

Tissot/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 2000 - Coupe du Monde MTB

XC #8 - Lausanne, SUI - 2-3.9.2000

Double Win for Team Subaru-Specialized

Marga Fullana (*ESP, Subaru-Specialized*) and **Filip Meirhaeghe** (*BEL, Subaru-Specialized*) repeated their victorious results from round three of this season, when the two elite cross-country pros gave their team a pair of impressive wins to finish out the 2000 season in Lausanne, Switzerland. With rain and mud the most determining factor on a long 9 km course, both riders met the challenge and ground their way through the woods outside this picturesque Swiss city to put an important stamp on their season finales.

The men's race was one lap longer than the women's, and took ten minutes longer to complete. 108 competitors started their race in dry conditions - but would experience a heavy downpour right in the middle of the event - turning sticky mud into thinner, runnier mud.

A group of five men quickly established themselves off the front of the race, with five laps and a start loop looming ahead of them. The group consisted of Filip Meirhaeghe (*BEL, Subaru-Specialized*), **Thomas Frischknecht** (*SUI, Ritchey*), **Roel Paulissen** (*BEL, Team GT*), **Miguel Martinez** (*FRA, Full Dynamix*) and **Michael Rasmussen** (*DEN, Haro/Lee Dungarees*) - the same group that had battled several weeks ago in the European championships.



Filip Meirhaeghe - BEL



And again, not everyone was able to maintain the scorching pace, as the lead group became one smaller in the second lap when Martinez lost several seconds and rode in 5th position. He was in a three-man battle for the world cup overall, but his rivals - **Christophe Dupouey** (*FRA, Team Giant*) and **Bas Van Dooren** (*NED, Be-One*) were several minutes behind him.

Filip Meirhaeghe led the other three men into the third lap, while Martinez continued Miguel Martinez - FRA to chase along with **Christoph Sauser** (*SUI, Volvo-Cannondale*). **Thomas Dietsch** (*FRA, Bianchi*) rode back in 10th position, but would begin to move up toward a podium position. By the end of the third lap, Thomas Frischknecht (*SUI, Ritchey*) - who until this season had won at least one world cup per season - took over the lead in the mud - conditions that favored him. Indeed, the other two leading men were keying off of him as they knew he'd be motivated to do well on this day.

Heavy rains began falling at this point, making the conditions even tougher. Frischknecht led through a technical muddy section,

carrying his bike cyclo-cross style while Meirhaeghe and Paulissen chased within 10 seconds. Rasmussen and Martinez were now a minute back and riding together.

By the middle of the fourth lap the same three men; Frischknecht, Paulissen and Meirhaeghe were clear of the other chasers, as a minute separated them from Martinez and Rasmussen. But within just a few minutes - during the course of one section in the woods - the gap between the front three and chasers went from one minute to two as the three worked together - and against each other.

"Thomas was running faster through the mud," said Meirhaeghe. "I attacked in the second lap, but he passed me again. Then in the third lap I said to myself 'Don't give up,' and I came back and gave it everything I had."

Frischknecht would gain time in the muddy climbs, Meirhaeghe would gain it back on the descents and open road sections, and Paulissen began to lose contact with the two front runners.

In the final lap Meirhaeghe's attack finally succeeded in breaking Frischknecht, and he put 19 seconds on the Swiss star by race's end - denying him the win and earning his second world cup victory of 2000.

"I was feeling very good today," Meirhaeghe said as he wiped the thick dried mud from his eyes. "But it was hard, so I'm happy to win here. This is the first season where I've won two races, and I think I'm ready for the Olympics."

For Frischknecht second place was his season's best world cup result, but far from what he was hoping for. *"Filip was the strongest as you could tell, but I feel that I was kind of pushed a little bit into the leader position, because they both knew I was desperate to win that one race,"* he said.

"It was really hard, and I knew this was my last chance, my only chance - and this is now the first year I'm not winning a world cup race and I'm kind of sad - but I gave it my all and it just was not enough. But I'm still pleased with second place."

Paulissen eventually finished two minutes back, also with his best-ever world cup finish. *"I'm good in the mud, and my season usually gets better toward the end,"* he said. *"This is my first podium, and it's a good feeling - I'm stronger than ever and will try to keep my strength to the Olympics."*

Miguel Martinez moved up one position for 4th place and, with his rivals Van Dooren in 20th place and Dupouey in 37th, he held onto first place overall and won the 2000 world cup championship.

"I'm very happy to win the overall," he said. *"Along with winning Worlds it's my second big satisfaction of the season. I just tried to keep my bike together and stay ahead of Bas and Christophe."*

With the Tissot-UCI Mountain Bike World Cup now wrapped up for the season, the cross-country riders now turn their eyes to Sydney and the pending Olympic games, where 30 women and 50 men will compete for the sport's biggest prize in three weeks.

