

MTB World Cup XC #2 - CDM

Offenburg, Germany, April 25-26, 2009

April 26: Elite men cross country

Absalon attacks for solo win and lead in overall standings

By Rob Jones in Offenburg, Germany – cyclingnews.com

Julien Absalon (Orbea) took his 18th World Cup victory in the elite men's cross country in Offenburg, Germany. The win, his third consecutive at the venue, moved him into the overall lead for the men's competition and preserved his perfect record at Offenburg; it also set a new record that beats the 17 total World Cup wins of the legendary Thomas Frischknecht.

The huge men's field of over 220 riders took over one minute to roll through under the banner after completing the start loop as it headed out for the first of seven laps.

By that time, the leaders were already starting to sort out their pecking order at the front of the race. A sizable group of heavy hitters was setting a hard pace and pulling away from the rest of the field. Among the group were Absalon, the World Cup leader Jose Hermida (Multivan Merida), World Champion Christoph Sauser (Specialized), Under 23 World Cup leader Burry Stander (Specialized), Florian Vogel (Scott-Swisspower), Lukas Fluckiger (Trek World Racing), Nino Schurter (Scott-Swisspower), Roel Paulissen (Cannondale) and Jean-Christophe Peraud (Massi). This group was further joined by Todd Wells (Specialized), Marco Fontana (Cannondale), Jaroslav Kulhavy (Rubena-Specialized) and Martin Gujan (Cannondale Factory Racing).



Julien Absalon (Orbea) wins the race
Photo ©: Rob Jones

Absalon decided the numbers at the front were more than he was comfortable with, and he counterattacked a move by Schurter on the longest climb of the course on the third lap, quickly gaining 25 seconds on the disorganized chase behind. The Olympic champion, clad in the red, white and blue jersey of French National Champion, continued to pad his lead through the fourth lap, as the chase started to shed riders. Among the first to go was Hermida, who came to the race with a bad cold. Wells also dropped off after flatting, and eventually abandoned.

"It was a tactical move to go so early," said Absalon. "A big group is so difficult to control, and I was in a good position when Nino did his attack to follow and then attack again. My goal was to be in good shape coming into these European World Cups, so this was very good for me."

On lap five, Sauser decided it was time to shake things up in the chase and broke away from the rest of the group, taking only his teammate Stander with him. The duo quickly gained 20 seconds on the rest of the chasers, but were making no dent in Absalon's lead, and the effort failed after Sauser crashed hard in one of the technical sections and had to abandon with two broken brakes.

Stander continued on in second, but was steadily being reeled in by Wolfram Kursch at (Topeak Ergon) and Peraud. The pair caught and dropped Stander in the final kilometres to take second and third behind Absalon, with the South African holding on for fourth, and the top Under 23 result. Ralph Näf (Multivan Merida) capped an impressive ride up from midfield to take the final podium spot.

"It was a record day," said Absalon. "A record World Cup victory, my first win of the season and my third victory at Offenburg."

Top North American was Geoff Kabush (Maxxis-Rocky Mountain), in eighth. "I was really pleased with my start, I was able to move up into the top twenty fairly quickly. Then I just had to ride my own race, my own pace. It is an encouraging result, particularly after not doing so well [in South Africa], and it gives me confidence as I prepare for Houffalize next week."

American champion Adam Craig (Giant) battled with Kabush during the race before fading in the final laps to finish 14th, followed closely by the young Subaru-Gary Fisher talent Sam Schultz in 16th - the highest World Cup finish of his career.

