



Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 1999

St Wendel, GER - xc#4 - 8-9 May 1999 - Report / Rapport - *men / hommes*

A Win For Mr Consistent

Belgium's top cross country racer, **Filip Meirhaeghe**, stormed to an impressive win - his second in consecutive years - at St Wendel.

On a day when the fans might have had reason to believe that they would be treated to the excitement of a bunch sprint for the finish line, Filip Meirhaeghe (BEL) launched a mid-race attack that eventually earned him a winning margin of more than one minute.

In recent years the St Wendel course has produced close finishes, with two or more riders remaining inseparable right until the final few metres. This year it was different. Such was Meirhaeghe's speed that even the formidable - if diminutive - **Miguel Martinez** was instructed by his team manager to avoid chasing the flying Belgian.



Filip Meirhaeghe

Meirhaeghe, 28, from the town of Wetteren, waited until the end of the third lap of seven before making an exploratory attack. He eased away from the leading group of five, which also contained **Michael Rasmussen (DEN)**, **Dario Acquaroli (ITA)**, **Bas Van Dooren (NED)**, and Martinez.

World Cup leader **Cadel Evans (AUS)** never quite made it to the leaders and finished the day in 11th place. He retains his Diesel-UCI World Cup leader's jersey, however, and after St Wendel was 136 points ahead of his long-time rival Martinez in second place.

Up at the front of the race, Meirhaeghe opened a gap of about 15" and looked back. Realizing that nobody today had the legs to ride with him, he attacked once more and rode progressively further away from his pursuers. By the end of the fourth lap he was 1'30" clear, and then he simply rode at a steady pace to claim an easy win.

Behind him, the group he had left behind remained intact for a lap before Van Dooren and Martinez rode clear of Acquaroli and Rasmussen.

As the race went into the final two laps, Acquaroli and Rasmussen were caught and passed by the next group, which contained **Christophe Sauser (SUI)**, **Roel Paulissen (BEL)** and **Thomas Frischknecht (SUI)**.

Acquaroli and Rasmussen stayed together until the end, where Acquaroli, the 1996 U-23 world champion, took the sprint for seventh.



Martinez | van Dooren

The battle for second place was decided on the sixth lap, when Van Dooren emerged to start the final circuit of the course some 36" ahead of the Frenchman. For Martinez, third place was a good result. After having suffered from back pains at Madrid, he had spent a week off the bike and solely went swimming.

For the triumphant Meirhaeghe this was a superb win, and his best result since taking the bronze medal at last year's world championships.

Thanks to Annie Robillard for information used in this report. Ms Robillard is the UCI Press Chief for the Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup

Quotes - paraphrased:

Filip Meirhaeghe (1st)

"There are always lots of Belgians at St Wendel, so I felt I had to do a good ride here. Last year there was a sprint finish; this year we were all watching each other in the lead group and I attacked.... I wanted to open a gap on the final climb before the long flat section of the course... I didn't give it everything when I attacked, but I looked back and saw that I was alone, about 15" clear, and then I decided to try hard to break away."

Bas Van Dooren (2nd)

"I'm being patient, just waiting for the race when everything comes together for me... Because Plymouth is close to Holland, there will be a strong Dutch interest in the race and I will be expected to be in front. But I cannot force it, that too easily leads to disappointment. In this sport you have to wait until it is your day"

Miguel Martinez (3rd)

Asked a race official at the finish if he had done enough to claim the world cup leader's jersey - *"I had a cramp in my leg on lap four and I lost some time. My back hurt at Madrid and I have missed training in the past week... I am happy with this result, it keeps me in the running for the world cup overall."*



