

MTB World Cup XC # 2 - CDM

Offenburg, Germany, May 26-27, 2007

Race 4 - May 27: Elite Men XC

Absalon takes his first 2007 World Cup

By Rob Jones in Offenburg – cyclingnews.com

The cross-country Mountain Bike World Cup started up again on Sunday in Offenburg, Germany with round two after a one month break, and we saw rather different podiums for both the men and the women than at the opener in Houffalize, Belgium. On the men's side, Jose Hermida (Multivan Merida) could not duplicate the masterful ride he had in Houffalize, and world champion Julien Absalon (Orbea) proved once again to be the class of the field with a dominating ride. Absalon took a commanding 90 point lead in the men's series over Hermida.

The men's race started in the rain, and officials wisely decided on the line to shorten the race by a lap to one start loop and 7 laps. Out of the start loop it was Roel Paulissen (Cannondale-Vredestein) in the lead, with world number one ranked Geoff Kabush (Maxxis) of Canada well positioned in fifth. Unfortunately for Kabush, the first of a series of mishaps took place on the third corner in the race, when he slid out, losing over 20 places. He would eventually finish 51st, after multiple stops in the tech zones to replace his seat and seatpost, and falling as far back as the high 70's.



Absalon wins
Photo ©: Rob Jones

Absalon, Hermida, Fredrik Kessiakoff (Cannondale-Vredestein), Kashi Leuchs (Cannondale-Vredestein), Roel Paulissen (Cannondale-Vredestein), Nino Schurter (Swisspower), Florian Vogel (Swisspower) and Christoph Sauser (Specialized) made up the front group, but it was soon decimated by mechanicals and crashes.



Jose Hermida (Multivan Merida)
Photo ©: Rob Jones

Kessiakoff went out on lap one in a crash, while Vogel and Schurter were caught with broken rear derailleurs on lap four. Schurter managed to finish and retain his lead in the U23 World Cup standings. Paulissen gradually faded, and Hermida was the victim of chainsuck caused by mud; after which he never recaptured the frontrunners.

Absalon took over the lead on lap two, and gradually rode away from the field, to eventually win by nearly three minutes under clearing skies for the second half of the race. Cedric Ravanel (Lapierre) steadily worked his way up to finish second, with Lukas Fluckiger (Athleticum) passing Jean-Christophe Peraud (Orbea) in the final lap to take third. Leuchs, having a superb ride that never saw him drop below seventh, took the final podium spot.

Absalon credited his win to "my condition and luck. I did my preparation to be good here at this race and for the next part of the season with all the World Cups. I got a gap on the first downhill, and then I tried to be safe. As the mud became sticky I took a bottle in each feed zone and cleaned the chain. It lost maybe 20 seconds, but I think it was very important and stopped me from having problems like some other riders."

Race Notes

- Todd Wells (GT) was the top North American rider, in 25th, one spot ahead of Max Plaxton (Rocky Mountain-Haywood), who came back from a mechanical to become the second U23 finisher. Plaxton moves to third in the U23 standings.

- Cyclo-cross star Sven Nys (Belgian National) moved up from a starting position of 142 to finish a very respectable 24th. Nys was as high as 13th in lap six before fading in the last lap.

- Despite the weather, an estimated 15,000 spectators jammed all the drops, buying bratwurst and beer at tents and listening to techno pop blasting out over loudspeakers. Organizers say that the UCI has already asked them to apply for a sanction for next year.



