

Newnham, Plymouth, GBR- 16-17.5.98- XC#5-

Evans Wins Again

Breaking the spell of new winners each week thus far this season, number-one ranked **Cadel Evans** (AUS, *Volvo-Cannondale*) continued his domination of Elite XC mountain biking. The 21 years-old Australian star methodically picked off his rivals in a 139-rider field on the fast, hard Newnham Park course at Plymouth, England.



Young newcomers to the circuit overwhelmed the established stars. 24 years-old Dutch star, **Bas van Dooren** (Be-One) finished only 12 seconds behind Evans, and third place came down to a sprint in which 23 years-old **Christophe Sauser** (SUI, *DiamondBack*) beat the 23 years-old **Gregory Vollet** (FRA, *Giant*).

Crashes, lead changes and sprint finishes marked the 53.9 km race over the technically demanding Newnham Park circuit. Until the closing minutes it was impossible to predict a winner.

The Action

First to the front was British favourite **Nick Craig** (GBR, *DiamondBack*) who led through the start loop, followed by team-mate Sauser. These two pulled a long string of men up the first grassy climb and maintained the lead until the backside of this first loop, some 6km into the race. At this point **Filip Meirhaeghe** (BEL, *Mt. Dew/Specialized*) was in the lead pack, Evans was in 10th and Bas Van Dooren (NED, Be-One) was buried deep in the pack. Van Dooren later commented *"I was 15th or 20th in the first lap - last week I worked too hard (early on) so this week I tried to ride smarter."*

Meirhaeghe attacked with enough authority to look unstoppable. But **Miguel Martinez** (FRA, *Sunn-Un*), who had been yo-yoing between 4th to 9th place moved up quickly and - starting the notorious Pipeline Descent

The lead group was testing each member. It was moving fast and not giving an inch, the slightest mistake was penalised by a time gap. Van Dooren's teammate **Patrick Tolhoek** (NED, *Be-One*) went to the front, while Pallhuber chased with Sauser, Van Dooren, Evans, Vollet and **Christophe Dupouey** (FRA, *Sunn-Un*) in tow. Tolhoek's intention was to soften any tired legs, prior to a Van Dooren attack.



Halfway through the last lap, Van Dooren thanked his team-mate for the assist and blasted off the front. Only Evans mustered the energy to pursue in earnest. *"On the last climb he attacked. I saw that it dropped Hubi and the others so I went after Van Dooren,"* Evans said. While Evans and Van Dooren rode clear, Sauser, Vollet and Pallhuber chased hard, and what had been a lead group was now a string of riders, each with several seconds between them.

Although by three years the junior in the lead duo, the diminutive Evans simply took Van Dooren apart with a series of attacks that gradually forced the gap wider and wider open ahead of the Dutch rookie rider. *"I wanted to get in the front and be alone by the final loop,"* said Evans, adding *"Every win is so important now, and I have four good scores so far. I'm very happy to win - especially with the number-one plate and riding in my mother country."* Evans was born in Australia to an English mother. For the second time in two weeks, he climbed the podium to receive both the U-23 and Elite series leader's jerseys. *"This is a great course today and the crowd was amazing,"* said Evans, always ready to give credit where it is due.

"It was hard," said Van Dooren seeing first hand why Evans wears the number-one plate. *"I was sure I was strong enough. but he attacked and I couldn't keep up. I think maybe I worked too hard today... Cadel didn't have to work so hard."*

- executed a passing manoeuvre on Meirhaeghe as the two flew down the impossibly steep, rutted escarpment.

The inevitable crash proved to be of major significance. According to Meirhaeghe *"I was on the worn line going straight and Miguel went outside and cut in front of me at the worst time - I don't know why he does things like that."* The result was that Martinez went headfirst into the dirt with Meirhaeghe right on top of him. After the field had passed by, Meirhaeghe picked himself up and continued, but Martinez was out.

With these two out of contention, a new lead group formed itself.

Christoph Sauser (SUI, Diamondback) went to the front and following closely in a group of nine was Van Dooren who had emerged last week in St Wendel as an on-form rider. These two, along with World Champion **Hubert Pallhuber** (ITA, Diamondback) and **Rune Hoydahl** (NOR, Giant), took control of the race as it moved towards the fourth lap.



