

XC#1 : Madrid, ESP : 18-19.05.2002

Brentjens and Fullana Win XC Round One

50km100 - Lap time : 20:42.00 : 24.52 km/h

Round one of the **Tissot-UCI Mountain Bike World Cup's** 2002 season got underway this weekend in **Madrid, Spain**, as the world's best cross-country racers gathered in the large Casa de Campo park at the city's edge for the first event in a summer-long circuit of racing around the world.



Men's start

Warm sunny skies and hot temperatures brought 25,000 spectators out to this rolling, green course in Spain - and they were treated to two spectacular races on Sunday when a pair of champions made powerful statements about their early-season fitness. First it was two-time *World Champion* **Marga Fullana** (ESP, Orbea) who dominated the women's race, followed by 1996 *Olympic Gold Medallist* **Bart Brentjens** (NED, Giant Bicycle) in a similarly impressive effort.

It has been some time - since 1996 actually - since "*Sir*" **Bart Brentjens** (NED, Giant Bicycle) won a world cup race. That was the same year he won the Olympics in Atlanta, a race that made him one of the most famous mountain bike racers and prompted his country to knight him. Since then he has been racing well with mixed results each season. He won the 2001 European

Championships and holds the number-one UCI overall ranking. But no races of late have equaled what he produced in Madrid Sunday, when he beat current *World Champion* **Roland Green** (CAN, Trek-Volkswagen) by over two minutes in front of an estimated 25,000 spectators.



Bart Brentjens, GIA, NED

Brentjens went on a solo attack off the front early in the race, quickly amassing a large lead with a near-perfect ride. For the 34-year-old Brentjens, it was a sweet victory to do so well against riders ten years his junior. And it was a dominant victory for sure. Brentjens took the lead immediately in the race, leading out the long string of 158 riders in the start loop, before they embarked on a high-speed six-lap race. He only had a

slight gap on his chasers after the first lap, but that was about to change.



Roland Green, Trek, CAN

Bart noticed that he was fastest down the rough stairstep section of the course near the finish, and quickly built a ten-second lead during the first lap. By the end of lap two he was 40 seconds ahead of his nearest chaser, current *Olympic Gold Medallist* **Miguel Martinez** (FRA, Full Dynamix). Approximately 20 seconds behind Martinez, seven men rode together in pursuit - including Roland Green, **Roel Paulissen** (BEL, Rainer-Wurz), **Jose Antonio Hermida** (ESP, Motorex-Bianchi) and **Lado Fumic** (GER, Team T-Mobile).

Martinez soon flattened a tire and was forced to abandon the race, leaving Green to lead out the chase group, which had been split and now only included Paulissen and Hermida. **Filip Meirhaeghe** (BEL, Specialized), **Marco Bui** (ITA, Lanabau/Rainer-Wurz) and Fumic were in a second chase group at this point.



Roel Paulissen, LAN, BEL

Brentjens kept increasing his pace and, by the end of the third lap, put another ten seconds on the pack and led the Green/Paulissen/Hermida trio by 1:15. It was 30 more seconds back to the second chase group. Lap four saw the gap increase to 1:35, as Brentjens put an amazing 20 more seconds on the lead. By the end of the 4th lap the gap stood at 1:55. **Christophe Dupouey** (FRA, Giant) was riding alone in 5th position, but would eventually abandon.

In the 5th lap Green and Paulissen were still riding together at 2:05 back, while Hermida rode alone 10 seconds further back. Fumic and Meirhaeghe began to split apart as well, while another trio of riders chased in the top ten, including **Dario Acquaroli** (ITA), Bui and **Christoph Sauser** (SUI, Volvo Cannondale). By the end of lap 5 Fumic and Meirhaeghe were riding solo - only Roland and Roel still working together.

The sixth and final lap saw things finally settle in for the finish. Brentjens kept up his blistering pace, keeping 2:15 between himself and Green. Paulissen fell off the pace though, and was now 5 seconds behind Green, while Hermida was another 30 seconds back and Fumic headed for the final podium spot.

At the finish Bart rolled across the line 2:10 ahead of Green, Paulissen 2:23 off the pace in third place. Hermida finished 4th at 3:01, and Fumic was 5th. For the veteran rider Brentjens, whose wife had a baby in June, it was a wonderful cap to mark the ending portion of a great career.

