

UCI World Mountain Bike Championships Championnats du Monde du l'UCI- MTB

Report/Rapport: *Men/Hommes - u23 Cross country - 17.9.1999 - 14.00-16.30* Big Win for Bui

Racing at the World Championships continued on a rainy Friday afternoon, with **Marco Bui** (*ITA*) winning the Under-23 men's cross-country event with a powerful last-lap surge past World Cup champion **Cadel Evans** of *Australia*. Evans had overtaken the lead in the third of four laps, but was caught and passed by Bui on the final descent as Evans crashed and Bui rode to a 20" victory.

The Under-23 men compete in the Elite division during the world cup season, but contest their own cross-country event at the World Championships - a race separate from Sunday's senior event. While the field is smaller, it is no less competitive as several of the world's best racers are under the age of 23.

Evans was the main attraction of this 1999 edition of the U-23 race, the two-times World Cup champion coming into this final event in the top of his form. He was also being closely watched this year, as he has now competed in nine World Championships with six medals, but no victories and rainbow jerseys.

Racing began under dark and wet skies, a light rain making for some of the coldest and muddiest conditions of any World Championship. *Italy's* **Martino Fruet** took the first lead in the opening lap - a steady line of riders forming then quickly breaking up within the first lap.

Fruet, who finished as the 10th-fastest U-23 rider in the Houffalize World Cup finals two weeks ago, led the race by 38 seconds with Evans and Bui riding together as the only legitimate chase group. Bui, who shares *Paola Pezzo's* coach Paolo Rosola and was the second-fastest rider in Wednesday's Team Relay behind Evans, closely shadowed the experienced Evans. The next closest rider, **Jure Golcer** of *Slovenia*, was more than one minute off the lead in the race's first half.

After chasing for more than two laps, Evans and Bui passed Fruet early in the third lap, building a gap of a minute by the beginning of lap four. As Fruet struggled for his place the podium, Evans attacked Bui for the win, knowing that, with only one lap remaining, he'd have to amass his gap on the long sustained climbs against this excellent descender.

Entering the fourth and final lap, Evans finally had a significant lead on Bui - 15 seconds by the top of the final descent. But Bui, who was simply faster than Evans in the slippery, off-camber corners caught Evans less than a minute from the finish line, and on this serpentine section of the course, the race was finally decided.

Evans entered one of the final open corners before the last singletrack on foot, dismounting to negotiate a slippery corner. Bui, meanwhile, had nearly caught Evans and remained on his bike. He then made contact with Evans on the next turn, overtaking the lead while Evans crashed off of his bike.



Marco Bui



Cadel Evans

"On the final downhill I gave it all I had," said Bui, who raced in the Downhill category as a Junior. "I went in too fast to the corner, and touched Evans and then he was gone." By the time Evans had collected his bike (which slid several metres down the slope) and remounted, he had lost approximately 17 seconds... and the race.

"I've never trained for this situation before," said a dejected Evans. "He was behind me, and then he had 17 seconds on me. I'm a fair racer - I'm not racing with my elbows. What can you do?"

Asked if Bui's move was unfair, Evans replied *"That's debatable. He clipped me, my bike went down and while he rode on I had to run back and grab my bike. When it comes to the rainbow jersey I seem to be cursed."*



Marco Bui

Just minutes later, Bui entered the finish arena in the front to claim his first World Championship title.

"I couldn't believe it when I crossed the line," he said. "But maybe now I believe that I am the World Champion. This race was mine because I was the strongest, but over the whole season it was Cadel who was strongest."

Thanks to Ari Cheren for this report.

Flash Quotes:

1st **Marco Bui** (ITA) - through a translator

"I knew Cadel Evans is such a good climber I tried all race to keep on his wheel when climbing because I knew I was much better than he on the descent. I knew if I could hold the gap to 20 seconds that I could do it. On the final downhill I gave it all I had. I went in too fast to the corner and touched Evans and then he was gone."

2nd **Cadel Evans** (AUS)

"He was behind me, and now he has 17 seconds on me. What can you do? He was on the outside of me in the corner, he clipped me - I'm a fair racer... "

Was Bui's move unfair?

"That's debatable. He passed me on a corner, clipped me, my bike went down and while he rode on I had to run back and grab my bike.

"On the final climb I had a lead of 25 seconds at the top, but Bui was descending much better than I was in the slippery conditions.

