

MTB World Cup XC #4 - CDM

Madrid, Spain, May 23-24, 2009

May 24: Elite men cross country

Three in a row for Absalon

By Rob Jones in Madrid

Julien Absalon (Orbea) padded his already comfortable lead in the men's UCI World Cup series by taking his third consecutive win of the season, and the 19th of his career.

By the time the men were ready to start their six-lap race, the rain-soaked ground that had caused the women's race to be shortened had mostly dried up, and all sections were rideable.

Multivan Merida's Ralph Näf had his patented fast start, and a sizable group of contenders formed at the front of the race by the midpoint of the first lap. However, there were two big names missing from the front - World Champion Christoph Sauser (Specialized Factory Racing) and the number-two-ranked rider in the World Cup Wolfram Kurschat (Topeak Ergon). Both had poor starts, and had to chase to make up placds throughout the race.



Julien Absalon (Orbea) takes his third consecutive win
Photo ©: Rob Jones

At the front, the lead group was rapidly whittled down, and by the third lap, it was just Absalon and Näf leading, with a chase group of four trailing at 29 seconds and including Jose Hermida (Multivan Merida), Roel Paulissen (Cannondale Factory Racing), Under 23 World Cup series leader Burry Stander (Specialized Factory Racing) and Nino Schurter (Scott-Swisspower).



Ralph Näf (Multivan Merida) attacked
Photo ©: Rob Jones

A second chase group, at 44 seconds, was led by Olympic silver medalist Jean-Christophe Peraud (Massi). The two groups would merge late in the lap, to create a seven-rider chase. American Todd Wells (Specialized Factory Racing) joined the tail end of this group for awhile before having to back off and ride at his own pace to finish 16th.

However, the chaser weren't making any headway on the two leaders, who continued to add seconds to their advantage on lap four. By the fifth lap, Näf felt it was time to put some pressure on Absalon, and launched a powerful attack near the end of the lap, gaining 11 seconds as the pair began their final lap. But move proved to be premature, as Absalon steadily reeled him in, and then dropped the tiring Swiss rider to solo in with a gap of over a minute for his 19th World Cup victory.

"It was a bit of a tactical race with Ralph," said Absalon. "He did a very good attack against me, and gained some seconds. I wasn't able to keep his wheel when he went. But I think maybe it was too much for him to keep going (like that), and I was able to get back up to him."

Behind, the chase was down to four riders for the last kilometre, with Näf's teammate Moritz Milatz taking third, one second ahead of Marco Fontana (Cannondale Factory Racing), and three seconds ahead of Schurter and Peraud.

Absalon's lead in the series is becoming almost insurmountable, as the Olympic champion now has 950 points to second placed Kurschat's 625, while Stander sits in third at 580 points, and leads the Under 23 standings. Canada's Geoff Kabush (Maxxis-Rocky Mountain) is the top North American in 24th place, with Sam Schultz (Subaru-Gary Fisher) holding down 33rd, one spot ahead of Adam Craig (Giant), who skipped this race.



Burry Stander (Specialized Factory Racing)
padded his World Cup lead
Photo ©: Rob Jones

