

PO Box 120
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15 September 2011

The Secretary
Sargood Bequest
Po Box 5546
Moray Place
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Dear Sir

Thank you for your support this year in getting me to Europe.

I had a very successful trip winning two World Cup Rounds and placing second at the under 19 year Mountain Bike World Championships in Switzerland, which has given me a current world ranking of number 1.

I'm looking forward to heading back to Europe next year and hopefully coming away with the world title at the Championships in Austria!

Thanks again for helping to make this trip possible. I've attached some articles about my success for your information.

Yours sincerely



Anton Cooper



SPORT

Kiwi Cooper wins Europe mountain bike title

Last updated 20:43 14/08/2011

Christchurch teenager Anton Cooper upset the new European champion to win the junior men's cross country title at the UCI mountain bike World Cup Challenge in the Czech Republic today.

The 17-year-old, making his first start in a UCI World Cup, blitzed the field to beat favourite Jans Schuermans at Nove Mesto Na Morave.

Schuermans, 18, won the European title last weekend but was no match for Cooper who won by 1min 43sec with Spain's Pabli Rodriguez third.

Cooper kept pace with Schuermans on a taxing first lap of the 4.2km circuit, but then took over when the Belgian slipped off the pace to open up a sizeable lead.

The Christchurch Boys' High School student won a warm-up event in Switzerland last week and was using the World Cup to prepare for the World Championships in France at the end of the month.

It continues a stunning season for the Cantabrian who won the Oceania and New Zealand under-19 titles, and became the youngest rider to win the Karapoti race and set a new record when he won the Motutapu mountain bike race.

"This was the first time I rode a World Cup. It was hard. Jens went very quickly in the first lap, but I could stay with him and eventually win the race," Cooper said.

Results: Anton Cooper (NZL) 1:05.10, 1; Hens Schuermans (BEL) at 1:43, 2; Pablo Rodriguez (ESP) at 1:57, 3; Didier Bats (BEL) at 3:21, 4; Romain Seigle (FRA) at 3:22, 5.

- NZPA

stuff.co.nz

SPORT

Teen wins again at mountainbike World Cup

Last updated 14:20 22/08/2011

Anton Cooper has sky-high confidence levels ahead of the mountainbike world championships after a convincing victory in the junior cross country event at the World Cup finals in Val di Sole, Italy, this morning (NZT).

It was Cooper's second win on the World Cup circuit, having last weekend won the round in the Czech Republic.

The 16-year-old Christchurch flier jumped out into clear air at the gun and went into the first lap of four in a small lead group of four riders, which quickly reduced to three on the first pinch climb.

Cooper had some issues first lap with a dropped chain, but stuck to his race plan of attacking the field in the second lap and from there never looked back, charging to a one-minute win.

In consecutive weekends at these last two World Cups, Cooper has accounted for Europe's best junior cross country athletes, who seem to have no answer for his turn of power.

He moves into final preparations for the world championships in two weeks with confidence high for delivering a breakthrough result for his country.

Cooper took the top step of the podium at a World Cup for a second time, a first for a New Zealander at World Cup level in any discipline.

"The race went pretty well for me today, a few issues with a dropped chain and a couple of small dramas riding through the back of the junior women's field but all good," he said.

"I'm rapt to be lapping at a pace comparable to the fastest under-23 men and am in a great space for the world champs in Champéry."

The world championships begin next week in Champéry, Switzerland.

- Stuff



Cooper pulls second from world champs hat

MATT RICHENS Last updated 05:00 03/09/2011

Canterbury mountainbiker Anton Cooper says he will look at his under-19 world championship silver medal and wonder "what if", for a while at least.

After being boxed in at the start of the race in Champéry, Switzerland, Cooper fought his way through the field to finish a more than creditable second and secure New Zealand's second world championship medal after Kashi Leuchs won the under-23 bronze in 2000.

Cooper passed six riders in the final lap, including Costa Rica's Andrey Fonseca, just before the finish chute to secure silver.

If he'd been offered a silver before he headed to Europe last month, the 17-year-old said he would have gladly taken it, but his recent form – including winning two world cup races – meant he'd reassessed his goals. "Before I came over here, I would have happily taken a top-10 place," he said from Switzerland.

"But to be honest, I'd set my sights on winning and on the [world championship] rainbow jersey."

The starting loop to yesterday's race was longer than the world cup races, and while Cooper went out as hard as he could to get to the front, everyone else had the same idea as he hit the single track section of the race in 16th.

"I had a [terrible] start and I knew from there winning was out of the question," he said.

"You're already a minute down on the leader and with so much traffic, there was just too much work to do."

But Cooper flew. He passed riders on the downhill and with one lap of the four to go, he was in eighth.

A medal looked unlikely from that point, but a top 10 would have been a credible finish.

Cooper was having none of that. He found another gear in the final lap and "just gave it everything".

"I knew I had nothing to lose and really wanted to do what I could to get on the podium."

France's Victor Koretzky won the race in a time of 1 hour 07.18 min, more than a minute clear of Cooper. Fonseca was just one second behind Cooper.

Fellow New Zealanders Mathew Waghorn, Tom Bradshaw and Nigel McDowell finished 27th, 31st and 39th respectively.

"I'm kind of happy to have won the silver medal," Cooper said.

"But it's not the rainbow jersey that I was hoping for."

The Christchurch Boys' High School pupil said he had "probably learnt more from coming second" and was already lining up a shot at next year's event.

"I'm coming home next week and for a bit of a rest and relaxation, oh and going back to school, then I'll prepare for the home season, then hopefully come back here next year."

Results: Victor Koretzky (FRA) 1:07.18, 1; Anton Cooper (NZL) 1:08.36, 2; Andrey Fonseca (CRC) 1:08.37, 3. Also New Zealanders: Mathew Waghorn 1:14.3427; Tom Bradshaw 1:15.26, 31; Nigel McDowell 1:16.35, 39.

- The Press

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