Todd Wells (GT)
Photo ©: Rob Jones

Results

1	Julien Absalon (Fra) Orbea	2.18.54
2	Cedric Ravanel (Fra) Team Lapierre International	2.42
3	Lukas Fluckiger (Sui) Athleticum MTB Team	3.12
4	Jean-Christophe Peraud (Fra) Orbea	3.37
5	Kashi Leuchs (NZL) Cannondale-Vredestein	3.45
6	Christoph Sauser (Sui) Specialized	4.15
7	Thomas Frischknecht (Sui) Swisspower Mtb Team	4.18
8	Jose Antonio Hermida Ramos (Esp) Multivan Merida Biking Team	4.45
9	Filip Meirhaeghe (Bel) Versluys-Landbouwkrediet	5.15
10	Yury Trofimov (Rus)	7.02
11	Bart Brentjens (Ned) Dolphin Bike Team	7.11
12	Jaroslav Kulhavy (Cze)	7.47
13	Roel Paulissen (Bel) Cannondale-Vredestein	8.17
14	Moritz Milatz (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team	8.22
15	Balz Weber (Sui) Bikepark.Ch Tui	
16	Milan Spesny (Cze) Merida Biking Team	8.36
17	Till Marx (Sui) Swisspower Mtb Team	8.47
18	Ralph Naef (Sui) Multivan Merida Biking Team	9.20
19	Chris Jongewaard (Aus) Dolphin Bike Team	9.28
20	Torsten Marx (Ger) Team Alb-Gold Mountainbik	9.54
21	Jrg Graf (Sui)	10.01
22	Silvio Bundi (Sui)	10.44
23	Rudi Van Houts (Ned) Dolphin Bike Team	10.49
24	Sven Nys (Bel)	10.58
25	Todd Wells (USA) GT	11.06
26	Max Plaxton (Can) Rocky Mountain Haywood	11.23
27	Marek Galinski (Pol) CC-Polsat-Polkowice	11.43
28	Peter Riis Andersen (Den) Team Alb-Gold Mountainbike	11.47
29	Sid Taberlay (Aus) Dolphin Bike Team	11.48
30	Jeremiah Bishop (USA) Trek-Vw	11.51
31	Gion Manetsch (Sui)	12.11
32	Oliver Beckingsale (GBr)	12.25
33	Inaki Lejarreta Errasti (Esp) Orbea	12.32
34	Hannes Metzler (Aut)	12.33
35	Dariusz Batek (Pol) Halls Professional Mtb Team	12.53
36	Francois Bailly Maitre (Fra) Scott Valloire Galibier	12.58
37	Jochen Kass (Ger) Team Alb-Gold Mountainbike	13.01
38	Martin Kraler (Aut) Gewiss Bianchi	13.28
39	Tony Longo (Ita)	13.51
40	Samuel Schultz (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	14.13
41	Martino Fruet (Ita)	14.23
42	Adam Craig (USA) Giant Mountain Bike Team	14.38
43	Jan Skarnitzl (Cze)	14.54
44	Stefan Sahm (Ger) Team Bulls	15.02
45	Karl Markt (Aut)	15.10
46	Ivan Alvarez Gutierrez (Esp) Asd Ktm International Team	15.16
47	Rene Tann (Ger)	15.21
48	Carlos Coloma Nicolas (Esp) Spiuk-Tau Ceramica	15.29
49	Marco Aurelio Fontana (Ita)	15.34
50	Christof Bischof (Sui) Bikin'cyprus Int'l Mtb Team	15.40
51	Geoff Kabush (Can) Maxxis	16.04
52	Ludovic Dubau (Fra) Team New Cycling	16.35
53	Israel Nunez Baticon (Esp) Massi	16.49
54	Manuel Fumic (Ger) Fumic.Brothers.International	17.03
55	Hector Leonardo Paez Leon (Col) Full-Dynamix-R.S.M.	17.31
56	Bjorn Brems (Bel) Dolphin Bike Team	18.15
57	Sergio Mantecon Gutierrez (Esp) Massi	18.20
58	Pascal Meyer (Sui)	18.26
59	Alexis Vuillermoz (Fra) Scott Valloire Galibier	18.30
60	Bas Peters (Ned)	18.36
61	Matthias Fluckiger (Sui)	18.43
62	Kris Sneddon (Can) Kona Les Gets	18.50
63	Burry Stander (RSA) GT	19.08
64	Emil Lindgren (Swe) Gewiss Bianchi	19.17
65	Vaclav Hlavac (Cze)	19.18
66	Stephane Tempier (Fra) Gewiss Bianchi	19.23
67	Pierre Geoffroy Plantet (Fra) Team Lapierre International	19.55

