

## TT#1: NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, USA - 7-7/8.4.2001 Men / Hommes

### Cross-Country Season Begins in Napa



After months of training and preparing by the hundreds of elite athletes that form its ranks, the **2001 Tissot-UCI Mountain Bike World Cup Cross-Country** series finally got underway in the scenic vineyards of the western United States this weekend - with a pair of exciting races through the grape vines of *Domaine Chandon in Napa, California*. Surrounded by thousands of spectators who came to witness the first stop of the XC tour, two champions demonstrated their unbeatable form to claim both win number-one of the season and the coveted **Tissot** leader's jersey as well.

*Spain's Jose Antonio Hermida (Bianchi Albacom)* parlayed his 2000 U-23 World Championship to his first-ever world cup victory Sunday afternoon, just hours after 2000 World Cup Champion and Olympic Silver Medallist **Barbara Blatter (SUI, Specialized)** dominated the women's field to continue her powerful streak of performances.

Conditions were variable on Sunday, as both women and men competed on the rocky grounds of this famous sparkling wine producer. Rain fell just after the completion of the women's race, as well during the men's race - affecting the male riders as they negotiated the course's technical sections. Temperatures were chilly for most of the day, with sunlight peeking out only intermittently during each race.

#### **MEN:**

Where the women's race was a demonstration of power by established top finishers, the men's race held several surprises in its five-lap event. One surprise was the unpredictable weather, which brought short but intense rainstorms onto the track during the race, making for muddy descents and unpredictable racing conditions.

Another surprise was just how strongly a trio of riders established themselves at the front of the race by the third lap, as **Jose Antonio Hermida (ESP, Bianchi Albacom)** hooked up with Saturday's time trial winner **Marco Bui (ITA, A.S. Marin Helly Hansen)** - and a new face in **Marc Hanisch (GER, Orbea)**.

These three put ten seconds on a hard-charging men's field after the first lap - and were pursued by **Christophe Dupouey (FRA, Team Giant)**, **Martino Fruet (ITA, Ritchey-Yahoo!)** and **Lado Fumic (GER, Telekom Mobile)**. But no matter how hard the experienced

men tried to catch the breakaway trio, they were unable to reel them in, and lost more and more ground as the race progressed.

Hanisch, who recently won a race called the Cantú Cup in Italy and is a two-time German National Champion, showed that he is a new name to learn this season on the world cup circuit as well, as the 26-year old kept pace with the better-recognized names of U-23 World Champions Hermida (2000) and Bui (1999) throughout the gruelling event.

While these three worked as a unit to put a gap on the field, behind them the established riders unsuccessfully tried to mount a counter-attack. First Lado Fumic rode a solo chase in the third lap as Dupouey and Dubau chased together. Behind them were **Filip Maerhaeghe** (BEL, Specialized) and former teammate **Bart Brentjens** (NED, Team Giant) - along with early race leader **Ryder Hesjedal** (CAN, Subaru - Gary Fisher).

In the penultimate lap four, Fumic and Dupouey hooked up in pursuit of the leading trio, while **Gregory Vollet** (FRA, Creuse Oxygene) rode his own solo pursuit.

At this point the attacks for the win began to materialize, as Hanisch made his bid for a stunning upset - but was reeled in and replaced in the lead by Hermida, Bui keeping a close watch on his rivals. By the end of the last lap the order was finally settled, as Hermida shook off Hanisch by 8 seconds, Bui following 4 seconds further back, giving Hermida his first-ever world cup victory.

## QUOTES

**Jose Antonio Hermida**, 1st Place:

*"I didn't know I could do it - it was so exciting. I just tried to do my best and then at the end I had a bit of problems, so I start to think I would lose the race. But then I tried to motivate and at the end I was pushing hard, so I saw I could do it. All the time we [top three] tested each other when we were together. Everyone was attacking, but also no one wanted to lead, but at the end everyone was battling for themselves. I made the final attack on the little climb, then when I caught Marc I attacked again and got a few meters - so I attacked again. For me it's more important to win a world cup than the World Championships here because I was fighting so hard to get my first world cup win."*

Marc Hanisch, 2nd Place:

*"I was feeling good today, so I thought I could finish well. After my success in Italy I knew I was strong, but I didn't expect to be this strong today - especially with these muddy and technical conditions. It seemed like everyone was falling down behind us three leaders, which maybe helped us get away a little bit. Also, Marco Bui was leading for awhile, and that helped us get a gap. I attacked on the last lap and was leading with about 2km to go, but then Hermida counter-attacked and passed me."*

