

MTB World Cup XC # 1 - CDM

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April 22: Elite Men's XC

Hermida sets his 2007 season up with a victory

By Rob Jones in Houffalize, Belgium – cyclingnews.com

The men's race at the world Cup is usually a more open affair, with anyone of half a dozen riders with a chance to win on a given day. However, it was World and World Cup champion Julien Absalon (Orbea) who was the smart bet. Absalon has been so consistent over the past few seasons, that it takes a rider who is really on his game to beat him. Today that rider was José Antonio Hermida Ramos (Multivan Merida).

Local Belgian favourite and former Houffalize winner Roel Paulissen (Cannondale-Vredestein) had his hopes up when he took the lead on the first half loop before five full laps, but a mechanical issue pushed him back in the field, where he spent the day chasing back to an extremely respectable fourth. At that point, Hermida, Absalon and perennial fast starter Fredrik Kessiakoff (Cannondale-Vredestein) separated themselves from the rest of the field.



Jose Hermida
Photo ©: Rob Jones

By the second lap Hermida was 30 seconds up on Absalon, with Kessiakoff fading at 50 seconds. U23 world champion Nino Schurter (Swisspower) was well back in fifth, however, Christoph Sauser (Specialized) was making a strong ride up through the field from 18th. Sauser would eventually move into third, ahead of Paulissen, while Kessiakoff managed to hold onto the fifth.

Hermida was 45 seconds clear and riding strongly by the end of lap three, but halfway through the next lap Absalon was back up with him. Was the Spanish rider cracking? No: "José had a problem with a stuck chain, that is why I caught him", explained Absalon. "I attacked but he was too strong and came back to me."

But that wasn't the end of Hermida's troubles with a crash putting him on the back foot. "After I caught back up to Julien, we caught the (lead) moto on the downhill and he crashed, like a metre in front of me, so I crashed into him!," he explained. "When I looked at my bike, it was under the moto, so I thought that was it, but the spectators pulled the moto off my bike and it was okay."

Despite the potentially race ending setback the Spanish rider pushed on to challenge the world champ.

"In the final lap I was afraid of Julien, because he is such a good rider, but I could see him having problems in the downhills so I attacked there and was able to keep the gap," explained Hermida Ramos. "I didn't expect to win today, it was the sort of day you always dream of having, and to have it here in Houffalize - I have always dreamed of winning here, so words cannot properly describe it."

Race Notes

-Canadian Geoff Kabush (Maxxis) was the top North American, moving up from 55th on the start grid to a strong 12th place by the finish. Other North Americans struggled, with Todd Wells (GT) the best placed US rider in 36th.

"I was moving up all race," explained Kabush, "but it definitely wasn't as much as I had hoped for. I didn't make up the time on the hill like I wanted to, and it was hard to get places to pass. I know now that if I start top-10 I can do better and possibly be on the podium."