| <i>place</i> | <i>name/nom</i> | <i>nat</i> | <i>team</i> | <i>t</i> | <i>t+</i> |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1 | MEIRHAEGHE Filip | BEL | MT DEW/SPECIALIZED | 2:12:12.19 | |
| 2 | VAN DOOREN Bas | NED | BE-ONE | 2:13:30.08 | 1:17.89 |
| 3 | MARTINEZ Miguel | FRA | FULL DYNAMIX | 2:14:31.44 | 2:19.25 |
| 4 | SAUSER Christoph | SUI | VOLVO/CANNONDALE | 2:15:09.13 | 2:56.94 |
| 5 | FRISCHKNECHT Thomas | SUI | RITCHEY-YAHOO! | 2:15:15.04 | 3:02.84 |
| 6 | PAULISSEN Roel | BEL | AMERICAN EAGLE | 2:15:43.20 | 3:31.01 |
| 7 | ACQUAROLI Dario | ITA | ATB BIANCHI MARTINI | 2:15:59.28 | 3:47.09 |
| 8 | RASMUSSEN Michael | DEN | GARY FISHER SAAB | 2:15:59.50 | 3:47.30 |
| 9 | HÖYDAHL Rune | NOR | GIANT MOUNTAIN BIKE | 2:16:45.24 | 4:33.05 |
| 10 | DUPOUEY Christophe | FRA | TEAM SUNN | 2:17:06.41 | 4:54.22 |
| 11 | EVANS Cadel * | AUS | VOLVO/CANNONDALE | 2:17:08.45 | 4:56.26 |
| 12 | ARNOULD Dominique | FRA | GIANT MOUNTAIN BIKE | 2:17:32.56 | 5:20.36 |
| 13 | BRAMATI Luca | ITA | MT DEW/SPECIALIZED | 2:18:39.22 | 6:27.03 |
| 14 | HOCHSTRASSER Thomas | SUI | SCOTT ONE LIFE | 2:19:18.25 | 7:06.06 |
| 15 | BUI Marco * | ITA | FULL DYNAMIX | 2:19:25.90 | 7:13.71 |
| 16 | BRENTJENS Bart | NED | MT.DEW SPECIALIZED | 2:19:42.93 | 7:30.73 |
| 17 | CLARKE Barrie | GBR | RALEIGH | 2:19:43.52 | 7:31.33 |
| 18 | LEZAUN Roberto | ESP | ORBEA ZEUS VENETO | 2:19:58.59 | 7:46.39 |
| 19 | PERRY Gael | FRA | ORBEA ZURICH | 2:20:01.92 | 7:49.73 |
| 20 | FONTANA Alessandro | ITA | FULL DYNAMIX | 2:20:17.76 | 8:05.57 |
| 21 | AGERGAARD Jesper | DEN | BE-ONE | 2:20:21.79 | 8:09.59 |
| 22 | DUBAU Ludovic | FRA | TEAM SUNN | 2:20:36.87 | 8:24.68 |
| 23 | TOLHOEK Patrick | NED | BE-ONE | 2:20:41.49 | 8:29.29 |
| 24 | MCGRATH Seamus | CAN | HARO | 2:20:45.82 | 8:33.63 |
| 25 | FRUET Martino * | ITA | CARRARO MTB TEAM | 2:21:01.96 | 8:49.77 |
| 26 | MARQUEZ José | ESP | CORONAS BH | 2:21:35.28 | 9:23.09 |
| 27 | CEARD Claude | FRA | ATB BIANCHI | 2:21:58.67 | 9:46.48 |
| 28 | LEUCHS Kashi * | NZL | SOBI/HEADSHOCK | 2:21:59.51 | 9:47.31 |
| 29 | WABEL Beat | SUI | K2 PROFLEX | 2:22:07.91 | 9:55.72 |
| 30 | FUMIC Lado | GER | LFR | 2:22:08.24 | 9:56.04 |
| 31 | BINKERT Markus | SUI | PARKPRE | 2:22:11.05 | 9:58.86 |
| 32 | BETTIN Mauro * | ITA | FULL DYNAMIX | 2:22:16.94 | 10:04.74 |
| 33 | JULIEN Fabrice | FRA | ORBEA-ZEUS-VENETO | 2:22:23.45 | 10:11.25 |
| 34 | HESTLER Andreas | CAN | RLX POLO SPORT | 2:22:51.08 | 10:38.88 |
| 35 | ABSALON Julien * | FRA | SCOTT/ONE LIFE | 2:22:53.65 | 10:41.45 |
| 36 | HERRISSET Christophe | FRA | TEAM SUNN | 2:23:02.84 | 10:50.64 |
| 37 | AUSTAD Hakon * | NOR | DBS WORLD CUP TEAM | 2:23:23.31 | 11:11.12 |
| 38 | JUAREZ David 'tinker' | USA | VOLVO/CANNONDALE | 2:23:30.29 | 11:18.09 |
| 39 | SWENSON Carl | USA | CATERA | 2:23:42.89 | 11:30.70 |
| 40 | KONDIS Lubos | SVK | SEAT MERIDA KCK OSLA | 2:23:45.87 | 11:33.68 |
| 41 | ZOLI Jader | ITA | DIAMONDBACK | 2:23:49.96 | 11:37.77 |
| 42 | STAUDER Roland | ITA | RAINER BIKE TEAM | 2:23:58.44 | 11:46.25 |

