



Diesel/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 1999

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - xc#2 - 10-11 April 1999 - Report / Rapport - men / hommes Clash of the Lightweights

If the Diesel-UCI Mountain Bike World Cup event is anything to go by, Sydney's 2000 Olympics mountain bike race should be enthralling. After a thrilling battle on the Olympic course, 59-kg **Gregory VOLLET** (FRA) claimed the first world cup round win of his career. VOLLET, 24, attacked "*just for fun*" with little more than two laps remaining in this seven-lap race and to his surprise remained clear of the field to beat two other lightweight riders to the finish line.

Australia's 23 years-old star, **Cadel EVANS**, 62 kg, won a close three-rider sprint for second place, ahead of 1996 world champion, the 61-kg **Jerome CHIOTTI** of *France*.



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start - départ

The first significant move came on the first lap, when fourteen riders broke away and by the end of the second lap were 25 seconds clear of the strung-out field behind. It was already clear that the winner would come from among the leading riders.

The leading group contained VOLLET, reigning world champion **Christophe DUPOUEY** (FRA), **Filip MEIRHAEGHE** (FRA), CHIOTTI, under-23 world champion **Miguel MARTINEZ** (BEL), **Thomas FRISCHKNECHT** (SUI), EVANS, **Christophe SAUSER** (SUI), **Andreas HESTLER** (CAN), **Ludovic DUBAU** (FRA) and **Rune HOYDAHL** (NOR).



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Gregory Vollet - FRA

The second significant move came on lap four, when DUBAU broke clear. By the top of the one-kilometre first climb, Old Gum, he had opened a gap of 11 seconds. This sparked a fierce chase, and he was retrieved by the end of the lap, but by then the leading group was reduced to seven riders.

At the start of lap five, the leading group contained VOLLET, DUBAU, DUPOUEY, MEIRHAEGHE, MARTINEZ, EVANS and SAUSER. CHIOTTI and FRISCHKNECHT followed at 13 seconds.

VOLLET made his move towards the end of the fifth lap. FRISCHKNECHT and CHIOTTI had chased hard and rejoined the leaders. On the final climb, the 500m-long ascent to the summit, named after the late Australian mountain bike racer Gary Payne, VOLLET, who had been struggling to keep up on the first four laps, made his attack. To his surprise, nobody chased and he soon had a lead of around 20 seconds.

VOLLET pushed the pace on the Old Gum climb and by its summit, The Rainforest, had opened his lead to 46 seconds. The sixth lap took 19 minutes, 47 seconds to complete - just one second more than the fastest lap of the race, lap three.

With one lap to go, 6.9 kilometres, VOLLET'S lead stood at 39 seconds. EVANS led the chase, working with his team-mate on the *Volvo-Cannondale* team, SAUSER. They were accompanied by MARTINEZ, DUPOUEY and CHIOTTI. MARTINEZ in particular appeared to be suffering from the effort.

VOLLET experienced leg cramps on the final lap, and admitted after the race that for a while he had lost sight of victory. But at Gary Payne, with only 1.5 km remaining he began to sense that the win would be his. At this point his lead was 23 seconds.



The final 1.5 km included a gradual climb, 900m long, on a soft, grassy track. By the time VOLLET entered the final 200m, the three chasers had reduced his lead to 17 seconds. But this was sufficient for him to claim a comfortable win.

EVANS remained at the head of the chase group, although CHIOTTI and SAUSER contested the sprint and finished in that order.

QUOTES

Gregory Vollet 1st -

"It's crazy, I don't believe it, this is just a dream... I attacked just for fun. I looked back and they were 100m behind. I thought: OK, I will continue. I looked behind again and they were 200m back. I think they were just watching me. I thought this was good for me and I just went.... On the last lap I my legs cramped and I thought I would not finish, then I saw I was near the end and I thought "no cramps, no cramps," VOLLET explained at the finish.

Cadel Evans 2nd -

"It's fantastic to get a finish and a result like this in Sydney. In the chase there was some hesitation and watching when VOLLET attacked. The French guys were not doing a lot so I thought I'd pull my finger out and do a little bit for myself."

