

# Hermida unbeatable in Austria

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## Spaniard Ruzafa Cueto takes silver ahead of Flückiger



*Jose Hermida wins the World Cup final (Image credit: Tour of Japan)*

José Antonio Hermida Ramos (Multivan Merida Biking Team) bracketed the 2009 World Cup, winning the first round in South Africa and the last on Saturday in Schladming, Austria. The win moved him from fourth to second in the overall standings behind Julien Absalon (Orbea)

Absalon locked up the World Cup title a week earlier. However, second for fifth in the series were still in play among seven riders, and it was Hermida who took control.

Spanish compatriot Ruben Ruzafa Cueto (Orbea) took second for his first World Cup podium, followed by Trek's Mathias Flückiger, the first Under 23 rider. Absalon, after racing at the front three for most of the six-lap race retired after a flat just before the start of the final lap. Adam Craig (Giant) was the top North American in 21st, two spots ahead of Canada's Geoff Kabush (Maxxis-Rocky Mountain).

The short men's race started very aggressively, with a group of eight forming at the front. World Champion Nino Schurter (Scott-Swisspower) and Roel Paulissen (Cannondale) set the early pace, joined by Hermida, Absalon, Ralph Näf (Multivan Merida), Florian Vogel (Scott-Swisspower), Flückiger and Alexis Vuillermoz (Lapierre). Early in lap two, Absalon decided it was time to shake things up a bit, and attacked on one of the steep climbs.

The Olympic champion opened a small 10-second gap on Hermida and Flückiger, who were the only two able to respond initially to his attack after Näf broke his chain. Hermida, the winner of the opening round of the World Cup, five long months ago in South Africa, slowly closed the gap, and joined Absalon early in lap four. After a brief time together, Hermida launched the attack which would put him into the lead for good.

"Between Pietermaritzburg [South Africa] and here, it has been a long season," said Hermida, "but my balance through the year has been very good, very stable. I came to this race feeling pretty good, and looking for a final strong result. When I caught Julien, I took a short rest of maybe 30 seconds, and then I attacked again, and he could not come with me. Today was the final exams for the season, and I wanted a strong result."

Behind, Absalon was at 20 seconds at the start of lap five, but Flückiger and Ruzafa Cueto were gaining ground. While the French rider would not give in easily, he did not feel the pressure to come back from his flat.

"I was without pressure," Absalon said. "The plan was if I felt good, then (I would) fight for victory. So I went to the front and got a little gap, but Jose came up. I was thinking that second would be good at the end of the season, but I got my flat tire at the end of the fifth lap, and I knew it would not be possible to get back up there with one lap left in the race."

Ruzafa Cueto was suddenly into second, having passed Flückiger midway through the lap, and the front three were set, with Schurter just holding off Vuillermoz for fourth place.

Hermida's victory moved him up to second in the final standings, as he bumped the Under 23 champion Burry Stander down to third, with Näf fourth and Schurter fifth. Geoff Kabush remained in eighth overall for the series.

"I didn't have the legs today," said Kabush. "I felt really bad last week [in Champéry], so I rested all this week. But for this course you needed wings, and I didn't have them. The first lap I made a big effort and milked out everything, but I didn't have it. It's hard to have a mediocre end to the season."

"My goal this year was to win a World Cup, and I achieved that, which was a pretty big dream, and then fifth at the Worlds was big, so I would definitely have to say that this has been my best year ever, and I'll just keep trying to improve for next year."

## Results

#	Rider Name (Country) Team	Result
1	José Antonio Hermida Ramos (Spa) Multivan Merida Biking Team	1:40:42
2	Ruben Ruzafa Cueto (Spa) Orbea	0:00:30
3	Mathias Flückiger* (Swi) Trek World Racing	0:01:26
4	Nino Schurter (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	0:01:52
5	Alexis Vuillermoz* (Fra) Lapierre International	0:01:58
6	Jean-Christophe Peraud (Fra) Massi	0:02:25
7	Roel Paulissen (Bel) Cannondale Factory Racing	0:02:29
8	Sergio Mantecon Gutierrez (Spa) Cemelorca-Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	0:02:41
9	Moritz Milatz (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:03:15
10	Wolfram Kurschat (Ger) Topeak Ergon Racing Team	0:03:26
11	Cédric Ravanel (Fra) Lapierre International	0:03:51
12	Christoph Sauser (Swi) Specialized Factory Racing	0:04:04
13	Lukas Flückiger (Swi) Trek World Racing	0:04:05
14	Inaki Lejarreta Errasti (Spa) Orbea	0:04:06
15	Burry Stander* (RSA) Specialized Factory Racing	0:04:23
16	Guillaume Vinit* (Fra) Team Scott Valloire Galibier	0:04:28
17	Carlos Coloma Nicolas (Spa) Msc Bikes	0:04:36
18	Fabian Giger* (Swi) SKS M.I.G. Team	0:05:10
19	Oliver Beckingsale (GBr) Giant Mountain Bike Team	0:05:16
20	Jochen Kass (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:05:31
21	Adam Craig (USA) Giant Mountain Bike Team	0:05:39
22	Maxime Marotte (Fra) BH-Suntour	0:05:45
23	Geoff Kabush (Can) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	0:05:53
24	Christoph Soukup (Aut) Merida Biking Team	0:06:02
25	Marek Konwa* (Pol)	0:06:12
26	Nicola Rohrbach (Swi) Central Ghost Pro Team	0:06:38
27	Robert Mennen (Ger)	0:06:56
28	Martin Gujan (Swi) Cannondale Factory Racing	0:07:04

