



Tissot/UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - 2000 - Coupe du Monde MTB XC #1 - NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, USA - 25/26 MARCH

Italian Newcomer Martino Fruet Stuns Field With First Win

Racing at round two of the *Tissot-UCI Mountain Bike World Cup* heated up in Mexico Sunday, when a fast-moving men's field yielded a new winner in **Martino Fruet** (*ITA, Ritchey-Yahoo!*) emerging with a smile from a dusty, technical course. After nearly two and a half hours of intense competition, Fruet came up with the power in the final lap, beating veteran rider **Rune Hoydahl** (*NOR, Giant*) by a mere 26 seconds in front of an estimated 12,000 spectators.

The action was fast and hot Sunday afternoon, as 129 men lined up for seven laps of racing on this 6.6 km seaside course, plus one 600 meter start loop. Several top riders were missing from the line-up, including **Miguel Martinez** (*FRA, Full Dynamix*) and **Michael Rasmussen** (*DEN, Haro/Lee Dungarees*). Several other top riders would end their day early from flat tires, including **Bas Van Dooren** (*NED, Be-One*), **Thomas Frischknecht** (*SUI, Ritchey*) and **Roland Green** (*CAN, GT*).



Bas van Dooren - NED

For the remaining riders, it became partly a race of will and technical prowess, partly a race of attrition. The course's main characteristic is its dust and singletrack, making passing difficult for those back in the pack but generally not affecting those in the lead groups.

For Van Dooren and Frischknecht, the attrition factor appeared quickly, as both flatted out of the race's front group by the second lap, opening the lead to one of this early season's hottest new riders, **Lado Fumic** (*GER, German National Team*). Fumic took advantage of his speed and technical skills to remain in first or second position for every single lap.

Fruet, meanwhile, was toiling further back as he tried to make up ground from his start loop. Admitting his lack of speed in the start, Fruet claimed the course's technical challenges were perfect for his riding style and he quickly made up ground as the race progressed.

He went from 18th position in the first lap and passed several positions per lap until, by lap four, he was in 5th place. Two laps later he was 3rd and by the final lap was chasing the leader in second position.

That leader - until the final lap - was Rune Hoydahl (NOR, Giant), who had moved up from an 8th place start to overtake the German Fumic in lap four and control nearly all of the race's remains. With Fumic and Fruet now chasing Hoydahl for the lead in close quarters, the stage was set for a final-lap battle to the finish.

Fruet finally wrested the lead from Hoydahl toward the end of the sixth lap, after the Norwegian lost some control in a tight corner. Hoydahl was unable to reel in the flying Italian in the final lap and conceded the win by 26 seconds.

Fumic held on for third, while **Ludovic Dubau** (FRA, Marin) who had a steady afternoon in the top-five for most of the race held on to 4th place for the finish after challenging for a medal several times. Other notable finishes include **Rob Woods** (AUS, AIS GT-Australia) in 5th place after working his way up from 11th in lap two, and countryman **Paul Rowney** (AUS, AIS New Balance Giant) who finished in 6th place after an outstanding race in the lead group.



Lado Fumic - GER

With his win, Martino Fruet captured the blue Tissot leader's jersey, 33 points ahead of second-ranked Lado Fumic and **Marcel Heller** (SUI, Arrow Swiss Bike) both of whom have 260 points. Hoydahl is one point behind them. The Tissot-UCI Mountain Bike World Cup Cross-Country series will continue on April 30th with round three in Houffalize, Belgium.

1st Place Martino Fruet:

"I'm so happy. When I passed Hoydahl I realized I was more strong today, and also I'm more small and that's important on this type of course. This is my perfect course, because I like the courses that are technical. But I had some problems in the start loop, because usually I'm not so strong in the start. Today is great for my team, they always tell me that the most important thing is the mind, the mind and when the race start I just go, go, go. My best finish before this was the bronze medal in the U-23 World Championship. I finished 13th two years ago in Silves, Portugal."

2nd Place Rune Hoydahl:

"I knew if I had a good start I could do well on this course because it's very technical. I was just sitting there for two laps and tried not to use too much energy to keep my speed the whole time. But the last lap, with Fruet I had no chance. I nearly crashed in one corner in lap six, and Fruet got a gap and was so strong, I couldn't close it. It's great to finish second today though and I felt that in Napa I was better than 17th place. It was good for me to have this result today, because I qualify for the Sydney Olympics with the Norwegian federation."