Van Dooren showed his hand in the fourth lap, making Pallhuber, Hoydahl, Sauser and Evans chase hard. But Pallhuber would not be intimidated and took the lead briefly until Hoydahl - who had been riding cute and quiet race in the lead pack - made a confident attack on the Continental Climb leading to the ultra technical Bomb holes section. His intention had been to use his superior skill to extend his lead there, but this plan was thwarted by a severe mechanical problem that forced his retirement.



Third place went to the young Swiss rider Sauser, a newcomer to the Diamondback team, for which he has taken an 8th in Napa, 7th in Budapest and now a 3rd here in Plymouth. It demanded a supreme last lap effort, though. Sauser found himself in a sprint with Vollet coming into the finish arena. *"I had gone hard to stay in the lead group,"* he commented. *"Vollet led going up the last climb, so I stayed with him, planning on making a pass in the last river. I stayed on him down the last descent and did pass him in the creek - then I just rode as fast as I can to stay in front on the sprint... it's hard on the grass!"* he smiled.

Comment

With Vollet and Pallhuber rounding out the top five, there was an award ceremony in which three of the five riders were first-timers on the podium. Although the races look increasingly open, in becoming the first rider to win twice this season, Evans has identified himself as the one to beat this year. In the World Cup overall standings, Evans is now 97 points ahead of Meirhaeghe, his closest chaser.

Cross-Country racers will now take some time off for rest, recuperation and stage races before returning to the World Cup trail in Canmore, Alberta, Canada on July 4th.

Downhill racing resumes in Nevegal, Italy, on 23-24 May.

Source: Ari Cheren



Two seconds that changed the race. Martinez goes down and Meirhaeghe cannot avoid him.

Men/Hommes

place	bib	UCIcode	name/nom	nat	team	t	+
1	1	AUS19770214	EVANS Cadel *	AUS	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:19:17.77	
2	10	NED19730825	VAN DOOREN Bas	NED	BE-ONE	2:19:30.69	12.92
3	8	SUI19760413	SAUSER Christoph *	SUI	DIAMONDBACK	2:19:44.61	26.84
4	7	FRA19750321	VOLLET Grégory	FRA	GIANT	2:19:44.67	26.90
5	17	ITA19650917	PALLHUBER Hubert	ITA	DIAMONDBACK	2:20:27.54	1:09.77
6	31	NED19650626	TOLHOEK Patrick	NED	BE-ONE	2:20:54.60	1:36.83
7	11	FRA19720118	CHIOTTI Jerome	FRA	TEAM GT	2:21:33.80	2:16.03
8	18	RUS19720513	TCHERKASSOV Pavel	RUS	DIAMONDBACK	2:21:40.48	2:22.71
9	41	FRA19661119	ARNOULD Dominique	FRA	K2 BIKE	2:21:53.41	2:35.63
10	40	SUI19670523	WABEL Beat	SUI	K2 BIKE	2:22:01.06	2:43.29
11	9	FRA19680808	DUPOUEY Christophe	FRA	SUNN	2:22:06.93	2:49.16
12	6	SUI19700217	FRISCHKNECHT Thomas	SUI	RITCHEY	2:22:09.83	2:52.06
13	71	FRA19701216	ORCEL David	FRA	TEAM SUNN	2:22:11.66	2:53.89
14	57	SUI19740817	BINKERT Markus	SUI	PARKPRE	2:22:26.95	3:09.18
15	30	DEN19750218	AGERGAARD Jesper	DEN	BE-ONE	2:22:45.49	3:27.72
16	37	GER19620925	KLUGE Mike	GER	FOCUS	2:23:27.35	4:09.58
17	3	BEL19710305	MEIRHAEGHE Filip	BEL	MT DEW/SPECIALIZ	2:23:44.60	4:26.82
18	34	GER19680328	BERNER Ralph	GER	THE GREENERY/HAW	2:23:52.33	4:34.56
19	22	CZE19731201	KORINEK Radim	CZE	CESKA SPORITELNA	2:24:14.79	4:57.02
20	35	SUI19740621	HELLER Marcel	SUI	UNIVEGA-DESCENTE	2:24:33.81	5:16.04
21	36	FRA19720501	MARTINEZ Raphael	FRA	DIAMONDBACK	2:24:43.00	5:25.23
22	13	DEN19610220	OSTERGAARD Jan Erik	DEN	IKO/CORRATEC	2:24:45.67	5:27.90

