

Schurter sprints to World Cup win

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World champion bests Absalon for hard-fought victory



Nino Schurter (Scott-Swisspower) proved that there was no "rainbow curse" on him as he matched women's world champion Irina Kalentieva (Topeak Ergon) in swapping his rainbow jersey for the World Cup leader's one.

The Swiss rider won the men's 43km race in a finish very similar to last year's World Championships, when he outsprinted Olympic champion Julien Absalon (Orbea). Again, it came down to a sprint between the two, with Schurter winning by less than a wheel length. Burry Stander (Specialized) of South Africa took third, 14 seconds behind the front two.

The six lap men's race started very fast, with eight riders initially making the selection at the front, but by the fourth lap that was whittled down to just Schurter, Absalon and Stander. The South African looked to be the strongest, but he made a mistake on the last lap, allowing the other two to get away.

Absalon took the lead, setting the pace, but could not shake Schurter, and when they turned onto the gravel finishing straight, the Swiss rider came up alongside his French rival and pulled ahead in the final 10 metres to take the win.

"This is an incredible victory, to win the World Cup and take the leader's jersey is very special," said Schurter. "I hoped to do well here, but there was a very, very strong field, so I was only looking to make the podium. I was dying out there, to stay with Julien, but I knew that if it came to a sprint I was a little bit faster."

Absalon, for his part, revealed that he was quite content with second. "I have been sick this week, so I didn't know if I could race in the middle of the week. But each day I got a little bit better, and by Saturday I was okay again. I didn't know how strong I was going to be, and I was just hoping to get on the podium."

"But it was good for me when the three of us went away, because I was able to rest a bit at the back. I think Stander was the strongest, but maybe he did too much work, and then made a little mistake that allowed Nino and I to get away. At the finish I tried to control it, but Nino was just too strong."

For Geoff Kabush (Maxxis-Rocky Mountain), it was a disappointing day to finish 28th, after riding so strongly a week earlier at Sea Otter. "I definitely didn't have the form that I had at Sea Otter. I had a good start, but then I just didn't have the power to keep up. Maybe it was because of all the travel problems to get here; it took me three days, and that didn't help."

Kabush was the second North American, behind Todd Wells (Specialized) in 19th.

ELITE MEN

#	Rider Name (Country) Team	Result
1	Nino Schurter (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	1:54:52
2	Julien Absalon (Fra) Orbea	0:00:01
3	Burrry Stander (RSA) Specialized Factory Racing	0:00:14
4	Jaroslav Kulhavy (Cze) Rubena - Birell - Specialized Cycling Team	0:00:28
5	Ralph Naef (Swi) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:00:41
6	Manuel Fumic (Ger) Cannondale Factory Racing	0:00:52
7	Ruben Ruzafa Cueto (Spa) Orbea	0:00:55
8	Lukas Flückiger (Swi) Trek World Racing	0:01:19
9	José Antonio Hermida Ramos (Spa) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:01:37
10	Marco Aurelio Fontana (Ita) Cannondale Factory Racing	0:01:45
11	Ivan Alvarez Gutierrez (Spa) Giant Italia Team	0:01:54
12	Florian Vogel (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	0:02:17
13	Mathias Flückiger* (Swi) Trek World Racing	0:02:32
14	Sergio Mantecon Gutierrez (Spa) Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	0:02:42
15	Stéphane Tempier (Fra) TX Active Bianchi	0:02:48
16	Christoph Soukup (Aut) Merida Biking Team	0:02:54
17	Rudi Van Houts (Ned) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:03:03
18	Inaki Lejarreta Errasti (Spa) Orbea	0:03:24
19	Todd Wells (USA) Specialized Factory Racing	0:03:49
20	Roel Paulissen (Bel) Cannondale Factory Racing	0:03:53
21	Emil Lindgren (Swe) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	0:04:18
22	Marek Konwa* (Pol) Elettroveneta-Corrattec	0:04:23
23	Christoph Sauser (Swi) Specialized Factory Racing	0:04:25
24	Wolfram Kurschat (Ger) Topeak Ergon Racing Team	0:04:32
25	Jan Skarnitzl (Cze)	0:04:45
26	Alexis Vuillermoz* (Fra) Lapierre International	0:05:04
27	François Bailly Maitre (Fra) Scott Les Saisies	0:05:06
28	Geoff Kabush (Can) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain	0:05:28
29	Carlos Coloma Nicolas (Spa) MSC Bikes	0:05:29
30	Samuel Schultz (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	0:05:43
31	Maxime Marotte (Fra) Bh-Suntour	0:06:03

