

MTB World Cup XC #2 - CDM

Offenburg, Germany, April 26-27, 2008

April 27: Elite men cross country

Absalon wins again in Offenburg

By Luke Webber in Offenburg, Germany – cyclingnews.com

Under the perfect conditions for mountain bike racing with blue skies, dusty trail and warm temperatures Julien Absalon rode away from the field without effort underlying his class and dominance when it comes to men's cross country racing.

Much like the women's race earlier in the day a long queue of riders formed before the first singletrack. An additional start loop was not enough to spread the 230-strong field and for the first lap at least a group of twenty riders headed the race including all of the favourites.

The start was not Absalon's strongest, but by halfway through the first full 5km lap he was back taking control of the race. Here the main challengers emerged, along with a few less familiar faces that soon paid for their early exertions. After three laps it was easy to see what sort of race was shaping up.



Absalon celebrates a repeat victory in Offenburg, this time without mud
Photo: Luke Webber

A lead group containing Absalon, Hermida, Schurter, Vogel and Sauser controlled the race while behind Adam Craig was flying just moments away from the top spots. Just as he was about to bridge however, Absalon put his plans forward and such was the pace, nobody could give any more.

This blew the race into a small chase group of Schurter, Vogel and Hermida, trailed by Sauser and Craig. This lasted two laps until which time everyone had recovered and the racing could start once more. In this time it was possible for Frederik Kessiakoff and Burry Stander to make gains and their results would be massively helped by what followed.

First, riders who pushed too hard early on had to drop their pace and second Jose Hermida had bad luck. A snapped chain and long walk to the tech zone followed, killing any chance of a top result.

In less than two hours Absalon had managed to put a minute into the chasers, which were headed by Sauser. Even though he faded when the attacks went on lap five, his deep strength allowed a comeback and even a small sprint to overhaul fellow countryman Florian Vogel. Schurter's fourth place finish meant there were three Swiss in the top five.

Adam Craig's week of adaptation to the Euro lifestyle, following a late fly-in to Houffalize obviously paid off, finishing top American in eighth. Todd Wells went well early on, eventually getting 23rd proving last week was no fluke.

