

Hermida wins for the second time in Houffalize

Fumic, Kurschat round out top three



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JOSE ANTONIO HERMIDA RAMOS (MULTIVAN MERIDA BIKING TEAM) CELEBRATES HIS WIN AFTER ROLLING HIS BIKE OVER THE FINISH LINE. (IMAGE CREDIT: DAVE MCELWAINE/TRAILWATCH.NET)

Round Two of the cross country World Cup in Houffalize, Belgium saw the overall series leads change in the men's category, with Jose Antonio Hermida (Multivan Merida) taking a come-from-behind victory in the men's cross country and donning the World Cup leader's jersey.

The men's six-lap race produced a series of upsets, with eventual fourth place finisher Jaroslav Kulhavy (Rubena-Birell-Specialized) crashing on the start line, blocking many of the top riders on the left side of the road, including Canadian Geoff Kabush (Maxxis-Rocky Mountain), American Todd Wells (Specialized) and former Houffalize winner Christoph Sauser (Specialized).

Manuel Fumic (Cannondale Factory) was one rider who wasn't blocked, and he immediately opened a 25-second-plus gap on chasers Julien

Absalon (Orbea), Wolfram Kurschat (Topeak-Ergon) and top Under 23 rider Matthias Flückiger (Trek World Racing).

The chase received a blow when Absalon flatted late in the first lap. The defending Houffalize champion had to run for almost half a lap to the tech zone, dropping into the 30s before he began an impressive chase back to finish seventh. The Under 23 world champion, Burry Stander (Specialized), also flatted, eventually finishing 17th.

Meanwhile, Fumic was continuing to hold down the lead lap after lap, as Kurschat and Flückiger couldn't close the gap without Absalon. It took Hermida, coming back from the mid-teens after having been caught by the start crash, to finally catch the chasers and then Fumic as he started the final lap. After that, it was just a matter of time before the 2007 Houffalize winner was able to pull away from his rival to win the sixth World Cup of his career.

"After the start problem, I knew that I just had to be patient," explained Hermida. "I did not know who was in front, but once I caught him, I knew, that on this course I could not be beaten. I'm extremely happy to have won here in Houffalize for a second time.

"Houffalize is considered as mountain biking's cathedral, which gave me a lot of motivation, and to take the World Cup lead going into to Offenburg, in front our sponsors, is incredible."

Wells was the top North American finisher, in 19th place, and holding onto 19th in the overall standings.

#	RIDER NAME (COUNTRY) TEAM	RESULT
1	José Antonio Hermida Ramos (Spa) Multivan Merida Biking Team	1:44:19
2	Manuel Fumic (Ger) Cannondale Factory Racing	0:00:57
3	Wolfram Kurschat (Ger) Topeak Ergon Racing Team	0:01:25
4	Jaroslav Kulhavy (Cze) Rubena - Birell - Specialized Cycling Team	0:01:38
5	Ralph Naef (Swi) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:01:54
6	Mathias Flückiger* (Swi) Trek World Racing	0:01:57
7	Julien Absalon (Fra) Orbea	0:02:16
8	Christoph Sauser (Swi) Specialized Factory Racing	0:02:23
9	Sergio Mantecon Gutierrez (Spa) Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	0:02:29
10	Lukas Flückiger (Swi) Trek World Racing	0:03:14
11	Ruben Ruzafa Cueto (Spa) Orbea	0:03:39
12	Alexis Vuillermoz* (Fra) Lapierre International	0:04:05
13	Maxime Marotte (Fra) BH-Suntour	0:04:13
14	Roel Paulissen (Bel) Cannondale Factory Racing	0:04:41
15	Nino Schurter (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	0:04:52
16	Tony Longo (Ita)	0:05:01
17	Burrry Stander (RSA) Specialized Factory Racing	0:05:02
18	Ivan Alvarez Gutierrez (Spa) Giant Italia Team	0:05:58
19	Johnny Cattaneo (Ita)	0:06:03
20	Moritz Milatz (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:06:12
21	Jochen Kass (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:06:26
22	Henk Jaap Moorlag* (Ned) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	0:06:27
23	Carlos Coloma Nicolas (Spa) Msc Bikes	0:06:46
24	Martin Fanger* (Swi) Giant Swiss Team	0:06:56
25	Cédric Ravanel (Fra) Lapierre International	0:07:14
26	Todd Wells (USA) Specialized Factory Racing	0:07:19
27	Martino Fruet (Ita)	0:07:28
28	Fabian Giger (Swi) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	0:07:37
29	Pierre-Geoffroy Plantet (Fra) Team New Cycling	0:07:50
30	Kohei Yamamoto (Jpn)	0:08:09
31	Robert Mennen (Ger)	0:08:13
32	Matous Ulman (Cze) S&H Superior MTB Team	0:08:30

