

# Schurter bests Absalon in Val di Sole

By Tour of Japan published July 31, 2010 – cyclingnews.com

## Vogel third in Swiss domination



*Nino Schurter (Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing) would win the final sprint and take the race (Image credit: Tour of Japan)*

Once again, the men's race came down to World Champion Nino Schurter (Scott-Swisspower) against World Cup leader Julien Absalon (Orbea) in a sprint, and Schurter both won the race and took over the World Cup lead. This makes it three times that Schurter has beaten Absalon in a sprint in the past 12 months.

The 6.3-kilometre course was dominated by a series of steep, climbs, which took their toll on the fields. In the men's race, only 88 of 190 starters finished on the same lap as the winner.

The men's six-lap race came down to three riders by the mid-point: Schurter, Absalon and last week's winner Florian Vogel, Schurter's teammate. Jose Antonio Hermida (Multivan Merida) tried a move on the second lap, briefly setting the pace, but couldn't sustain it and fell back to eventually finish eighth.

The lead three worked well together for the first four laps, distancing themselves from everyone except Under 23 series

leader Mathias Flückiger (Trek World Racing) and Ralph Näf (Multivan Merida). These two were the only riders to stay within two minutes of the leaders and eventually took fourth and fifth, respectively. Näf took over fifth from fellow Swiss rider Christoph Sauser (Specialized), the World Champion in Val di Sole on this course in 2008. Sauser was riding strongly until a drivetrain problem took him out of contention on the fourth lap; he eventually finished 63rd.

At the front, as the race entered the final two laps, Absalon was getting increasingly nervous at being stuck with the two rivals and teammates. He launched a series of attacks, but the steep climbs made it impossible to gain any sort of meaningful gap on his rivals. Vogel went off the front at the end of lap five, forcing Absalon to chase, and pull Schurter up with him.

The French rider was able to drop Vogel on the final lap, but the gap was small, so he had to stay at the front, while Schurter sat on his wheel. Absalon tried a series of attacks, but Schurter was able to respond to every one and, as they entered the final feed zone, with less than a kilometre and a half to

the finish line, Schurter made his own move, getting in front for the series of turns on the final flat section, with nowhere left for Absalon to pass before the finish line.

"It was very good for both Florian and I to be together," agreed Schurter. "I think Julien was actually the strongest rider out there today, but we were able to work together against him. I knew that the place to attack was at the last feed zone, because there was nowhere to pass after that. And, I have been pretty good against Julien in sprints lately, so I was confident I could get by him there."

Absalon agreed that having Vogel there certainly helped Schurter, and virtually conceded the World Cup title to Schurter. "It was two against one, and they were very good together. I tried to attack a number of times, but on these steep climbs it is impossible to get a gap. You cannot get enough power to get away. The feed zone was the place where you had to be in front, but Nino was just a little bit faster and was able to get there first.

"But, I'm happy with my form, and now I will just focus on the World Championships; I have four weeks to prepare. I will ride Windham, of course, but the focus is the World Championships."

Schurter now has 936 points to Absalon's 910, with European champion Jaroslav Kulhavy third at 790.

American Adam Craig (Rabobank-Giant) was the top North American, in 17th, followed by Todd Wells (Specialized) in 19th. Wells now becomes the top North American in the World Cup series standings, moving up to 18th place after former top-ranked Geoff Kabush (Maxxis-Rocky Mountain) dropped out at the halfway mark in the race.