3rd Place - Lado Fumic:

"In the first lap I was riding well and Frischknecht was riding well also, but he got a flat tire and I got the first lead. Then Bas Van Dooren (NED, Be-One) came and we were riding together, but he was riding too risky and got a flat tire too so here I am. The last two weeks were really my courses a lot of singletrack and technical. I compare it with the last European Championships, where I was 6th the courses were similar, very hard."

Ari Cheren



	#	UCIcode	name	nom	nat	tt/gs	t
1	27	ITA19770721	FRUET	Martino	ITA	TEAM RITCHEY-YAHOO!	2:24:23
2	17	NOR19691210	HÖYDAHL	Rune	NOR	GIANT	2:24:49
3	7	GER19760520	FUMIC	Lado	GER	GERMAN NATIONAL TEAM	2:25:27
4	21	FRA19731117	DUBAU	Ludovic	FRA	MARIN	2:26:28
5	22	AUS19680505	WOODS	Rob	AUS	AIS-GT AUSTRALIA	2:26:52
6	15	AUS19701202	ROWNEY	Paul	AUS	AIS NEW BALANCE GIANT	2:26:52
7	3	SUI19740621	HELLER	Marcel	SUI	ARROW SWISS BIKE TM	2:27:50
8	5	NED19681010	BRENTJENS	Bart	NED	SUBARU-SPECIALIZED	2:28:07
9	101	FRA19750321	VOLLET	Gregory	FRA	BIANCHI ALBACOM	2:28:22
10	35	USA19610304	JUAREZ	Tinker	USA	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:28:26
11	12	SUI19760713	HOCHSTRASSER	Thomas	SUI	SCOTT USA	2:28:44
12	36	ITA19681106	BRAMATI	Luca	ITA	SCOTT RACING TEAM	2:29:03
13	23	SUI19760413	SAUSER	Christoph	SUI	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:29:19
14	25	CAN19770414	KABUSH	Geoff	CAN	KONA FACTORY TEAM	2:29:19
15	9	FRA19680808	DUPOUEY	Christophe	FRA	GIANT	2:29:19
16	99	BEL19760427	PAULISSEN	Roel	BEL	TEAM GT	2:29:29
17	31	AUS19751114	FLEMING	Josh	AUS	GT AUSTRALIA	2:29:50
18	13	FRA19661119	ARNOULD	Dominique	FRA	GIANT	2:29:58
19	109	GER19700904	BRESSER	Carsten	GER	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	2:30:16
20	6	ESP19670723	LEZAUN	Roberto	ESP	ORBEA	2:30:28
21	28	DEN19660422	DJERNIS	Henrik	DEN	TEAM RITCHEY-YAHOO!	2:31:18
22	41	CAN19801209	HESJEDAL	Ryder *	CAN	GARY FISHER/SAAB	2:31:18
23	100	FRA19720118	CHIOTTI	Jerome	FRA	GIANT	2:31:52
24	47	NZL19780630	LEUCHS	Kashi *	NZL	VOLVO/CANNONDALE	2:31:59
25	33	CAN19740128	TOURVILLE	Eric	CAN	ORYX-PROCYCLE	2:32:16
26	26	DEN19750218	AGERGAARD	Jesper	DEN	BE-ONE TEAM	2:32:25
27	40	GER19750812	JURETZEK	Hans-jurgen	GER	SCHWALBE RACING TEAM	2:33:03
28	66	GBR19790414	WILKINSON	Ian *	GBR	GREAT BRITAIN	2:33:12
29	30	CAN19720918	WEDGE	Peter	CAN	KONA FACTORY TEAM	2:33:31
30	51	FRA19720910	HERISSET	Christophe	FRA	ORBEA	2:33:37
31	49	FRA19760413	FRECH	Frederic	FRA	SCOTT LA CLUSAZ	2:33:56
32	79	CAN19760503	MCGRATH	Seamus	CAN	HARO/LEE DUNGAREE	2:34:14
33	39	GBR19661211	CLARKE	Barrie	GBR	RALEIGH	2:34:21
34	44	SUI19740807	BINKERT	Markus	SUI	SCOTT-ELVIA	2:34:41
35	53	CAN19700512	HESTLER	Andreas	CAN	TEAM FORD-DEVINCI	2:34:51
36	11	ESP19780824	HERMIDA	Jose Antonio *	ESP	BIANCHI ALBACOM	2:35:01
37	45	SLO19720916	STRANCAR	Primož	SLO	STOP TEAM-LEE COUGAN	2:35:16
38	43	BEL19660501	VAN DEN ABEELE	Peter	BEL	VLANDEREN 2002 EDDY MERCKX	2:35:33

