

Kabush finally claims World Cup win

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Canadian gets home-turf victory

Canadian champion Geoff Kabush (Maxxis-Rocky Mountain) finally make that step to the top of the podium on home soil in round six of cross-country series of the Mountain Bike World Cup. Kabush won in the most grueling conditions of the season in Bromont, Canada.

Julien Absalon (Orbea) continues to lead the men despite finishing a distant 17th after suffering mechanical problems.

"To win here, in my own country, it still hasn't sunk in," said Kabush. "I knew I was riding well, after finishing third a week earlier, and this course really suited me, so I was confident that I could go head to head with Julien.

"This win is the biggest of my career, because with Julien so strong, for anyone to win a World Cup is very hard."

The race began under worse conditions than the women with officials reducing the distance by one lap to six. The rain and 50-plus women racers earlier in the day had churned up the mud, making the climb an even harder grind than usual. The mud also began to impact equipment, with most riders experiencing brake failure at some point in the race as brake pads wore away in the gritty mud..

Ralph Näf (Multivan Merida) got off to his usual fast start, and was joined quickly by Absalon, with Kabush steadily making his way up towards the front. Näf dropped back from Absalon on lap two, to be passed by Kabush.

Kabush joined the Olympic champion near the top of the climb, just before Absalon broke his chain. The break put him out of contention as he lost nearly 40 places before rejoining the race.

Kabush was alone at the front. Näf was in a chase group behind with Kabush's teammate Jose Hermida, Florian Vogel (Scott-Swisspower) and Nino Schurter (Scott-Swisspower). Kabush continued to ride further away from the chasers to finish over 90 seconds in front of Hermida.

Näf held finished in third ahead of Vogel and Lukas Flückiger (Trek World Team). Both Todd Wells (Specialized Factory Team) and Adam Craig (Giant) moved up in the latter half of the race to finish ninth and tenth.

Sam Schultz (Subaru-Gary Fisher) was on the racing very well, but a flat dropped him out of contention.

Brakes were a problem for many riders. "In the final lap and a half I started to lose my brakes completely, and trying to ride through the technical parts became very, very dangerous. I had to slow down a lot, and I think otherwise I could have stayed in second," said Näf.

Hermida, the winner of round one in South Africa, said he also suffered from brake problems. "I was lucky that my brakes stopped working early in the race rather than late, because I stopped then in the technical area and was able to catch people later in the race when their brakes failed," he said.

"I didn't have any of the mechanical problems the other riders were having, so I really have to think my team and the mechanics. I went with the hardtail and the mud tires, and I was able to ride everything with no problems," said Kabush.

Stander has nearly locked up the Under-23 title with his seventh place in Bromont (it would take consecutive wins in the final two races by second placed Alexis Vuillermoz and Stander to get no points).

Absalon's lead in the series standings dropped a few points after his 17th place, however, he is still an almost uncatchable 412 points in front of Hermida. Stander is 20 points behind Hermida.

Kabush moved up the standings from 24th before Mont Ste Anne, to 14th before Bromont and now seventh. In the final two rounds there is likely to be a three-way battle for third between Hermida, Näf and Stander, who are separated by 50 points. And the same for fifth between Wolfram Kurschat (Topeak Ergon), Schurter and Kabush, who are only 40 points apart.

Results		
1	Geoff Kabush (Can) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	1:52:39
2	José Antonio Hermida Ramos (Spa) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:01:31
3	Ralph Naef (Swi) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:01:51
4	Florian Vogel (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	0:02:10
5	Lukas Flückiger (Swi) Trek World Racing	0:02:22
6	Nino Schurter (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	0:03:35
7	Burrry Stander (RSA) Specialized Factory Racing	0:03:43
8	Ivan Alvarez Gutierrez (Spa) Giant Italia Team	0:04:39
9	Todd Wells (USA) Specialized Factory Racing	0:04:46
10	Adam Craig (USA) Giant Mountain Bike Team	0:05:10
11	Ravanel Cédric (Fra) Lapierre International	0:05:43
12	Carlos Coloma Nicolas (Spa) MSC Bikes	0:05:47
13	Christoph Sauser (Swi) Specialized Factory Racing	0:06:00
14	Chris Jongewaard (Aus) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	0:06:06
15	Sergio Mantecon Gutierrez (Spa) Cemelorca-Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	0:06:45
16	Alexis Vuillermoz (Fra) Lapierre International	0:06:50
17	Julien Absalon (Fra) Orbea	0:07:14
18	Jeremy Horgan-Kobelski (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	0:07:27
19	Derek Zandstra (Can)	0:07:44
20	Jan Skarnitzl (Cze) Giant Mountain Bike Team	0:07:53
21	Liam Killeen (GBr) Trek World Racing	0:08:05
22	Marco Aurelio Fontana (Ita) Cannondale Factory Racing	0:08:56
23	Martin Gujan (Swi) Cannondale Factory Racing	0:09:46
24	Ludovic Dubau (Fra)	0:10:01
25	Andrew Watson (Can)	0:10:07
26	Milan Spesny (Cze) Ceska Sportelna MTB	0:11:02
27	Bas Peters (Ned)	0:11:41
28	Seamus McGrath (Can)	0:11:44
29	Martin Fanger (Swi) Giant Mountain Bike Team	0:11:50
30	Marc Colom (Fra)	0:12:17
31	Maxime Marotte (Fra) BH-Suntour	0:12:24
32	Christof Bischof (Swi) ISD Cycling Team	0:12:28
33	Carl Decker (USA) Giant Mountain Bike Team	0:12:32
34	Michael Broderick (USA)	
35	Fabien Canal (Fra) Lapierre International	0:13:00
36	Stéphane Tempier (Fra) TX Active Bianchi	0:13:46