33	Gerhard Kerschbaumer* (Ita)	0:08:37
34	Geoff Kabush (Can) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain	0:08:41
35	Stéphane Tempier (Fra) TX Active Bianchi	0:08:44
36	Jan Skarnitzl (Cze)	0:08:49
37	Nicola Rohrbach (Swi)	0:08:50
38	Samuel Schultz (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	
39	Jelmer Pietersma (Ned) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	0:09:17
40	Oliver Beckingsale (GBr) Giant Factory Team	0:09:20
41	Marco Aurelio Fontana (Ita) Cannondale Factory Racing	0:09:37
42	François Bailly Maitre (Fra) Scott Les Saisies	0:09:38
43	Patrik Gallati* (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	0:09:52
44	Jelmer Jubbega* (Ned) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	0:09:54
45	Marek Galinski (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	
46	Jiri Novak (Cze)	0:09:59
47	Christof Bischof (Swi)	0:10:08
48	Piotr Brzozka* (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	0:10:19
49	Alexander Gehbauer* (Aut)	0:10:25
50	Fabien Canal* (Fra) Keops Itwo	0:10:30
51	Lukas Kaufmann (Swi) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	0:10:36
52	Umberto Corti (Ita) Team Cbe Tecnoimpianti A.S.D.	0:10:37
53	Bas Peters (Ned) Team Merida Combee	
54	Matthias Rupp* (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	0:10:45
55	Jiri Friedl (Cze) Merida Biking Team	0:10:53
56	Michele Casagrande (Ita) Elettroveneta-Corrateg	0:10:54
57	Sebastian Szraucner (Ger)	
58	Rudi Van Houts (Ned) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:11:14
59	Karl Markt (Aut) Felt Oetzal X-Bionic Team	0:11:16
60	Lachlan Norris (Aus)	
61	Catriel Andres Soto (Arg) Infotre - Leecougan	0:11:25
62	Simon Scheiber* (Aut) Felt Oetzal X-Bionic Team	0:11:28
63	Jeremy Horgan-Kobelski (USA) Subaru-Gary Fisher	0:11:33
64	Kristian Hynek (Cze) S&H Superior MTB Team	0:11:46
65	Marek Konwa* (Pol) Elettroveneta-Corrateg	0:11:48

66	Derek Zandstra (Can)	0:11:53
67	Jérémy Huguenin* (Swi) Giant Swiss Team	0:12:05
68	Sebastien Carabin* (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team	0:12:08
69	Alexey Medvedev (Rus) Elettroveneta-Corrateg	0:12:11
70	Silvio Bundi (Swi)	0:12:15
71	Frank Schotman (Ned) Stappenbelt Specialized MTB Team	0:12:23
72	Michal Lami (Svk)	0:12:30
73	Filip Eberl (Cze)	0:12:42
74	Pavel Boudny (Cze)	0:12:52
75	Andrea Tiberi (Ita) Surfing Shop	0:12:55
76	Klaus Nielsen (Den)	0:13:00
77	Nicolas Vermeulen (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team	0:13:04
78	Alexis Chenevier* (Fra) Scott Les Saisies	0:13:08
79	Milan Spesny (Cze) S&H Superior MTB Team	0:13:12
80	Raphael Gagne (Can)	0:13:14
81	Sepp Freiburghaus (Swi) Thoemus Racing Team	0:13:21
82	Robert Gehbauer (Aut)	0:13:34
83	Marcel Fleschhut* (Ger)	0:13:40
84	Kornel Osicki* (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team	0:13:55
85	Hannes Metzler (Aut) Muskelkater Genesis Team	0:13:58
86	Gilles Sarrazin* (Fra)	0:14:01
87	Marcus Schulte-Luenzum* (Ger) M.I.G. Team	0:14:07
88	Joris Massaer (Bel) G-Skin-Deforche MTB Racing Team	0:14:11
89	Magnus Darvell (Swe)	0:14:12
90	Niels Wubben* (Ned) Team Merida Combee	0:14:13
91	Tim Lemmers* (Ned) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	
92	Fabio Hernando Castaneda Monsalve (Col) Infotre - Leecougan	0:14:30
93	Ludovic Dubau (Fra) Team New Cycling	0:14:31
94	Bjorn Brems (Bel) G-Skin-Deforche MTB Racing Team	0:14:32
95	Freddy Betremieux* (Fra)	0:14:34
96	Rene Tann (Ger)	0:14:46
97	Mattias Nilsson* (Swe)	0:15:01
98	Liam Killeen (GBr)	0:15:17