39	59	USA19741030	EATOUGH	Chris	USA	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	2:35:46
40	60	ITA19720501	STAUDER	Roland	ITA	CORRATEC WORLD TEAM	2:36:02
41	132	MEX19770523	ZIRANDA	Madrigal	MEX	TURBO	2:36:09
42	64	GBR19730411	LASENBY	Paul	GBR	MARIN	2:36:21
43	107	GER19720903	WEICHERT	Marc	GER	SCHWALBE-RACING TEAM	2:36:22
44	103	CAN19730419	SHEPPARD	Chris	CAN	HARO/LEE DUNGAREE	2:36:29
45	65	GER19760824	SAHM	Stefan	GER		2:36:49
46	119	NED19770522	VAN MIL	Ruud	NED		2:37:04
47	120	USA19680209	GULLICKSON	Marc	USA	MONGOOSE PRO	2:37:26
48	73	GER19780314	PLATT	Karl *	GER	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	2:38:00
49	55	GBR19690403	CRAIG	Nicholas	GBR	DIAMONDBACK	2:38:09
50	58	RUS19720513	TCHERKASSOV	Pavel	RUS	GARY FISHER/SAAB	2:38:09
51	37	NOR19720422	LARSEN	Tom	NOR	GIANT	2:38:16
52	116	DEN19610220	OSTERGAARD	Jan	DEN	DIFFUOLONGE	2:38:25
53	57	GER19791123	MENDE	Matthias *	GER	STEVENS-JEANTEX	2:38:54
54	112	USA19730328	KILLEN	James	USA	SCHWINN	2:39:04
55	63	AUS19780411	REDENBACH	Paul *	AUS	RACELINE/FLEXOVIT	2:39:20
56	111	GBR19760607	BECKINGSALE	Oliver	GBR	SCOTT	2:40:02
57	84	GER19780511	DILGER	Andreas *	GER	BSE	2:40:08
58	124	BRA19690923	AZEVEDO	Abraao	BRA	SELECAO BRASILEIRA	2:40:17
59	114	AUT19670920	ZORN	Siegfried	AUT	BANK AUSTRIA NATL TM	2:40:17
60	98	GER19780824	NICKE	Thomas *	GER	STEVENS-JEANTEX	2:40:33
61	95	USA19671025	SWENSON	Peter	USA	SOBE/HEADSHOK	2:40:53
62	67	GER19780221	ESCHENBACH	Florian *	GER	MAPEI-KONA	2:41:11
63	76	CRC19780428	BONILLA	Jose Adrian *	CRC	CAFE COSTA RICA	2:41:15
64	122	GER19780130	WÖLK	Timo *	GER	STEVENS-JEANTEX	2:41:48
65	110	CAN19760803	TOULOUSE	Mathieu	CAN	TEAM FORD-DEVINCI	2:42:13
66	133	MEX19770729	BARRIGA	Salvador	MEX	TURBO	2:42:20
67	96	RSA19690523	BAKER	Aldon	RSA	MAXXIS	2:42:35
68	104	USA19700420	SWENSON	Carl	USA	RLX POLO SPORT	2:42:56
69	92	NAM19710714	HEYMANS	Mannie	NAM	FOCUS	2:44:14
70	140	GBR19800216	DIXON	Philip *	GBR	GBR NATIONAL TEAM	2:44:33
71	62	USA19640907	WIENS	David	USA	RLX POLO SPORT	2:45:33
72	71	NOR19770103	STORMO	Frederik	NOR	DRAMMEN CK (N)	2:50:05
73	126	SUI19780613	BUNDI	Silvio *	SUI	BIKERS VISION WHEEL	- 1 lap
74	69	USA19810815	CRAIG	Adam *	USA	DEVO	- 1 lap
75	106	SLO19790526	DRASLER	Rok *	SLO	SWATCH NOVICE FULL D	- 1 lap
76	94	NOR19760627	JOHANSEN	Aslak	NOR	IF FROY/N	- 1 lap
77	141	MEX19810106	CHAVEZ	Javier *	MEX	SQUALO AGA	- 1 lap
78	83	SUI19781229	STEINHAEUER	Kai *	SUI	BIKERS VISION WHEEL	- 1 lap
79	90	NZL19740807	MOTE	Laurence	NZL	AIRBORNE	- 1 lap
80	72	NOR19800401	STORMO	Lars Petter *	NOR	DRAMMEN CK (N)	- 1 lap
81	89	AUS19731230	STOCKWELL	Luke	AUS	ROCKY MOUNTAIN BICYC	- 2 laps
82	128	USA19780606	MATTER	Brian *	USA	GRIMACE	- 2 laps
83	88	CAN19710914	VISSER	George	CAN	ORYX-PROCYCLE	- 2 laps
84	97	CAN19811008	FEDERAU	Ricky *	CAN	ROCKY MOUNTAIN BICYC	- 2 laps
85	127	USA19810130	REEVES	Skyler *	USA	NANTUCKET NECTARS	- 2 laps
86	82	USA19710927	HELGESON	Ken	USA	US AIR FORCE	- 2 laps