32	Jochen Kass (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:06:30
33	Tony Longo (Ita)	0:06:37
34	Derek Zandstra (Can)	0:06:44
35	Robert Mennen (Ger)	0:07:04
36	Martin Fanger* (Swi) Giant Swiss Team	
37	Oliver Beckingsale (GBr) Giant Factory Team	0:07:06
38	Fabian Giger (Swi) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	0:07:16
39	Jeremy Horgan-Kobelski (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	0:07:25
40	Martino Fruet (Ita)	0:07:38
41	Henk Jaap Moorlag* (Ned) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	0:07:45
42	Pierre-Geoffroy Plantet (Fra) Team New Cycling	0:07:49
43	Jelmer Pietersma (Ned) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	0:07:50
44	Cristian Cominelli* (Ita) Tx Active Bianchi	0:07:53
45	Giuseppe Lamastra (Ita) Hard Rock Frw A.S.D.	0:07:57
46	Marc Colom (Fra)	0:08:01
47	Patrik Gallati* (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	0:08:05
48	Matous Ulman (Cze) S&H Superior MTB Team	0:08:07
49	Hannes Metzler (Aut) Muskelkater Genesis Team	0:08:14
50	Liam Killeen (GBr)	0:08:18
51	Piotr Brzozka* (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	0:08:19
52	Bas Peters (Ned) Team Merida Combee	0:08:34
53	Karl Markt (Aut) Felt Oetzal X-Bionic Team	0:08:35
54	Marek Galinski (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	0:08:36
55	Sebastien Carabin* (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team	0:08:37
56	Kohei Yamamoto (Jpn)	0:08:42
57	Daniel Mcconnell (Aus) Torq Performance Nutrition	0:08:57
58	Cédric Ravanel (Fra) Lapierre International	0:09:07
59	Markus Bauer* (Ger)	0:09:20
60	Irjan Luttenberg* (Ned) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	0:09:44
61	Andrea Tiberi (Ita) Surfing Shop	0:09:55
62	Nicola Rohrbach (Swi)	0:10:00
63	Guillaume Vinit (Fra) BH-Suntour	0:10:04
64	Uwe Hochenwarter (Aut) Muskelkater Genesis Team	0:10:06

65	Lukas Kaufmann (Swi) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	0:10:08
66	Thomas Litscher* (Swi) M.I.G. Team	0:10:21
67	Niels Wubben* (Ned) Team Merida Combee	0:10:27
68	Johnny Cattaneo (Ita)	0:10:42
69	Lachlan Norris (Aus)	0:10:50
70	Nicolas Vermeulen (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team	0:10:54
71	Diego Rosa* (Ita) Giant Italia Team	0:10:58
72	Milan Spesny (Cze) S&H Superior MTB Team	0:11:04
73	Andy Eyring* (Ger)	0:11:05
74	Anders Hovdenes (Nor) Team United Bakeries, Hoydahl MTB Racing	0:11:09
75	Andrew Watson (Can)	0:11:15
76	Paul Van Der Ploeg* (Aus) Felt Oetztal X-Bionic Team	0:11:28
77	Yader Zoli (Ita) Surfing Shop	0:11:34
78	Pascal Meyer* (Swi) M.I.G. Team	0:11:40
79	David Fletcher* (GBr)	
80	Fabien Canal* (Fra) Keops Itwo	0:12:10
81	Simon Scheiber* (Aut) Felt Oetztal X-Bionic Team	0:12:13
82	Adrian Brzozka (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	0:12:21
83	Erik Groen* (Ned) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	0:12:29
84	Torsten Marx (Ger)	0:12:34
85	Benjamin Buchi* (Swi)	0:12:50
86	Klaus Nielsen (Den)	0:13:01
87	Magnus Darvell (Swe)	0:13:14
88	Kevin Van Hoovels (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team	0:13:15
89	Kornel Osicki* (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	0:13:18
90	Mattias Nilsson* (Swe)	0:13:35
91	Silvio Bundi (Swi)	0:13:42
92	Fabian Strecker* (Ger)	0:13:43
93	Kristian Hynek (Cze) S&H Superior MTB Team	0:13:44
94	Manfred Reis* (Ger) Felt Oetztal X-Bionic Team	0:13:46
95	Jérémy Huguenin* (Swi) Giant Swiss Team	0:13:54
96	Marcel Fleschhut* (Ger)	0:14:06
97	Balz Weber (Swi)	0:14:08

