

# MTB World Cup XC #3 & DH #2 - CDM

Champery, Switzerland, June 9-10, 2007

## June 9: Elite Men Cross Country, 49.9km

### Swiss lighten up home race

By Rob Jones in Champery, Switzerland – [cyclingnews.com](http://cyclingnews.com)

For the men's eight lap (plus start loop) race, the Swiss came out swinging - at one point, seven of the top-10 riders were Swiss, led by U23 World Cup leader and world champion Nino Schurter (Swisspower). A group consisting of Schurter, Sauser, Absalon and Roel Paulissen (Vredestein-Cannondale) established the lead bunch, with Schurter and Sauser setting the pace.

Just behind, Schurter's teammates, Florian Vogel and Thomas Frischknecht, were riding with Jose Hermida (Multivan Merida), Ralph Naef (Multivan Merida), and Cedric Ravanel (Lapierre).

On lap two, it began to rain, and for both Absalon and Sauser this changed the race dynamics completely. "I was pleased when it started raining," admitted Absalon. "I could see that I was stronger on the climbing parts, but the Swiss riders were better in the descents. When it began to rain, that made it so slippery that they could no longer go so fast in the technical parts."



Julien Absalon (Orbea)  
Photo ©: Rob Jones

Sauser had exactly the opposite view. "When the rain came, I was thinking &^\$#%! It changes things a lot, and you had to ride like you were on eggs. I knew it would be better for him, but then everything has to be perfect to win against Julien."

The rain stopped on lap four, and by that time, Absalon and Sauser had a one minute lead on Schurter and Paulissen, with Naef a further minute back. Sauser tried an attack on lap six, but Absalon was able to come back, and then on the seventh lap Absalon launched his own attack. Sauser was caught back, but then made a rare mistake on the downhill. "It was a stupid mistake," said Sauser. "I got my pedal stuck in a root," which allowed Absalon to open up the winning gap that he extended to 50 seconds by the finish.



Christophe Sauser (Specialized)  
Photo ©: Rob Jones

Schurter dropped Paulissen on lap seven to take third, with Naef finishing off an impressive fifth behind Paulissen after he worked his way up from 35th at the start. American Adam Craig (Giant) had what was probably the most impressive ride of the race to finish 10th, after starting in 63rd.

"What can I say; 'It's June, this is when I get in shape.' " commented Craig. "I was able to move up pretty quick(ly) initially - this course is a lot like the local race series in Bangor, Maine, so it was just like racing on home turf."

#### Race Notes

- Absalon now has a substantial lead over Sauser in the World Cup - 700 points to 490, with Hermida 10 points behind Sauser.