"At all these past world championships I've been so close. It just comes down to fortune so much.

"I proved on Wednesday (Team Relay) how well I was riding this course in dry conditions. Oh well, next year when I'm in the Elite category. I can win most other races, but when it comes to the rainbow jersey I seem to be cursed."

3rd **Martino Fruet** (ITA) - through a translator

"I took the lead early because I knew this would be a good tactical move. I drew Evans out, while Marco Bui stayed on his wheel. As soon as Cadel Evans came up to me, Marco attacked, but he could not leave Evans behind. And then it was a game between the two of them."

"Now I have 3rd place in the European championships and 3rd place in the World championships. I was happy about this result, but I would have liked to have won today."



<i>bib</i>	<i>place</i>	<i>name/nom</i>	<i>nat</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>t+</i>	<i>UCIcode</i>
5	1	BUI,Marco	ITA	2:19:46	0	ITA19771017
2	2	EVANS,Cadel	AUS	2:20:06	20	AUS19770214
6	3	FRUET,Martino	ITA	2:23:07	3:21	ITA19770721
14	4	GOLCER,Jure	SLO	2:24:36	4:50	SLO19771207
15	5	ABSALON,Julien	FRA	2:27:18	7:32	FRA19800816
57	6	MENDE,Matthias	GER	2:27:39	7:53	GER19791123
11	7	DRASLER,Rok	SLO	2:28:08	8:22	SLO19790526
4	8	HERMIDA,Jose Ramos	ESP	2:29:34	9:48	ESP19780824
10	9	KABUSH,Geoff	CAN	2:31:39	11:53	CAN19770414
13	10	TREVISAN,Patrick	BEL	2:33:12	13:26	BEL19790218
7	11	AUSTAD,Hakon	NOR	2:34:23	14:37	NOR19780305
3	12	LEUCHS,Kashi	NZL	2:34:32	14:46	NZL19780630
24	13	COENEN,Davy	BEL	2:34:37	14:51	BEL19800402
29	14	STORMO,Frederik	NOR	2:34:48	15:02	NOR19770103
25	15	BUNDI,Silvio	SUI	2:36:00	16:14	SUI19780613
33	16	SONNTAG,Marc	CAN	2:36:24	16:38	CAN19771203
38	17	JEZEK,Vaclav	CZE	2:36:46	17:00	CZE19770913
52	18	WOLK,Timo	GER	2:36:57	17:11	GER19780130
9	19	MADRIGAL,Ziranda	MEX	2:38:03	18:17	MEX19770523
121	20	SPEŠNY,Milan	CZE	2:38:14	18:28	CZE19770322
59	21	DOLEZAL,Tomas	CZE	2:38:22	18:36	CZE19780617
31	22	KIRCHER,Robert	AUT	2:39:03	19:17	AUT19770630
68	23	STEINER,Manfred	ITA	2:39:11	19:25	ITA19800505
46	24	RIERA,Jordi	ESP	2:40:00	20:14	ESP19780409
40	25	FLEURY,Patrik	SUI	2:40:13	20:27	SUI19770918
36	26	WILKINSON,Ian	GBR	2:40:43	20:57	GBR19790414
47	27	TANKINK,Bram	NED	2:41:00	21:14	NED19781203
17	28	KOWAL,Mariusz	POL	2:41:38	21:52	POL19780503
113	29	LARSSON,Gustav	SWE	2:41:49	22:03	SWE19800920
34	30	PRESSLAUER,Peter	AUT	2:42:20	22:34	AUT19780617
106	31	WESTERGREN,Jens	SWE	2:42:53	23:07	SWE19790515
69	32	BOWER,Pat	USA	2:43:30	23:44	USA19800326
83	33	DILGER,Andreas	GER	2:44:11	24:25	GER19780511
62	34	OLDHAM,Paul	GBR	2:44:42	24:56	GBR19770905
79	35	ESCHENBACH,Florian	GER	2:45:02	25:16	GER19780221
48	36	HORGAN-KOBELSKI,Jeremy	USA	2:45:49	26:03	USA19780811