99	Robbie Squire* (USA)	0:15:25
100	Ivan Rybarik (Cze) Merida Biking Team	0:15:31
101	Marco Minnaard* (Ned) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	0:15:37
102	Henrique Avancini* (Bra) ISD Cycling Team	0:15:43
103	Shlomi Haimy* (Isr) Infotre - Leecougan	0:16:02
104	Andrew Watson (Can)	
105	Yader Zoli (Ita) Surfing Shop	0:16:28
106	Pascal Hossay (Bel) G-Skin-Deforche MTB Racing Team	0:16:35
107	Peter Glassford (Can)	0:16:38
108	Ruben Scheire* (Bel) Team Saeco	0:16:57
109	Michael Broderick (USA)	0:17:15
110	Erik Groen* (Ned) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	0:17:26
111	Tim Wynants (Bel) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	0:17:33
112	Szilard Buruczki (Hun)	0:17:40
113	Juri Ragnoli* (Ita)	0:17:44
114	Thibaut Bellanger* (Fra)	0:18:19
115	Jimmy Tielens (Bel) Team Saeco	0:18:46
116	David Fletcher* (GBr)	0:19:00
117	Martin Loo* (Est) Infotre - Leecougan	0:19:04
118	Nicolas Jeantet* (Ita) ISD Cycling Team	0:19:15
119	Andras Parti (Hun)	0:20:06
120	Tad Elliott* (USA)	-1 lap
121	Cristian Cominelli* (Ita) TX Active Bianchi	
122	Anthony Grenet* (Fra)	
123	Patrick Gaudy (Bel)	
124	Hugo Drechou* (Fra)	
125	Matthew Hadley (Can)	
126	Irjan Luttenberg* (Ned) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	
127	Simon Stiebjahn* (Ger)	
128	Alessandro Gambino (Ita) GT Brondello Team	
129	Reto Indergand* (Swi) FRM Tg Zentralschweiz	
130	Mirco Widmer* (Swi) Giant Swiss Team	
131	Laurent Mineur* (Bel)	

132	Thomas Lapeyrie* (Fra) Scott Les Saisies	
133	Matej Nepustil* (Cze) Merida Biking Team	
134	Paolo Cesar Montoya Cantillo (CRc) GT Brondello Team	
135	Marcus Nicolai* (Ger)	
136	Pierre Lebreton (Fra) BH-Suntour	
137	Ricardo Paulo Reis Marinho* (Por) TX Active Bianchi	
138	Rob Vangenechten* (Bel) Team Saeco	
139	Zsolt Juhasz* (Hun) Euro One-Cube MTB Team	
140	Tomas Pesek* (Cze)	
141	Matthias Hoi* (Aut)	
142	Florian Thie* (Swi)	
143	Wolfgang Krenn (Aut) Muskelkater Genesis Team	
144	Benjamin Buchi* (Swi)	
145	Marc Colom (Fra)	
146	Ethan Gilmour* (USA)	
147	Markus Bauer* (Ger)	
148	Pascal Meyer* (Swi) M.I.G. Team	
149	Daniel Eymann* (Swi) Thoemus Racing Team	
150	Patxi Cia Apezteguia (Spa) Msc Bikes	
151	Cody Canning* (Can)	
152	Olof Jonsson* (Swe)	
153	Fabian Strecker* (Ger)	
154	Kevin Van Hoovels (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team	
155	Cameron Jette (Can)	-2 laps
156	Mattias Wengelin* (Swe) Team Firebike-Droessiger	
157	Sebastian Batchelor* (GBr) Infotre - Leecougan	
158	Jiri Hudecek (Cze)	
159	Sébastien Hansen (Fra)	
160	Matthias Stirnemann* (Swi)	
161	Travis Livermon* (USA)	
162	Tristan Cowie* (USA)	
163	Periklis Ilias (Gre) ISD Cycling Team	
164	Zachary Hughes* (Can)	