#	<i>Rider Name (Country) Team</i>	<i>Result</i>
1	Nino Schurter (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	1:44:09
2	Julien Absalon (Fra) Orbea	0:00:04
3	Florian Vogel (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	0:00:20
4	Mathias Flückiger* (Swi) Trek World Racing	0:01:26
5	Ralph Naef (Swi) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:01:46
6	Jaroslav Kulhavy (Cze) Rubena-Birell-Specialized Cycling Team	0:02:31
7	Moritz Milatz (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:03:05
8	José Antonio Hermida Ramos (Spa) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:03:27
9	Cédric Ravanel (Fra) Lapierre International	0:03:45
10	Burry Stander (RSA) Specialized Factory Racing	0:03:51
11	Fabian Giger (Swi) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	0:04:05
12	Ruben Ruzafa Cueto (Spa) Orbea	0:04:06
13	Stéphane Tempier (Fra) TX Active Bianchi	0:04:23
14	Ivan Alvarez Gutierrez (Spa) Giant Italia Team	0:04:33
15	Lukas Flückiger (Swi) Trek World Racing	0:04:44
16	Martin Gujan (Swi) Cannondale Factory Racing	0:04:57
17	Adam Craig (USA) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	0:05:10
18	Rudi Van Houts (Ned) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:05:14
19	Todd Wells (USA) Specialized Factory Racing	0:05:34
20	Sergio Mantecon Gutierrez (Spa) Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	0:05:43
21	Carlos Coloma Nicolas (Spa) MSC Bikes	0:05:45
22	Jochen Kass (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:06:28
23	Manuel Fumic (Ger) Cannondale Factory Racing	0:06:29
24	Jeremy Horgan-Kobelski (USA) Subaru-Trek	0:06:55
25	Marco Aurelio Fontana (Ita) Cannondale Factory Racing	0:07:14
26	Karl Markt (Aut) Felt Oetztal X-Bionic Team	0:07:17
27	Tony Longo (Ita)	0:07:37
28	Marek Konwa* (Pol) Elettroveneta-Corrateg	0:07:57
29	Maxime Marotte (Fra) BH-Suntour	0:08:12
30	Niels Wubben* (Ned) Team Merida Combee	0:08:20
31	Alexey Medvedev (Rus) Elettroveneta-Corrateg	0:08:29
32	Wolfram Kurschat (Ger) Topeak Ergon Racing Team	0:08:34

33	Marco Minnaard* (Ned) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	0:08:35
34	Henk Jaap Moorlag* (Ned) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	0:08:48
35	Inaki Lejarreta Errasti (Spa) Orbea	0:08:53
36	Pierre-Geoffroy Plantet (Fra) Team New Cycling	0:09:09
37	Patrik Gallati* (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	0:09:23
38	Marc Colom (Fra)	0:09:28
39	Robert Gehbauer (Aut)	0:09:36
40	Jelmer Pietersma (Ned) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	0:09:40
41	Samuel Schultz (USA) Subaru-Trek	0:09:41
42	Jukka Vastaranta (Fin) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	0:09:44
43	Oliver Beckingsale (GBr) Giant Factory Team	0:09:51
44	Pascal Meyer* (Swi) M.I.G. Team	0:09:53
45	Frank Schotman (Ned) Stappenbelt Specialized MTB Team	0:10:01
46	Marcel Wildhaber (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing	0:10:03
47	Alexander Gehbauer* (Aut)	0:10:10
48	Hannes Metzler (Aut) Muskelkater Genesis Team	0:10:11
49	Sepp Freiburghaus (Swi) Thoemus Racing Team	0:10:26
50	Kevin Van Hoovels (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team	0:10:33
51	Uwe Hochenwarter (Aut) Muskelkater Genesis Team	0:10:34
52	Derek Zandstra (Can)	
53	Sebastien Carabin* (Bel) Lingier-Versluys Team	0:10:54
54	Andrea Tiberi (Ita) Surfing Shop	0:11:13
55	Matous Ulman (Cze) S&H Superior MTB Team	0:11:15
56	Rene Tann (Ger)	0:11:26
57	Filip Eberl (Cze)	0:11:47
58	Thomas Litscher* (Swi) M.I.G. Team	0:11:55
59	Emil Lindgren (Swe) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	0:11:59
60	Bas Peters (Ned) Team Merida Combee	0:12:06
61	Cristian Cominelli* (Ita) TX Active Bianchi	0:12:12
62	Ruben Scheire* (Bel) Team Saeco	0:12:15
63	Christoph Sauser (Swi) Specialized Factory Racing	0:12:17
64	Andrew Watson (Can)	0:12:38
65	Marcus Schulte-Luenzum* (Ger) M.I.G. Team	0:12:50

