



Julien Absalon claims yet another World Cup win

The **Orbea Racing Team** rider won round five of the UCI Mountain Bike **World Cup at Mont Saint Anne**, Quebec, last weekend, taking **another inexorable step towards his fifth world title**

In what is turning out to be a **record-breaking season**, **Julien Absalon** racked up victory number four in the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup at the weekend, beating the field in round five of the competition at **Mont Saint Anne** in **Canada**. Making light of the muddy conditions and the technical demands of the course, the Frenchman showed once again that **he is in a class of his own** and now looks odds-on to lift his **fifth World Cup crown**.

After making a slow start to the race, **Absalon climbed his way up through the field** before shaking off reigning Spanish champion José Hermida in a closely contested duel. Afterwards, **Orbea Racing Team** team manager **Joseba Arizaga** spoke of his delight at the win. "It was a **very hard fought victory** and there were a couple of riders who made a really strong start to the race and even managed to build up a 20-second lead. But after a couple of laps both **Absalon** and **Hermida** upped the pace and made their way up to the leaders."

After reeling them in **Absalon sprinted away on his own, opening up a lead of 40 seconds** on the rest of the field. Though his pursuers closed to within half a minute, they were powerless to prevent the two-time Olympic champion from crossing the line first.

After starting the season with a second-place finish in **South Africa**, he has gone from strength to strength, **claiming victory in Offenburg**, where notable performances by team-mates **Iñaki Lejarreta** and **Rubén Ruzafa** helped **Orbea Racing Team** take the team prize on a glorious weekend capped by **Ren Chengyuan's** win for **Orbea Jianguo** in the women's race. **Absalon** won again in **Houffalize** and repeated the trick in round four in **Madrid**. Earlier this month he also became French champion for the seventh year in a row.