98	Tim Lemmers* (Ned) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	0:14:11
99	Alessandro Gambino (Ita) GT Brondello Team	0:14:15
100	Dries Govaerts* (Bel) Team Saeco	0:14:25
101	Matthew Hadley (Can)	0:14:32
102	Rene Tann (Ger)	0:14:36
103	Konny Looser* (Swi)	0:14:37
104	Mattias Wengelin* (Swe) Team Firebike-Droessiger	0:14:52
105	Jelmer Jubbega* (Ned) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	0:14:56
106	Michael Broderick (USA)	0:14:59
107	Paul Oldham (GBr)	0:15:02
108	Ondrej Cink* (Cze) Merida Biking Team	0:15:04
109	Pierre Lebreton (Fra) BH-Suntour	
110	Sebastian Szraucner (Ger)	0:15:13
111	Ricardo Paulo Reis Marinho* (Por) TX Active Bianchi	0:15:21
112	Tiago Jorge Oliveira Ferreira* (Por)	0:15:25
113	Jiri Hudecek (Cze)	0:15:31
114	Patxi Cia Apezteguia (Spa) MSC Bikes	0:15:43
115	Matthias Stirnemann* (Swi)	0:15:47
116	Matej Nepustil* (Cze) Merida Biking Team	0:16:09
117	Joris Massaer (Bel) G-Skin-Deforche MTB Racing Team	0:16:11
118	Robert Gehbauer (Aut)	0:16:31
119	Marco Schätzing (Ger) Team Firebike-Droessiger	0:16:40
120	Severin Disch* (Swi) Giant Swiss Team	0:16:52
121	Christopher Maletz (Ger)	0:17:57
122	Jakub Magnusek* (Cze) S&H Superior MTB Team	0:18:08
123	Freddy Betremieux* (Fra)	0:18:35
124	Michele Casagrande (Ita) Elettroveneta-Corrateg	0:19:22
125	Nicolas Jeantet* (Ita) ISD Cycling Team	0:19:37
126	Laurent Mineur* (Bel)	-1lap
127	Daniel Eymann* (Swi) Thoemus Racing Team	
128	Alexander Gehbauer* (Aut)	
129	Wolfgang Krenn (Aut) Muskelkater Genesis Team	
130	Marco Arnold* (Swi) Giant Swiss Team	

131	Tim Dunford (GBr) Torq Performance Nutrition	
132	Sebastian Batchelor* (GBr) Infotre - Leecougan	
133	Florian Thie* (Swi)	
134	Thomas Lapeyrie* (Fra) Scott Les Saisies	
135	Jonas De Backer* (Bel) Team Saeco	
136	Andrew Blair (Aus) Torq Performance Nutrition	
137	Dave Henderson (GBr)	
138	Ben Thomas* (GBr) Torq Performance Nutrition	
139	Sepp Freiburghaus (Swi) Thoemus Racing Team	
140	Robin Roelofs* (Ned) Stappenbelt Specialized MTB Team	-2laps
141	Cody Canning* (Can)	
142	Amaury Gernez Aurenge* (Fra) Keops Itwo	
143	Dror Pekatch (Isr) Subaru-Gary Fisher	
144	Billy Joe Whenman* (GBr)	
145	Rob Vangenechten* (Bel) Team Saeco	
146	Chris Andrews (GBr)	
147	Travis Frisby* (Aus)	
148	Richard Felle (Irl)	-3laps
149	Pascal Hossay (Bel) G-Skin-Deforche MTB Racing Team	
150	Allan Clark (GBr)	-4laps
DNF	Ludovic Dubau (Fra) Team New Cycling	
DNF	Moritz Milatz (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team	
DNF	Jiri Friedl (Cze) Merida Biking Team	
DNF	Jimmy Tielens (Bel) Team Saeco	
DNF	Alban Lakata (Aut) Topeak Ergon Racing Team	
DNF	Bjorn Brems (Bel) G-Skin-Deforche MTB Racing Team	
DNF	Tim Wynants (Bel) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	
DNF	John Whittington* (GBr)	
DNF	Anthony O'boyle (GBr) Torq Performance Nutrition	
DNF	Lee Williams (GBr)	
DNF	Paolo Cesar Montoya Cantillo (CRc) GT Brondello Team	
DNF	Umberto Corti (Ita) Team CBE Tecnoimpianti A.S.D.	
DNF	Ryan Sherlock (Irl)	

DNF	Julien Fillion (Can)		
DNS	Frank Beemer (Ned) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team		
TEAMS			
#	Rider Name (Country) Team	Result	
1	Orbea	72	pts
2	Multivan Merida Biking Team	64	
3	Scott-Swisspower MTB Racing	59	
4	Cannondale Factory Racing	58	
5	Specialized Factory Racing	52	
6	Trek World Racing	41	
7	Rubena - Birell - Specialized Cycling Team	30	
8	Giant Italia Team	20	
9	Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	17	
10	TX Active Bianchi	16	
11	Merida Biking Team	15	
12	Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	10	
13	Elettroveneta-Corrateg	9	
14	Topeak Ergon Racing Team	7	
15	Lapierre International	5	
16	Scott Les Saisies	4	
17	Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain	3	
18	MSC Bikes	2	
19	Subaru-Gary Fisher	1	