Results

1	Julien Absalon (Fra) Orbea	1.58.42
2	Christoph Sauser (Swi) Specialized Factory Racing	0.51
3	Florian Vogel (Swi) Swisspower MTB Team	0.54
4	Nino Schurter (Swi) Swisspower MTB Team	1.06
5	Jean-Christophe Peraud (Fra) Orbea	1.53
6	Fredrik Kessiakoff (Swe) Full-Dynamix-IT	2.00
7	Burrry Stander (RSA) GT Bicycles	2.10
8	Adam Craig (USA) Giant Mountain Bike Team	2.22
9	Seamus McGrath (Can)	2.32
10	Marco Aurelio Fontana (Ita)	2.40
11	Jakob Fuglsang (Den) Cannondale-Vredestein	2.50
12	Cedric Ravanel (Fra) Team Lapierre International	2.55
13	Ivan Alvarez Gutierrez (Spa) Giant Italia Team	2.59
14	Kashi Leuchs (NZl) Cannondale-Vredestein	3.00
15	Inaki Lejarreta Errasti (Spa) Orbea	3.05
16	Martin Gujan (Swi) Athleticum-MTB-Team	3.22
17	Thomas Frischknecht (Swi) Swisspower MTB Team	3.26
18	Jorg Graf (Swi) Swisspower MTB Team	3.30
19	Geoff Kabush (Can) Team Maxxis	3.35
20	Rudi Van Houts (Ned) Dolphin-Trek Mountainbike Racing Team	3.36
21	Ruben Ruzafa Cueto (Spa) Orbea	3.38
22	Christoph Soukup (Aut)	4.24
23	Todd Wells (USA) GT Bicycles	4.42
24	Jose Antonio Hermida Ramos (Spa) Multivan Merida Biking Team	4.48
25	Carlos Coloma Nicolas (Spa) ECP-TAU Ceramica	5.00
26	Manuel Fumic (Ger) Fumic.Brothers.International	5.05
27	Matthias Fluckiger (Swi) Athleticum-MTB-Team	5.05
28	Moritz Milatz (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team	5.09
29	Chris Jongewaard (Aus) Dolphin-Trek Mountainbike Racing Team	5.18
30	Oliver Beckingsale (GBr) Giant Mountain Bike Team	5.22
31	Stephane Tempier (Fra) Gewiss Bianchi	5.48
32	Roel Paulissen (Bel) Cannondale-Vredestein	5.51
33	Lado Fumic (Ger) Fumic.Brothers.International	5.54
34	Yader Zoli (Ita) Giant Italia Team	5.56
35	Milan Spesny (Cze) Merida Biking Team	6.04
36	Gion Manetsch (Swi) Athleticum-MTB-Team	6.17
37	Martino Fruet (Ita)	6.54
38	Jaroslav Kulhavy (Cze)	7.11
39	Alexis Vuillermoz (Fra) Scott Valloire Galibier	7.14
40	Marek Galinski (Pol) JBG2-APC Presmet	7.16
41	Emil Lindgren (Swe) Full-Dynamix-IT	7.22
42	Frank Schotman (Ned)	7.26
43	Hannes Metzler (Aut) Giant Mountain Bike Team	7.39
44	Sergio Mantecon Gutierrez (Spa) Cemelorca-Seguros10.com	7.46
45	Karl Markt (Aut)	7.54
46	Peter Riis Andersen (Den) Team Alb-Gold Mountainbike	8.00
47	Lachlan Norris (Aus)	8.02
48	Derek Zandstra (Can)	8.06
49	Tim Bohme (Ger) Team Alb-Gold Mountainbike	8.15
50	Jan Skarnitzl (Cze)	8.16
51	Israel Nunez Baticon (Spa) Massi	8.20
52	Pascal Meyer (Swi)	8.31
53	Ricky Federau (Can)	8.37
54	Jochen Kass (Ger) Team Alb-Gold Mountainbike	8.49
55	Fabian Giger (Swi)	8.59
56	Pierre Lebreton (Fra) BH - SR. Suntour	9.20
57	Tony Longo (Ita) Full-Dynamix-IT	9.23
58	Giuseppe Lamastra (Ita)	9.45
59	Bas Peters (Ned)	9.48
60	Lukas Kaufmann (Swi)	9.53
61	Jeremy Horgan-Kobelski (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	9.58
62	Martin Fanger (Swi)	10.05
63	Hannes Genze (Ger) Team Alb-Gold Mountainbike	10.14
64	Karl Platt (Ger) Team Bulls	10.22
65	Liam Killeen (GBr) Specialized Factory Racing	10.47
66	Patrik Gallati (Swi) Swisspower MTB Team	10.51
67	Maxime Marotte (Fra) BH - SR. Suntour	10.58