Results

1	Julien Absalon (Fra) Orbea	1.44.32
2	Ralph Naef (Swi) Multivan Merida Biking Team	1.06
3	Moritz Milatz (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team	1.59
4	Marco Aurelio Fontana (Ita) Cannondale Factory Racing	2.00
5	Nino Schurter (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	2.02
6	Jean-Christophe Peraud (Fra) Massi	
7	Burrry Stander* (RSA) Specialized Factory Racing	2.16
8	Inaki Lejarreta Errasti (Spa) Orbea	
9	Manuel Fumic (Ger) Fumic.Brothers.International	2.17
10	Roel Paulissen (Bel) Cannondale Factory Racing	2.18
11	Christoph Sauser (Swi) Specialized Factory Racing	
12	Wolfram Kurschat (Ger) Topeak Ergon Racing Team	2.19
13	José Antonio Hermida (Spa) Multivan Merida Biking Team	2.31
14	Stéphane Tempier (Fra) TX Active Bianchi	2.40
15	Sergio Mantecon Gutierrez (Spa) Cemelorca-Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	3.05
16	Todd Wells (USA) Specialized Factory Racing	3.09
17	Carlos Coloma Nicolas (Spa) MSC Bikes	4.03
18	Jiri Friedl (Cze) Merida Biking Team	4.06
19	Liam Killeen (GBr) Trek World Racing	4.09
20	Chris Jongewaard (Aus) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Tea	4.17
21	Ivan Alvarez Gutierrez (Spa) Giant Italia Team	4.25
22	Sven Nys (Bel)	4.49
23	Marc Colom (Fra)	4.57
24	Oliver Beckingsale (GBr) Giant Mountain Bike Team Gmt	5.01
25	Alexis Vuillermoz* (Fra) Lapierre International	5.08
26	Milan Spesny (Cze) Ceska Sportelna MTB	5.14
27	Ruben Ruzafa Cueto (Spa) Orbea	5.18
28	Rudi Van Houts (Ned) Multivan Merida Biking Team	5.20
29	Mathias Flückiger* (Swi) Trek World Racing	
30	Martin Gujan (Swi) Cannondale Factory Racing	5.38
31	Daniel Mcconnell (Aus) Torq Performance Nutrition	5.39
32	Jan Skarnitzl (Cze) Giant Mountain Bike Team Gmt	5.43
33	Fabian Giger* (Swi) Sks M.I.G. Team	5.44
34	Geoff Kabush (Can) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	6.00
35	Jeremy Horgan-Kobelski (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	6.06
36	Thomas Litscher* (Swi) Sks M.I.G. Team	6.19
37	Bas Peters (Ned)	6.40
38	Bjorn Brems (Bel) Team Saeco	6.46
39	Giuseppe Lamastra (Ita)	7.04
40	Lukas Flückiger (Swi) Trek World Racing	7.16
41	Jochen Kass (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team	7.19
42	Martin Fanger* (Swi) Giant Mountain Bike Team Gmt	
43	Samuel Schultz (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	7.22
44	Christof Bischof (Swi) ISD Cycling Team	7.30
45	Hannes Metzler (Aut)	7.39
46	Ludovic Dubau (Fra)	7.44
47	Pascal Meyer* (Swi) Sks M.I.G. Team	7.46
48	Lukas Kaufmann* (Swi)	7.48
49	Frank Schotman (Ned)	7.49
50	Alban Lakata (Aut) Topeak Ergon Racing Team	8.00
51	Nicola Rohrbach (Swi) Central Ghost Pro Team	8.27
52	Karl Markt (Aut) Srm Stevens Team	8.40
53	Balz Weber (Swi) DS-Rennsport	8.43
54	Hector Leonardo Paez Leon (Col) TX Active Bianchi	8.45
55	Severin Disch* (Swi) Giant Mountain Bike Team Gmt	8.51
56	Sebastien Carabin* (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team	8.55
57	Irjan Luttenberg* (Ned)	8.56
58	Lachlan Norris* (Aus) Discovertasmania.com	
59	Torsten Marx (Ger) DS-Rennsport	9.00
60	Sergiy Rusenko (Ukr) ISD Cycling Team	9.12
61	Cristian Cominelli* (Ita) TX Active Bianchi	9.24
62	Frank Beemer* (Ned) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Tea	9.37
63	Peter Sagan* (Svk)	10.02
64	Paolo Cesar Montoya Cantillo (CRc) Giant Italia Team	10.05
65	Jelmer Pietersma (Ned) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Tea	10.07

