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FISE MONTPELLIER 2022

What a day for BMX at FISE Montpellier!

WOMEN'S UCI BMX FREESTYLE PARK WORLD CUP FINAL

Over the years, riders have been used to enjoying an early summer in the Montpellier region, this year again the sun is shining, perhaps even with this extreme feel that makes us all fear for the future of our rivers. It is indeed very hot for this women's final of the UCI BMX Freestyle Park World Cup. To complete this unexpected weather forecast, note the few gusts of wind that add a bit of randomness to our twelve courageous ladies. It's not easy to

predict how the wind will affect the next jump, and in view of the lack of homogeneity of the runs, we understand that the task was complicated for our riders. We think in particular of Nikita Ducarroz who could not improve her very solid first run by over-rotating on her backflip; she had to settle for third place. The most consistent in this final was Lara Lessman whose variety and originality was a treat to watch. The young German offers her own combos based on simple but elegant tricks; turndown on the spine, pedaling to table top and a double cancan Indian style; the judges, all of whom practice BMX, appreciated this proposal and propelled it to second place. After an epic Olympic final, we expected a back and forth between Charlotte Worthington and Hannah Roberts. Finally, the British did not seem comfortable during this final and quickly showed that she would not get involved in the fight. It was Liz Surley Villegas Serna who was given the responsibility of putting pressure on American Hannah Roberts by entering a first high-level run. With tricks landed with authority on all the ramps she is the only one to go over 90 points, however we remember that she landed her first 360 at the limit of the landing. At this level of competition, it often comes down to a detail. For Hannah, unfortunately, this detail was without mercy as she barely hangs up on an easy table top, which triggers a nagging pain in her shoulder. Before that the world champion had started a crazy run with a flip condor which once again shows the lightning progression of these ladies.

After this first aborted run, Hannah had a second chance to get back in front of Liz Hurley who could not therefore ensure if she wanted to win this major contest of the calendar. So Liz Hurley dropped to give it all, maybe too much since she over rotated herself in a scary frontflip. Her fall was terrible and raised fears of a serious injury. Before that, Hannah had secured a safe run to collect precious points for the overall ranking ; she finished only 4th and will have to treat this injury before the next competition in Brussels which will follow very soon.

MEN'S UCI BMX FREESTYLE PARK WORLD CUP SEMI-FINAL

After two editions canceled due to Covid, the banks of Montpellier have their heroes back, having fun on bikes. In this natural stadium the 24 semi-finalists of the UCI BMX Freestyle Park World Cup seem happy to feel again the pressure, sparkling and slightly intoxicating. At the end of the semi-final, there will only be 12 left, a strict selection that gives us a pretty unique show. The creator and responsible for this mayhem, Hervé André Benoit was seen taking a break and cheering just as much as the thousands of spectators at the announcement of the usual fan favorites.

Daniel Dhers (12th) represents one of the last historic, those who creates so much memories during of the so-called "Mark Webb" era. With a run that hasn't gotten old for a decade, the Venezuelan manages to get into the final once again; but clearly the new generation pushes the bar higher and higher.

Justin Dowell (5th) repositioned himself to a 5th place more in line with his Olympic status. The selection in the American team promises to be exciting since we will see five US riders in the final. Nick Bruce (11th) qualifies by mastering the flip double whip. Brian Fox (7th) continues his perfect week and links 1080s and double flips without problem. For his first participation at FISE Marcus Christopher (3rd) sounds the charge with a run of incredible intensity. With only "bangers" - as we say in the jargon - the native of Ohio did some kind of LeBron James personification on his BMX, imposing his will in a powerful and still pretty fashion; as proof, a triple downside whip air. And it seems that he still has some more in his pocket.

Not necessarily a candidate for Olympic affairs, Kevin Peraza (8th) is still keen to do well when he participates at a contest. And when everything works as he wishes, it offers us a minute of total ecstasy where the diversity of tricks makes you want more. On the other hand, we regret not seeing the flair barspin at 3 meters high of Daniel Sandoval who could have dropped a run over 90 points (360 double whip to whip back!) but who made two costly mistakes.

We will not see the bronze medalist Declan Brooks and his visit of the entire park either, it was really fun to witness his new superman front flip. No Brandon Loupos either but Australia still has the ultimate weapon in Logan Martin for whom it all seems so easy (2nd).

Rim Nakamura was clean and fluid, on the pedals and just pretty; he even allowed himself to go back and forth in the corner at "Nakamurian" altitudes. Followers of the circuit will understand this nod to the Japanese rider who scared himself by missing his first run. He comes back with a big 720 double barspin and other combos to qualify in 4th position. Speaking of stress, we understand the frustration (and the fright) of young Kieran Reilly who saw his t-shirt get stuck around his bar on a truck to invert during his first run, then his chain broke on his second one preventing his expected outbreak at the highest level. Eventually, it will be James Jones (9th) the only representative of the team coached by UK legend Jamie Bestwick.

The Latinos locos José Torres (Argentina, 10th) and Kenneth Tencio (Costa Rica, 6th) will bring their madness in a final that promises a lot... But wait, isn't there a name missing, a name that repeats itself like a mirage. Jeanjean, Anthony by his given name, French, local from the region, raised at the FISE school from a very young age, a newcomer that has arrived and has become a real force on the circuit. French and European champion he is aiming for the

Paris Olympics in 2024 and it seems to be ready a bit earlier given the impact of his semi-final run. In front of a loving crowd, he showed that the pressure no longer has any effect on him. Confident, well coached by Patrick Guimez, he adds to yesterday's big and blind transfer a barspin to condor. If the double whip flip is nicknamed "helicopter", what machine could look like a TRIPLE whip flip? The first forty seconds of his run were quite simply the best of his life, and it seems to be the fruit of in-depth training that could well push Logan Martin in his unlimited ...limits. BMX fans are waiting for this, to see Logan diving deep in his secret bag of tricks. Revelation of the long awaiting BMX movie this Sunday, if the ducks still allow us to play another day on the river.



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FREED FROM DESIRE !

It seems that there is usually some grass on the banks of the Lez river, right? It must be lying quietly under the thousands of spectators attending the UCI BMX Flatland Semi-final where these gentlemen were invited to compete. On the black floor, the tires were dancing once again at this important meeting of the flatland world. The magic of flatland is that it goes well beyond sport and exposes a whole range of sensations and expressions that could be found in theater, dance or music. No wonder then that the public is completely absorbed by the riders' rehearsal. In this game of interaction, it's hard to do better than Matthias Dandois and his invitation to dance to an old Gala hit "Freed from desire" where you can interpret the words "my love has no money, he's got his strong beliefs" as the expression of his infinite passion for this BMX which has given him so much. And every year the public renew this love with joy. We are therefore in his garden, on this field of humans, witnessing his new

combinations. Competitor at heart, he will be keen to release tomorrow in the final his latest inventions previewed on his social networks. But for now let's honor Kio Hayakawa who convinced the judges for a first place. With original spinning sequences and in particular an astonishing entry on an ice cream to blender combo, he lands here one of the most beautiful tricks and seems at ease with the crowd, even to the point of expressing more emotions than usual. The other Japanese also did not come to make up the numbers and will accompany him in the end to bring out the big game, just like Terry Adams who just qualified but whom we suspect to have Sunday secrets. On the other hand, this final will be happening without Alex Jumelin as some of his most difficult tricks did not land this time. No doubt he will still be enthusiastic around the stage to enjoy the exceptional performance of these BMX artists.



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