68 Maxime Marotte (Fra)	20.00
69 Daniel Suter (Sui)	20.19
70 Martin Fanger (Sui)	20.40
71 Thijs Al (Ned) Beone Mountainbiketeam	21.08
72 Maxim Gogolev (Rus)	21.49
73 Filip Eberl (Cze)	22.43

1 lap behind

74 Andreas Kugler (Sui) Fischer-Bmc

2 laps behind

75 Denis Vorontsov (Rus)
76 Jakob Fuglsang (Den) Cannondale-Vredestein
77 Miha Solar (Slo)
78 Frank Lehmann (Ger)
79 Hans Becking (Ned) Beone Mountainbiketeam
80 Nicolas Filippi (Fra) Scott Valloire Galibier
81 Dario Alejandro Gasco (Arg) Massi
82 Jiri Novak (Cze)
83 Nicolas Bazin (Fra) Bh-Sr. Suntour
84 Ivan Seledkov (Rus)
85 John Jairo Botero Salazar (Col) Macosta - Leecougan

3 laps behind

86 Fabian Giger (Sui)
87 Jelmer Pietersma (Ned) Beone Mountainbiketeam
88 Simon Richardson (GBr)
89 Alban Lakata (Aut) Trek-Vw
90 Gareth Montgomerie (GBr)
91 Kryspin Pyrgies (Pol)
92 Marcus Roy (NZl)
93 Marcel Wildhaber (Sui)
94 Jeff Hall (USA)
95 Davy Coenen (Bel) 2mega-Saeco
96 Anton Gogolev (Rus)
97 Ian Bibby (GBr)
98 Andreas Moser (Sui)
99 Lukas Kaufmann (Sui)
100 Olivier Maignan (Fra) Bh-Sr. Suntour
101 Sam Jurekovic (USA)
102 Vivien Legastelois (Fra) Team Lapierre International
103 Arnaud Grosjean (Fra) Bh-Sr. Suntour
104 Andi Weinhold (Ger)
105 Marc Trayter Alemany (Esp) Spiuk-Tau Ceramica
106 Tim Wijnants (Bel) Dolphin Bike Team
107 Ludovic Mottet (Bel)
108 Steffen Thum (Ger) Team Mayer Stevens
109 Dylan Cooper (Aus)
110 Yevgeniy Yakovlev (Kaz)
111 Kristof Bomans (Bel)
112 Robert Kircher (Aut)
113 Marc Colom (Fra)
114 Jeremy Horgan-Kobelski (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher
115 Patrick Gaudy (Bel)
116 Martin Bratland (Nor) Team Etto Hoydahl
117 Lachlan Norris (Aus)
118 Nicolas Vermeulen (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team
119 Calle Friberg (Swe)
120 Evguen Pechenine (Rus) Format-Udmurtia
121 Robert Gehbauer (Aut) Multivan Merida Biking Team
122 Pierre Lebreton (Fra) Bh-Sr. Suntour
123 Marcus Giese (Ger)
124 Wolfram Kurschat (Ger)
125 Milan Barennyi (Svk)