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|----|------------------------|-----|-----------------------|------------|----------|
| 43 | VOLLET Grégory | FRA | ATB BIANCHI MARTINI | 2:24:04.22 | 11:52.03 |
| 44 | CIONI Dario | ITA | MAPEI-KONA | 2:24:14.29 | 12:02.10 |
| 45 | TCHERKASSOV Pavel | RUS | DIAMONDBACK | 2:24:19.32 | 12:07.13 |
| 46 | BRESSER Carsten | GER | LION-XENOFIT | 2:24:21.15 | 12:08.96 |
| 47 | BRENES Andres | CRC | RITCHEY-YAHOO! | 2:24:21.62 | 12:09.43 |
| 48 | UNTERTHURNER Stephan * | ITA | CARRARO MTB TEAM | 2:24:22.56 | 12:10.37 |
| 49 | VAN DEN ABEELE Peter | BEL | AMERICAN EAGLE | 2:25:05.65 | 12:53.46 |
| 50 | SCHWEDLER Jens | GER | STEVENS-JEANTEX | 2:25:12.27 | 13:00.07 |
| 51 | WOODS Rob | AUS | A.I.S. | 2:25:13.21 | 13:01.02 |
| 52 | ROWNEY Paul | AUS | HARO | 2:25:23.48 | 13:11.29 |
| 53 | LASENBY Paul | GBR | MERCEDES BENZ-MARIN | 2:25:24.38 | 13:12.18 |
| 54 | DE BERTOLIS Massimo | ITA | DIAMOND BACK | 2:25:33.41 | 13:21.22 |
| 55 | GREEN Roland | CAN | TEAM GT INTL | 2:25:55.51 | 13:43.32 |
| 56 | KARCZYNSKI Marcin * | POL | POLAND HAWK | 2:25:56.44 | 13:44.24 |
| 57 | GORDON Craig | AUS | SINTESI | 2:26:02.86 | 13:50.67 |
| 58 | ZORN Siegfried | AUT | BANK-AUSTRIA-NAT. | 2:26:15.88 | 14:03.69 |
| 59 | DOLEZAL Tomas * | CZE | RUBENA FORD MTB TEAM | 2:26:18.83 | 14:06.64 |
| 60 | DANGELMAIER Claudius * | GER | BSE TEAM | 2:26:25.70 | 14:13.51 |
| 61 | KURSCHAT Wolfram | GER | VW HULZFAHRZEUGE GT | 2:26:32.38 | 14:20.18 |
| 62 | SLAVICEK Jan | CZE | AMULET RACING TEAM | 2:26:48.13 | 14:35.94 |
| 63 | MAIGNAN Olivier | FRA | | 2:26:50.64 | 14:38.44 |
| 64 | FRECH Frederic | FRA | SCOTT LA CLUZAS | 2:27:31.26 | 15:19.07 |
| 65 | HANKART David | BEL | IMMO 2020 SUNN | 2:28:02.17 | 15:49.98 |
| 66 | HELLER Marcel | SUI | UNIVEGA-DESCENTE-SCH | 2:28:14.47 | 16:02.28 |
| 67 | HILBE Christian | AUT | ORV BANK AUSTRIA NAT. | 2:28:14.96 | 16:02.77 |
| 68 | WALLACE Matt | AUS | A.I.S. | 2:28:15.24 | 16:03.05 |
| 69 | BECKINGSALE Oliver | GBR | GREAT BRITAIN | 2:28:26.68 | 16:14.48 |
| 70 | DLASK Petr | CZE | AUTHOR EXPANDIA | 2:28:41.55 | 16:29.35 |
| 71 | GROVER Neil * | CAN | ROCKY MOUNTAIN | 2:28:44.97 | 16:32.77 |
| 72 | GALLE David | BEL | ZURICH ORBEA | 2:29:04.17 | 16:51.97 |
| 73 | NICKE Thomas * | GER | SCHWALBE RACING TEAM | 2:29:11.17 | 16:58.98 |
| 74 | VAN MIL Ruud * | NED | DUTCH NATIONAL TEAM | 2:29:17.75 | 17:05.56 |
| 75 | KOWAL Mariusz * | POL | POLAND | 2:29:25.72 | 17:13.53 |
| 76 | WEDGE Peter | CAN | KONA/MAPEI | 2:32:12.28 | 20:00.08 |
| 77 | RAVANEL Cédric * | FRA | EGS | - 1 lap | |
| 78 | WEEVERS Jan | NED | GIANT MOUNTAIN BIKE | - 1 lap | |
| 79 | NORUP Thomas | DEN | ORV BANK AUSTRIA NAT. | - 1 lap | |
| 80 | DRASLER Rok * | SLO | FULL DYNAMIX -NOVICE | - 1 lap | |
| 81 | GALINSKI Marek | POL | POLAND OPTEX | - 1 lap | |
| 82 | HEJDUK Stanislav * | CZE | AUTHOR EXPANDIA | - 1 lap | |
| 83 | MALMSTEN Johan | SWE | TEAM CYCLEPRO CK | - 1 lap | |
| 84 | MODIN Fredrik * | SWE | TEAM CYCLERO CK | - 1 lap | |
| 85 | TAVELL Philip | SWE | TEAM CYCLEPRO CK | - 1 lap | |
| 86 | BUNDI Silvio * | SUI | SWISS BIKE NATL TEAM | - 1 lap | |