Results

1	Julien Absalon (Fra) Orbea	1.49.26
2	Wolfram Kurschat (Ger) Topeak Ergon Racing Team	1.09
3	Jean-Christophe Peraud (Fra) Massi	1.24
4	Burry Stander* (RSA) Specialized Factory Racing	1.32
5	Ralph Naef (Swi) Multivan Merida Biking Team	1.54
6	Lukas Fluckiger (Swi) Trek World Racing	2.13
7	Roel Paulissen (Bel) Cannondale Factory Racing	2.19
8	Marco Aurelio Fontana (Ita) Cannondale Factory Racing	2.34
9	Geoff Kabush (Can) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	2.57
10	Nino Schurter (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	
11	Jaroslav Kulhavy (Cze)	3.03
12	Manuel Fumic (Ger) Fumic.Brothers.International	3.11
13	Chris Jongewaard (Aus) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	3.37
14	Adam Craig (USA) Giant Mountain Bike Team	3.41
15	Jochen Kass (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team	3.49
16	Samuel Schultz (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	3.53
17	Inaki Lejarreta Errasti (Spa) Orbea	4.14
18	Ruben Ruzafa Cueto (Spa) Orbea	
19	Cedric Ravanel (Fra) Lapierre International	4.46
20	Stephane Tempier (Fra) TX Active Bianchi	4.52
21	Mathias Flckiger* (Swi) Trek World Racing	5.08
22	Sergio Mantecon Gutierrez (Spa) Cemelorca-Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	5.11
23	Christoph Soukup (Aut) Merida Biking Team	5.21
24	Hector Leonardo Paez Leon (Col) TX Active Bianchi	5.27
25	Rudi Van Houts (Ned) Multivan Merida Biking Team	5.30
26	Pierre Geoffroy Plantet (Fra) Lapierre International	5.34
27	Ludovic Dubau (Fra)	5.38
28	Martin Gujan (Swi) Cannondale Factory Racing	5.42
29	Oliver Beckingsale (GBr) Giant Mountain Bike Team	5.50
30	Milan Spesny (Cze) Ceska Sportelna MTB	
31	Alexis Vuillermoz* (Fra) Lapierre International	
32	Florian Vogel (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	6.13
33	Moritz Milatz (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team	6.21
34	Jelmer Pietersma (Ned) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	6.31
35	Umberto Corti (Ita) Team CBE Tecnoimpianti A.S.D.	6.38
36	Daniel Mcconnell (Aus) Torq Performance Nutrition	6.44
37	Carlos Coloma Nicolas (Spa) MSC Bikes	6.50
38	Karl Markt (Aut) SRM Stevens Team	6.54
39	Anders Hovdenes* (Nor) Team Etto Hoydahl	
40	Cristian Cominelli* (Ita) TX Active Bianchi	7.08
41	Jorg Graf (Swi) Felt International MTB Team	7.22
42	Bas Peters (Ned)	7.27
43	Christof Bischof (Swi) ISD Cycling Team	7.28
44	Maxime Marotte (Fra) BH-Suntour	7.31
45	Guillaume Vinit* (Fra) Team Scott Valloire Galibier	7.35
46	Jiri Friedl (Cze) Merida Biking Team	7.39
47	Hannes Metzler (Aut)	7.40
48	Balz Weber (Swi) DS-Rennsport	7.46
49	Sergiy Rusenko (Ukr) ISD Cycling Team	7.48
50	Fabian Giger* (Swi) SKS M.I.G. Team	7.52
51	Ivan Alvarez Gutierrez (Spa) Giant Italia Team	7.58
52	Lachlan Norris* (Aus) Discovertasmania.com	8.03
53	Filip Eberl (Cze)	8.05
54	Derek Zandstra (Can)	8.07
55	Peter Sagan* (Svk)	8.10
56	Marc Colom (Fra)	8.19
57	Lado Fumic (Ger) Fumic.Brothers.International	8.35
58	Jeremy Horgan-Kobelski (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	8.41
59	Giuseppe Lamastra (Ita)	9.05
60	Silvio Bundi (Swi) Giant Mountain Bike Team	9.11
61	Johnny Cattaneo (Ita)	9.14
62	Magnus Darvell (Swe)	9.24
63	Frank Schotman (Ned)	9.42
64	Marek Galinski (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	
65	Thomas Litscher* (Swi) SKS M.I.G. Team	9.45

66 Josef Kamler* (Cze) Ceska Sporitelna MTB	10.11
67 Andras Parti (Hun) SRM Stevens Team	10.13
68 Irjan Luttenberg* (Ned)	10.18
69 Tim Bohme (Ger) Team Bulls	10.19
70 Jiri Novak (Cze)	10.20
71 Pascal Meyer* (Swi) SKS M.I.G. Team	10.33
72 Klaus Nielsen (Den)	10.35
73 Kohei Yamamoto (Jpn)	10.40
74 Yader Zoli (Ita) Torpado-4US	10.51
75 Matous Ulman (Cze) Scott & Hagget MTB Team	11.09
76 Paolo Cesar Montoya Cantillo (CRc) Giant Italia Team	11.10
77 Ludovic Mottet (Bel)	11.27
78 Mattias Wengelin* (Swe)	11.37
79 FranCois Bailly Maitre (Fra) Team Scott Valloire Galibier	11.50
80 Robert Mennen (Ger)	11.55
81 Luka Mezgec* (Slo) MBK Orbea	11.59
82 Frank Beemer* (Ned) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	12.06
83 Jan Skarnitzl (Cze) Giant Mountain Bike Team	12.15
84 Sebastian Szraucner* (Ger)	12.20
85 Marco Arnold* (Swi)	12.47
86 Nicolas Vermeulen (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team	13.14
87 Rene Tann (Ger)	13.42
88 Connor Mcconvey* (Irl) Felt International MTB Team	14.42
89 Emil Lindgren (Swe) Felt International MTB Team	15.54
90 Igor Bogdan (Ukr)	16.26