Ari Cheren

Martinez | Frischknecht | Meirhaeghe | Paulissen |
Dietsch



	<i>bib</i>	<i>UCIcode</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>nom</i>	<i>tt / gs</i>	<i>time</i>
1	13	BEL19710305	MEIRHAEGHE	Filip	SUBARU-SPECIALIZED	2:21:25
2	6	SUI19700217	FRISCHKNECHT	Thomas	TEAM RITCHEY-YAHOO!	2:21:44
3	26	BEL19760427	PAULISSEN	Roel	TEAM GT	2:23:30
4	1	FRA19760117	MARTINEZ	Miguel	FULL-DYNAMIX	2:26:49
5	58	FRA19740808	DIETSCH	Thomas	BIANCHI RACING TEAM	2:26:58
6	62	DEN19740601	RASMUSSEN	Michael	HARO/LEE DUNGAREE	2:27:02
7	4	SUI19760413	SAUSER	Christoph	VOLVO CANNONDALE	2:29:20
8	12	ESP19780824	HERMIDA	Jose Antonio *	BIANCHI ALBACOM	2:29:32
9	7	NED19681010	BRENTJENS	Bart	SUBARU-SPECIALIZED	2:29:44
10	8	GER19760520	FUMIC	Lado	GERMAN NATIONAL TEAM	2:29:59
11	28	ESP19670723	LEZAUN	Roberto	ORBEA	2:30:08
12	53	ITA19751001	ZOLI	Yader	DIAMONDBACK	2:30:52
13	66	BEL19800402	COENEN	Davy *		2:31:08
14	64	GBR19760607	BECKINGSALE	Oliver	SCOTT	2:31:29
15	61	CZE19731201	KORINEK	Radim	CESKA SPORITELNA MTB	2:32:24
16	31	DEN19660422	DJERNIS	Henrik	TEAM RITCHEY-YAHOO!	2:33:09
17	5	AUS19770214	EVANS	Cadel	VOLVO CANNONDALE	2:34:25
18	34	FRA19760413	FRECH	Frederic	SCOTT LA CLUSAZ	2:34:41
19	18	FRA19661119	ARNOULD	Dominique	GIANT	2:35:10
20	2	NED19730825	VAN DOOREN	Bas	BE-ONE TEAM	2:35:21
21	78	GER19720903	WEICHERT	Marc	SCHWALBE-RACING TEAM	2:35:27
22	42	ITA19681221	BETTIN	Mauro	FULL-DYNAMIX	2:35:31
23	9	CAN19740729	GREEN	Roland	TEAM GT	2:35:44
24	10	NOR19691210	HÖYDAHL	Rune	GIANT	2:35:51
25	55	SLO19771207	GOLCER	Jure	TEAM GT	2:36:27
26	82	SUI19770918	FLEURY	Patrik		2:36:38
27	108	AUT19760923	BAUER	Siegfried	FUNSPORT RED HOT CHI	2:36:51
28	90	SVK19760625	KONDIS	Lubos	CESKA SPORITELNA MTB	2:37:27
29	24	ITA19681106	BRAMATI	Luca	SCOTT RACING TEAM	2:37:49
30	23	SUI19740621	HELLER	Marcel	ARROW SWISS BIKE TM	2:37:51
31	121	FRA19811021	FILIPPI	Nicolas *	BIANCHI ALBACOM	2:38:03
32	54	SUI19740807	BINKERT	Markus	SCOTT-ELVIA	2:38:21
33	68	SLO19790526	DRASLER	Rok *	FULL-DYNAMIX	2:38:29
34	109	SUI19780613	BUNDI	Silvio *	BIKERS VISION WHEEL	2:39:26
35	63	DEN19750218	AGERGAARD	Jesper	BE-ONE TEAM	2:39:33
36	15	NZL19780630	LEUCHS	Kashi *	VOLVO CANNONDALE	2:39:51
37	3	FRA19680808	DUPOUEY	Christophe	GIANT	2:40:09
38	17	ITA19770721	FRUET	Martino	TEAM RITCHEY-YAHOO!	2:40:09
39	126	SUI19810120	WEBER	Balz *	ARROW SWISS BIKE TM	2:40:14
40	125	GER19811116	GENZE	Hannes *	CORRATEC WORLD TEAM	2:40:25
41	116	AUT19710222	FRAUENSCHUH	Thomas	CORRATEC WORLD TEAM	2:40:29
42	158	SUI19810528	HEIGL	Ronald *		2:40:34
43	29	CAN19801209	HESJEDAL	Ryder *	GARY FISHER/SAAB	2:42:13
44	14	SUI19760713	HOCHSTRASSER	Thomas	GIANT	2:42:40
45	74	AUT19770108	SCHEIDERBAUER	Jörg	WWW.RAINERWURZ.COM	2:43:15
46	59	AUT19780617	PRESSLAUER	Peter *	CORRATEC WORLD TEAM	2:43:49
47	156	SUI19800510	NÄF	Ralf *		2:44:18
48	60	FRA19730616	CEARD	Claude	BIANCHI RACING TEAM	2:44:28
49	146	SUI19790703	SPICHTIG	Thomas *		2:44:29
50	91	AUT19750731	KRALER	Martin	RALPH DENK RACING TM	2:44:30
51	33	SLO19720916	STRANCAR	Primoz	STOP TEAM-LEE COUGAN	2:44:58