4 laps behind

126 Luka Kodra (Slo)
127 Colin Cares (USA)
128 Ivan Planzer (Sui)
129 Frank Schotman (Ned)
130 Nieck Busser (Ned)
131 Michael Broderick (USA)
132 Andras Melts (Hun)
133 Lukas Hanus (Svk)
134 Jordy Luisman (Ned)
135 Marios Athanasiades (Cyp) Bikin'cyprus Int'l Mtb Team
136 Tim Ottens (Ned) Beone Mountainbiketeam
137 Jiri Hudecek (Cze)
138 Rob Vangenechten (Bel) 2mega-Saeco
139 Bilal Akgul (Tur)
140 Michal Plesnik (Svk)
141 Joan Marc Perarnau (Esp) Massi
142 Truls Haugseth (Nor) Team Etto Hoydahl
143 Daniel Braunsteins (Aus)
144 Bogdan Czarnota (Pol)
145 Tobias Witzak (Ger)
146 Paolo Montoya (Crc) Macosta - Leecougan
147 Daniel Scholtz (Sui)
148 Axel Bult (Ned)
149 Rotem Ishai (Isr)
150 Oliver Aviles Gilabert (Esp) Spiuk-Tau Ceramica
151 Peter Coddens (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team
152 Dzintars Ozolins (Lat)
153 Shaun Lewis (Aus)
154 Ole Christian Fagerli (Nor) Team Etto Hoydahl
155 Dror Pekatch (Isr) Subaru-Gary Fisher
156 Jelmer Jubbega (Ned) Cannondale-Vredestein

5 laps behind

157 Daniel Mcconnell (Aus)
158 Kamil Alev (Tur) Goldcity Alanya
159 Clinton Robert Avery (NZl)
160 Bojan Djurdjic (Srb)
161 Didzis Praulins (Lat)
162 Roman Zhientaev (Kaz)
163 Boris Popovic (Srb)
164 Reinis Andrijanovs (Lat)
165 Ruud Rentmeester (Ned)
166 Marcel Reiser (Ger)
167 Frank Beemer (Ned) Dolphin Bike Team
168 Anthony Mann (Ger) Team Mayer Stevens
169 Wilko Rochow (Ger)
170 Roland Plank (Aut)
171 Zoran Zivkovic (Srb)
DNF Fredrik Kessiakoff (Swe) Cannondale-Vredestein
DNF Nino Schurter (Sui) Swisspower Mtb Team
DNF Jader Zoli (Ita) Asd Ktm International Team
DNF Karl Platt (Ger) Team Bulls
DNF Marti Gispert Labarta (Esp) Spiuk-Tau Ceramica
DNF Lado Fumic (Ger) Fumic.Brothers.International
DNF Martin Gujan (Sui)
DNF Ruben Ruzafa Cueto (Esp) Orbea
DNF Michael Weiss (Aut) Bikin'cyprus Int'l Mtb Team
DNF Mirko Pirazzoli (Ita)
DNF Massimo De Bertolis (Ita) Full-Dynamix-R.S.M.
DNF Jiri Friedl (Cze) Merida Biking Team
DNF Giuseppe Lamastra (Ita)
DNF Seamus Mcgrath (Can) Rocky Mountain Haywood
DNF Florian Vogel (Sui) Swisspower Mtb Team

DNF Christoph Soukup (Aut)
DNF Marc Bassingthwaighte (Nam)
DNF Andrea Tiberi (Ita) Asd Ktm International
DNF Johann Pallhuber (Ita)
DNF Oriol Morata Abril (Esp)
DNF Kristian Hynek (Cze) Ceska Sportelna Mtb
DNF Alexey Medvedev (Rus)
DNF Alexandre Moos (Sui) BMC Racing
DNF Radim Korynek (Cze)
DNF Klaus Nielsen (Den) Team Alb-Gold Mountainbike
DNF Rick Evers (Ned) Beone Mountainbiketeam
DNF Robert Odink (Sui)
DNF Joris Massae (Bel)
DNF Patrik Gallati (Sui) Swisspower Mtb Team
DNF Jules Chabanon (Fra) Team New Cycling
DNF Heiko Gutmann (Ger)
DNF Robert Mennen (Ger)
DNF Toms Veinbergs (Lat)
DNS Philip Spencer (GBr) Subaru-Gary Fisher
DNS Anders Hovdenes (Nor) Team Etto Hoydahl
DNS Max Oste Macdonald (Swe)
DNS Roman Rametsteiner (Aut)