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|-----|---------------------------|-----|----------------------|----------|
| 87 | TREVISAN Patrick * | BEL | ZURICH ORBEA | - 1 lap |
| 88 | NAF Ralf * | SUI | | - 1 lap |
| 89 | GAUDY Patrick * | BEL | | - 1 lap |
| 90 | BAILLY Franck | FRA | EGS | - 1 lap |
| 91 | ANE Hugues | FRA | EGOBIKE / CAMELBAK | - 1 lap |
| 92 | GIL Dariusz | POL | POLAND HAWK | - 1 lap |
| 93 | STRANCAR Primoz | SLO | LEE COUGAN STOP TEAM | - 1 lap |
| 94 | STICHA Pavel | CZE | AUTHOR EXPANDIA | - 1 lap |
| 95 | DILGER Andreas * | GER | BSE TEAM | - 1 lap |
| 96 | JEZEK Vaclav * | CZE | AUTHOR EXPANDIA | - 1 lap |
| 97 | TOULOUSE Mathieu | CAN | TEAM FORD DEVINCI | - 1 lap |
| 98 | DEMANGEON Guillaume | FRA | | - 1 lap |
| 99 | DELAMARRE Francois | FRA | EGOBIKE / CAMELBAK | - 1 lap |
| 100 | SCHÜTZ Roger | SUI | MTB CYCLETECH/POWERB | - 1 lap |
| 101 | JURETZEK Hans-jurgen | GER | SCHWALBE RACING TEAM | - 2 laps |
| 102 | SEYMOUR Robin | IRL | | - 2 laps |
| 103 | PALLHUBER Johann | ITA | RAINER BIKE TEAM | - 2 laps |
| 104 | MÜLLER Christoph | GER | H+H | - 2 laps |
| 105 | TANKINK Bram * | NED | DUTCH NATIONAL TEAM | - 2 laps |
| 106 | MANIN Christophe | FRA | AMERICAN EAGLE | - 2 laps |
| 107 | BERGER Christoph | GER | VW-NUTZFAHRZEUGE GT | - 2 laps |
| 108 | RUGEL Joachim * | GER | BSE-TEAM | - 2 laps |
| 109 | SMEETS Roger | NED | AMERICAN EAGLE | - 2 laps |
| 110 | GERKEN Matt * | USA | TEAM GT | - 2 laps |
| 111 | GOLDERER Roland | GER | | - 2 laps |
| 112 | NIELSEN Frode | NOR | FOLLO SKIN | - 2 laps |
| 113 | SOLER Daniel | SUI | SCOTT ELVIA | - 2 laps |
| 114 | GOLCER Jure * | SLO | UNI TEAM AXLEY BUD | - 3 laps |
| 115 | HESJEDAL Ryder * | CAN | FISHER/SAAB U | - 3 laps |
| 116 | VAN DEN DRIESSCH Jurgen * | BEL | | - 3 laps |
| | SHEPPARD Chris | CAN | CATERA/KLEIN | DNF |
| | HERMIDA José Antonio * | ESP | SCOTT ONE LIFE | DNF |
| | GARCIA Luis | ESP | MEGANO | DNF |
| | MOLDAY Kirk | USA | TREK/VOLKSWAGEN | DNF |
| | PALLHUBER Hubert | ITA | DIAMONDBACK | DNF |
| | KRISTENSEN Lennie | DEN | GIANT MOUNTAIN BIKE | DNF |
| | BERNER Ralph | GER | HAWK | DNF |
| | KORINEK Radim | CZE | CESKA SPORITELNA MTB | DNF |
| | LARSEN Steve | USA | STEVE LARSEN CHAMP. | DNF |
| | CUTHBERTSON Ian | GBR | GREAT BRITIAN | DNF |
| | CRAIG Nick | GBR | GREAT BRITIAN | DNF |
| | JUNGÄKER Erik * | SWE | SCOTT ONE LIFE | DNF |