Behind two laps

91 Michael Broderick (USA)	
92 Niels Wubben* (Ned)	
93 Cristobal Silva Ibaceta (Chi)	
94 Juan Pedro Trujillo Hernandez (Spa) Cemelorca-Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	
95 Tony Longo (Ita)	
96 Fabien Canal* (Fra) Lapierre International	
97 Marcel Wildhaber (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	
98 Anders Ljungberg (Swe)	
99 Lukas Kaufmann* (Swi)	
100 Evgeniy Nikolaev* (Rus)	
101 Alejandro Diaz De La Pena Lopez (Spa)	
102 Adrian Brzozka* (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	
103 Andy Eyring* (Ger)	
104 Chun Hing Chan (HKg)	
105 Martin Fanger* (Swi) Giant Mountain Bike Team	
106 Olaf Jonsson* (Swe)	
107 Mirko Pirazzoli (Ita) ISD Cycling Team	
108 Barry Wicks (USA) Kona	
109 Olaf Rochow (Ger)	
110 Cal Britten* (Aus) Torq Performance Nutrition	
111 Henk Jaap Moorlag* (Ned) De Brink-Ten Tusscher	
112 Anthony Grenet* (Fra)	
113 Dariusz Batek (Pol)	
114 Marco Minnaard* (Ned) De Brink-Ten Tusscher	
115 Luka Kodra (Slo) MBK Orbea	
116 Alban Lakata (Aut) Topeak Ergon Racing Team	
117 Sebastien Carabin* (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team	
118 Jianhua Ji (Chn)	
119 Henrique Avancini* (Bra)	
120 Olivier Maignan (Fra)	
121 Martin Loo* (Est)	
122 Matej Nepustil* (Cze) Ceska Sporitelna MTB	
123 Pascal Schmutz* (Swi)	
124 Felix Euteneuer* (Ger)	
125 Catriel Andres Soto* (Arg) Infotre - Leecougan	
126 Jo Thorson Nordskar* (Nor) Team Etto Hoydahl	
127 Mattias Nilsson* (Swe)	
128 Fabian Strecker* (Ger)	
129 Shlomi Haimy* (Isr)	

130 Roan Exelby (RSA)
131 Andrew Blair (Aus)
132 Kristian Hynek (Cze) Scott & Hagget MTB Team
133 Kris Sneddon (Can) Kona
134 Charlton Durie* (Aus) Discovertasmania.com
135 Daniel Kaufmann* (Swi)
136 Jeremy Huguenin* (Swi)
137 Rob Vangenechten* (Bel) Team Saeco
138 Tad Elliott* (USA)
139 Nicolas Jeantet* (Ita) Team CBE Tecnoimpianti A.S.D.
140 Alexis Chenevier* (Fra) Team Scott Valloire Galibier
141 Bilal Akgul (Tur)
142 Romain Gihoul* (Bel)
143 Periklis Ilias (Gre) ISD Cycling Team
144 Simon Scheiber* (Aut) Sunshine Racers ASV Nals
145 Ondrej Cink* (Cze) Merida Biking Team
146 Axel Bult (Ned) De Brink-Ten Tusscher
147 Florian Schönl* (Ger)
148 Patxi Cia Apezteguia (Spa) Conor - Camping La Siesta
149 Julien Saussac* (Fra)
150 Marcel Fleschhut* (Ger)
151 Nathan Haas* (Aus) Discovertasmania.com
152 Pierre Lebreton (Fra) BH-Suntour
153 Ethan Gilmour* (USA)
154 Uwe Hochenwarter (Aut)
155 Markus Bauer* (Ger)
156 Adam Morka (Can)
157 Erik Groen* (Ned) De Brink-Ten Tusscher
158 Zhiqiang Duan (Chn)
159 Pascal Hossay* (Bel)
160 Freddy Betremieux* (Fra) BH-Suntour
161 Heiko Gutmann* (Ger)
162 Andi Weinhold (Ger)
163 Calle Friberg (Swe)