## Results - 47.9km

|    |                                                              |         |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1  | Julien Absalon (Fra) Orbea                                   | 2.12.44 |
| 2  | Christoph Sauser (Swi) Specialized                           | 0.50    |
| 3  | Nino Schurter (Swi) Swisspower MTB Team                      | 2.21    |
| 4  | Roel Paulissen (Bel) Cannondale-Vredestein                   | 2.49    |
| 5  | Ralph Naef (Swi) Multivan Merida Biking Team                 | 3.17    |
| 6  | Cedric Ravanel (Fra) Team Lapierre International             | 3.41    |
| 7  | Jose Antonio Hermida Ramos (Spa) Multivan Merida Biking Team | 3.49    |
| 8  | Thomas Frischknecht (Swi) Swisspower MTB Team                | 4.18    |
| 9  | Jaroslav Kulhavy (Cze)                                       | 4.27    |
| 10 | Adam Craig (USA) Giant Mountain Bike Team                    | 4.51    |
| 11 | Kashi Leuchs (NZl) Cannondale-Vredestein                     | 5.06    |
| 12 | Florian Vogel (Swi) Swisspower MTB Team                      | 5.13    |
| 13 | Jakob Fuglsang (Den) Cannondale-Vredestein                   | 5.19    |
| 14 | Jader Zoli (Ita) ASD KTM International Team                  | 5.45    |
| 15 | Manuel Fumic (Ger) Fumic.Brothers.International              | 6.03    |
| 16 | Ivan Alvarez Gutierrez (Spa) ASD KTM International Team      | 6.04    |
| 17 | Lukas Fluckiger (Swi) Athleticum MTB Team                    | 6.34    |
| 18 | Inaki Lejarreta Errasti (Spa) Orbea                          | 6.43    |
| 19 | Jean-Christophe Peraud (Fra) Orbea                           | 7.02    |
| 20 | Wolfram Kurschat (Ger)                                       | 7.08    |
| 21 | Filip Meirhaeghe (Bel) Versluys-Landbouwkrediet              | 7.22    |
| 22 | Martin Gujan (Swi)                                           | 7.25    |
| 23 | Jeremiah Bishop (USA) Trek-VW                                | 7.28    |
| 24 | Seamus Mcgrath (Can) Rocky Mountain Haywood                  | 7.36    |
| 25 | Rudi Van Houts (Ned) Dolphin Bike Team                       | 8.13    |
| 26 | Milan Spesny (Cze) Merida Biking Team                        | 8.51    |
| 27 | Jorg Graf (Swi) Scott Allianz Suisse                         | 8.53    |
| 28 | Silvio Bundi (Swi) Giant/Athleticum                          | 8.57    |
| 29 | Stephane Tempier (Fra) Gewiss Bianchi                        | 9.05    |
| 30 | Jeremy Horgan-Kobelski (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher              | 9.22    |
| 31 | Marek Galinski (Pol) CC-Polsat-Polkowice                     | 9.33    |
| 32 | Christoph Soukup (Aut)                                       | 9.47    |
| 33 | Rene Tann (Ger)                                              | 9.50    |
| 34 | Chris Jongewaard (Aus) Dolphin Bike Team                     | 9.57    |
| 35 | Carlos Coloma Nicolas (Spa) Spiuk-Tau Ceramica               | 10.09   |
| 36 | Hannes Metzler (Aut)                                         | 10.10   |
| 37 | Balz Weber (Swi) Bikepark.Ch Tui                             | 10.20   |
| 38 | Ludovic Dubau (Fra) Team New Cycling                         | 10.24   |
| 39 | Peter Riis Andersen (Den) Team ALB-Gold Mountainbike         | 10.28   |
| 40 | Bas Peters (Ned)                                             | 10.35   |
| 41 | Bart Brentjens (Ned) Dolphin Bike Team                       | 10.41   |
| 42 | Fredrik Kessiakoff (Swe) Cannondale-Vredestein               | 10.46   |
| 43 | Till Marx (Swi) Swisspower MTB Team                          | 10.49   |
| 44 | Martino Fruet (Ita)                                          | 10.54   |
| 45 | Matthias Fluckiger (Swi)                                     | 11.04   |
| 46 | Israel Nunez Baticon (Spa) Massi                             | 11.19   |
| 47 | Emil Lindgren (Swe) Gewiss Bianchi                           | 12.28   |
| 48 | Burry Stander (RSA)                                          | 12.36   |
| 49 | Ruben Ruzafa Cueto (Spa) Orbea                               | 12.47   |
| 50 | Marco Aurelio Fontana (Ita)                                  | 12.58   |
| 51 | Alexis Vuillermoz (Fra) Scott Valloire Galibier              | 13.37   |
| 52 | Yury Trofimov (Rus)                                          | 15.02   |

### One lap down

|    |                                                    |
|----|----------------------------------------------------|
| 53 | Gion Manetsch (Swi)                                |
| 54 | Christof Bischof (Swi) Bikin'cyprus Int'l MTB Team |
| 55 | Miha Solar (Slo)                                   |
| 56 | Alexandre Moos (Swi) BMC Racing                    |
| 57 | Alban Lakata (Aut) Trek-VW                         |
| 58 | Sergiy Rysenko (Ukr)                               |
| 59 | Marc Trayter Alemany (Spa) Spiuk-Tau Ceramica      |
| 60 | Michael Broderick (USA)                            |
| 61 | Fabian Giger (Swi)                                 |
| 62 | Lukas Kaufmann (Swi)                               |
| 63 | Tony Longo (Ita)                                   |

64 Marc Colom (Fra)  
65 Jan Skarnitzl (Cze)

**Two laps down**

66 Gareth Montgomerie (GBr)  
67 Maxim Gogolev (Rus)  
68 Nicolas Bazin (Fra) Bh-Sr. Suntour  
69 Guillaume Vinit (Fra) Scott Valloire Galibier  
70 Jelmer Pietersma (Ned) Beone Mountain bike team  
71 Michael Weiss (Aut) Bikin'cyprus Int'l MTB Team  
72 Patrik Gallati (Swi) Swisspower MTB Team  
73 Dario Alejandro Gasco (Arg) Massi  
74 Denis Vorontsov (Rus)  
75 Ivan Planzer (Swi)  
76 Francois Bailly Maitre (Fra) Scott Valloire Galibier  
77 Wilko Rochow (Ger)  
78 Jiri Friedl (Cze) Merida Biking Team  
79 Jelmer Jubbega (Ned) Cannondale-Vredestein  
80 Daniel Suter (Swi)  
81 Andreas Moser (Swi)  
82 Pierre Geoffroy Plantet (Fra) Team Lapierre International  
83 Yannick Bernasconi (Swi)