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| POULY Peter * | FRA EGOBIKE / CAMELBAK | DNF |
| BISHOP Andy | USA GARY FISHER/SAAB | DNF |
| OSTERGAARD Jan Erik | DEN IKO/CORRATEC | DNF |
| FRIEDE Jaromir | CZE CESKA SPORITELNA MTB | DNF |
| GARRO Juan Carlos | ESP MEGANAO | DNF |
| DJERNIS Henrik | DEN AMERICAN EAGLE | DNF |
| BONNE Thomas * | DEN DEN BLÅ KURÉR | DNF |
| BARENYI Milan | SVK SEAT MERIDA KCK OSLA | DNF |
| VACHETTE Yohann * | FRA GIANT MOUNTAIN BIKE | DNF |
| DE KNEGT Gerben | NED GIANT MOUNTAIN BIKE | DNF |
| PERSSON Roger | SWE CRESCENT | DNF |
| SWIGGERS Jess * | USA FISHER U SAAB | DNF |
| KESSIAKOFF Fredrik * | SWE | DNF |
| WEICHERT Marc-timo | GER SCHWALBE RACING TEAM | DNF |
| MOESCHLER Jason * | USA FISHER U SAAB | DNF |
| PETERSEN Jorgen Bo | DEN IKO/CORRATEC | DNF |
| PRESSLAUER Peter * | AUT BANK AUSTRIA | DNF |
| BOWER Pat * | USA FISHER U SAAB | DNF |
| SAVIGNONI Jean-christoph | FRA ORBEA ZURICK | DNF |
| BONNAND Cyrille | FRA MBK | DNF |
| KNAUBERT Matthias | AUT ORV BANK AUSTRIA NAT. | DNF |
| KIRCHER Robert * | AUT BANK AUSTRIA | DNF |
| SOUKOP Christoph * | AUT RSC HI TECH TEAM | DNF |
| GADRET John * | FRA MBK | DNF |
| BAKKER Erwin * | NED | DNF |
| HANISCH Marc | GER TEAM BIANCHI GERMANY | DNF |
| HIERLWIMMER Thomas * | GER RITCHEY-YAHOO! | DNF |
| MOUREU Gabriel | ITA FULL DYNAMIX | DNF |
| NESTLE Tobias | GER FOCUS | DNF |
| CHIOTTI Jerome | FRA TEAM GT | DNS |
| ORCEL David | FRA ATB BIANCHI | DNS |
| MARTINEZ Raphael | FRA DIAMONDBACK | DNS |