



Bootes and Chausson Win Dual Debut

For the first time ever, the slalom-type mountain bike race known as the Dual debuted at the UCI World Mountain Bike Championships as an official rainbow jersey event. The largest crowds of the weekend - perhaps 15,000 - validated this fast-moving and exciting downhill discipline, as 32 men and 16 women vied to be first down the 22-second course.

Wade Bootes (*AUS*) met up with **Brian Lopes** (*USA*) in the final round of men's action, the two ex-BMX racers favoured for the win after qualifying as the fastest in timed runs two days ago. Lopes, the more veteran rider and 1998 World Cup overall champion, knew he had his work cut out for himself Saturday evening as Bootes had lane choice by virtue of his faster qualifying time.

Lane choice in the dual is critical, as whichever rider chooses the "*inside*" track has a slight advantage on most courses because they can get to the corner first and - once in front of their opponent - command the pace of the heat. Bootes had that advantage, and got to the first high-banked turn slightly ahead of Lopes. He then kept the lead and flew into the finish line metres ahead of Lopes to win his second major international dual race and first rainbow jersey.

The route to the finals was littered with dust and missed opportunities for the other men, who knew they were racing in a single-elimination format. Bootes had to beat out *Great Britain's* **Steve Peat** to get to the final round, as well as fellow *Australian* **Sean McCarroll**.

Lopes raced against trade team-mate **Johan Engström** (*SWE*) and '93 DH world champion **Mike King** (*USA*) on his route to the finals, finally beating **Mickael Deldycke** (*FRA*) in semi-final 2.

Deldycke and McCarroll then met in a consolation round, racing for the last remaining podium spot and 3rd place. Deldycke beat out the Australian in that heat, taking the bronze for the event.

Ari Cheren

<i>place</i>	<i>bib</i>	<i>UCIcode</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>nom</i>	<i>nat</i>
1	1	AUS19740530	BOOTES	Wade	AUS
2	2	USA19710906	LOPES	Brian	USA
3	14	FRA19800826	DELDYCKE	Mickael	FRA
4	13	AUS19771105	MCCARROLL	Sean	AUS
5	7	USA19690630	KING	Mike	USA
5	9	GBR19740617	PEAT	Steve	GBR
5	11	USA19780320	HOUSEMAN	Rich	USA
5	12	USA19800903	HOUSEMAN	Gary	USA
9	3	USA19700306	CARTER	Eric	USA
9	4	FRA19780323	GRACIA	Cedric	FRA
9	5	SVK19820410	POLC	Filip	SVK
9	8	FRA19750118	AMOUR	Karim	FRA
9	10	GBR19780602	BEAUMONT	Scott	GBR
9	15	SWE19770208	ENGSTROM	Johan	SWE
9	16	GER19760514	TSCHUGG	Guido	GER
9	27	CZE19810425	VAGNER	Adam	CZE
17	17	GBR19741123	LONGDEN	Will	GBR
17	18	CZE19770622	JOCH	Petr	CZE
17	19	GBR19720201	PAGE	Nigel	GBR
17	20	CZE19780529	MAROSI	Michal	CZE
17	21	USA19671103	TOMAC	John	USA
17	22	RSA19811113	MINNAAR	Greg	RSA
17	23	SUI19780609	BUELER	Andy	SUI
17	24	GBR19721010	PONTING	Tim	GBR
17	25	GER19780620	MEYENBURG	Sascha	GER
17	26	SWE19780312	LUNDMAN	Jan	SWE
17	28	AUS19810622	RANDO	Jared	AUS
17	29	NED19720125	VAN DER HATERD	Wilfred	NED
17	30	BEL19770608	DEFERM	Stijn	BEL
17	31	IRL19770906	O'BRIEN	Glyn	IRL
17	32	RSA19680927	NIXON	Chris	RSA
	6	USA19691029	CULLINAN	Dave	USA