



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	33	FRA19771008	CHAUSSON	Anne-Caroline	FRA
2	35	USA19761128	LLANES	Tara	USA
3	36	FRA19810819	JONNIER	Sabrina	FRA
4	34	SUI19800725	JORGENSEN	Sari	SUI
5	38	USA19690419	SHER	Lisa	USA
5	39	USA19680805	BRUITSAERT	Elke	USA
5	40	NZL19761015	QUIN	Vanessa	NZL
5	44	JPN19761108	SAKAMOTO	Miwa	JPN
9	37	SUI19790825	STIEGER	Sarah	SUI
9	41	JPN19830401	SUEMASA	Moi	JPN
9	42	CZE19780621	KURANDOVA	Helena	CZE
9	43	SWE19740824	LINDGREN	Malin	SWE
9	45	CAN19751029	BLANCHER	Lorraine	CAN
9	47	GBR19760801	MORTIMER	Helen	GBR
9	48	GBR19810317	LEIGH	Jo	GBR
	46	USA19711211	DONOVAN	Leigh	USA