Results

1	Jose Antonio Hermida Ramos (Esp)	Multivan Merida Biking Team	2.04.22
2	Julien Absalon (Fra)	Orbea	0.48
3	Christoph Sauser (Sui)	Specialized	1.48
4	Roel Paulissen (Bel)	Cannondale-Vredestein	2.15
5	Fredrik Kessiakoff (Swe)	Cannondale-Vredestein	2.51
6	Nino Schurter (Sui)	Swisspower Mtb Team	3.35
7	Jakob Fuglsang (Den)	Cannondale-Vredestein	3.42
8	Kashi Leuchs (NZL)	Cannondale-Vredestein	4.16
9	Jader Zoli (Ita)	Ktm International Team	4.51
10	Inaki Lejarreta Errasti (Esp)	Orbea	4.59
11	Cedric Ravanel (Fra)	Team Lapierre International	5.20
12	Geoff Kabush (Can)	Maxxis	5.32
13	Karl Platt (Ger)	Team Bulls	5.41
14	Filip Meirhaeghe (Bel)	Versluys-Landbouwkrediet	5.56
15	Torsten Marx (Ger)	Team Alb-Gold Mountainbike	6.01
16	Hector Leonardo Paez Leon (Col)	Full-Dynamix-R.S.M.	6.14
17	Stefan Sahm (Ger)	Team Bulls	6.15
18	Thomas Frischknecht (Sui)	Swisspower Mtb Team	6.30
19	Marti Gispert Labarta (Esp)	Spiuk-Tau Ceramica	6.33
20	Lado Fumic (Ger)	Fumic.Brothers.International	6.38
21	Marek Galinski (Pol)		7.09
22	Jean-Christophe Peraud (Fra)	Orbea	7.32
23	Chris Jongewaard (Aus)	Dolphin Bike Team	7.36
24	Martin Gujan (Sui)		7.40
25	Oliver Beckingsale (GBr)	Giant	7.54
26	Manuel Fumic (Ger)	Fumic.Brothers.International	8.00
27	Bas Peters (Ned)		8.15
28	Ruben Ruzafa Cueto (Esp)	Orbea	8.19
29	Gion Manetsch (Sui)		8.33
30	Michael Weiss (Aut)	Bikin'cyprus Int'l Mtb Team	8.36
31	Stephane Tempier (Fra)	Gewiss Bianchi	8.39
32	Burrry Stander (RSA)	GT	8.59
33	Yury Trofimov (Rus)		9.18
34	Mirko Pirazzoli (Ita)		9.26
35	Lukas Fluckiger (Sui)		9.28
36	Todd Wells (USA)	GT	9.30
37	Massimo De Bertolis (Ita)	Full-Dynamix-R.S.M.	9.37
38	Jorg Graf (Sui)		9.47
39	Ivan Alvarez Gutierrez (Esp)	Ktm International Team	9.59
40	Moritz Milatz (Ger)	Multivan Merida Biking Team	
41	Jeremy Horgan-Kobelski (USA)	Subaru-Gary Fisher	10.19
42	Hannes Metzler (Aut)		10.23
43	Tim Bohme (Ger)	Team Alb-Gold Mountainbike	10.29
44	Sid Taberlay (Aus)	Dolphin Bike Team	10.30
45	Rudi Van Houts (Ned)	Dolphin Bike Team	10.59
46	Milan Spesny (Cze)	Merida Biking Team	11.19
47	Rene Tann (Ger)		
48	Alban Lakata (Aut)	Trek-VW	11.42
49	Wolfram Kurschat (Ger)		11.43
50	Balz Weber (Sui)	Bikepark.Ch Tui	11.45
51	Bart Brentjens (Ned)	Dolphin Bike Team	11.55
52	Maxim Gogolev (Rus)		12.09
53	Silvio Bundi (Sui)		12.11
54	Jiri Friedl (Cze)	Merida Biking Team	12.23
55	Matthias Fluckiger (Sui)		12.27
56	Giuseppe Lamastra (Ita)		12.33
57	Bjorn Brems (Bel)	Dolphin Bike Team	12.40
58	Ludovic Dubau (Fra)	Team New Cycling	12.54
59	Tony Longo (Ita)		12.56
60	Jerome Chevallier (Fra)		13.07
61	Pierre Geoffroy Plantet (Fra)	Team Lapierre International	13.16
62	Denis Vorontsov (Rus)		13.41
63	Daniel Mcconnell (Aus)		13.48