68	Bart Brentjens (Ned) Dolphin-Trek Mountainbike Racing Team	11.09
69	Juan Pedro Trujillo Hernandez (Spa) Cemelorca-Seguros10.com	11.22
70	Filip Meirhaeghe (Bel) Versluys-Landbouwkrediet MTB Team	11.38
71	Mattias Wengelin (Swe)	11.58
72	Mannie Heymans (Nam)	12.06
73	Mirko Pirazzoli (Ita)	12.08
74	Hector Leonardo Paez Leon (Col) Gewiss Bianchi	12.15
75	Filip Eberl (Cze)	12.17
76	Dario Alejandro Gasco (Arg) Massi	12.54
77	Christof Bischof (Swi)	13.10
78	FranCois Bailly Maitre (Fra) Scott Valloire Galibier	13.17
79	Sergiy Rysenko (Ukr) ISD-International	13.23
80	Till Marx (Swi) Swisspower MTB Team	13.28
81	Lukas FlUckiger (Swi) Athleticum-MTB-Team	13.29
82	Alexander Wetterhall (Swe)	13.35
83	Barry Wicks (USA) Kona	13.43
84	Nicolas Bazin (Fra) BH - SR. Suntour	14.59
85	Frank Beemer (Ned)	17.47
86	Bjorn Brems (Bel)	1 lap
87	Paul Van Der Ploeg (Aus)	
88	Andras Melts (Hun)	
89	Cristian Cominelli (Ita) Gewiss Bianchi	
90	Michael Broderick (USA)	
91	Maxim Gogolev (Rus)	
92	Marc Colom (Fra)	
93	Thomas Litscher (Swi)	
94	Alban Lakata (Aut) Dolphin-Trek Mountainbike Racing Team	
95	Jeremiah Bishop (USA) Trek-VW	
96	Matous Ulman (Cze)	
97	Andrea Tiberi (Ita) Giant Italia Team	
98	Cristobal Silva (Chi)	
99	Mattias Nilsson (Swe)	
100	Kris Sneddon (Can) Kona	
101	Nicola Rohrbach (Swi) Central Ghost Pro Team	
102	Pavel Boudny (Cze)	
103	Samuel Schultz (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	
104	Mathieu Toulouse (Can) Team Maxxis	
105	Ludovic Mottet (Bel) Windose Houffalize	
106	Markus Bauer (Ger)	
107	Fabien Canal (Fra) Team Lapierre International	
108	Shlomi Haimy (Isr)	
109	Jelmer Jubbega (Ned)	
110	Javier Puschel (Chi)	
111	Klaus Nielsen (Den) Team Alb-Gold Mountainbike	2 laps
112	Rob Vangenechten (Bel)	
113	Jiri Novak (Cze)	
114	Arnaud Grosjean (Fra) BH - SR. Suntour	
115	Taavi Selder (Est)	
116	Michel Luginbuehl (Swi)	
117	Sebastian Szraucner (Ger)	
118	Balz Weber (Swi) Bikepark.ch BMC	
119	Andriy Khripta (Ukr)	
120	Anders Hovdenes (Nor) Team Etto Hoydahl	
121	Marco Arnold (Swi)	
122	Hans Becking (Ned) Beone Mountainbiketeam	
123	Robert Kircher (Aut)	
124	Bilal Akgul (Tur)	
125	Robert Mennen (Ger)	
126	Nieck Busser (Ned)	
127	Martin Bratland (Nor) Team Etto Hoydahl	
128	Chun Hing Chan (HKg)	
129	Pierre Geoffroy Plantet (Fra) Team Lapierre International	
130	Jonathan Galante (Fra)	
131	Guillaume Vinit (Fra) Scott Valloire Galibier	
132	Ian Field (GBr)	
133	Uwe Hochenwarter (Aut)	
134	Samuele Porro (Ita) Team CBE Tecnoimpianti A.S.D	

135 Luka Mezgec (Slo)
 136 Kristian Torgersen (Nor) Team Etto Hoydahl
 137 Nicolas Vermeulen (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team
 138 Heiko Gutmann (Ger)
 139 Sebastien Carabin (Bel)
 140 Felix Euteneuer (Ger)
 141 Andy Eyring (Ger)
 142 Niels Wubben (Ned)
 143 Tobias Ullmann (Ger) Team XLC Haibike
 144 Evgeniy Pechenin (Rus) Format-Udmurtia
 145 Andriy Gumenyuk (Ukr)
 146 Freddy Betremiaux (Fra) BH - SR. Suntour
 147 Tim Ottens (Ned) Beone Mountainbiketeam
 148 Erik Nellen (Ned) Beone Mountainbiketeam
 149 Martin Loo (Est) Merida Biking Team
 150 Sergio Pulido Rodriguez (Spa) Cemelorca-Seguros10.com
 151 Nicolas Jeantet (Ita) Team CBE Tecnoimpianti A.S.D
 152 Sam Jurekovic (USA)
 153 Igor Bogdan (Ukr) ISD-International
 154 Mitchell Peterson (USA)
 155 Andi Weinhold (Ger)

3 laps

Teams

1 Orbea	94 pts
2 Swisspower MTB Team	89
3 Cannondale-Vredestein	37
4 Specialized Factory Racing	35
5 GT Bicycles	32
6 Full-Dynamix-IT	26
7 Giant Mountain Bike Team	24
8 Team Lapierre International	19
9 Athleticum-MTB-Team	19
10 Giant Italia Team	18
11 Dolphin-Trek Mountainbike Racing Team	13
12 Team Maxxis	12
13 Multivan Merida Biking Team	10
14 ECP-TAU Ceramica	6
15 fumic.brothers.international	5