66	Andrea Tiberi (Ita) TX Active Bianchi	10.13
67	Andras Parti (Hun) Srm Stevens Team	10.21
68	Patrik Gallati* (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	10.26
69	Alejandro Diaz De La Pena Lopez (Spa)	10.30
70	Dario Alejandro Gasco* (Arg) Massi	10.59
71	Josef Kamler* (Cze) Ceska Sporitelna MTB	11.09
72	Yader Zoli (Ita) Torpado-4Us	11.45
73	Henrique Avancini* (Bra) ISD Cycling Team	11.58
74	Nathan Haas* (Aus) Discovertasmania.com	12.16
75	Jimmy Tielens (Bel) Team Saeco	12.23
76	Juan Pedro Trujillo Hernandez (Spa) Cemelorca-Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	12.24
77	Niels Wubben* (Ned)	12.40
78	Pierre Lebreton (Fra) BH-Suntour	12.59
79	Marco Arnold* (Swi)	13.01
80	Connor Mcconvey* (Irl) Felt International MTB Team	13.20
81	Simon Scheiber* (Aut) Sunshine Racers Asv Nals	13.41
82	Paxti Cia Apezteguia (Spa) Conor - Camping La Siesta	13.53
83	Michael Broderick (USA)	13.58
84	Julien Saussac* (Fra) BH-Suntour	13.59
85	David Joao Serralheiro Rosa (Por)	14.15
86	Charlton Durie* (Aus) Discovertasmania.com	14.16
87	Daniel Filipe Valente Marques (Por)	15.04
88	Chun Hing Chan (HKg)	15.19
89	Andrew Blair (Aus)	15.21
90	Rob Vangenechten* (Bel) Team Saeco	16.57
91	Fabien Canal* (Fra) Lapierre International	17.07
92	Cédric Ravanel (Fra) Lapierre International	
93	Guillaume Vinit* (Fra) Team Scott Valloire Galibier	17.08
94	Ivo Santos (Por)	

Behind one lap

95	Pierre Geoffroy Plantet (Fra) Lapierre International
96	Nicolas Jeantet* (Ita) Team CBE Tecnoimpianti A.S.D.
97	Joan Marc Perarnau Garcia* (Spa)
98	Ludovic Mottet (Bel)
99	Hugo Martinez Rus (Spa)
100	Jo Thorson Nordskar* (Nor) Team Etto Hoydahl
101	Alexandre Guilhoto (Por)
102	Mikhail Baryshnikov* (Rus)
103	Sebastian Batchelor* (GBr)
104	Hubert Pollinger (Ita) Sunshine Racers Asv Nals
105	Jonas De Backer* (Bel)
106	Ben Henderson (Aus)
107	David Escolar Ballesteros (Spa)

Behind two laps

108	Vivien Legastelois* (Fra) BH-Suntour
109	Diogo Beatriz Gomes Afonso* (Por)
110	André Anes* (Por)

Behind three laps

111	John Groves (Aus)
DNF	Periklis Ilias (Gre) ISD Cycling Team
DNF	Umberto Corti (Ita) Team CBE Tecnoimpianti A.S.D.
DNF	Ondrej Cink* (Cze) Merida Biking Team
DNF	Klaus Nielsen (Den)
DNF	Maxime Marotte (Fra) BH-Suntour
DNF	Jaroslav Kulhavy (Cze)
DNF	Emil Lindgren (Swe) Felt International MTB Team
DNF	Florian Vogel (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing
DNF	Jose Melitao (Por)
DNF	Cristobal Silva Ibaceta (Chi)
DNF	Marti Gispert Labarta (Spa) MSC Bikes
DNF	Luis Alberto Costa Leao Pinto (Por)

DNF Tiago Jorge Oliveira Ferreira* (Por)

DNF David Lozano Riba* (Spa) Cemelorca-Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo

Teams

1 Multivan Merida Biking Team	88 pts
2 Orbea	67
3 Specialized Factory Racing	59
4 Cannondale Factory Racing	52
5 Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	28
6 Massi	26
7 Fumic.Brothers.International	22
8 Topeak Ergon Racing Team	19
9 TX Active Bianchi	17
10 Cemelorca-Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	16
11 MSC Bikes	14
12 Trek World Racing	14
13 Merida Biking Team	13
14 Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	11
15 Giant Italia Team	10
16 Giant Mountain Bike Team	7
17 Lapierre International	6