

## Results / Résultats - Hommes U23 Men - XC

distance: 39.700km | average speed: 21.315km/h

### Martinez Repeats U-23 Championship Win

**Miguel Martinez** (FRA) won the gold medal and showed the world that his '98 season was anything but a let-down. As early as lap two in this five lap race he rode off the front and presented himself as a target for his long time rival, **Cadel Evans** (AUS).

It was a true clash of the titans. These two riders are the top ranked cross country mountain bike racers in the world - in all classes. And acknowledging this, the great champion **Thomas Frischknecht** jokingly admitted over the race public address system that he was glad that he didn't have to race in this aspirants category.

But it had to end in defeat for one of these mighty young riders, and today it was Evans, who in the final lap dropped three minutes and descended from race leader to fourth place.

**Christophe Sauser** (SUI) and **Roel Paulissen** (BEL) raced to fill the silver and bronze medal positions, with the Swiss rider first into the breach.

This race was only ever likely to be between two riders: Evans and Martinez. Evans rode out of character today, for most of his big wins this year have resulted from a late attack. Here he surged past Martinez on the first climb - a fire road ascent that should be called Heartbreak Hill - and tried to scare the Frenchman into submission. At the end of the race Evans claimed that he had let himself down through poor tactical acumen. Although had his ploy worked it would have been hailed as a courageous and intimidating attack.

But "*Little Mig*" is not one to be intimidated by anybody. He calmly chased for two laps, not letting the gap grow to more than 15



**Miguel Martinez - FRA**



seconds. As they approached the final lap he closed in on Evans, waiting for the best opportunity to strike: the first climb. And Martinez picked his spot well. The diminutive Frenchman blazed up the fire road to pass the amazed Evans on a hill that broke the Aussie's heart.

On the steep, technical descent through trees that followed, Evans, desperate to make up the 20 second deficit, crashed. And although he only lost five or ten seconds in this, it could have been the straw that broke the Aussie's back.



**Cadel Evans - AUS**

As for Martinez, he had enough energy to put in a last lap that was almost as fast as the second of the race. *"My last lap was really fast,"* he asserted. *"I don't think anybody will do a faster lap than that this weekend."* And he could be right. He continued: *"I was very comfortable, and knew I had the strength to do it. I waited until late in the race and when I passed Cadel I thought he would hold a bit longer, but I realized he had a lack of confidence. I started with confidence, and ended with a major victory."*

Until the final lap, Sauser and Paulissen had thought they were racing for the bronze. And they were having a tough battle for the medal. Entering the final lap, the two were within a second of each other, about a minute and a half behind the leaders.

Some desperate descending by former downhiller Sauser took him clear of Paulissen on the last lap, and to his surprise he soon encountered Evans ahead of him. *"It was a big surprise to pass Cadel, it was just within 1km that I was able to close the gap. It's a good present for me to have this nice finish here."*

By the time Paulissen caught him, Evans was beyond caring. For Evans, the loss made a bitter ending to a sweet season in which he had won his first World Cup title. *"My goal this year was the world cup, and to get a good result at world's would have been a bonus for me... Today it was all or nothing..."*

and I ended up with nothing," a dejected Evans surmised.

By *Ari Cheren* and *Paul Skilbeck*

HOMMES - U23 ans					
<i>bib</i>	<i>place</i>	<i>name/nom</i>	<i>nat</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>t+</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>MARTINEZ Miguel</b>	<b>FRA</b>	<b>1:51:45</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>SAUSER Christoph</b>	<b>SUI</b>	<b>1:53:52</b>	<b>2:07</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>PAULISSEN Roel</b>	<b>BEL</b>	<b>1:54:16</b>	<b>2:31</b>
2	4	EVANS Cadel	AUS	1:55:12	3:27
7	5	FRUET Martino	ITA	1:55:31	3:46
5	6	HOCHSTRASSER Thomas	SUI	1:56:20	4:35
12	7	FUMIC Lado	GER	1:56:42	4:57
42	8	POULY Peter	FRA	1:57:51	6:06
10	9	MCGRATH Seamus	CAN	1:58:19	6:34
15	10	KALBERER Thomas	SUI	1:59:01	7:16
39	11	FRECH Frederick	FRA	1:59:50	8:05
9	12	AUSTAD Haakon	NOR	2:00:20	8:35
14	13	JUNGAKER Erik	SWE	2:00:31	8:46
36	14	MARQUEZ Jose	ESP	2:00:39	8:54
17	15	PERAUD J.-Christophe	FRA	2:01:41	9:56
55	16	RIERA Jordi	ESP	2:02:09	10:24
8	17	LEUCHS Kashi	NZL	2:02:28	10:43
75	18	SCHLOSSER Roman	GER	2:02:46	11:01
49	19	JEZEK Vaclav	CZE	2:03:17	11:32
33	20	KONDIS Lubos	SVK	2:03:27	11:42
64	21	TREVISAN Patrick	BEL	2:03:37	11:52
40	22	GERKEN Mat	USA	2:03:56	12:11
58	23	VANDENDRIESSCHE Jurgen	BEL	2:04:10	12:25
28	24	BUI Marco	ITA	2:04:21	12:36
18	25	TOULOUSE Mathieu	CAN	2:04:36	12:51
13	26	MADRIGAL Ziranda	MEX	2:04:48	13:03
114	27	STORMO Fredrik	NOR	2:05:05	13:20
74	28	NICKE Thomas	GER	2:05:08	13:23
16	29	KABUSH Geoff	CAN	2:05:10	13:25
91	30	HORGAN-KOBELSKI Jeremy	USA	2:05:30	13:45
57	31	SEABRA Renato	BRA	2:05:38	13:53
11	32	GROVER Neil	CAN	2:06:19	14:34
70	33	STEINHAUSER Kai	SUI	2:06:44	14:59
51	34	UNTERTHURNER Stephan	ITA	2:07:03	15:18
44	35	HILBE Christian	AUT	2:07:10	15:25