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words: Ari Cheren

	<b>bib</b>	<b>UCIcode</b>	<b>name</b>	<b>nom</b>	<b>tt / gs</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>ESP19780824</b>	<b>HERMIDA</b>	<b>Jose Antonio</b>	<b>BIANCHI MOTOREX</b>	<b>2:02:06</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>GER19740627</b>	<b>HANISCH</b>	<b>Marc</b>	<b>ORBEA</b>	<b>2:02:14</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>ITA19771017</b>	<b>BUI</b>	<b>Marco</b>	<b>A.S. MARIN HELLY HANSEN</b>	<b>2:02:18</b>
<b>4</b>	3	FRA19680808	DUPOUEY	Christophe	GIANT BICYCLES	2:02:53
<b>5</b>	8	GER19760520	FUMIC	Lado	T-MOBILE	2:03:00
<b>6</b>	22	FRA19750321	VOLLET	Gregory	CREUSE OXYGENE	2:03:07
<b>7</b>	9	NED19681010	BRENTJENS	Bart	GIANT BICYCLES	2:03:32
<b>8</b>	6	BEL19710305	MEIRHAEGHE	Filip	SPECIALIZED	2:03:51
<b>9</b>	27	AUS19701202	ROWNEY	Paul	YETI/PEARL IZUMI	2:03:57
<b>10</b>	29	CAN19801209	HESJEDAL	Ryder *	SUBARU-GARY FISHER	2:04:08
<b>11</b>	10	CAN19740729	GREEN	Roland	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN MTB	2:04:13
<b>12</b>	13	FRA19731117	DUBAU	Ludovic	ORBEA	2:04:42
<b>13</b>	7	AUS19770214	EVANS	Cadel	VOLVO CANNONDALE	2:04:48
<b>14</b>	14	BEL19760426	PAULISSEN	Roel	TEAM GT	2:04:48
<b>15</b>	89	FRA19740928	CHEVALLIER	Jerome	ORBEA	2:05:21
<b>16</b>	5	SUI19760413	SAUSER	Christoph	VOLVO CANNONDALE	2:05:33
<b>17</b>	2	NED19730825	VAN DOOREN	Bas	SPECIALIZED	2:05:34
<b>18</b>	17	ITA19770721	FRUET	Martino	TEAM RITCHEY-YAHOO!	2:05:36
<b>19</b>	25	FRA19800816	ABSALON	Julien *	BIANCHI MOTOREX	2:05:38
<b>20</b>	16	FRA19661119	ARNOULD	Dominique	GIANT BICYCLES	2:05:56
<b>21</b>	34	FRA19740808	DIETSCH	Thomas	BIANCHI MOTOREX	2:06:00
<b>22</b>	31	GER19700904	BRESSER	Carsten	T-MOBILE	2:06:04
<b>23</b>	18	NZL19780630	LEUCHS	Kashi	VOLVO CANNONDALE	2:06:05
<b>24</b>	53	RUS19720513	CHERKASOV	Pavel	SUBARU-GARY FISHER	2:06:12
<b>25</b>	11	NOR19691210	HOYDAHL	Rune	GIANT BICYCLES	2:06:36
<b>26</b>	15	SUI19760713	HOCHSTRASSER	Thomas	GIANT BICYCLES	2:06:37
<b>27</b>	113	ITA19750310	ACQUAROLI	Dario	TEAM FULLDYNAMIX	2:06:40
<b>28</b>	65	FRA19781126	RAVANEL	Cedric	SCOTT USA	2:06:53
<b>29</b>	45	CAN19760503	MCGRATH	Seamus	HARO LEE DUNGAREES	2:07:25
<b>30</b>	66	NED19800616	AL	Thys *	BE-ONE TEAM	2:07:49
<b>31</b>	59	AUS19710207	GORDON	Craig	-	2:07:54
<b>32</b>	117	USA19720916	MOLDAY	Kirk	SUNRACE/SANTA CRUZ	2:08:02
<b>33</b>	55	POL19740801	GALINSKI	Marek	LOTTO-PZU	2:08:15
<b>34</b>	72	ESP19781023	GISPert LABARTA	Marti	-	2:08:45
<b>35</b>	87	GER19760824	SAHM	Stefan	T-MOBILE	2:09:01
<b>36</b>	79	DEN19800725	RIIS ANDERSON	Peter *	DEN BLAA KURER	2:09:10
<b>37</b>	21	SUI19740621	HELLER	Marcel	ARROW SWISS BIKE TEAM	2:09:25
<b>38</b>	68	ESP19760317	MARQUEZ	Jose	CORONAS-BH	2:09:36
<b>39</b>	1	FRA19760117	MARTINEZ	Miguel	FULL DYNAMIX	2:09:45
<b>40</b>	125	GBR19820412	KILLEEN	Liam *	GREAT BRITAIN	2:10:24
<b>41</b>	44	CAN19700512	HESTLER	Andreas	ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIKE TEAM	2:10:42
<b>42</b>	40	AUS19751114	FLEMING	Josh	GT AUSTRALIA	2:10:45
<b>43</b>	56	ITA19650917	PALLHUBER	Hubert	DIAMOND BACK	2:10:52
<b>44</b>	115	GER19771130	GOLZ	Marc	T-MOBILE	2:10:53
<b>45</b>	88	IRL19710406	SEYMOUR	Robin	-	2:11:14
<b>46</b>	93	GBR19661211	CLARKE	Barrie	DIAMOND BACK	2:11:19
<b>47</b>	33	CAN19770414	KABUSH	Geoff	TEAM KONA FORD FOCUS	2:11:20
<b>48</b>	111	USA19730328	KILLEN	Jimi	SCHWINN	2:11:36
<b>49</b>	58	CAN19730419	SHEPPARD	Chris	HARO LEE DUNGAREES	2:12:20

