

Kulhavy dominates cross country World Cup

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Czech racer leads from start to finish



Jaroslav Kulhavy (Specialized Racing) wins the World Cup cross country in Mont-Sainte-Anne (Image credit: Tour of Japan)

The fourth round of the men's World Cup cross country was dominated by Jaroslav Kulhavy (Specialized), who rode away from the rest of the field to win by nearly two minutes. In the absence of World Cup leader Julien Absalon (Orbea), who had stated that he would not attend Monte-Sainte-Anne or Windham [New York] as he prepared for the world championships, Kulhavy easily resumed the lead in the standings.

While Kulhavy rode away from the rest of the field on the first lap, behind him it was carnage on the infamous "Beatrice" rock garden descent, with almost every rider in the top-20 crashing at least once, many suffering mechanical problems, or cuts and bruises as they went tumbling down the rocks.

Nino Schurter (Scott-Swisspower) took control of second place immediately, with four riders fighting for the remaining podium spots - world champion Jose Hermida (Multivan-Merida), Mathias Flückiger (Trek World Racing), Florian Vogel (Scott-Swisspower) and Burry Stander (Specialized). The four rode consistently together until Stander crashed heavily on Beatrice on lap three, and dropped off the back of the chase group to limp home in sixth.

Hermida, who won the world title here last year, was conserving energy, and attacked very hard with a lap and a half to go, moving into third for the final lap, and almost catching Schurter in second at the line. Flückiger and Vogel rounded out the top-five.

"I knew that it would be better to be front," said Kulhavy, "so that I could avoid the traffic that would be a problem at the Beatrice. So I went hard on the first climb to get in front, and then I could go my own pace. This is a very hard course, but I like it, and I knew that I could take back the [World Cup] lead here."

Race Notes

- Kulhavy now leads the men's standings with 860 points, followed by Schurter at 670 and Absalon falls to third with 650 points.

- Geoff Kabush (Maxxis-Rocky Mountain) was the top North American, finishing in seventh after a strong final lap and a half. Kabush jumped 10 spots in the standings, to 25th with 211 points. "I'm really glad to be back running with the top guys at the front, after a frustrating early season in Europe," said Kabush. "I've had a really good month of training in June, and this course suits me well. I hope this is the start of a strong second half to the season."

- Gerhard Kerschbaumer (TX Active Bianchi) won the Under 23 race earlier in the day, riding away from Fabien Canal (GT Skoda Chamonix) on the third lap. He took over the World Cup lead with his win.

#	Rider Name (Country) Team	Result
1	Jaroslav Kulhavy (Cze) Specialized Racing	1:35:51
2	Nino Schurter (Swi) Scott - Swisspower MTB - Racing	0:01:42
3	José Antonio Hermida Ramos (Spa) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:01:54
4	Mathias Flückiger (Swi) Trek World Racing	0:02:33
5	Florian Vogel (Swi) Scott - Swisspower MTB - Racing	0:02:51
6	Burry Stander (RSA) Specialized Racing	0:03:42
7	Geoff Kabush (Can) Team Maxxis - Rocky Mountain	0:04:14
8	Christoph Sauser (Swi) Specialized Racing	0:04:31
9	Thomas Litscher (Swi) Felt Oetzal X - Bionic Team	0:04:33
10	Martin Gujan (Swi) Cannondale Factory Racing	
11	Stéphane Tempier (Fra) TX Active Bianchi	0:04:56
12	Maxime Marotte (Fra) BH - Suntour - Peisey Vallandry	0:05:09
13	Patrik Gallati (Swi) BMC Mountainbike Racing Team	0:05:20
14	Manuel Fumic (Ger) Cannondale Factory Racing	0:05:48
15	Ralph Naef (Swi) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:06:56
16	Severin Disch (Swi) Thoemus Racing Team	0:07:09
17	Lukas Flückiger (Swi) Trek World Racing	0:07:38
18	Todd Wells (USA) Specialized Racing	0:07:43
19	Rudi Van Houts (Ned) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:07:51
20	Ivan Alvarez Gutierrez (Spa) Giant Italia Team	0:08:34
21	Carlos Coloma Nicolas (Spa) Wildwolf - Trek Racing	0:08:42
22	Samuel Schultz (USA) Subaru - Trek	
23	Inaki Lejarreta Errasti (Spa) Orbea	0:08:47
24	Karl Markt (Aut) Felt Oetzal X - Bionic Team	0:09:03
25	Jeremy Horgan-Kobelski (USA) Subaru - Trek	0:09:07
26	Sergio Mantecon Gutierrez (Spa) Wildwolf - Trek Racing	0:09:20
27	Fabian Giger (Swi) Rabobank - Giant Off-Road Team	0:09:40
28	Jiri Friedl (Cze) Rubena - Birell - Specialized Cycling Team	0:09:59
29	Lukas Kaufmann (Swi)	0:10:04
30	Kohei Yamamoto (Jpn) Team Bridgestone Anchor	0:10:21
31	Liam Killeen (GBr) Giant Factory Off-Road Team	0:10:44
32	Cédric Ravanel (Fra) GT Skoda Chamonix	0:11:16

