

## Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 1999

### Canmore, Alberta, CAN - xc#7 - 3-4 July 1999 - Report / Rapport - men / hommes Frischknecht Seizes the Day

**Thomas Frischknecht (SUI)**, World Cup xc mountain biking's most accomplished male athlete, body-surfed across the sodden finish line to claim the 16th world cup round win of his illustrious career. 1'17" behind him World Cup leader **Cadel Evans (AUS)** arrived, comfortable in second place and with a commanding lead over **Miguel Martinez (FRA)** in the series.

Four laps of the 8km (5mi) course presented the men with a less severe challenge than the women had faced the day before. The main difference was the temperature, which was around 10C for most of the race.



Overnight rain left the course very wet, although the fluid mud did not stick to the bicycles. Thomas Frischknecht, 29, from Feldbach, comes from a famous family of cyclo-cross racers, and himself was once a junior world champion.

In the prevailing conditions, running was the fastest mode through several sections of the climb, and on the first lap Frischknecht literally ran away from his opposition. He stayed comfortably clear until the end. *"He was gone early on the first climb,"* reported Evans, who was left to focus his effort on Miguel Martinez, who rode with him for most of the race and finished third.

*"I don't like mud, but I do well in it,"* said Frischknecht at the finish. His most recent world cup round win came in a very muddy race at Budapest last year. He explained the secrets of his success in the mire. *"Running with the bike I am better than others. Part of this is because I can carry my bike, which is very light, and has small tubes so less mud sticks. Also, I am comfortable on slippery descents. Plus, I was very motivated today (when I found myself) already in the lead going into the first muddy section."*



Thomas Frischknecht

Few athletes show as much appreciation for a win as three-times World Cup champion Frischknecht does. Immediately after the line he dismounted and launched himself at a large puddle. *"Since I started winning in 1992 I have won at least one round each year. This year I was starting to get worried: this was my second last chance!.. It is good to prove that if I get the chance to win I can still take it,"* smiled Frischknecht.

Behind Frischknecht, there was a battle of much courage and effort. Evans and Martinez, and this year **Christophe Sauser**, 23, (*SUI*) are riders of such high calibre that even when not in contention for the lead they tend to be in contention for podium places. Today **Jerome Chiotti** (*FRA*), **Filip Meirhaeghe** (*BEL*) and **Roel Paulissen** (*BEL*) were also in the hunt.

On lap two, a string of riders crested the punishing "*Oven*" section at the top of the 4.2km climb. Martinez ran nimbly ahead of Evans and Sauser. Close behind them came Chiotti, Paulissen and **Thomas Hochstrasser**, 23, (*SUI*). Three places further back came Meirhaeghe, starting a charge that would take him up past Chiotti before fading slightly on the last lap.

By the end of the second lap, Chiotti had started a charge that inadvertently punished Martinez. Chiotti, the 1996 world champion, caught the chase group and kept going hard. He pushed the pace the third time up the climb. Martinez and Sauser could barely hang on. But Evans was just "*Waiting for my opportunity.*" His moment came soon. "*I saw Miguel was looking tired on one of the sections and so attacked.*" By the top of the Oven Evans was 20" clear of Martinez, Sauser and Chiotti.



The following descent inflicted further damage on Martinez's chances - both in the race and in the World Cup series. He attacked the descent to try and retrieve Evans, but a crash at the precipitous Sunlight Laundry Chute cost him some 10". In the words of Evans "*You just have to concentrate all the time, you can't afford to lose even a couple of seconds.*" Martinez picked himself up as Sauser went past and resumed his race. But by then he knew he was racing for third place.

On the final climb it was Chiotti's turn to suffer. "*Here, when you do a lap too fast, a lap later you pay in cash!*" When Martinez attacked Sauser to claim third place, Chiotti got dropped first. By the end of the third lap Meirhaeghe had passed him, but that was as far as the Belgian got. A jammed chain on the final climb cost him a lot of time and despite being the fastest on the descent, fast enough to overturn a 20" climbing deficit to Paulissen, he could not come back to Chiotti.

This second place for Evans, with Martinez third and Sauser fourth, puts the young Australian into a commanding series lead. He will carry an advantage of 233 points over Martinez into the final round at Houffalize, on 5 September. Sauser's string of four consecutive strong results, including a win at Big Bear last week, put him only 20 points behind Martinez.