Bart Brentjens, 1st place:

"It's my job and I like it. In 1994 I also started well here in Madrid, but it's been a long time since I won - since Les Gets. It's unbelievable what I did today. The course was good for me - like Holland with not so much climbing - but the public was good on the steep climb, like in Houffalize. I wasn't able to ride the hill in training, but they helped me in the race. In the final two laps I knew I had a chance to win, and was having a slight problem with my chain - so I rode safe."

Roland Green, 2nd place:

"Roel and I were with Hermida - we weren't really chasing. We knew what the gap was, and I can't speak for Roel, but I was riding at my maximum. We were riding for second place. I liked the circuit, it's technical but for world cups it could be wider."

Words: **Ari Cheren**

Images: **Mark Dawson** www.fattirefotos.com



	#	Code	Name	Team	Time	Gap
1	7	NED19681010	BRENTJENS Bart	GIANT GLOBAL	02:02:37	
2	1	CAN19740729	GREEN Roland	TREK/VOLKSWAGEN	02:04:47	02:10
3	9	BEL19760427	PAULISSEN Roel	LANABAU-RW	02:05:00	02:23
4	2	ESP19780824	HERMIDA Jose Antonio	MOTOREX-BIANCHI	02:05:38	03:01
5	12	GER19760520	FUMIC Lado	TEAM-T-MOBILE	02:06:27	03:50
6	15	BEL19710305	MEIRHAEGHE Filip	SPECIALIZED	02:06:51	04:14
7	5	SUI19760313	SAUSER Christoph	VOLVO-CANNONDAL	02:07:07	04:30
8	36	ITA19750310	ACQUAROLI Dario		02:07:15	04:38
9	17	ITA19771017	BUI Marco	LANABAU-RW	02:07:24	04:47
10	6	FRA19800816	ABSALON Julien *	MOTOREX-BIANCHI	02:07:30	04:53
11	27	ITA19770721	FRUET Martino		02:07:36	04:59
12	28	FRA19740928	CHEVALLIER Jerome		02:07:48	05:11
13	26	CAN19760503	MCGRATH Seamus	HAROLEEDUNGAREE	02:08:03	05:26
14	16	FRA19731117	DUBAU Ludovic	ORBEA	02:08:14	05:37
15	8	NZL19780630	LEUCHS Kashi	VOLVO-CANNONDAL	02:08:29	05:52
16	13	POL19780503	KOWAL Mariusz	LOTTO-PZU	02:08:44	06:07
17	18	FRA19770629	POULY Peter		02:08:52	06:15
18	89	SWE19750603	TAVELL Philip	MERIDA INTER.	02:09:00	06:23
19	31	POL19740801	GALINSKI Marek	CCC-POLSAT ROAD	02:09:12	06:35
20	53	MEX19770523	MADRIGAL Ziranda		02:09:19	06:42
21	24	GER19700904	BRESSER Carsten	TEAM-T-MOBILE	02:09:47	07:10
22	10	ESP19770425	DIAZ DE LA PENA Alejandro		02:09:50	07:13
23	11	FRA19811021	FILIPPI Nicolas *	MOTOREX-BIANCHI	02:09:56	07:19
24	14	SUI19760713	HOCHSTRASSER Thomas	GIANT GLOBAL	02:10:08	07:31
25	40	GER19820330	FUMIC Manuel *	TEAM-T-MOBILE	02:10:15	07:38
26	88	MEX19770729	BARRIGA Salvador		02:10:25	07:48
27	66	USA19751225	WELLS Todd	MONGOOSEHYUNDAI	02:10:33	07:56
28	63	CAN19730419	SHEPPARD Chris	HAROLEEDUNGAREE	02:10:35	07:58
29	13	CAN19801209	HESJEDAL Ryder *	SUBARU-GARYFISH	02:10:53	08:16
30	41	GBR19820412	KILLEEN Liam *	SUBARU-GARYFISH	02:10:59	08:22
31	95	ESP19770907	ORTIZ Antonio		02:11:10	08:33
32	62	AUS19800122	TABERLAY Sid *		02:11:25	08:48
33	64	NED19760514	PETERS Bas		02:11:33	08:56
34	29	DEN19800725	ANDERSEN Peter Riis *	TEAM-T-MOBILE	02:11:35	08:58
35	10	ESP19830901	LEJARRETA ERRASTI Inaki *	ORBEA	02:11:36	08:59
36	10	AUT19760923	BAUER Sigrid		02:11:37	09:00
37	67	SUI19780613	BUNDI Silvio		02:11:50	09:13
38	61	GER19810505	KASS Jochen *	TEAM-T-MOBILE	02:12:16	09:39
39	30	NOR19691210	HOYDAHL Rune	GIANT GLOBAL	02:12:24	09:47
40	50	BEL19800402	COENEN Davy *		02:12:36	09:59
41	54	AUT19770630	KIRCHER Robert	LANABAU-RW	02:12:45	10:08