66	Magnus Darvell (Swe)	0:12:58
67	Michal Lami (Svk)	0:13:18
68	Samuele Porro* (Ita)	0:13:19
69	Bjorn Brems (Bel) G-Skin-Deforche MTB Racing Team	0:13:20
70	Kohei Yamamoto (Jpn)	0:13:22
71	Yader Zoli (Ita) Surfing Shop	0:13:27
72	Andras Parti (Hun)	0:13:51
73	Sergji Rysenko (Ukr) ISD Cycling Team	0:14:00
74	Jiri Hudecek (Cze)	0:14:23
75	Jelmer Jubbega* (Ned) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	0:14:32
76	David Joao Serralheiro Rosa (Por)	0:14:36
77	Diego Rosa* (Ita) Giant Italia Team	0:14:44
78	Jérémy Huguenin* (Swi) Giant Swiss Team	0:14:54
79	Dmytro Titarenko* (Ukr) ISD Cycling Team	
80	Balz Weber (Swi)	0:15:19
81	David Fletcher* (GBr)	0:15:36
82	Michael Broderick (USA)	0:15:52
83	Gerhard Kerschbaumer* (Ita)	0:16:11
84	Thibaut Bellanger* (Fra)	0:16:30
85	Ondrej Cink* (Cze) Merida Biking Team	0:16:39
86	Stephen Ettinger* (USA)	0:16:41
87	Reto Indergand* (Swi) Frn Tg Zentralschweiz	0:17:14
88	Tim Wynants (Bel) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	0:18:35
-1lap	Periklis Ilias (Gre) ISD Cycling Team	
-1lap	Irjan Luttenberg* (Ned) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team	
-1lap	Giancarlo Sax* (Swi) Thoemus Racing Team	
-1lap	Ola Kjören (Nor) Team Fokus-Danica	
-1lap	Cristobal Silva Ibaceta (Chi)	
-1lap	Peter Glassford (Can)	
-1lap	Matthias Hoi* (Aut)	
-1lap	Dirk Peters* (NZl)	
-1lap	Mattias Nilsson* (Swe)	
-1lap	Christopher Maletz (Ger)	

-1lap	Roberto Giacobazzi* (Ita) Team Cbe Tecnoimpianti A.S.D.
-1lap	Tim Lemmers* (Ned) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team
-1lap	Matthias Stirnemann* (Swi)
-1lap	Marco Schätzing (Ger) Team Firebike-Droessiger
-1lap	Matthias Rupp* (Swi) Scott-Swisspower MTB-Racing
-1lap	Benjamin Sonntag (Ger)
-1lap	Jakub Magnusek* (Cze) S&H Superior MTB Team
-1lap	Elia Silvestri* (Ita) Elettroveneta-Corrateg
-1lap	Hugo Drechou* (Fra)
-1lap	Zsolt Juhasz* (Hun) Euro One-Cube MTB Team
-1lap	Thomas Lapeyrie* (Fra) Scott Les Saisies
-1lap	Oleksandr Gerashchenko (Ukr) ISD Cycling Team
-1lap	Guillaume Vinit (Fra) BH-Suntour
-1lap	Roberto Crisi* (Ita) Hard Rock Frw A.S.D.
-1lap	Sebastian Szraucner (Ger)
-1lap	Marcel Fleschhut* (Ger)
-1lap	Benjamin Buchi* (Swi)
-1lap	Fabien Canal* (Fra) Keops Itwo
-1lap	Kornel Osicki* (Pol) Jbg-2 Professional MTB Team
-1lap	Olof Jonsson* (Swe) Eliza-Orbea Team
-1lap	Gilles Sarrazin* (Fra)
-1lap	Russell Finsterwald* (USA) Subaru-Trek
-1lap	Robby De Bock* (Bel)
-1lap	Cameron Jette (Can)
-2laps	Frank Beemer (Ned) Trek-Brentjens Mountainbike Racing Team
-2laps	Kyosuke Takei (Jpn)
-2laps	Fabian Rabensteiner* (Ita)
-2laps	Florian Thie* (Swi)
-2laps	Ole Christian Fagerli (Nor)
-2laps	Heiko Gutmann (Ger)
-2laps	Joshua Carlson (Aus)
-2laps	Steven Garcin (Fra)
-2laps	Marcus Nicolai* (Ger)