64	Marc Trayter	Alemany (Esp)	Spiuk-Tau Ceramica	13.54
65	Jelmer Pietersma	(Ned)		14.29
66	Jan Skarnitzl	(Cze)		14.46
67	Marc Colom	(Fra)		15.02
68	Emil Lindgren	(Swe)	Gewiss Bianchi	15.20
69	Jochen Kass	(Ger)	Team Alb-Gold Mountainbike	15.53
70	Davy Coenen	(Bel)	2mega-Saeco	15.56
71	Nicolas Bazin	(Fra)	Bh-Sr. Suntour	16.07
72	Samuel Schultz	(USA)	Subaru-Gary Fisher	16.27
73	Tim Wijnants	(Bel)	Dolphin Bike Team	16.51
74	Quincy Vens	(Bel)		16.58
75	Kristian Hynek	(Cze)	Ceska Sportitelna Mtb	17.08
76	Robert Gehbauer	(Aut)	Multivan Merida Biking Team	17.10
77	Lachlan Norris	(Aus)		17.14
78	Ian Bibby	(GBr)		17.21
79	Daniel Suter	(Sui)		17.24
80	Andreas Kugler	(Sui)	Fischer-Bmc	17.31
81	Kris Sneddon	(Can)	Kona Les Gets	17.34
82	Ivan Planzer	(Sui)		17.44
83	Klaus Nielsen	(Den)	Team Alb-Gold Mountainbike	17.51
84	Miha Solar	(Slo)		17.58
85	Lukas Kaufmann	(Sui)		18.04
86	Lukas Vlach	(Cze)	Merida Biking Team	18.10
87	Mattias Wengelin	(Swe)		18.17
88	Till Marx	(Sui)	Swisspower Mtb Team	18.41
89	Joris Boillat	(Sui)		18.52
90	Axel Bult	(Ned)		18.59
91	Frank Schotman	(Ned)		19.15
92	Fabian Giger	(Sui)		19.26
93	Filip Eberl	(Cze)		19.46
94	Rick Evers	(Ned)	Beone Mountainbiketeam	19.57
95	Igor Bogdan	(Ukr)		20.03
96	Shaun Lewis	(Aus)		20.07
97	Paolo Montoya	(Crc)	Macosta - Leecougan	20.10
98	Max Plaxton	(Can)	Rocky Mountain Haywood	20.29
99	Michael Broderick	(USA)		20.31
100	Ondrej Zeleny	(Cze)		20.45
101	Vivien Legastelois	(Fra)	Team Lapierre Internation	20.47
102	Maxime Marotte	(Fra)		
103	Ivan Seledkov	(Rus)		20.55
104	Robert Odink	(Sui)		21.01
105	Clinton Robert Avery	(NZl)		21.13
106	Andi Weinhold	(Ger)		21.16
107	Max Friedrich	(Ger)		22.16
108	Luka Kodra	(Slo)		22.57
109	Adam Craig	(USA)	Giant Mountain Bike Team	24.13

1 lap behind

110	Sam Jurekovic	(USA)	
111	Andras Melts	(Hun)	
112	Hans Becking	(Ned)	Beone Mountainbiketeam
113	Jiri Novak	(Cze)	
114	Andreas Moser	(Sui)	
115	Philip Spencer	(GBr)	Subaru-Gary Fisher
116	FranCois Bailly Maitre	(Fra)	Scott Valloire Galibier
117	Pierre Lebreton	(Fra)	Bh-Sr. Suntour
118	Jimmy Tielens	(Bel)	2mega-Saeco
119	Bilal Akgul	(Tur)	
120	Pascal Meyer	(Sui)	
121	Max Oste Macdonald	(Swe)	
122	Frank Beemer	(Ned)	Dolphin Bike Team
123	Daniel Braunsteins	(Aus)	
124	Lee Williams	(GBr)	
125	Anton Gogolev	(Rus)	
126	Calle Friberg	(Swe)	
127	Israel Nunez Baticon	(Esp)	Massi

128 Ruud Rentmeester (Ned)
129 Joris Massaer (Bel)
130 Jiri Hudecek (Cze)
131 Lars Bleckur (Swe)
132 Vaclav Hlavac (Cze)
133 Ludovic Mottet (Bel)
134 Nicolas Vermeulen (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team
135 Tim Heemskerk (Ned)
136 Tim Ottens (Ned) Beone Mountainbiketeam
137 Sergiy Rysenko (Ukr)
138 Kevin Van Hoovels (Bel)
139 Kristof Bomans (Bel)
140 Peter Coddens (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team
141 Roland Plank (Aut)
142 Nieck Busser (Ned)
143 Freddy Betremieux (Fra)
144 Ole Christian Fagerli (Nor) Team Etto Hoydahl
145 Bogdan Czarnota (Pol)
146 Niels Wubben (Ned)
147 Damian Mroncz (Pol)
148 Erik Nellen (Ned)
149 Periklis Ilias (Gre)