42	11	SUI19700217	FRISCHKNECHT Thomas		02:13:08	10:31
43	32	GER19760824	SAHM Stefan	TEAM-T-MOBILE	02:13:19	10:42
44	10 4	NOR19780305	AUSTAD Hakon	MERIDA INTER.	02:13:49	11:12
45	57	POL19780806	KARCZYNSKI Marcin	LOTTO-PZU	02:14:07	11:30
46	94	GBR19661211	CLARKE Barrie		02:14:11	11:34
47	11 7	GER19780314	PLATT Karl		02:14:25	11:48
48	16 1	ESP19701211	ADRADA RODRIGUEZ Julian		02:14:33	11:56
49	12 4	GER19750625	MARX Torsten		02:14:47	12:10
50	14 8	GER19820702	BOHME Tim *		02:14:53	12:16
51	49	AUS19751114	FLEMING Josh		02:14:55	12:18
52	96	SUI19800510	NAF Ralph *		02:15:03	12:26
53	10 1	ESP19760529	GISPERT LABARTA Eloy		02:15:06	12:29
54	20	GER19740627	HANISCH Marc		02:15:18	12:41
55	17 3	FRA19780306	BOMBARDO Gregory		02:15:19	12:42
56	17 0	HUN19790113	BURUCKI Szilard		02:15:35	12:58
57	35	NED19800616	AL Thys *		02:15:43	13:06
58	11 1	MEX19750109	ZACARIAS Armando		02:15:58	13:21
59	10 2	DEN19790918	POULSEN Christian		02:16:06	13:29
60	91	SUI19780731	BISCHOF Christof		02:16:28	13:51
61	72	SWE19800517	KESSIAKOFF Fredrik *	TEAM CRESCENT	02:16:32	13:55
62	15 2	ESP19791201	AREVALO Jose Ignacio		02:16:33	13:56
63	12 8	BEL19791223	TIELENS Jimmy		02:16:35	13:58
64	77	ITA19740206	PALLHUBER Johann	LANABAU-RW	02:16:37	14:00
65	10 6	SUI19810120	WEBER Balz *	ARROW	02:16:44	14:07
66	74	SUI19740702	SOLER Daniel		02:16:47	14:10
67	86	SUI19800712	GIRARD Julien *		02:16:50	14:13
68	82	AUT19761214	RAMETSTEINER Roman		02:16:58	14:21
69	98	SWE19710426	PALMBERG Magnus		02:17:01	14:24
70	16 8	NOR19810502	NESSET SUNDAL Thomas *		02:17:01	14:24
71	87	GER19820318	SICKMUELLER Johannes *		02:17:02	14:25
72	73	AUT19770108	SCHEIDERBAUER Jorg	BE ONE XC	02:17:05	14:28
73	93	AUT19750731	KRALER Martin		02:17:07	14:30
74	10 3	ESP19681117	GARRO Juan Carlos		02:17:41	15:04
75	12 7	NOR19800401	STORMO Lars Petter *		02:18:20	15:43
76	92	GER19780511	DILGER Andreas		02:18:34	15:57
77	14 6	BEL19690113	POELVOORDE Ronny		02:18:35	15:58
78	11 6	GBR19800804	CRAWFORTH Jody *		02:18:43	16:06
79	17 2	GER19800924	LOSCH Stefan *		02:18:44	16:07
80	17 7	ESP19810728	GARCIA Santiago *		02:18:46	16:09
81	10 9	GBR19800216	DIXON Phil *		02:19:28	16:51
82	16 6	NOR19770429	MICHAELSEN Frode		02:19:28	16:51
83	55	AUT19810117	WEISS Michael *		02:19:35	16:58
84	79	NED19791010	BAKKER Erwin		02:19:44	17:07
85	15 6	GER19820428	BINDER Ludwig *		02:20:56	18:19
86	17 6	ESP19720101	ARJONA ARJONA Mario		02:21:20	18:43