<b>50</b>	132	ITA19811227	HOFER	Franz *	INFINEON RAINER WURZ	2:12:27
<b>51</b>	98	GER19780221	ESCHENBACH	Florian	SCHENKER	2:12:38
<b>52</b>	62	USA19680209	GULLICKSON	Marc	MONGOOSE HYUNDAI	2:12:42
<b>53</b>	67	ITA19740429	PIRAZZOLI	Mirko	OK GIMMY SINTESI	2:13:04
<b>54</b>	43	CAN19720918	WEDGE	Peter	TEAM KONA FORD FOCUS	2:13:16
<b>55</b>	103	FRA19811021	FILIPPI	Nicolas *	BIANCHI MOTOREX	2:13:26
<b>56</b>	155	FIN19810329	VEIKKANEN	Jussi *	TOP KAERN TEN-GIANT MTB	2:13:41
<b>57</b>	124	USA19750323	HENRY	Jay	NANTUCKET NECTARS	2:13:48
<b>58</b>	112	USA19780811	HORGAN-KOBELSKI	Jeremy	RLX POLO SPORT	2:13:56
<b>59</b>	78	NED19791010	BAKKER	Erwin *	BE-ONE TEAM	2:14:03
<b>60</b>	96	AUT19770630	KIRCHER	Robert	INFINEON RAINER WURZ	2:14:19
<b>61</b>	110	COL19720630	DIEGO	Javier	INDUSTRIALES QUINDIO	2:14:37
<b>62</b>	75	SUI19770918	FLEURY	Patrik	STOECKLI MTB RACING TEAM	2:14:50
<b>63</b>	86	SUI19750414	WEBER	Christian	ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIKE TEAM	2:15:10
<b>64</b>	128	SUI19790703	SPICHTIG	Thomas *	ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIKE TEAM	2:15:15
<b>65</b>	63	DEN19770522	BONNE	Thomas	DEN BLAA KURER	2:15:41
<b>66</b>	92	CRC19780428	BONILLA	Adrian	CAFE DE COSTARICA/PIZZA HUT	2:15:50
<b>67</b>	127	USA19820226	FERGUSON	Walker *	SUBARU-GARY FISHER	2:15:56
<b>68</b>	119	CRC19751104	RAMIREZ	Federico	CAFE DE COSTARICA	2:16:14
<b>69</b>	73	CAN19760803	TOULOUSE	Mathieu	TEAM FORD/DEVINCI	2:16:20
<b>70</b>	46	SUI19740807	BINKERT	Markus	ARROW SWISS BIKE TEAM	2:16:37
<b>71</b>	134	CAN19761009	HOVEY	Carter	BOLLA WINES / BIANCHI	2:16:41
<b>72</b>	148	ARG19790403	BLANCO	Gabriel *	-	2:16:45
<b>73</b>	105	GER19740904	MULLER	Christoph	FUCI	2:16:51
<b>74</b>	76	USA19700420	SWENSON	Carl	RLX POLO SPORT	2:16:54
<b>75</b>	123	USA19810815	CRAIG	Adam *	DEVO	2:17:23
<b>76</b>	107	USA19640907	WIENS	David	RLX POLO SPORT	2:17:37
<b>77</b>	135	ITA19801030	KIRCHLER	Matthias *	INFINEON RAINER WURZ	2:17:57
<b>78</b>	151	CAN19720209	BAKKER	Osmond	GEARS RACING	2:18:32
<b>79</b>	114	USA19730726	MAPEL	Frank	YETI/PEARL IZUMI	2:18:40
<b>80</b>	97	GBR19741030	EATOUGH	Chris	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN MTB	2:18:59
<b>81</b>	147	USA19720312	TULLOUS	Jason	GIANT/DONJENICS	2:19:17
<b>82</b>	139	GBR19780305	BAXTER	Elliot	DIAMOND BACK	2:19:48
<b>83</b>	153	CRC19820127	ESQUIVEL	Deiber *	CAFE DE COSTARICA/PIZZA HUT	2:20:55
<b>84</b>	83	CAN19700513	HINE	Julian	GEARS RACING	2:21:16
<b>85</b>	154	USA19800418	SCHNELL	Ross *	DEVO	2:21:26
<b>86</b>	109	ITA19740206	PALLHUBER	Johann	INFINEON RAINER WURZ	2:23:15
<b>87</b>	159	USA19670422	BOWEN	Barton	KONA FORD FOCUS	2:25:17
<b>88</b>	146	USA19731102	PRECHTL	Derek	GIANT BICYCLES	- 1 lap
<b>89</b>	129	SUI19741105	MULLER	Lukas	UBS/TG HUTTEN/PRICE	- 1 lap
<b>90</b>	152	GBR19800804	CRAWFORTH	Jody *	GREAT BRITAIN	- 1 lap