41	37	VACHETTE, Yohann	FRA	2:45:59	26:13	FRA19790514
81	38	STORMO, Lars Petter	NOR	2:46:49	27:03	NOR19800401
86	39	BOLSTAD, Jorn Espen	NOR	2:47:30	27:44	NOR19781026
53	40	BAKKER, Erwin	NED	2:47:50	28:04	NED19791010
103	41	MODIN, Fredrik	SWE	2:48:07	28:21	SWE19800505
18	42	BONNE, Thomas	DEN	2:48:20	28:34	DEN19770522
54	43	RIIS, ANDERSON Peter	DEN	2:50:20	30:34	DEN19800725
96	44	TAMMKORV, Helmet	EST	2:50:24	30:38	EST19780514
108	45	DES ROSIERS, Luc	CAN	2:51:19	31:33	CAN19771001
129	46	RISENKO, Sergiy	UKR	2:52:50	33:04	UKR19800315
72	47	AL, Thijs	NED	2:53:02	33:16	NED19800616
49	48	TJALLINGLI, Marten	NED	2:53:06	33:20	NED19771105
92	49	ERIKSSON, Fredrick	SWE	2:54:12	34:26	SWE19780918
99	50	JALOMAKI, Jarno	FIN	2:55:55	36:09	FIN19790807
30	51	REDENBACH, Paul	AUS	2:55:59	36:13	AUS19780411
60	52	KRIEL, Heinke	RSA	2:57:24	37:38	RSA19790112
123	53	HIRAI, Kazunori	JPN	2:57:28	37:42	JPN19780907
85	54	SAITO, Tomohiro	JPN	2:58:10	38:24	JPN19770302
58	55	NAF, Ralph	SUI	3:00:35	40:49	SUI19800510
23	56	VAN MIL, Ruud	NED	3:02:04	42:18	NED19770522
42	57	HESJEDAL, Ryder	CAN	3:03:10	43:24	CAN19801209
74	58	BAXTER, Elliot	GBR	3:04:39	44:53	GBR19780503
80	59	TSURKAN, Vitaliy	UKR	3:07:27	47:41	UKR19790915
124	60	MORITA, Michitaro	JPN	0	0	JPN19770514
51	61	BURUCZKI, Szilard	HUN	0	0	HUN19790113
122	62	ESHITA, Kentaro	JPN	0	0	JPN19770408
115	63	MORGEN, Alberti	BRA	0	0	BRA19801106
87	64	KAMAU, Ken	KEN	0	0	KEN19790612
125	65	TUUR, Renee	EST	0	0	EST19801126
127	66	NGUGI, David	KEN	0	0	KEN19791125
8	67	SWIGGER, Jess	USA	0	0	USA19800208
12	67	GROVER, Neil	CAN	0	0	CAN19770331
16	67	JUNGAKER, Erik	SWE	0	0	SWE19770427
19	67	BONILLA, Jose Adrian	CRC	0	0	CRC19780428
21	67	KARCZYNSKI, Marcin	POL	0	0	POL19780806
22	67	POULY, Peter	FRA	0	0	FRA19770629
26	67	RADMOSKI, Rhya	USA	0	0	USA19770823
27	67	HIERLWIMMER, Thomas	GER	0	0	GER19790813
35	67	HEJDUK, Stanislav	CZE	0	0	CZE19770524
37	67	ZANOTTI, Leonardo	ITA	0	0	ITA19780312
43	67	STEINHAUER, Kai	SUI	0	0	SUI19781229
50	67	ORTIZ, Antonio	ESP	0	0	ESP19770907
55	67	BARRIGA, Salvador	MEX	0	0	MEX19770729
56	67	KESSIAKOFF, Fredrik	SWE	0	0	SWE19800517

63	67	SCHERRER,Ben	USA	0	0	USA19801117
64	67	HESSELING,Marcel	NED	0	0	NED19771029
78	67	BISHOP,Simon	AUS	0	0	AUS19770427
88	67	MORLEY,Tim	GBR	0	0	GBR19800712
90	67	DEY,Ryan	CAN	0	0	CAN19801116
97	67	SLATTERY,Matthew	IRL	0	0	IRL19800314
107	67	KOMAC,Urbano	SLO	0	0	SLO19770325
126	67	LIND,Jussi	FIN	0	0	FIN19791123
130	67	KANDEMIR,Hasan	TUR	0	0	TUR19770610
131	67	CAI,Yuen	CHN	0	0	CHN19781112
75	91	CORTES,Marco	MEX	0	0	MEX19790908