29	Martin Fanger* (Swi) Giant Mountain Bike Team	0:07:08
30	Liam Killeen (GBr) Trek World Racing	0:07:42
31	Patrik Gallati* (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	0:07:49
32	Yader Zoli (Ita) Torpado-4Us	0:08:12
33	Jan Skarnitzl (Cze) Giant Mountain Bike Team	0:08:27
34	Daniel McConnell (Aus) Torq Performance Nutrition	0:08:44
35	Thomas Litscher* (Swi) SKS M.I.G. Team	
36	Giuseppe Lamastra (Ita)	
37	Fabien Canal* (Fra) Lapierre International	0:08:46
38	Bjorn Brems (Bel) Team Saeco	0:08:49
39	Jelmer Pietersma (Ned) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Tea	0:09:21
40	Samuel Schultz (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	0:09:22
41	Lukas Kaufmann* (Swi)	0:09:39
42	Sebastien Carabin* (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team	0:09:52
43	Filip Eberl (Cze)	0:09:58
44	Pascal Meyer* (Swi) SKS M.I.G. Team	0:10:16
45	Piotr Brzozka* (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	0:10:43
46	Rene Tann (Ger)	0:10:46
47	Emil Lindgren (Swe) De Brink-Ten Tusscher	0:10:52
48	Marti Gispert Labarta (Spa) Msc Bikes	0:10:53
49	François Bailly Maitre (Fra) Team Scott Valloire Galibier	0:10:56
50	Torsten Marx (Ger) Ds-Rennsport	0:10:59
51	Stéphane Tempier (Fra) Tx Active Bianchi	0:11:05
52	Karl Markt (Aut) Srm Stevens Team	0:11:13
53	Henk Jaap Moorlag* (Ned) De Brink-Ten Tusscher	0:11:19
54	Marek Galinski (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	0:11:28
55	Marc Colom (Fra)	0:11:57
56	Lachlan Norris* (Aus) Discovertasmania.Com	0:11:58
57	Matous Ulman (Cze) Scott & Hagget MTB Team	0:12:05
58	Nicolas Vermeulen (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team	0:12:17
59	Christof Bischof (Swi) ISD Cycling Team	0:12:41
60	Anders Hovdenes* (Nor) Team Etto Hoydahl	0:13:13
61	Simon Scheiber* (Aut) Sunshine Racers Asv Nals	0:13:21
62	Kristian Hynek (Cze) Scott & Hagget MTB Team	0:13:33
63	Catriel Andres Soto* (Arg) Infotre - Leecougan	0:14:01
64	Uwe Hochenwarter (Aut)	0:14:37
65	Severin Disch* (Swi) Giant Mountain Bike Team	0:15:12
66	Tim Wynants* (Bel) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Tea	0:15:55
-1lap	Andras Parti (Hun) Srm Stevens Team	
-1lap	Derek Zandstra (Can)	
-1lap	Irjan Luttenberg* (Ned)	
-1lap	Adrian Brzozka* (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	
-1lap	Zsolt Juhasz* (Hun)	
-1lap	Periklis Ilias (Gre) ISD Cycling Team	
-1lap	Ludovic Mottet (Bel)	
-1lap	Marcel Fleschhut* (Ger)	
-1lap	Fabian Strecker* (Ger)	
-1lap	Michael Broderick (USA)	
-1lap	Peter Glassford (Can)	
-1lap	Niels Wubben* (Ned)	
-1lap	Sergiy Rusenko (Ukr) ISD Cycling Team	
-1lap	Oleksandr Gerashenko (Ukr) ISD Cycling Team	
-1lap	Andrew Blair (Aus)	
-1lap	Connor Mcconvey* (Irl) De Brink-Ten Tusscher	
-1lap	Dario Alejandro Gasco* (Arg) Massi	
-1lap	Cristobal Silva Ibaceta (Chi)	
-1lap	Matej Nepustil* (Cze) Ceska Sportelna MTB	

