS
79	156	MILLER	STEVE	CAN	0 CAN19660921 -2 LAPS
80	146	COSTIGAN	MICHAEL	CAN	0 CAN19730425 -2 LAPS
81	90	BLANCO	GABRIEL	ARG	0 ARG19790403 -2 LAPS
82	158	WELLS	SETH	CAN	0 CAN19731126 -2 LAPS
83	145	WILLIAMS	STEVE	CAN	0 CAN19771103 -3 LAPS
84	105	ZACARIAS	ARMANDO	MEX	0 MEX19750109 -3 LAPS

4	VOLLET	GRÉGORY	FRA	0 FRA19750321 DNF
5	SAUSER	CHRISTOPH	SUI	0 SUI19760413 DNF
9	DUPOUEY	CHRISTOPHE	FRA	0 FRA19680808 DNF
10	CHIOTTI	JEROME	FRA	0 FRA19720118 DNF
22	HERMIDA	JOSÉ ANTONIO	ESP	0 ESP19780824 DNF
26	BERNER	RALPH	GER	0 GER19680328 DNF
30	AUSTAD	HAAKON	NOR	0 NOR19780305 DNF
31	ARNOULD	DOMINIQUE	FRA	0 FRA19661119 DNF
33	JUAREZ	DAVID 'TINKER'	USA	0 USA19610304 DNF
40	BRENES	ANDRES	CRC	0 CRC19641218 DNF
45	ROWNEY	PAUL	AUS	0 AUS19701202 DNF
55	MOREL	CHRISTOPHE	FRA	0 FRA19750616 DNF
64	KÄSER	BERNHARD	GER	0 GER19720204 DNF
71	GROVER	NEIL	CAN	0 CAN19770331 DNF
81	LASENBY	PAUL	GBR	0 GBR19730411 DNF
84	HUMMELSIEP	DENNIS	GER	0 GER19750820 DNF
88	HOLLERBACH	MARTIN	GER	0 GER19690806 DNF
89	VAN DEN ABEELE	PETER	BEL	0 BEL19660501 DNF
99	MADRIGAL	ZIRANDA	MEX	0 MEX19770523 DNF
117	RANDOLPH	GREG	USA	0 USA19721212 DNF
124	LAFONTAINE	BRUNO	CAN	0 CAN19760330 DNF
129	MIKLIC	GREGOR	SLO	0 SLO19760120 DNF
132	STOCKWELL	LUKE	AUS	0 AUS19731230 DNF
147	CRUICKSHANK	SEAN	CAN	0 CAN19680602 DNF
149	BONNAND	CYRILLE	FRA	0 FRA19690104 DNF
150	HORGAN KOBELSKI	JEREMY	USA	0 USA19780811 DNF
151	KUNCEWICZ	RAFAL	CAN	0 CAN19771223 DNF
154	MARTINEZ	SALVADOR	MEX	0 MEX19770731 DNF
159	ROBERTSON	DON	CAN	0 CAN19710208 DNF
7	FRISCHKNECHT	THOMAS	SUI	0 SUI19700217 DNS
19	CIONI	DARIO	ITA	0 ITA19741202 DNS
83	LARSEN	TOM	NOR	0 NOR19720422 DNS
110	VINCENT	SHANE	NZL	0 NZL19740131 DNS
120	SPADACCINI	PAUL	CAN	0 CAN19750126 DNS