



UCI Mountain Bike World Championships MTB - Championnats du Monde UCI

Sierra Nevada, ESP - 3-11.6.2000



Hermida Wins U-23 Event - © Ari Cheren – uci.

Sierra Nevada, ESP - Cross Country - Under 23 Men Results - Distance : 38650 m

Jose Antonio Hermida (ESP), who two days ago helped his relay team win gold here in his home country of Spain, became the first double-gold medallist of these eleventh UCI World Championships when he executed a decisive victory in Friday's espoir, or U-23 race. Winning the 38.6-kilometer cross-country event in two hours and eight minutes, Hermida beat fellow national teammate **Marti Gispert Labarta** by a long three minutes, 42 seconds.

At the age of twenty-one, Hermida raced in this under-23 category heavily favored, along with *New Zealand's Kashi Leuchs* who finished third for the bronze medal. Hermida's previous best finish in international professional competition came this season in round three of the Tissot-UCI Mountain Bike World Cup - where the young Spaniard was 3rd in the elite men's race.

Hermida and Leuchs, who both regularly race on the professional circuit, lived up to their favoured status from the beginning of the four-lap race when the two established themselves at the lead in lap one, putting a 35-second gap on another professional racer, *France's Julien Absalon* who rode in 3rd position until lap three. In fourth position was **Gispert Labarta**, who caught Absalon in the second lap before passing him in lap three.



Jose Antonio Hermida - ESP

The two leaders rode right on each other's wheels until that decisive third lap, trading duties up front with Hermida leading the course's larger loop and Leuchs leading on the smaller loop. *"Jose was setting the pace though,"* commented Leuchs. Then, in the third lap, Hermida finally attacked Leuchs and got a 35-second gap on him by the beginning of the final lap. *"When I saw a small break, I attacked Kashi at the bottom of a small hill"* said Hermida. *"Once I got a gap of a few metres I was pushing hard all the time."*

Leuchs held on to keep the gap under a minute until the final lap, when he punctured his rear wheel - taking two minutes to fix. That was enough time for third-position rider Gispert Labarta to catch and pass Leuchs, then to build a 30-second gap by the end of the race.

"I tried my absolute best to hold on for the win, but the Spanish today were flying," said Leuchs. *"I'm happy for them though, it's great to see a home country do so well. But I did my best and that's all I can ask."*

By the end of the race Hermida had built his gap to more than three minutes, giving himself a cushion in the final twisting loop and finally crossing the finish line to the cheers of thousands of Spanish fans. He then slowly rode across the finish in tears, nearly collapsing in the midst of the throng of photographers - overjoyed at his victory.

Friday's win and rainbow jersey is Hermida's fourth in his young career, as he won the Junior Cross-Country gold in Australia's 1996 Worlds, and helped his national team win last year's inaugural team relay in Åre, Sweden's World Championships. *"I've achieved a lot before I am 22 years old,"* he commented.



Rank	Bib	UCI Code	Surname	Firstname	Nat	Time	Gap
1	2	ESP19780824	HERMIDA	Jose Antonio	ESP	2:08:34.00	
2	80	ESP19781023	GISPERT LABARTA	Marti	ESP	2:12:16.00	3:42.00
3	3	NZL19780630	LEUCHS	Kashi	NZL	2:12:49.00	4:15.00
4	4	FRA19800816	ABSALON	Julien	FRA	2:14:04.00	5:30.00
5	30	FRA19781126	RAVANEL	Cedric	FRA	2:14:51.00	6:17.00
6	32	ESP19810928	COLOMA	Carlos	ESP	2:15:30.00	6:56.00
7	10	USA19800208	SWIGGERS	Jess	USA	2:15:33.00	6:59.00
8	8	SLO19790526	DRASLER	Rok	SLO	2:17:26.00	8:52.00
9	33	ITA19800515	STEINER	Manfred	ITA	2:17:59.00	9:25.00
10	12	AUT19780617	PRESSLAUER	Peter	AUT	2:19:15.00	10:41.00
11	16	CRC19780428	BONILLA	Jose Adrian	CRC	2:19:25.00	10:51.00
12	36	ITA19780312	ZANOTTI	Leonardo	ITA	2:19:34.00	11:00.00
13	7	CAN19801209	HESJEDAL	Ryder	CAN	2:20:07.00	11:33.00
14	13	AUS19780411	REDENBACH	Paul	AUS	2:20:34.00	12:00.00
15	42	ESP19811218	ALVAREZ	Ivan	ESP	2:20:44.00	12:10.00
16	62	ITA19780101	BALDUCCI	Mirco	ITA	2:22:08.00	13:34.00
17	15	POL19780806	KARCZYNSKI	Marcin	POL	2:22:26.00	13:52.00
18	48	BRA19780425	SEABRA	Renato	BRA	2:22:40.00	14:06.00
19	52	FRA19781126	LEBRETON	Pierre	FRA	2:22:54.00	14:20.00
20	25	GER19780221	ESCHENBACH	Florian	GER	2:23:13.00	14:39.00
21	18	SUI19780613	BUNDI	Silvio	SUI	2:23:58.00	15:24.00
22	9	GER19791123	MENDE	Matthias	GER	2:23:58.00	15:24.00
23	29	COL19790720	TRUJILLO	Carlos	COL	2:24:11.00	15:37.00
24	71	AUS19800122	TABERLAY	Sid	AUS	2:24:33.00	15:59.00
25	73	CZE19810426	VOKROUHLIK	Tomas	CZE	2:25:04.00	16:30.00
26	111	BRA19780719	CRUZ	Edvando	BRA	2:25:18.00	16:44.00
27	92	ITA19810720	PAOLI	Marco	ITA	2:25:24.00	16:50.00
28	51	FIN19790807	JALOMAKI	Jarno	FIN	2:25:33.00	16:59.00
29	19	DEN19800725	ANDERSON	Peter Riis	DEN	2:25:44.00	17:10.00
30	26	POL19780913	BANACH	Robert	POL	2:25:45.00	17:11.00
31	40	USA19810816	KELLY	Matt	USA	2:26:00.00	17:26.00
32	41	MEX19800415	BARRIGA	Rodrigo	MEX	2:26:31.00	17:57.00
33	87	BEL19801112	ROMISCHER	David	BEL	2:27:27.00	18:53.00
34	45	GER19810505	KASS	Jochen	GER	2:27:39.00	19:05.00
35	22	NED19791010	BAKKER	Erwin	NED	2:27:46.00	19:12.00
36	34	GER19780426	NICKE	Thomas	GER	2:28:28.00	19:54.00
37	38	NOR19800401	STORMO	Lars Petter	NOR	2:28:49.00	20:15.00
38	53	RUS19811026	GOGOLEV	Maxim	RUS	2:28:58.00	20:24.00
39	14	GBR19790414	WILKINSON	Ian	GBR	2:29:11.00	20:37.00
40	58	CAN19791223	DARVEAU	Mathieu	CAN	2:29:33.00	20:59.00