23	5	GBR19690403	CRAIG Nick	GBR DIAMONDBACK	2:25:30.10	6:12.33
24	43	ESP19700929	GARCIA Luis	ESP LIBERTO MEGAMO A	2:26:07.50	6:49.73
25	90	GER19760520	FUMIC Lado *	GER ROCKY MTN/XENOFI	2:26:12.26	6:54.49
26	28	FRA19660712	MANIN Christophe	FRA AMERICAN EAGLE	2:26:15.87	6:58.10
27	44	CAN19700512	HESTLER Andreas	CAN VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:26:26.13	7:08.35
28	32	ITA19700324	FONTANA Alessandro	ITA FULL-DYNAMIX	2:26:40.54	7:22.77
29	42	BEL19760427	PAULISSEN Roel *	BEL AMERICAN EAGLE	2:26:42.56	7:24.79
30	83	GER19720204	KÄSER Bernhard	GER IKO/CORRATEC	2:26:53.87	7:36.10
31	27	FRA19731117	DUBAU Ludovic	FRA SUNN	2:27:38.02	8:20.25
32	64	CZE19671019	KANKOVSKY Martin	CZE CESKA SPORITELNA	2:27:48.66	8:30.89
33	33	NOR19780305	AUSTAD Haakon *	NOR GIANT	2:28:01.11	8:43.34
34	63	ITA19740521	CHECUZ Alessandro	ITA SCOTT INTL	2:28:41.01	9:23.24
35	62	FRA19660806	SAVIGNONI Jean-christoph	FRA VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:28:44.42	9:26.65
36	118	NOR19720422	LARSEN Tom	NOR IF FRÖY	2:28:51.08	9:33.31
37	19	SUI19721112	STOCKLI Lucas	SUI UNIVEGA-DESCENTE	2:28:51.46	9:33.69
38	98	DEN19740601	RASMUSSEN Michael	DEN TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	2:29:01.37	9:43.60
39	51	DEN19700411	PETERSEN Jorgen Bo	DEN IKO/CORRATEC	2:29:06.51	9:48.74
40	45	AUS19701202	ROWNEY Paul	AUS HARO	2:29:13.57	9:55.80
41	97	GBR19760607	BECKINGSALE Oliver *	GBR SCOTT UK	2:29:31.52	10:13.75
42	39	DEN19680516	KRISTENSEN Lennie	DEN GIANT	2:29:36.29	10:18.52
43	23	SUI19760713	HOCHSTRASSER Thomas *	SUI SCOTT INTL	2:29:43.50	10:25.73
44	16	GBR19661211	CLARKE Barrie	GBR RALEIGH	2:30:12.12	10:54.35
45	136	FRA19740730	SEVESSAND Christophe	FRA SCOTT LA CLUZAS	2:30:28.09	11:10.32
46	137	NED19710713	GROENENDAAL Richard	NED	2:30:49.72	11:31.95
47	87	CAN19770331	GROVER Neil *	CAN ROCKY MOUNTAIN	2:30:56.19	11:38.42
48	38	FRA19740808	DIETSCH Thomas	FRA BE-ONE	2:30:56.83	11:39.05
49	130	DEN19770522	BONNE Thomas *	DEN AARHUS M. K.	2:31:34.11	12:16.33
50	110	BEL19750321	GALLE David	BEL DIESEL BIANCHI	2:31:38.19	12:20.42
51	60	GBR19740706	CUTHBERTSON Ian	GBR RALEIGH	2:31:39.74	12:21.97
52	94	NED19650520	WEEVERS Jan	NED GIANT	2:31:43.64	12:25.87
53	186	DEN19760304	BARNECHOW Christian B. *	DEN ROSKILDE	2:32:02.40	12:44.63
54	86	FRA19680110	BAILLY Franck	FRA EGS	2:32:05.40	12:47.63
55	61	SWE19740601	PERSSON Roger	SWE CRESCENT	2:32:41.84	13:24.07
56	102	GER19750820	HUMMELSIEP Dennis	GER H + H	2:32:50.33	13:32.56
57	112	IRL19710406	SEYMORE Robin	IRL	2:32:53.73	13:35.96
58	77	ITA19750310	ACQUAROLI Dario	ITA BIANCHI MARTINI	2:33:36.55	14:18.78
59	119	BEL19660501	VAN DEN ABEELE Peter	BEL K2 BIKE	2:33:40.91	14:23.14
60	125	DEN19740819	GRONBECH Michael	DEN AMAGER	2:34:02.82	14:45.05
61	162	GBR19730619	BLUNT Stuart	GBR CORRIDORI	2:34:31.64	15:13.87
62	99	GBR19710411	POMFRET Steven	GBR GIANT/DIRT TECH/	2:34:39.39	15:21.62