**Three laps down**

84 Andreas Kugler (Swi) Fischer-BMC  
85 Torsten Marx (Ger) Team ALB-Gold Mountainbike  
86 Robert Mennen (Ger)  
87 Mirko Pirazzoli (Ita)  
88 Luka Kodra (Slo)  
89 Frank Schotman (Ned)  
90 Giuseppe Lamastra (Ita)  
91 Marcel Wildhaber (Swi)  
92 Shaun Lewis (Aus)  
93 Michel Luginbuehl (Swi)  
94 Tobias Witzak (Ger)  
95 Sergio Mantecon Gutierrez (Spa) Massi  
96 Dries Govaerts (Bel)  
97 Robert Gehbauer (Aut) Multivan Merida Biking Team  
98 Vivien Legastelois (Fra) Team Lapierre International  
99 Karl Markt (Aut)  
100 Clinton Robert Avery (NZl)  
101 Umberto Corti (Ita)  
102 Jiri Novak (Cze)  
103 Andras Melts (Hun)

**Four laps down**

104 Dylan Cooper (Aus)  
105 Kohei Yamamoto (Jpn)  
106 Oleksandr Yakymenko (Ukr)  
107 Maxime Marotte (Fra)  
108 Yevgeniy Yakovlev (Kaz)  
109 Tom Meeusen (Bel)  
110 Daniel Mcconnell (Aus)  
111 Nicolas Vermeulen (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team  
112 Lachlan Norris (Aus)  
113 Pierre Lebreton (Fra) BH-SR. Suntour  
114 Andi Weinhold (Ger)  
115 Marcus Roy (NZl)  
116 Nicola Rohrbach (Swi)  
117 Ivan Schalbetter (Swi)  
118 Axel Bult (Ned)  
119 Peter Coddens (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team  
120 Bjorn Brems (Bel) Dolphin Bike Team  
121 Romain Lejeune (Fra) Team New Cycling

**Five laps down**

122 Nuno Oliveira (Por)  
123 Daniel SchUtz (Swi)  
124 Andriy Gumenyuk (Ukr)  
125 Daniel Braunsteins (Aus)  
126 Oliver Aviles Gilabert (Spa) Spiuk-Tau Ceramica

127 Anthony O'Boyle (GBr) Mojo Orange  
128 Marco Cellini (Ita)  
129 Ivan Grabovskyy (Ukr)  
130 Jules Chabanon (Fra) Team New Cycling  
131 Daniel Marques (Por)

**Six laps down**

132 Tim Bohme (Ger) Team ALB-Gold Mountainbike  
133 Roman Zhientaev (Kaz)  
134 Sid Taberlay (Aus) Dolphin Bike Team  
135 Kristian Hynek (Cze) Ceska Sportelna MTB  
136 James Fraser-Moodie (GBr)

**Seven laps down**

137 Marios Athanasiades (Cyp) Bikin'cyprus Int'l MTB Team

DNF Moritz Milatz (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team  
DNF Oliver Beckingsale (GBr)  
DNF Todd Wells (USA)  
DNF Marti Gispert Labarta (Spa) Spiuk-Tau Ceramica  
DNF Lado Fumic (Ger) Fumic.Brothers.International  
DNF Sven Nys (Bel)  
DNF Max Plaxton (Can) Rocky Mountain Haywood  
DNF Dariusz Batek (Pol) Halls Professional MTB Team  
DNF Jochen Kass (Ger) Team ALB-Gold Mountainbike  
DNF Martin Kraler (Aut) Gewiss Bianchi  
DNF Marcin Karczynski (Pol) Halls Professional MTB Team  
DNF Kris Sneddon (Can) Kona Les Gets  
DNF Olivier Maignan (Fra) BH-SR. Suntour  
DNF Martin Fanger (Swi)  
DNF Simon Richardson (GBr)  
DNF Quincy Vens (Bel)  
DNF Joris Boillat (Swi)  
DNF Andreas Tiberi (Ita) KTM International Team  
DNF Zaher El Hage (Lib)  
DNF Calle Friberg (Swe)  
DNS Philip Spencer (GBr) Subaru-Gary Fisher  
DNS Jeff Hall (USA)