87	15 1	NED19750424	DIJKHUIS Atze		02:21:23	18:46
88	14 9	NOR19781026	BOLSTAD Jorn Espen		02:21:57	19:20
89	13 2	GBR19790702	TOOGOOD Zak		02:22:07	19:30
90	16 4	DEN19810331	NIELSEN Tommy *		02:22:19	19:42
91	85	EST19720916	KUKK Sigvard	KAYABA-YEMA	02:22:21	19:44
92	18 2	CHN19780509	FUYU Li		02:22:40	20:03
93	14 7	AUS19841008	LOWE Trent *		02:24:25	21:48
94	14 4	ESP19751009	NOTARIO Francisco Javier		02:24:43	22:06
95	14 3	POR19791211	SIMAO Nelio		- 2 laps	
96	18 3	AUS19830308	LEIFMANN Aiden *		- 2 laps	
97	83	AUT19820206	WEBER Markus *		- 2 laps	
98	17 9	GER19811116	GENZE Hannes *		- 2 laps	
99	14 2	ESP19750526	ARMERO Santiago		- 2 laps	
100	16 7	ESP19801207	MEDINA REQUENA Abel *		- 2 laps	
101	18 1	CHN19760312	YONGBIA Zhu		- 2 laps	
102	11 4	NED19771105	TJALLINGII Maarten		- 2 laps	
103	16 2	GBR19760711	COOPER Philip		- 2 laps	
104	15 8	NOR19760627	JOHANSEN Aslak		- 2 laps	
105	11 9	POR19731024	FAISCO Antonio		- 2 laps	
106	14 1	POR19731130	FIGUEIREDO Ricardo		- 2 laps	
107	12 2	AUS19731205	LEIS Mark		- 2 laps	
108	13 5	ESP19760610	TRUJILLO Juan		- 2 laps	
109	76	USA19820226	FERGUSON Walker *	SUBARU-GARYFISH	- 2 laps	
110	15 7	GBR19770705	LANSLEY Adrian		- 2 laps	
111	10 7	SUI19770707	FAHRNI Ludovic		- 2 laps	
112	18 6	ESP19710117	CARNICER ROIG Francisco		- 2 laps	
113	17 4	GBR19781123	BURNETT Jody		- 2 laps	
114	11 3	RSA19760702	SWANEPOEL Ben Melt		- 4 laps	
115	16 3	BEL19750528	DE SCHOESITTER Steve		- 4 laps	
116	17 5	GBR19781019	DUNFORD Tim		- 4 laps	
117	18 4	AUS19830804	CRAWFORD Jai *		- 4 laps	
118	15 9	GBR19750429	GARDNER Sam		- 4 laps	
119	12 6	GRE19780403	KOTOULAS Emmanouil		- 4 laps	
120	17 8	ESP19780123	SANCHIS Alfonso		- 4 laps	
121	11 8	GRE19780802	SIMELIDIS Kostas		- 4 laps	
122	18 9	GRE19830101	KASKANIS Konstantinos *		- 4 laps	
	3	FRA19760117	MARTINEZ Miguel	MAPEI - QUICK STEP	DNF	

	18	ESP19781023	GISPERT LABARTA Marti	GIANT GLOBAL	DNF	
	19	AUS19710207	GORDON Craig		DNF	
	21	FRA19680808	DUPOUEY Christophe	GIANT GLOBAL	DNF	
	34	DEN19770522	BONNE Thomas		DNF	
	42	FRA19781126	RAVANEL Cedric	ORBEA	DNF	
	43	CAN19700512	HESTLER Andreas		DNF	
	44	GER19771130	GOLZ Marc	TEAM-T-MOBILE	DNF	
	45	FRA19740808	DIETSCH Thomas	MOTOREX-BIANCHI	DNF	
	52	AUT19780617	PRESSLAUER Peter		DNF	
	56	ESP19810928	COLOMA Carlos *	ORBEA	DNF	
	58	SUI19770213	KALBERER Thomas	ARROW	DNF	
	59	GBR19760607	BECKINGSALE Oliver		DNF	
	65	ESP19760317	MARQUEZ José		DNF	
	68	IRL19710406	SEYMOUR Robin		DNF	
	75	GBR19690403	CRAIG Nick		DNF	
	78	SUI19740621	HELLER Marcel	ARROW	DNF	
	81	GER19780221	ESCHENBACH Florian		DNF	
	99	SUI19800712	GIRARD Valentin *		DNF	
	12 1	GER19750517	KURSCHAT Wolfram		DNF	
	12 3	GBR19760723	COLLINS Dave		DNF	
	12 5	NOR19770103	STORMO Frederik		DNF	