2 laps behind

150 Jordy Luisman (Ned)
151 Julio Humberto Caro Silva (Col) Full-Dynamix-R.S.M.
152 Hjalmar Bengtsson (Swe)
153 Jelmer Jubbega (Ned) Cannondale-Vredestein
154 Uwe Hochenwarter (Aut)
155 Guillaume Vinit (Fra) Scott Valloire Galibier
156 Gody Jacobs (Bel)
157 Oliver Aviles Gilabert (Esp) Spiuk-Tau Ceramica
158 Patrik Gallati (Sui) Swisspower Mtb Team
159 Alexander Wetterhall (Swe)
160 Rob Vangenechten (Bel) 2mega-Saeco
161 John Paul Pearton (RSA)
162 Martin Matrat (Fra) Bh-Sr. Suntour
163 William Bjergfelt (GBr)
164 Oleksandr Yakymenko (Ukr)
165 Jeff Hall (USA)
166 Dries Hollanders (Bel) 2mega-Saeco
167 Bart Van Hecke (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team
168 Kamil Alev (Tur) Goldcity Alanya
169 Rotem Ishai (Isr)
170 Lukas Sablik (Cze)

3 laps behind

171 JErOme Junker (Lux)
172 Truls Haugseth (Nor) Team Etto Hoydahl
173 Evgeny Krylov (Rus)
174 Tom Last (GBr)
175 Muammer Yildiz (Tur)
176 Mehmet Kurt (Tur)
177 Georgios Pattes-Toumanis (Gre)
178 Jules Chabanon (Fra) Team New Cycling
179 Dror Pekatch (Isr) Subaru-Gary Fisher
180 Ugur Hakki Tosun (Tur) Goldcity Alanya
181 Ian Creber (GBr)
DNF Florian Vogel (Sui) Swisspower Mtb Team
DNF Ralph Naef (Sui) Multivan Merida Biking Team
DNF Martin Kraler (Aut) Gewiss Bianchi
DNF Carlos Coloma Nicolas (Esp) Spiuk-Tau Ceramica
DNF Peter Riis Andersen (Den) Team Alb-Gold Mountainbike
DNF Christoph Soukup (Aut)
DNF Karl Markt (Aut)

DNF Marco Aurelio Fontana (Ita)
DNF Jeremiah Bishop (USA) Trek-VW
DNF Nicolas Filippi (Fra) Scott Valloire Galibier
DNF Christof Bischof (Sui) Bikin'cyprus Int'l Mtb Team
DNF Dylan Cooper (Aus)
DNF Jaroslav Kulhavy (Cze)
DNF John Jairo Botero Salazar (Col) Macosta - Leecougan
DNF Andrea Tiberi (Ita) Asd Ktm International Tea
DNF Colin Cares (USA)
DNF Anders Hovdenes (Nor) Team Etto Hoydahl
DNF Dariusz Batek (Pol) Halls Professional Mtb
DNF Sergio Mantecon Gutierrez (Esp) Massi
DNF Martino Fruet (Ita)
DNF Evguen Petchenine (Rus) Format-Udmurtia
DNF Marcin Karczynski (Pol) Halls Professional Mtb
DNF Dario Alejandro Gasco (Arg) Massi
DNF Marios Athanasiades (Cyp) Bikin'cyprus Int'l Mtb Team
DNF Olivier Maignan (Fra) Bh-Sr. Suntour
DNF Magnus Darvell (Swe)
DNF Thijs Al (Ned) Beone Mountainbiketeam
DNF Romain Lejeune (Fra) Team New Cycling
DNF Hannes Genze (Ger) Team Alb-Gold Mountainbike
DNF Halil Korkmaz (Tur) Goldcity Alanya
DNF Paul Oldham (GBr)
DNF Roman Rametsteiner (Aut)
DNF Steffen Thum (Ger) Team Mayer Stevens
DNF Peter Frohlich (Aut) Team Hotec / Rsp
DNF Alexis Vuillermoz (Fra) Scott Valloire Galibier
DNF Oldrich Hakl (Cze) Merida Biking Team
DNF Zdenek Mlynar (Cze) Max Cursor
DNF Gerry Werckx (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team
DNF Juri Ragnoli (Ita) Macosta - Leecougan
DNF Alexey Medvedev (Rus)
DNF Mathijs Wagenaar (Ned)
DNF Severin Disch (Sui)
DNF Martin Fanger (Sui)
DNF Kryspin Pyrgies (Pol)
DNF Ivan Schalbetter (Sui)
DNF Patrick Gaudy (Bel)
DNF Michel Luginbuehl (Sui)
DNF Tobias Witzack (Ger)
DNF Radim Korinek (Cze)
DNS Tomas Vokrouhlik (Cze)