52	129	ESP19760529	GISPERT LABARTA	Eloi	FINA MONTY	2:45:05
53	155	GER19771130	GOLZ	Marc	LSP	2:45:07
54	102	ITA19800515	STEINER	Manfred *	BIANCHI ALBACOM	2:45:18
55	112	NED19800616	AL	Thijs *		2:45:22
56	101	SUI19720814	CATTIN	Pascal	STEPPENWOLF	2:45:23
57	127	NED19771105	TJALLINGLII	Maarten		2:45:53
58	141	SUI19770707	FAHRNI	Ludovic	CAROLILLO BERNASCONI	2:46:00
59	106	GBR19800216	DIXON	Philip *	GREAT BRITAIN	2:47:14
60	128	NED19761021	VAN HEUGTEN	Ralf		2:47:59
61	86	NED19791010	BAKKER	Erwin *		2:48:02
62	69	GER19780511	DILGER	Andreas *	BSE	2:48:17
63	95	FRA19790514	VACHETTE	Yohann *	GIANT	2:48:23
64	67	ITA19720501	STAUDER	Roland	CORRATEC WORLD TEAM	2:48:48
65	140	SUI19800712	GIRARD	Julien *	CAROLILLO	2:48:51
66	47	ITA19740429	PIRAZZOLI	Mirko	G.S. PROMO BIKE	2:49:28
67	99	IRL19710406	SEYMOUR	Robin		2:49:55
68	120	SWE19780918	ERICSSON	Frederick *		2:50:14
69	118	SWE19790515	WESTERGREN	Jens *		2:50:32
70	77	NOR19760627	JOHANSEN	Aslak Morstad	IF FROY	2:51:13
71	137	NZL19760330	VINCENT	Tim		2:51:32
72	135	SUI19790803	KESSLER	Philip *	ARROW SWISS BIKE TM	2:52:17
73	144	SUI19770610	ABÄCHERLI	Roland		2:52:25
74	147	NED19750424	DIJKHUIS	Atze		2:52:39
75	131	SUI19790608	SPAETH	Sandro *	SCHWIIN OBG	2:53:45
76	105	SUI19750823	GISLER	Sascha		2:57:37
77	76	GBR19790414	WILKINSON	Ian *	GREAT BRITAIN	2:57:37
78	148	SUI19800712	GIRARD	Valentin *	CAROLILLO BERNASCONI	2:59:51
79	97	NED19771029	HESELING	Marcel		- 1 lap
80	107	GER19780803	SCHMIEG	Benjamin *	TEAM ALBGOLD	- 1 lap
	16	NED19650626	TOLHOEK	Patrick	BE-ONE TEAM	DNF
	21	FRA19800816	ABSALON	Julien *	SCOTT USA	DNF
	32	SUI19670523	WABEL	Beat		DNF
	35	NOR19720422	LARSEN	Tom	GIANT	DNF
	65	GER19740627	HANISCH	Marc	ORBEA	DNF
	72	GBR19690403	CRAIG	Nicholas	DIAMONDBACK	DNF
	73	GBR19661211	CLARKE	Barrie	RALEIGH	DNF
	75	SUI19721112	STOECKLI	Lukas	ARROW SWISS BIKE TM	DNF
	79	GER19760824	SAHM	Stefan		DNF
	84	ESP19781023	GISPERT LABARTA	Marti *	FINA MONTY	DNF
	85	NED19770522	VAN MIL	Ruud		DNF
	87	GER19780221	ESCHENBACH	Florian *	MAPEI-KONA	DNF
	88	FRA19781206	LEBRETON	Pierre *	BIANCHI RACING TEAM	DNF
	100	SWE19800405	MODIN	Fredrik *		DNF
	119	GER19810505	KAESS	Jochen *	RSC KOMET-LUDWIGSBUR	DNF
	122	GER19800128	RUGEL	Joachim *	CORRATEC WORLD TEAM	DNF
	132	GER19790212	POTTGIESSER	Torben *	SV KIRCHZARTEN	DNF
	133	NOR19720708	HOLM	Terje	BRUMUNDDAL SK	DNF
	134	GBR19800712	MORLEY	Tim *	GREAT BRITAIN	DNF
	136	SUI19750425	BENOIT	Stephane	CAROLILLO BERNASCONI	DNF
	143	GER19770101	GOLDERER	Roland		DNF
	149	SUI19780823	ZWYSSIG	Roman *	ARROW SWISS BIKE TM	DNF

	151	GER19800727	SCHNAPKA	Matthias *	KHS-SCHWEITZER	DNF
	152	GER19770620	PRIGGE	Sascha		DNF
	153	GER19760625	TORSTEN	Marx	ALL GOLD	DNF
	157	SUI19780731	BISCHOF	Cristof		DNF
	159	SUI19760331	LUSSI	Joel		DNF
	161	LIE19730210	RUHE	Marc		DNF
	11	FRA19731117	DUBAU	Ludovic	MARIN	DNS