41	27	GER19780511	DILGER	Andreas	GER	2:29:38.00	21:04.00
42	81	GER19800128	RUGEL	Joachim	GER	2:30:19.00	21:45.00
43	78	CAN19811008	FEDERAU	Ricky	CAN	2:30:22.00	21:48.00
44	28	NED19800616	AL	Thys	NED	2:30:46.00	22:12.00
45	43	UKR19790915	TSURKAN	Vitaliy	UKR	2:31:00.00	22:26.00
46	50	DEN19790918	POULSEN	Christian	DEN	2:31:20.00	22:46.00
47	83	CAN19800326	LAROCHE	Jean-francois	CAN	2:31:34.00	23:00.00
48	64	CZE19800324	TRUNSCHKA	Tomas	CZE	2:31:37.00	23:03.00
49	69	UKR19810313	BOGDAN	Igor	UKR	2:32:37.00	24:03.00
50	82	SLO19780127	TROBEVSEK	Tadej	SLO	2:33:42.00	25:08.00
51	44	SUI19810528	HEIGL	Ronald	SUI	2:33:50.00	25:16.00
52	65	GBR19780503	BAXTER	Elliot	GBR	2:34:15.00	25:41.00
53	74	SLO19780731	RUDOLF	Borut	SLO	2:34:21.00	25:47.00
54	107	IRL19800314	SLATTERY	Matthew	IRL	2:34:24.00	25:50.00
55	76	JPN19781117	UDAGAWA	Akihito	JPN	2:36:58.00	28:24.00
56	61	SUI19800312	MANETSCH	Reto	SUI	2:37:00.00	28:26.00
57	6	BEL19790218	TREVISAN	Patrick	BEL	2:38:25.00	29:51.00
58	84	GRE19780802	SIMELIDIS	Kostas	GRE	2:40:05.00	31:31.00
59	103	JPN19800229	IROKAWA	Hiroki	JPN	2:41:22.00	32:48.00
60	66	AUS19790611	SPINK	Murray	AUS	2:44:23.00	35:49.00
61	109	RUS19800912	SOLOVIEV	Evgueni	RUS	- 1 lap	
62	70	NOR19800719	BOHLER	Joachim	NOR	- 1 lap	
63	105	JPN19780904	YUMOTO	Yu	JPN	- 1 lap	
64	93	SLO19790402	KAISER	Primoz	SLO	- 1 lap	
65	102	GBR19800811	LLOYD	Daniel	GBR	- 1 lap	
66	91	GRE19780403	KOTOULAS	Emmanouil	GRE	- 1 lap	
67	104	JPN19780814	NAKAYAMA	Seiichiro	JPN	- 1 lap	
68	108	ESA19810720	CABRERA	Hector	ESA	- 1 lap	
69	101	SLO19780319	PUSTOSLEMSEK	Luka	SLO	- 1 lap	
70	110	URU19780224	SANGUINETTI C.	Fabricio	URU	- 2 laps	
	5	POL19780503	KOWAL	Mariusz	POL	DNF	
	11	BEL19800402	COENEN	Davy	BEL	DNF	
	20	AUT19801011	SOUKUP	Christoph	AUT	DNF	
	31	UKR19800315	RYSENKO	Sergiy	UKR	DNF	
	35	HUN19790113	BURUCZKI	Szilard	HUN	DNF	
	47	SWE19800405	MODIN	Fredrik	SWE	DNF	
	54	GBR19800216	DIXON	Philip	GBR	DNF	
	57	MEX19810109	CHAVEZ	Javiez	MEX	DNF	
	59	JPN19780907	HIRAI	Kazunori	JPN	DNF	
	75	FIN19810329	VEIKKANEN	Jussi	FIN	DNF	
	79	ESP19791201	AREVALO	Jose Ignacio	ESP	DNF	
	88	POR19810210	ROSA	Carlos	POR	DNF	
	94	NOR19810502	SUNDAL	Thomas Nettet	NOR	DNF	
	100	SLO19790415	RAK	Gasper	SLO	DNF	
	112	MEX19790908	CORTES	Marco	MEX	DNF	
	90	POR19810823	FLORIDO PINTO	Renato	POR	DNS	