63	128 SWE19740408	LARSSON Tommy	SWE CRESCENT	2:35:26.97 16:09.20
64	117 BEL19790218	TREVISAN Patrick *	BEL DIESEL BIANCHI	2:35:57.32 16:39.55
65	152 ITA19700824	CAUZ Michelangelo	ITA FULL-DYNAMIX	2:36:28.70 17:10.93
66	84 GBR19730411	LASENBY Paul	GBR MERCEDES-MARIN	2:37:05.04 17:47.27
67	142 DEN19760114	NIELSEN Klaus V. *	DEN VEJIE	2:37:36.25 18:18.48
68	91 GER19770729	REIN Axel *	GER H + H	2:38:01.03 18:43.26
69	147 SWE19710426	PALMBERG Magnus	SWE	2:38:14.06 18:56.29
70	54 NZL19780620	LEUCHS Kashi *	NZL VOLVO CANNONDALE	2:39:15.43 19:57.66
71	116 GER19751005	BERGER Christoph	GER VW NUTZ-FZ GT-GE	2:39:31.32 20:13.55
72	89 FRA19781126	RAVANEL Cédric *	FRA EGS	2:39:40.65 20:22.87
73	159 GBR19721004	TAYLOR Ian	GBR ERIC BURGESS-TRE	2:39:48.92 20:31.15
74	105 GBR19780305	BAXTER Elliot *	GBR RALEIGH	2:39:49.19 20:31.42
75	178 GBR19790414	WILKINSON Ian *	GBR PACE RACING	2:39:53.15 20:35.38
76	185 BEL19761101	HANKART David *	BEL	2:40:31.91 21:14.14
77	139 GBR19681214	JEREMIAH Ian	GBR RST/GOLD TECH	2:41:20.07 22:02.30
78	126 BEL19551007	DE BIE Rudy	BEL KONA	2:41:41.79 22:24.02
79	58 AUS19751114	FLEMING Josh	AUS A.I.S./GT	2:43:16.35 23:58.58
80	140 GBR19640102	YOUNG Chris	GBR PACE RACING	2:43:45.98 24:28.20
81	114 CAN19671108	HURLEY Bill	CAN ORYX-PROCYCLE	2:44:21.55 25:03.78
82	168 GBR19770506	O'CALLAHAN William *	GBR GT HONDA	2:45:37.03 26:19.26
83	187 GBR19760126	TAYLOR James *	GBR GIANT UK	2:46:12.95 26:55.18
84	167 GBR19730722	PARKINSON Nigel	GBR ROYCE	2:46:13.16 26:55.39
85	170 NED19771029	HESSELING Marcel *	NED	2:47:02.80 27:45.03
86	179 GBR19630918	PARKER James	GBR PACE RACING	2:47:22.64 28:04.87
87	189 ITA19790507	GIULIETTI Marco *	ITA FULL-DYNAMIX	2:47:43.29 28:25.52
88	171 GBR19751129	TAYLOR Andrew	GBR SUTTON OFF ROAD	2:48:54.55 29:36.77
89	166 RUS19790706	MELNIKOV Alexandre *	RUS RUSSIAN NATL TEA	2:49:18.60 30:00.83
90	154 GBR19731004	NORFOLK Jamie	GBR GIANT/DIRT TECH/	2:49:22.39 30:04.62
91	135 IRL19720905	MCCALL Joe	IRL	2:50:20.54 31:02.77
92	150 BEL19780614	BROEKMANS Arne *	BEL RITCHEY	2:50:34.14 31:16.37
93	174 GBR19770905	OLDHAM Paul *	GBR HOPE TECHNOLOGY	2:51:37.28 32:19.51
94	181 GBR19761027	BOWERS Stuart *	GBR IKO/CORRATEC	2:51:41.09 32:23.32
95	149 SWE19710211	ANDERSSON Tony	SWE	2:51:44.09 32:26.32
96	183 IRL19781016	DALY Karl *	IRL	2:55:16.42 35:58.65
97	172 GBR19760208	YOUNG Robert *	GBR BIKE PARK-RALEIG	- 1 lap
98	148 NOR19731216	NIELSEN Frode	NOR NORWAY NATL TEAM	- 1 lap
99	176 GBR19710426	MARSH Duncan	GBR SUN UK-TRAX	- 1 lap
100	165 BEL19751203	SERVERIUS Koen	BEL AN-HYP	- 1 lap
101	190 GBR19740709	RAYNER Phil	GBR PHILISHAVE CYCLE	- 1 lap
102	193 GBR19780106	SMITH Roy *	GBR	- 1 lap
103	164 BEL19750201	DECLERCQ Wouter	BEL	- 1 lap
104	175 GBR19741120	LOCKE Tom	GBR MUD DOCK/TREK/SA	- 1 lap