Jerome Chiotti

But the final is renowned for producing upsets and surprises. Martinez, who had finished a lowly 13th at Big Bear last week was far from disappointed today, saying "*This is good for me. I am getting my confidence back.*" And when Martinez is confident, normally he wins.



place	bib	name	nom	nat	UCIcode	t	+t
1	11	FRISCHKNECHT	THOMAS	SUI	SUI19700217	2:07:13.61	0.00
2	1	EVANS	CADEL	AUS	AUS19770214	2:08:31.13	1:17.52
3	3	MARTINEZ	MIGUEL	FRA	FRA19760117	2:09:13.09	1:59.48
4	2	SAUSER	CHRISTOPH	SUI	SUI19760413	2:10:33.08	3:19.47
5	7	CHIOTTI	JEROME	FRA	FRA19720118	2:11:02.18	3:48.57
6	5	MEIRHAEGHE	FILIP	BEL	BEL19710305	2:11:24.10	4:10.49
7	10	PAULISSEN	ROEL	BEL	BEL19760427	2:11:59.56	4:45.95
8	12	HOCHSTRASSER	THOMAS	SUI	SUI19760713	2:12:15.35	5:01.74
9	21	HERMIDA	JOSÉ ANTONIO	ESP	ESP19780824	2:12:24.12	5:10.51
10	86	DJERNIS	HENRIK	DEN	DEN19660422	2:12:48.01	5:34.40
11	80	BRENES	ANDRES	CRC	CRC19641217	2:14:04.23	6:50.62
12	13	KURSCHAT	WOLFRAM	GER	GER19750517	2:14:49.31	7:35.70
13	54	KRISTENSEN	LENNIE	DEN	DEN19680516	2:14:56.43	7:42.82
14	29	WABEL	BEAT	SUI	SUI19670523	2:15:04.59	7:50.98
15	25	TCHERKASSOV	PAVEL	RUS	RUS19720513	2:15:06.32	7:52.71
16	8	BRENTJENS	BART	NED	NED19681010	2:15:10.83	7:57.22
17	52	OSTERGAARD	JAN ERIK	DEN	DEN19610220	2:15:22.54	8:08.93
18	6	VOLLET	GRÉGORY	FRA	FRA19750321	2:15:32.60	8:18.99
19	43	MOLDAY	KIRK	USA	USA19720916	2:15:57.13	8:43.52
20	19	TOLHOEK	PATRICK	NED	NED19650626	2:16:05.41	8:51.80
21	46	BRAMATI	LUCA	ITA	ITA19681106	2:16:21.94	9:08.33
22	26	RASMUSSEN	MICHAEL	DEN	DEN19740601	2:16:22.41	9:08.80
23	18	HÖYDAHL	RUNE	NOR	NOR19691210	2:16:23.84	9:10.23
24	4	VAN DOOREN	BAS	NED	NED19730825	2:16:25.86	9:12.25
25	30	WOODS	ROB	AUS	AUS19680305	2:16:52.49	9:38.88
26	20	LEZAUN	ROBERTO	ESP	ESP19670723	2:17:28.33	10:14.72
27	112	WEDGE	PETER	CAN	CAN19720918	2:17:28.74	10:15.13
28	16	AGERGAARD	JESPER	DEN	DEN19750218	2:17:37.95	10:24.34
29	71	KILLEN	JIMI	USA	USA19730328	2:17:47.47	10:33.86
30	36	SHEPPARD	CHRIS	CAN	CAN19730419	2:17:54.05	10:40.44
31	35	JUAREZ	DAVID 'TINKER'	USA	USA19610304	2:18:22.45	11:08.84
32	39	GREEN	ROLAND	CAN	CAN19740729	2:18:32.23	11:18.62
33	32	BUI	MARCO	ITA	ITA19771017	2:18:42.95	11:29.34