<b>91</b>	95	GER19750517	KURSCHAT	Wolfram	GIANT BICYCLES	- 2 laps
<b>92</b>	116	CAN19761015	ELZINGA	Adrian	-	- 2 laps
<b>93</b>	104	USA19671025	SWENSON	Peter	TOKYO JOES	- 2 laps
<b>94</b>	145	USA19790811	PETERSON	Cody *		- 2 laps
<b>95</b>	137	IRL19740517	MCNAMARA	Philip	TEAM OREGON	- 2 laps
<b>96</b>	138	GBR19800712	MORLEY	Tim *	GREAT BRITAIN	- 3 laps
<b>97</b>	144	CAN19771118	PENNER	Greg	-	- 3 laps
	24	ESP19670723	LEZAUN	Roberto	ORBEA	DNF
	39	USA19610304	JUAREZ	David Tinker	VOLVO CANNONDALE	DNF
	42	DEN19740601	RASMUSSEN	Michael	HARO LEE DUNGAREES	DNF
	47	SLO19771207	GOLCER	Jure	CORRATEC WORLD TEAM	DNF
	57	USA19700313	LARSEN	Steve	LL BEAN STAIRMASTER	DNF
	64	MEX19770523	MADRIGAL	Ziranda	TURBO	DNF
	69	AUT19770108	SCHEIDERBAUER	Jorg	INFINEON RAINER WURZ	DNF
	74	USA19690807	BROWN	Travis	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN MTB	DNF
	84	GBR19790414	WILKINSON	Ian *	GREAT BRITAIN	DNF
	85	ITA19800515	STEINER	Manfred *	TEAM FULLDYNAMIX	DNF
	94	AUT19711013	KOCH	Georg	TOP KAERTEN-GIANT MTB	DNF
	99	CZE19780617	DOLEZAL	Tomas	RUBENA MERIDA KCK TEAM	DNF
	102	ESP19770709	ORTIZ	Antonio	CORONAS-BH	DNF
	106	USA19741204	JONES	Eric	SOBE HEADSHOK	DNF
	118	CAN19761202	HUBREGTSE	Menno	TREK Canada	DNF
	122	JPN19771227	GOTO	Shinaaku	GIANT JAPAN	DNF
	126	DEN19790919	POULSEN	Christian *	DEN BLAA KURER	DNF
	133	SWE19750321	SPARR	Henrik	TREK VOLKSWAGEN SWEDEN	DNF
	136	JPN19720811	SUZUKI	Raita	BRIDGESTONE ANCHOR	DNF
	143	GBR19730722	PARKINSON	Nigel	ANIMAL ORANGE	DNF
	161	USA19721212	RANDOLPH	Greg	TOMAC	DNF
	108	CAN19680201	DECORE	Matthew	MARIN	DNS
	160	GER19790813	HIERLWIMMER	*	FOCUS	DNS
	156	NZL19740216	REID	Andrew	MARCO POLO	DNS