105	177	GBR19790814	BOWATER David *	GBR BLACKCOUNTRY WHL	- 2 lap
2	NOR19691210	HÖYDAHL Rune	NOR GIANT	DNF	
4	FRA19760117	MARTINEZ Miguel *	FRA SUNN	DNF	
12	ITA19741202	CIONI Dario	ITA MAPEI-KONA	DNF	
15	ESP19780824	HERMIDA José Antonio *	ESP SCOTT INTL	DNF	
29	DEN19660422	DJERNIS Henrik	DEN AMERICAN EAGLE	DNF	
48	ESP19681117	GARRO Juan Carlos	ESP LIBERTO MEGAMO A	DNF	
49	FRA19750616	MOREL Christophe	FRA SINTESI VERLICCH	DNF	
52	GER19750517	KURCHAT Wolfram	GER GT GERMANY	DNF	
53	SWE19770427	JUNGÄKER Erik *	SWE SCOTT INTL	DNF	
59	SUI19770213	KALBERER Thomas *	SUI RITCHEY	DNF	
80	ESP19690124	OLABERRIA Andoni	ESP ORBEA ZEUS VENET	DNF	
81	ESP19760317	MARQUEZ José *	ESP CORONAS	DNF	
96	GER19690806	HOLLERBACH Martin	GER H + H	DNF	
100	GBR19750424	GUY Matt	GBR TEAM ORANGE	DNF	
108	FRA19700805	BONNAND Cyrille	FRA	DNF	
109	GBR19731214	STURGEON Carl	GBR RALEIGH	DNF	
123	SWE19750603	TAVELL Philip	SWE	DNF	
134	IRL19760323	BRADY Craig *	IRL	DNF	
143	DEN19760904	NIELSEN Klaus *	DEN SILKEBORG	DNF	
151	FRA19751127	GUERCY Laurent	FRA LOOK MTN BIKES	DNF	
153	GBR19750429	GARDNER Sam	GBR RST/GOLD TECH	DNF	
155	BEL19760518	SYNE Lionel *	BEL	DNF	
160	SUI19750716	SCHNYDER Rainer	SUI CILO BASSANO TCS	DNF	
163	GBR19760213	CURTIS Brian *	GBR CORRIDORI	DNF	
169	GBR19751112	BEETHAM Geoff	GBR CYCLEFORCE	DNF	
173	NED19761021	VAN HEUGTEN Ralf *	NED	DNF	
180	GBR19790827	PERRY James *	GBR VOLVO/CANNONDALE	DNF	
182	GER19701222	ABEL Joerg	GER TSV EIFA	DNF	
184	IRL19730121	STARRETT Colin	IRL	DNF	
188	GBR19680307	RICHARDSON James	GBR GT HONDA	DNF	
192	GBR19740809	SHELDON Graham	GBR SCHMOOS	DNF	
195	GBR19721214	WHITEHEAD Daniel	GBR	DNF	
50	SUI19721016	WYSSEIER Reto	SUI SCOTT ELVIA	DNS	
79	ITA19680808	DEHO Marzio	ITA SCOTT INTL	DNS	
82	ESP19730719	FERNANDEZ Igor	ESP ORBEA ZEUS VENET	DNS	