Christophe Sauser, 4th -

"VOLLET surprised us. You can't say nobody wanted to chase him, it was just the situation (that prevented it). If he had a bigger name, somebody would have chased hard and we would have caught him. There is still a long way to go before Sydney (2000), but I feel confident."





Sauser | Evans | Vollet | Chiotti | Dupouey

place	name	nom	nat	team	t	t+
1	VOLLET	Gregory	FRA	ATB BIANCHI MARTINI	2:23:56	0
2	EVANS	Cadel	AUS	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:24:04	7
3	CHIOTTI	Jerome	FRA	TEAM GT	2:24:04	8
4	SAUSER	Christoph	SUI	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:24:06	9
5	DUPOUEY	Christophe	FRA	TEAM SUNN	2:24:15	19
6	MARTINEZ	Miguel	FRA	FULL DYNAMIX	2:24:23	27
7	DUBAU	Ludovic	FRA	TEAM SUNN	2:25:03	1:07
8	FRISCHKNECHT	Thomas	SUI	RITCHEY-YAHOO!	2:25:16	1:20
9	MEIRHAEGHE	Filip	BEL	MT DEW/SPECIALIZED	2:25:39	1:43
10	KURSCHAT	Wolfram	GER	VW HULZFAHRZEUGE GT	2:27:00	3:03
11	BRENTJENS	Bart	NED	MT.DEW SPECIALIZED	2:27:53	3:56
12	ARNOULD	Dominique	FRA	GIANT MOUNTAIN BIKE	2:28:18	4:22
13	MCGRATH	Seamus	CAN	HARO	2:29:01	5:04
14	JUAREZ	Tinker	USA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:29:02	5:05
15	HERMIDA	Jose	ESP	SCOTT ONE LIFE	2:29:14	5:18
16	BROWN	Travis	USA	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	2:29:39	5:43
17	PAULISSEN	Roel	BEL	AMERICAN EAGLE	2:29:40	5:43
18	GORDON	Craig	AUS	SINTESI	2:30:01	6:05
19	ROWNEY	Paul	AUS	HARO	2:30:29	6:33
20	HESTLER	Andreas	CAN	POLO SPORT	2:30:47	6:51
21	AUSTAD	Hakon	NOR	DBS WORLD CUP TEAM	2:31:05	7:09
22	VANDENABEELE	Peter	BEL	AMERICAN EAGLE	2:31:13	7:16
23	ACQUAROLI	Dario	ITA	ATB BIANCHI MARTINI	2:31:16	7:19
24	AGERGAARD	Jesper	DEN	BE-ONE	2:31:21	7:25
25	WALLACE	Matt	AUS	A.I.S.	2:31:45	7:49
26	WOODS	Rob	AUS	A.I.S.	2:31:51	7:55
27	FUMIC	Lado	GER	MT DEW /SPECIALISED	2:32:35	8:39
28	SHEPPARD	Chris	CAN	CATERA/KLEIN	2:32:43	8:47
29	MOLDAY	Kirk	USA	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	2:33:10	9:13
30	HOCHSTRASSER	Thomas	SUI	SCOTT ONE LIFE	2:33:33	9:37
31	HERISSET	Christophe	FRA	TEAM SUNN	2:34:14	10:18
32	GARCIA HERNANDEZ	Luis	ESP	LIBERTO MEGAMO ADIDA	2:34:38	10:42
33	TAVELL	Philip	SWE	TEAM CYCLEPRO CK	2:34:42	10:46