117	36	BECKINGSALE Olivier	GBR 2:07:24 15:38
22	37	RADOMSKI Ryah	USA 2:07:27 15:42
87	38	BURUCZKI Szilard	HUN 2:07:41 15:56
60	39	SONNTAG Marc	CAN 2:07:48 16:03
45	40	PETERS Bas	NED 2:08:08 16:23
77	41	NIELSEN Klavs	DEN 2:08:09 16:24
31	42	SCHRIVER Zach	USA 2:08:09 16:24
26	43	HALL Josh	CAN 2:08:12 16:27
62	44	VAN MIL Ruud	NED 2:08:14 16:29
48	45	BONILLA Jose	CRC 2:09:00 17:15
50	46	KARCZYNSKI Marcin	POL 2:09:14 17:29
35	47	REIN Axel	GER 2:09:23 17:38
43	48	LI Fuyu	CHN 2:09:24 17:39
97	49	HABE Ales	SLO 2:09:59 18:14
24	50	REDENBACH Paul	AUS 2:10:09 18:24
118	51	WILKINSON Ian	GBR 2:10:26 18:41
59	52	BLANCO Gabriel	ARG 2:10:28 18:43
76	53	TANKINK Bram	NED 2:10:43 18:58
101	54	DIORENZO Ignacio	ARG 2:10:50 19:05
29	55	MALMSTEN Johan	SWE 2:11:04 19:19
23	56	BENNETT Tim	AUS 2:11:31 19:46
54	57	NUCKLE Martin	CAN 2:11:39 19:54
121	58	KOVAC Maros	SVK 2:11:43 19:58
56	59	BUNDI Silvio	SUI 2:11:45 20:00
100	60	DALY Karl	IRL 2:12:24 20:39
116	61	TRUJILLO Carlos	COL 2:12:28 20:43
67	62	PRESSLAUER Peter	AUT 2:12:32 20:47
27	63	UDAGAWA Akkihito	JPN 2:12:40 20:55
113	64	SCHNEIDER Jed	USA 2:12:54 21:09
53	65	DOLEZAL Tomas	CZE 2:13:05 21:20
20	66	ERIKSSON Kim	SWE 2:13:12 21:27
86	67	TROBEVSEK Tadej	SLO 2:14:21 22:36
81	68	RAMETSTEINER Roman	AUT 2:14:30 22:45
30	69	DRASLER Rok	SLO 2:14:56 23:11
38	70	BARRIGA Salvador	MEX 2:15:13 23:28
41	71	BROEKMANS Arne	BEL 2:15:14 23:28
63	72	RIBEIRO Marconi	BRA 2:15:57 24:12
107	73	KOMAC Urban	SLO 2:17:04 25:18
119	74	MASNY Marian	SVK 2:17:54 26:09
83	75	TOLEDO Juan	CHI 2:18:09 26:24
109	76	MATSUMOTO Shun	JPN 2:18:27 26:42
80	77	BAKKER Erwin	NED 2:19:07 27:22

102	78	DUARTE Andres	GUA	2:19:31	27:46
52	79	VAZQUEZ Felipe	MEX	2:20:52	29:07
85	80	BANNISTER Mark	CHI	2:21:16	29:31
111	81	PIENAAR Fritz	RSA	0	0
95	82	AVILA Gael	MEX	0	0
98	83	CORDES Paul	RSA	0	0
92	84	SAITO Tomohiro	JPN	0	0
66	85	ARAYA Mario	CRC	0	0
25	86	MIKLIC Gregor	SLO	0	0
112	87	SANTOS Leonel	GUA	0	0
73	88	MARTINEZ Salvador	MEX	0	0
122	89	CORTES Marco	MEX	0	0
6	90	HERMIDA Jose	ESP	0	0
19	90	HILL Dean	NZL	0	0
21	90	BONNE Thomas	DEN	0	0
32	90	HEJDUK Stanislav	CZE	0	0
34	90	ZANOTTI Leonardo	ITA	0	0
46	90	BRADY Craig	IRL	0	0
47	90	BOTERO John	COL	0	0
61	90	KIRCHER Robert	AUT	0	0
65	90	LIN Wei-Hsin	TPE	0	0
69	90	GONSALVES Rory	ANT	0	0
82	90	STOCKWELL Jay	AUS	0	0
89	90	PATE Danny	USA	0	0
96	90	MOESCHLER Jason	USA	0	0
104	90	GOTO Shinsaku	JPN	0	0
115	90	THOMAS Timothy	ANT	0	0
120	90	HUNG Hsiang-Yi	TPE	0	0