34	15	ARNOULD	DOMINIQUE	FRA	FRA19661119	2:18:59.65	11:46.04
35	99	WIENS	DAVID	USA	USA19640907	2:19:21.10	12:07.49
36	42	LEUCHS	KASHI	NZL	NZL19780630	2:19:55.63	12:42.02
37	89	TOULOUSE	MATHIEU	CAN	CAN19760803	2:20:11.49	12:57.88
38	24	MCGRATH	SEAMUS	CAN	CAN19760305	2:20:18.03	13:04.42
39	38	GORDON	CRAIG	AUS	AUS19710207	2:20:42.64	13:29.03
40	28	SWENSON	CARL	USA	USA19700420	2:20:46.18	13:32.57
41	22	FUMIC	LADO	GER	GER19760520	2:20:55.91	13:42.30
42	72	SWIGGERS	JESS	USA	USA19800208	2:21:11.85	13:58.24
43	40	BINKERT	MARKUS	SUI	SUI19740807	2:21:32.05	14:18.44
44	103	KABUSH	GEOFF	CAN	CAN19770414	2:21:46.17	14:32.56
45	31	HESTLER	ANDREAS	CAN	CAN19700512	2:22:05.01	14:51.40
46	110	MANIN	CHRISTOPHE	FRA	FRA19660712	2:22:12.66	14:59.05
47	47	LASENBY	PAUL	GBR	GBR19730411	2:22:44.52	15:30.91
48	116	BLANCHARD	CHRIS	CAN	CAN19710422	2:22:53.74	15:40.13
49	104	JONES	ERIC	USA	USA19741204	2:24:08.82	16:55.21
50	84	BISHOP	ANDY	USA	USA19650526	2:24:55.66	17:42.05
51	69	BECKINGSALE	OLIVER	GBR	GBR19760607	2:25:04.60	17:50.99
52	102	BAILLY	FRANCK	FRA	FRA19681110	2:25:17.01	18:03.40
53	100	OLABERRIA	ANDONI	ESP	ESP19690124	2:25:22.32	18:08.71
54	82	GROVER	NEIL	CAN	CAN19770331	2:25:24.88	18:11.27
55	17	ACQUAROLI	DARIO	ITA	ITA19750310	2:25:28.41	18:14.80
56	48	CEARD	CLAUDE	FRA	FRA19730616	2:25:45.79	18:32.18
57	74	MADRIGAL	ZIRANDA	MEX	MEX19770523	2:26:51.02	19:37.41
58	88	RADOMSKI	RYAH	USA	USA19770823	2:26:55.85	19:42.24
59	138	CHARREYRE	EMMANUEL	FRA	FRA19771125	2:27:33.56	20:19.95
60	130	RAVANEL	CÉDRIC	FRA	FRA19781126	2:28:02.50	20:48.89
61	114	SONNTAG	MARC	CAN	CAN19771203	2:28:03.32	20:49.71
62	50	ROWNEY	PAUL	AUS	AUS19701202	2:29:03.63	21:50.02
63	92	SCHERRER	BEN	USA	USA19801117	2:29:10.26	21:56.65
64	113	VISSER	GEORGE	CAN	CAN19710914	2:29:30.08	22:16.47
65	41	CLARKE	BARRIE	GBR	GBR19661211	2:31:01.14	23:47.53
66	95	LARSEN	TOM	NOR	NOR19720422	2:32:14.95	25:01.34
67	106	TOLEDO	ESTEBAN	CHI	CHI19760119	2:36:11.08	28:57.47
68	83	MOTE	LAURENCE	NZL	NZL19740807	2:36:20.55	29:06.94
69	115	WALKER	ADAM	CAN	CAN19721101	2:36:37.63	29:24.02
70	137	TEGHTMEYER	JOHN	CAN	CAN19770911	2:37:04.95	29:51.34
71	126	DECORE	MATT	CAN	CAN19680201	2:37:34.18	30:20.57
72	117	NUCKLE	MARTIN	CAN	CAN19780408	2:41:18.96	34:05.35
73	123	CHRISTOFFERSSON	NICLAS	CAN	CAN19670615	2:41:44.04	34:30.43
74	129	COUSINEAU	MARC	CAN	CAN19700608	2:42:04.17	34:50.56
75	98	BARRIGA	SALVADOR	MEX	MEX19770729	2:42:13.27	34:59.66
76	120	ELZINGA	ADRIAN	NZL	NZL19761015	2:42:23.49	35:09.88
77	124	SPADACCINI	PAUL	CAN	CAN19750126	2:43:10.28	35:56.67
78	101	HELGESON	KENNETH	USA	USA19710927	2:43:20.79	36:07.18

79	132	DEY	RYAN	CAN	CAN19801116	2:44:22.13	37:08.52
80	133	LEGA	RODDI	CAN	CAN19781212	2:44:49.74	37:36.13
81	107	GRIFFITH JONES	GWILLYM	NZL	NZL19720419	2:47:32.37	40:18.76
82	119	ROBERT	JEAN-FRANCOIS	CAN	CAN19740828	-1 LAP	0.00
83	81	DRASLER	ROK	SLO	SLO19790526	-1 LAP	0.00
84	145	WONG	KAM-PO	HKG	HKG19730313	-1 LAP	0.00
85	127	MARTIN	ALASTAIR	IRL	IRL19650115	-1 LAP	0.00
0	62	BRESSER	CARSTEN	GER	GER19700904	DNF	
0	57	LARSEN	STEVE	USA	USA19700313	DNF	
0	56	BROWN	TRAVIS	USA	USA19690807	DNF	
0	94	RANDOLPH	GREG	USA	USA19721212	DNF	
0	33	WALLACE	MATT	AUS	AUS19720707	DNF	
0	108	PETERSEN	JÖRGEN BO	DEN	DEN19700411	DNF	
0	23	AUSTAD	HAKON	NOR	NOR19780503	DNF	
0	122	BOWER	PAT	USA	USA19800326	DNF	
0	93	MCCAULEY	RICHARD	IRL	IRL19710818	DNF	
0	105	HESJEDAL	RYDER	CAN	CAN19801209	DNF	