34	HOYDAHL	Rune	NOR	GIANT MOUNTAIN BIKE	2:35:10	11:14
35	PALLHUBER	Hubert	ITA	DIAMONDBACK	2:35:22	11:25
36	TCHERKASSOV	Pavel	RUS	DIAMONDBACK	2:35:30	11:33
37	SWENSON	Carl	USA	CATERA	2:35:35	11:39
38	FRIEDE	Jaromir	CZE		2:36:03	12:07
39	CUTHBERTSON	Ian	GBR	GREAT BRITAIN	2:36:42	12:46
40	GREEN	Roland	CAN	TEAM GT INTL	2:36:52	12:56
41	BERNER	Ralph	GER	HAWK	2:37:15	13:19
42	FONTANA	Alessandro	ITA	FULL DYNAMIX	2:37:30	13:33
43	HENNESSY	Garth	AUS		2:37:39	13:43
44	STOCKWELL	Luke	AUS	AVANTI	2:38:01	14:05
45	KORINEK	Radim	CZE	CESKA SPORITELNA MTB	2:38:11	14:14
46	LEZAUN	Roberto	ESP	ORBEA ZEUS VENETO	2:38:30	14:34
47	JEZEK	Vaclav	CZE	AUTHOR EXPANDIA	2:38:39	14:43
48	MULLER	Christophe	GER	H+H	2:39:01	15:05
49	BENNETT	Tim	AUS	GIANT	2:39:18	15:22
50	SWIGGERS	Jess	USA	GARY FISHER/SAAB	2:39:34	15:38
51	GERKEN	Matt	USA		2:40:17	16:20
52	KLUGE	Mike	GER	FOCUS	2:40:42	16:45
53	DEBELIN	Matt	AUS		2:41:10	17:14
54	MOTE	Laurence	NZL	AIRBORNE	2:41:32	17:36
55	MARTINEZ	Raphael	FRA	DIAMONDBACK	2:41:54	17:58
56	BARENYI	Milan	SVK	SEAT MERIDA KCK OSLA	2:42:12	18:16
57	ANTHES	Michael	GER	ROCKY MTN/XENOFIT	2:42:57	19:01
58	VANMIL	Ruud	NED	AMERICAN EAGLE	2:43:02	19:05
59	SAITO	Tomohiro	JPN	TEAM GIANT JAPAN	2:43:05	19:09
60	REDENBACH	Paul	AUS	RACE LINE	2:44:35	20:39

dns or/ou dnf

61	HESJEDAL	Ryder	CAN	GARY FISHER/SAAB		
62	GALLE	David	BEL	ZURICH ORBEA		
63	MOESCHULER	Jason	USA	GARY FISHER/SAAB		
64	KESSIAKOFF	Fredrik	SWE			
65	BUNDI	Silvio	SUI	SWISS BIKE NATL TEAM		
66	SUZUKI	Raita	JPN	BRIDGESTONE ANCHOR		
67	UDAGAWA	Akihito	JPN	BRIDGESTONE ANCHOR		
68	HATELEY	Luke	AUS	GIANT/NO FEAR/SHIMAN		
69	DELACOUR	Perren	AUS	PENHALL OPTICAL/FRAS		
70	FLEMING	Josh	AUS	GT AUSTRALIA		
71	HARDWICK	John	AUS	PENRITH PANTHERS CC		
72	BOWER	Pat	USA	GARY FISHER/SAAB		
73	GRIFFITH-JONES	Gwilym	NZL	AIRBORNE		
74	POLLOCK	Rhys	AUS	SINTESI		
75	TOTSUI	Schunsuko	JPN	PANASONIC/PANARACER		

76	HOULTHAM	Stuart	NZL	NZMBA
77	QUARMBY	Joe	AUS	
78	SMITH	Matthew	AUS	
79	DLASK	Petr	CZE	AUTHOR EXPANDIA
80	WOOD	David	AUS	BEAR BIKES
81	KRISTENSEN	Lennie	DEN	GIANT MOUNTAIN BIKE
81	BECKINGSALE	Oliver	GBR	GREAT BRITAIN
81	GARRO	JuanCarlos	ESP	LIBERTO MEGAMO ADIDA
81	LARSEN	Steve	USA	STEVE LARSEN CHAMP.
81	RANDOLPH	Greg	USA	TEAM GT
81	POMFRET	Stephen	GBR	GREAT BRITAIN
81	BELLONI	Filippo	ITA	MAPEI KONA
81	KONDIS	Lubos	SVK	SEAT MERIDA KCK OSLA
81	HUME	Jon	NZL	NZMBA/ AVANTI
81	MITCHELL	Julian	NZL	NZMBA
81	HUMMELSIEP	Dennis	GER	H + H
81	BISHOP	Simon	AUS	SPECIALIZED
81	STOCKWELL	Jay	AUS	MERIDA
81	WARD	Glen	AUS	
81	BRADBURN	Scott	AUS	FIGTREE