

August 22, 2008

Day 14, the men's and women's BMX finals



Lot of thrills, spills and heartache today at the

Laoshan Cycling Complex in Beijing as the final qualifying races and the finals were run in men's and women's BMX. (Start of the women's race, photographed by Ricardo Mazalan, The Associated Press)

Although rain had delayed the racing a day, the track had been covered by plastic and treated with Soiltac® to seal moisture and improve grip. Nonetheless, the 390-metre layout (370 metres for the women) was marked by wet spots. There were several crashes, some involving multiple riders, but the crashes may have been due to aggressive riding, rather than the track conditions.

France cleaned up for the women, with Anne-Caroline Chausson taking gold and Laetitia Le Corguille winning silver. Jill Kintner took bronze for the U.S. of A. Sam Cools of Airdrie, Alta. just squeaked into the final, but crashed and was a DNF (did not finish). For a gallery of her racing, [click here](#).

In the men's races, the world champ, Maris Strombergs of Latvia, added a gold to his hardware collection, with Mike Day of the U.S. winning silver and Donny Robinson of the U.S. taking the bronze.