37	Rotem Ishai (Isr)	0:13:55
38	Irjan Luttenberg (Ned)	0:14:08
39	Samuel Schultz (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	0:14:10
40	Raphael Gagne (Can) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	0:14:15
41	Roel Paulissen (Bel) Cannondale Factory Racing	0:14:16
42	Lukas Kaufmann (Swi)	0:14:53
43	Renay Groustra (RSA)	0:15:26
44	Guillaume Vinit (Fra) Team Scott Valloire Galibier	0:15:31
45	Matthew Hadley (Can)	0:16:02
46	Niels Wubben (Ned)	0:17:25
47	Stefan Widmer (Can)	0:25:07
One lap behind		
48	Giuseppe Lamastra (Ita)	
49	Barry Wicks (USA) Kona	
50	Eric Batty (Can)	
51	Kris Sneddon (Can) Kona	
52	Benoit Simard (Can)	
53	Cristobal Silva Ibaceta (Chi)	
54	Paul Van Der Ploeg (Aus) Discovertasmania.com	
55	Andrew Blair (Aus)	
56	Martin Lazarski (Can)	
57	Juan Pedro Trujillo Hernandez (Spa) Cemelorca-Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	
58	Bjorn Brems (Bel) Team Saeco	
59	Julien Fillion (Can)	
60	Nathan Haas (Aus) Discovertasmania.com	
61	Craig Richey (Can)	
62	Patxi Cia Apezteguia (Spa) Conor - Camping La Siesta	
63	Ethan Gilmour (USA)	
64	Robert Mennen (Ger)	
65	Umberto Corti (Ita) Team CBE Tecnoimpianti A.S.D.	
66	Cameron Jette (Can)	
67	Peter Glassford (Can)	
Two laps behind		
68	Jiri Hudecek (Cze) Scott & Hagget MTB Team	
69	Pierre Lebreton (Fra) BH-Suntour	
70	Lachlan Norris (Aus) Discovertasmania.com	
71	Tristan Cowie (USA)	
72	Mark Leishman (NZI)	
73	Andrew Freye (USA)	
74	Aaron Snyder (USA)	
75	Stephen Ettinger (USA)	
76	Travis Livermon (USA)	
77	Leni Trudel (Can)	
78	Daniel Sessford (Can)	
79	Nick Both (Aus)	
80	Franklin Macky (USA)	
81	Manuel Prado Gutierrez (CRc)	
82	Charlton Durie (Aus) Discovertasmania.com	
83	Josef Kamler (Cze) Ceska Sportelna MTB	
84	Paul Robertson (GBr)	
85	Robbie Squire (USA)	
86	Ryan Atkins (Can)	
87	Matous Ulman (Cze) Scott & Hagget MTB Team	
88	Colin Cares (USA)	

Three laps behind			
89	Pierre Geoffroy Plantet (Fra) Lapierre International		
90	Daniel McConnell (Aus) Torq Performance Nutrition		
91	Brian Bain (Can)		
92	Victor Galvez Perez (Chi)		
93	Connor McConvey (Irl) De Brink-Ten Tusscher		
94	Christoph Soukup (Aut) Merida Biking Team		
Teams			
1	Multivan Merida Biking Team	67	pts
2	Specialized Factory Racing	64	
3	Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	56	
4	Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	40	
5	Trek World Racing	38	
6	Lapierre International	35	
7	Giant Mountain Bike Team	34	
8	Giant Italia Team	23	
9	MSC Bikes	19	
10	Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	17	
11	Cannondale Factory Racing	17	
12	Cemelorca-Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	16	
13	Orbea	14	
14	Subaru-Gary Fisher	13	
15	Ceska Sportitelna MTB	5	