Behind three laps

164 Tim Wijnants* (Bel) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team
165 Roland Plank (Aut)
166 Kornel Osicki* (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team
167 Mirco Widmer* (Swi)
168 Raphael Gagne* (Can) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles
169 Hubert Pollinger (Ita) Sunshine Racers ASV Nals
170 Vivien Legastelois* (Fra) BH-Suntour
171 Laurent Mineur* (Bel)
172 David Lozano Riba* (Spa) Cemelorca-Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo
173 Jelmer Jubbega* (Ned) De Brink-Ten Tusscher
174 Zhen Wang* (Chn)
175 Rob Squire* (USA)
176 Valentin Fiderer* (Ger)
177 Balint Lukacs* (Hun)
178 Evgeniy Pechenin (Rus) Format-Udmurtia
179 Tomas Pesek* (Cze)
180 Tim Lemmers* (Ned) De Brink-Ten Tusscher
181 Oleksandr Kachanov* (Ukr)
182 Mikhail Baryshnikov* (Rus)
183 Lukas Sablik* (Cze)
184 Boris Vasilyev (Rus) Format-Udmurtia
185 Simon Stiebjahn* (Ger)

Behind four laps

186 Kevin Kane* (USA)
187 Keiichi Tsujiura (Jpn)
188 Thomas Lapeyrie* (Fra) Team Scott Valloire Galibier
189 Robert Gehbauer* (Aut) Multivan Merida Biking Team
190 Abdulkadir Kelleci (Tur)

191 Rafal Hebisz (Pol)
 192 German Dorhmann* (Arg) Infotre - Leecougan
 193 Jonas De Backer* (Bel)
 194 John Groves (Aus)
 195 Abdurrahman Dandal* (Tur)
 DNF Dario Alejandro Gasco* (Arg) Massi
 DNF Jose Antonio Hermida Ramos (Spa) Multivan Merida Biking Team
 DNF Christoph Sauser (Swi) Specialized Factory Racing
 DNF Andrea Tiberi (Ita) TX Active Bianchi
 DNF Patrik Gallati* (Swi) Scott-Swisspower Mtb-Racing
 DNF Todd Wells (USA) Specialized Factory Racing
 DNF Martino Fruet (Ita)
 DNF Andras Melts (Hun)
 DNF Andreas Kugler (Swi) Felt International Mtb Team
 DNF Mykhaylo Batsutsa* (Ukr)
 DNF Stefan Sahm (Ger) Team Bulls
 DNF Arnaud Hacquard* (Fra)
 DNF Piotr Brzozka* (Pol) Jbg-2 Professional Mtb Team
 DNF Nicola Rohrbach (Swi) Central Ghost Pro Team
 DNF Bjorn Brems (Bel) Team Saeco
 DNF Ola Kjøren (Nor) Team Fokus-Danica
 DNF Alexander Gehbauer* (Aut)
 DNF Samuele Porro* (Ita) Team Cbe Tecnoimpianti A.S.D.
 DNF Jakub Magnusek* (Cze) Ceska Sportitelna Mtb
 DNF Juri Ragnoli* (Ita) Felt International Mtb Team
 DNF Karl Platt (Ger) Team Bulls
 DNF Tiago Jorge Oliveira Ferreira* (Por)
 DNF Ben Henderson (Aus)
 DNF Torsten Marx (Ger) Ds-Rennsport
 DNS Liam Killeen (GBr) Trek World Racing
 DNS Filip Meirhaeghe (Bel)
 DNS Luis Alberto Costa Leao Pinto (Por)

Teams

1 Orbea	67 pts
2 Multivan Merida Biking Team	50
3 Cannondale Factory Racing	50
4 Trek World Racing	36
5 Topeak Ergon Racing Team	35
6 Massi	32
7 Specialized Factory Racing	30
8 Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	22
9 Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	21
10 Fumic.Brothers.International	19
11 Giant Mountain Bike Team	19
12 Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	18
13 TX Active Bianchi	18
14 Lapierre International	17
15 Subaru-Gary Fisher	15
16 Cemelorca-Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	9
17 Merida Biking Team	8
18 Ceska Sportitelna MTB	1