-2laps	Daniel Eymann* (Swi) Thoemus Racing Team
-2laps	Marek Rauchfuss* (Cze)
-2laps	Adrian Jackson (Aus)
-2laps	Manfred Zöger* (Aut)
-2laps	Fabrice Leguevaques* (Fra)
-2laps	Matej Nepustil* (Cze) Merida Biking Team
-2laps	David Simon* (Ger)
-2laps	Christoph Schwab* (Aut)
-2laps	Christian Bickel* (Swi)
-2laps	Ricardo Paulo Reis Marinho* (Por) TX Active Bianchi
-2laps	Tomas Pesek* (Cze)
-2laps	Adam Morka (Can)
-2laps	Daniel Kaufmann* (Swi)
-2laps	Umberto Corti (Ita) Team Cbe Tecnoimpianti A.S.D.
-2laps	Jack Hinkens* (USA)
-2laps	Jonas De Backer* (Bel) Team Saeco
-2laps	Cal Britten* (Aus)
-2laps	Oleksandr Kachanov* (Ukr)
-2laps	Martino Di Pierdomenico* (Ita) Hard Rock Frw A.S.D.
-2laps	Rob Vangenechten* (Bel) Team Saeco
-2laps	Simon Stiebjahn* (Ger)
-2laps	Michael Pesse* (Ita) Team Cbe Tecnoimpianti A.S.D.
-2laps	Nicolas Jeantet* (Ita) ISD Cycling Team
-2laps	Joris Massaer (Bel) G-Skin-Deforche MTB Racing Team
-2laps	François Bailly Maitre (Fra) Scott Les Saisies
-3laps	Andrew Blair (Aus) Torq Performance Nutrition
-3laps	Dana Weber (USA)
-3laps	Kerry Werner* (USA)
-3laps	Mark Csielka* (Hun) Euro One-Cube MTB Team
-3laps	Francesco Niccoli* (Ita) Hard Rock Frw A.S.D.
-3laps	Artyom Golovaschenko* (Kaz)
-3laps	John Whittington* (GBr)
-3laps	Andras Szatmary* (Hun) Euro One-Cube MTB Team

-3laps	Mirco Widmer* (Swi) Giant Swiss Team
-3laps	Dror Pekatch (Isr) Subaru-Trek
-3laps	Gabor Bogar (Hun) Euro One-Cube MTB Team
-3laps	Mykhaylo Batsutsa* (Ukr) ISD Cycling Team
-3laps	Sebastian Batchelor* (GBr) Infotre - Leecougan
-3laps	Severin Disch* (Swi) Giant Swiss Team
-3laps	James Peacock* (Aus)
-3laps	Timothy Carleton (Can)
-3laps	Nikolay Zaitsev* (Kaz)
-3laps	Kirill Kazantsev (Kaz)
-4laps	Adrien Niyonshuti (Rwa)
DNF	Robert Mennen (Ger)
DNF	Kristian Hynek (Cze) S&H Superior MTB Team
DNF	Alexis Vuillermoz* (Fra) Lapierre International
DNF	Nicola Rohrbach (Swi)
DNF	Christoph Soukup (Aut) Merida Biking Team
DNF	Geoff Kabush (Can) Team Maxxis-Rocky Mountain
DNF	Martin Fanger* (Swi) Giant Swiss Team
DNF	Michele Casagrande (Ita) Elettroveneta-Corrateg
DNF	Markus Preiss* (Aut)
DNF	Johannes Schweiggl (Ita)
DNF	Martino Fruet (Ita)
DNF	Jan Skarnitzl (Cze)
DNF	Rourke Croeser* (RSA)
DNF	Simon Scheiber* (Aut) Felt Oetzal X-Bionic Team
DNS	Erik Groen* (Ned) Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team
DNS	Henrik Kippernes* (Nor) Team Fokus-Danica
DNS	Milan Spesny (Cze) S&H Superior MTB Team

### Teams

#	Rider Name (Country) Team	Result	
1	Multivan Merida Biking Team	97	pts
2	Scott-Swisspower MTB Racing	72	
3	Orbea	54	



4	Trek World Racing	46
5	Rabobank-Giant Offroad Team	34
6	Specialized Factory Racing	33
7	Cannondale Factory Racing	29
8	Rubena - Birell - Specialized Cycling Team	26
9	Lapierre International	22
10	TX Active Bianchi	18
11	Giant Italia Team	17
12	Trek-Lorca Taller Del Tiempo	11
13	MSC Bikes	10
14	Subaru-Gary Fisher	7
15	Felt Oetzal X-Bionic Team	5
16	Elettroveneta-Corrateg	3
17	BH-Suntour	2
18	Team Merida Combee	1