33	Jochen Kass (Ger) Multivan Merida Biking Team	0:12:02
34	Moritz Milatz (Ger) BMC Mountainbike Racing Team	0:12:16
35	Matous Ulman (Cze) S&H Superior MTB Team	0:12:32
36	Irjan Luttenberg (Ned) MPL Specialized MTB Team	0:12:50
37	Jiri Novak (Cze) S&H Superior MTB Team	0:13:37
38	Spencer Paxson (USA) Kona	0:13:49
39	Adam Craig (USA) Rabobank - Giant Off-Road Team	0:13:55
40	Marc Colom (Fra) Team Newcycling	0:14:08
41	Adam Morka (Can)	0:14:10
42	Nicola Rohrbach (Swi) Elettroveneta - Corratec	0:14:33
43	Marek Galinski (Pol) JBG - 2 Professional MTB Team	0:15:39
44	Pierre-Geoffroy Plantet (Fra) Lapierre International	0:16:06
-1lap	Jeremiah Bishop (USA)	
-1lap	Andrew Watson (Can)	
-1lap	Andras Parti (Hun) Euro One - Cube MTB Team	
-1lap	Uwe Hochenwarter (Aut) Muskelkater Genesis Team	
-1lap	Eric Batty (Can)	
-1lap	Derek Zandstra (Can)	
-1lap	Sepp Freiburghaus (Swi) Thoemus Racing Team	
-1lap	Peter Glassford (Can)	
-1lap	Jan Skarnitzl (Cze) Rubena - Birell - Specialized Cycling Team	
-2laps	Matthew Hadley (Can)	
-2laps	Raphael Gagne (Can)	
-2laps	Lachlan Norris (Aus) Giant Factory Off-Road Team	
-2laps	Joshua Carlson (Aus)	
-2laps	Wolfram Kurschat (Ger) Topeak Ergon Racing Team	
-2laps	Michael Broderick (USA)	
-2laps	Henk Jaap Moorlag (Ned) Rabobank - Giant Off-Road Team	
-2laps	Niels Wubben (Ned) Rabobank - Giant Off-Road Team	
-2laps	Seiya Hirano (Jpn) Team Bridgestone Anchor	
-2laps	Cameron Jette (Can)	
-2laps	Marc-Andre Daigle (Can)	
-2laps	Félix Cote (Can)	

-3laps	Rotem Ishai (Isr)
-3laps	Travis Woodruff (USA)
-3laps	Christian Bickel (Swi)
-3laps	Pierre Lebreton (Fra) BH - Suntour - Peisey Vallandry
-3laps	Sid Taberlay (Aus)
-3laps	Michal Lami (Svk)
-4laps	Christopher Hamlin (USA)
DNF	Martin Fanger (Swi) Giant Swiss Sr - Suntour
DNF	Pascal Meyer (Swi) Thoemus Racing Team
DNF	Marco Aurelio Fontana (Ita) Cannondale Factory Racing
DNF	Emil Lindgren (Swe) Rabobank - Giant Off-Road Team
DNF	Cristobal Silva Ibaceta (Chi)
DNF	Troy Wells (USA)
DNF	Leni Trudel (Can)