165	Anders Hovdenes (Nor) Team United Bakeries, Hoydahl MTB Racing	
166	Giuseppe Lamastra (Ita) Hard Rock Frw A.S.D.	
167	Christopher Maletz (Ger)	
168	Andrew Blair (Aus) Torq Performance Nutrition	
169	Christopher Minter (GBr)	
170	Joris Bagnol* (Fra)	
171	Rafal Hebisz (Pol)	
172	Ben Thomas* (GBr) Torq Performance Nutrition	
173	Jakub Magnusek* (Cze) S&H Superior MTB Team	
174	Gabor Bogar (Hun) Euro One-Cube MTB Team	
175	Andras Szatmary* (Hun) Euro One-Cube MTB Team	
176	Amaury Gernez Aurenge* (Fra) Keops Itwo	
177	Amotz Nehoray* (Isr)	
178	Uwe Hochenwarter (Aut) Muskelkater Genesis Team	
179	Jakub Silar* (Cze) S&H Superior MTB Team	-3 laps
180	Tim Dunford (GBr) Torq Performance Nutrition	
181	Dror Pekatch (Isr) Subaru-Gary Fisher	
182	Oleksandr Kachanov* (Ukr)	
183	Jonas De Backer* (Bel) Team Saeco	
184	Chris Andrews (GBr)	
185	John Whittington* (GBr)	
186	Diego Rosa* (Ita) Giant Italia Team	
187	Jean-François Bossler (Fra)	
188	Travis Frisby* (Aus)	
189	Andy Eyring* (Ger)	
190	Dries Govaerts* (Bel) Team Saeco	
191	Georgios Pattes-Toumanis (Gre)	
192	Manfred Reis* (Ger) Felt Oetzal X-Bionic Team	-4 laps
DNF	Thomas Litscher* (Swi) M.I.G. Team	
DNF	Inaki Lejarreta Errasti (Spa) Orbea	
DNF	Martin Gujan (Swi) Cannondale Factory Racing	
DNF	Severin Disch* (Swi) Giant Swiss Team	
DNF	Olivier Labie* (Bel) Vzw Goeman Scott Cycling Team	

DNF	Emil Lindgren (Swe) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team
DNF	Balz Weber (Swi)
DNF	Cristobal Silva Ibaceta (Chi)
DNF	Stephen Ettinger* (USA)
DNF	Anthony O'boyle (GBr) Torq Performance Nutrition
DNF	Marcel Wildhaber (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing
DNF	Torsten Marx (Ger)
DNF	Florian Vogel (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing
DNF	Guillaume Vinit (Fra) BH-Suntour
DNF	Adrian Brzozka (Pol) JBG-2 Professional MTB Team
DNF	Daniel Mcconnell (Aus) Torq Performance Nutrition
DNF	Simon Gegenheimer* (Ger)
DNF	Christoph Soukup (Aut) Merida Biking Team
DNF	Paul Van Der Ploeg* (Aus) Felt Oetzal X-Bionic Team

TEAMS

#	Rider Name (Country) Team	Result
1	Multivan Merida Biking Team	89 pts
2	Cannondale Factory Racing	52
3	Trek World Racing	47
4	Orbea	44
5	Specialized Factory Racing	42
6	Topeak Ergon Racing Team	32
7	Rubena - Birell - Specialized Cycling Team	30
8	Lapierre International	25
9	Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	22
10	BH-Suntour	18
11	Scott-Swisspower MTB Racing	16
12	Giant Italia Team	13
13	Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	12
14	MSC Bikes	8
15	Giant Swiss Team	7
16	Team New Cycling	2