87	142	MEX19800225	FARIAS	Javier *	MEX	PROJATT	- 2 laps
88	136	MEX19710604	ABARCA	Rodolfo	MEX	TURBO	- 3 laps
89	135	MEX19731212	CRUZ	Jose Guadalupe	MEX	BENOTTO	- 3 laps
90	144	GUA19761206	DUARTE	Andres	GUA	UNITED-BICIMANIA	- 3 laps
91	143	MEX19781109	ORTIZ	Miguel Angel *	MEX	SHARKS	- 4 laps
92	146	ARG19790407	GENNERO	Carlos Franco *	ARG	QUILMES	- 4 laps
	1	NED19730825	VAN DOOREN	Bas	NED	BE-ONE TEAM	DNF
	4	CAN19740729	GREEN	Roland	CAN	TEAM GT	DNF
	8	SUI19700217	FRISCHKNECHT	Thomas	SUI	TEAM RITCHEY-YAHOO!	DNF
	18	SUI19721112	STOECKLI	Lukas	SUI	ARROW SWISS BIKE TM	DNF
	24	FRA19800816	ABSALON	Julien *	FRA	SCOTT USA	DNF
	34	GER19680208	SCHWEDLER	Jens	GER	STEVENS-JEANTEX	DNF
	38	USA19700313	LARSEN	Steve	USA	LL BEAN/MONGOOSE	DNF
	46	NOR19780305	AUSTAD	Hakon *	NOR	DBS WC-TEAM	DNF
	50	BEL19790218	TREVISAN	Patrick *	BEL	ORBEA	DNF
	52	SUI19670523	WABEL	Beat	SUI		DNF
	54	USA19721212	RANDOLPH	Greg	USA	TEAM GT	DNF
	56	USA19800208	SWIGGERS	Jess *	USA	MONGOOSE PRO	DNF
	68	AUT19780617	PRESSLAUER	Peter *	AUT	CORRATEC WORLD TEAM	DNF
	70	CAN19680201	DECORE	Matthew	CAN	MARIN	DNF
	74	GER19771130	GÖLZ	Marc	GER		DNF
	77	ITA19750310	ACQUAROLI	Dario	ITA	BIANCHI ALBACOM	DNF
	78	NED19650626	TOLHOEK	Patrick	NED	BE-ONE TEAM	DNF
	81	NOR19781026	BOLSTAD	Jorn Espen *	NOR	G-SPORT MTB TEAM	DNF
	85	GBR19730722	PARKINSON	Nigel	GBR	SOBE/HEADSHOK	DNF
	87	USA19810816	KELLY	Matt *	USA	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	DNF
	91	SUI19780731	BISCHOF	Christof *	SUI		DNF
	105	CRC19641218	BRENES	Andres	CRC	TEAM RITCHEY-YAHOO!	DNF
	115	SWE19750603	TAVELL	Philip	SWE		DNF
	117	AUT19770630	KIRCHER	Robert	AUT	CORRATEC WORLD TEAM	DNF
	118	FRA19770629	POULY	Peter	FRA	EGOBIKE CAMELBACK	DNF
	123	BRA19720227	RAVELLI	Marcio	BRA	SELECAO BRASILEIRA	DNF
	129	MEX19790908	CORTES	Marco A *	MEX	TECATE LIGHT	DNF
	130	MEX19810814	ALDAPE	Moises *	MEX	TECATE LIGHT	DNF
	131	MEX19800415	BARRIGA	Alonso *	MEX	TECATE LIGHT	DNF
	134	MEX19780528	VASQUEZ	Luis Felipe *	MEX	TURBO	DNF
	137	MEX19770607	VALENCIA	Alan	MEX	CANNONDALE	DNF
	138	MEX19750109	ZACARIAS	Armando	MEX	MERCURIO	DNF
	139	MEX19730811	HERNANDEZ	Moises	MEX	MERCURIO	DNF
	145	MEX19810514	MARTINEZ	Fernando *	MEX	MAGMAA	DNF
	48	USA19690807	BROWN	Travis	USA	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	DNS
	75	AUS19720707	WALLACE	Matt	AUS		DNS
	102	GER19750517	KURSCHAT	Wolfram	GER	FIAT-ROTWILD	DNS