-1lap	Erik Groen* (Ned) De Brink-Ten Tusscher
-1lap	Matthys Beukes* (RSA)
-1lap	Matthias Hoi* (Aut)
-1lap	Sepp Freiburghaus* (Swi)
-1lap	Thibaut Bellanger* (Fra)
-1lap	Alexis Swetloff (Fra) Keops
-1lap	Rob Vangenechten* (Bel) Team Saeco
-1lap	Robert Kircher (Aut)
-1lap	Luka Mezgec* (Slo) Mbk Orbea
-1lap	Jiri Hudecek (Cze) Scott & Hagget MTB Team
-1lap	Marco Minnaard* (Ned) De Brink-Ten Tusscher
-2laps	Felix Euteneuer* (Ger)
-2laps	David Fletcher* (GBr)
-2laps	Silvio Bundi (Swi) Giant Mountain Bike Team
-2laps	Matej Lovse (Slo)
-2laps	Henrique Avancini* (Bra) ISD Cycling Team
-2laps	Kornel Osicki* (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team
-2laps	Daniel Eymann* (Swi)
-2laps	Guido Thaler (Aut)
-2laps	Renay Groustra (RSA)
-2laps	Andrew Watson (Can)
-2laps	Michael Wiessner (Ger)
-2laps	Jan Jobanek (Cze) Merida Biking Team
-2laps	Heiko Gutmann* (Ger)
-2laps	Matej Mugerli (Slo)
-2laps	Daniel Kaufmann* (Swi)
-2laps	Benjamin Buchi* (Swi)
-2laps	Amaury Gernez Aurenge* (Fra) Keops
-2laps	Roberto Crisi* (Ita)
-2laps	Mirco Widmer* (Swi)
-2laps	Tim Lemmers* (Ned) De Brink-Ten Tusscher
-2laps	Manfred Zöger* (Aut)
-2laps	Oleksandr Kachanov* (Ukr)
-2laps	Simon Stiebjahn* (Ger)
-2laps	Cameron Jette* (Can)
-2laps	Patxi Cia Apezteguia (Spa) Conor - Camping La Siesta
-2laps	Hermann Pernsteiner* (Aut)
-2laps	Zsolt Szlobodnyik (Hun)
-2laps	Leni Trudel* (Can)
-2laps	Valentin Fiderer* (Ger)
-2laps	Eric Batty (Can)
-3laps	Markus Bauer* (Ger)
-3laps	Georgios Pattes-Toumanis (Gre)
-3laps	Dennis Ebert* (Ned)
-3laps	Jonas De Backer* (Bel)
-3laps	Matthias Grick* (Aut)
-3laps	Nejc Cernilogar* (Slo)
-3laps	David Puskas* (Hun)
-3laps	Lukas Sablik* (Cze)
-3laps	Alexios Kokovikas* (Gre)
-4laps	Frank Beemer* (Ned) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Tea
-5laps	Roman Rametsteiner (Aut)
DNF	Julien Absalon (Fra) Orbea
DNF	Tony Longo (Ita)
DNF	Jiri Friedl (Cze) Merida Biking Team
DNF	Josef Kamler* (Cze) Ceska Sportelna MTB
DNF	Florian Vogel (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing

<i>DNF</i>	Ralph Naef (Swi) Multivan Merida Biking Team
<i>DNF</i>	Marco Aurelio Fontana (Ita) Cannondale Factory Racing
<i>DNF</i>	Milan Spesny (Cze) Ceska Sportelna MTB
<i>DNF</i>	Pierre Geoffroy Plantet (Fra) Lapierre International
<i>DNF</i>	Benjamin Sonntag (Ger)
<i>DNF</i>	Lee Williams (GBr)
<i>DNF</i>	Todd Wells (USA) Specialized Factory Racing
<i>DNF</i>	Manfred Reis* (Ger) Team Marin Bikes
<i>DNF</i>	Ondrej Cink* (Cze) Merida Biking Team
<i>DNF</i>	Calle Friberg (Swe)
<i>DNF</i>	Alexander Gehbauer* (Aut)
<i>DNF</i>	Balint Lukacs* (Hun)
<i>DNF</i>	Balz Weber (Swi) Ds-Rennsport
<i>DNF</i>	Rudi Van Houts (Ned) Multivan Merida Biking Team
<i>DNS</i>	Robert Gehbauer* (Aut) Multivan Merida Biking Team

### ***Teams***

	Rider Name (Country) Team	Result	
1	Multivan Merida Biking Team	73	pts
2	Orbea	52	
3	Trek World Racing	51	
4	Lapierre International	48	
5	Specialized Factory Racing	35	
6	Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	30	
7	Cannondale Factory Racing	27	
8	Massi	26	
9	Giant Mountain Bike Team	24	
10	Cemelorca-Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	23	
11	Topeak Ergon Racing Team	21	
12	Team Scott Valloire Galibier	15	
13	MSC Bikes	14	
14	SKS M.I.G. Team	13	
15	BH-Suntour	9	
16	Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain Bicycles	8	
17	Merida Biking Team	7	
18	Central Ghost Pro Team	5	