

BY **MARCUS RIETEMA**

MALARRARA PRO TEUTÔNIA WORLD CUP

After the Maryhill Festival of Speed the IGSA went on a six-week hiatus before heading to South America for the Brazilian leg of the 2009 World Cup Series. The Malarrara Pro Teutônia World Cup was held October 23-25 in southern Brazil.

The Teutônia track is the fastest in the world with speeds in the 110 km/h (68 mph) range. It also has a high-speed corner that challenges even the best riders and dares them to take it without braking. When they get it right the skaters are rocketed down the steep bottom section at enormous speeds. When they get it wrong it results in a high-speed impact with the straw bales.

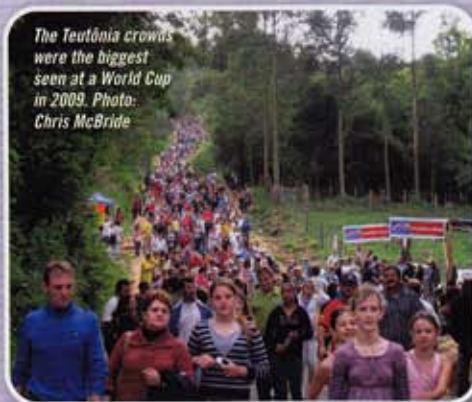
Under warm and sunny skies, practice and the first round of qualifying got underway on Friday. After last year's torrential rains that practically washed out the entire event, everyone was happy to be riding under ideal conditions. After a series of practice runs to get riders acquainted with the intense speeds of Teutônia, it was time for the first round of qualifying.

Douglas "Dalua" Silva shattered his own track record with a time of 1:18.711. (He'd set the record last year with a time of 1:20.452.) Silva was followed in second by Mischo Erban and three-time World Champion Martin Siegrist in third. In fourth was two-time Teutônia winner Kevin Reimer, and rounding out the top five was Brazilian Garcia Silon.

In Saturday's final qualifying session, Silva retained the number one qualifying position and lowered the track record again. The Brazilian star established a new track record of 1:17.723, beating his day-old mark by nearly a full second. Erban retained the number two position and Reimer moved into the number three position. His run placed him ahead of Siegrist, who couldn't improve upon his Friday time.

Scot Smith made a huge move up in final qualifying to earn the fifth position. Sunday's race was shaping up to be an incredible showdown between five of the biggest names in the

sport. A strong field of 42 downhill skateboarders had entered the competition, and qualifying had whittled the field down to the fastest 32.



The Teutônia crowds were the biggest seen at a World Cup in 2009. Photo: Chris McBride



Scot Smith comes off his board at more than 110 km/h while trying to pass Martin Siegrist. Photo: Alexandre Maia



Mischo Erban crosses the finish just ahead of Silva for the win. Photo: Chris McBride

Sunday's Dual format (two-man heats) pitted rider against rider in head-to-head competition. Earlier in the day, Erban established an official IGSA Downhill Skateboard Speed Record of 113.02 km/h (70.23 mph), edging out Silva, who ran 112.25 km/h (69.75 mph). There were no big upsets in the early rounds, with the first big showdown occurring in the quarterfinals.

The highlight of the quarterfinals was definitely the showdown between the #4 qualifier Siegrist and the #5 qualifier Smith. Siegrist pulled out to an early lead off the line with Scot close behind. As they entered the left-hand corner at the top of the ultra-fast straightaway, the two riders actually touched wheels! But fortunately neither of them went down. Scot re-



Top 5 finishers L-R: Smith, Reimer, Erban, Silva and Siegrist. Photo: Marcus Rietema

gained his composure and set off down the steep straight.

Coming down the long final straightaway, Scoot first pulled alongside Siegrist and then pulled into the lead. Unfortunately his lead was short lived as he lost control, went down at approximately 70 mph and began sliding toward the bales. Scoot struck the bales feet first and was sent spinning wildly



Silva tries to find a way around Mischo Erban in the final. Photo: Alexandre Maia



Defending Champion Kevin Reimer finishes third. Photo: Alexandre Maia



Douglas "Dalua" Silva was the #1 qualifier for the second year in a row. Photo: Alexandre Maia

like a rag doll down the course. He seemed to spin forever as Siegrist crossed the line and moved into the semifinals. Fortunately Scoot was uninjured and actually skated through the finish. He later described the crash as the fastest in his career.

push to pull away from Siegrist off the line and never looked back. He won the heat and advanced to the finals.

In the second semi there was a cat-and-mouse game going on as neither Reimer nor Erban wanted to leave the line first. With the tremendous draft developed on the high-speed course, neither rider wanted to give the advantage of being second at the top of the straightaway. Finally Reimer took off into the lead. Just as both riders had predicted, Mischo used the draft to pass Reimer down the long straight and into the final.

The final began once again with a game of cat and mouse. This time Silva held back and Mischo took the lead. As they worked their way down the course Silva was trying to find a way around Mischo, but he simply wasn't fast enough. Silva tried to pull alongside at one point, but he didn't have the speed to get by. He was resigned to follow Erban closely down the hill.

The victory was a huge one for Erban and arguably the biggest win of his career, as he had to beat both

That set up the two semifinal matchups. In semi number one it would be Silva against Siegrist. The second semi would pit Reimer versus Erban. Silva used his incredibly strong

Reimer and Silva head to head on the world's fastest racecourse. He became the first two-time winner of the 2009 season and moved into first place in the points standings with two events to go.

Newton's Playground in Bathurst, Australia is up next. The event is also the IGSA World Championships. The course is super gnarly and will be pushing everyone to their limits.



Mischo Erban celebrates the biggest win of his career. Photo: Alexandre Maia

Malarrara Pro Teutônia World Cup

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|--------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Mischo Erban | Canada |
| 2. Douglas "Dalua" Silva | Brazil |
| 3. Kevin Reimer | Canada |
| 4. Martin Siegrist | Switzerland |
| 5. Scoot Smith | Canada |
| 6. Everton Alves | Brazil |
| 7. Silon Garcia | Brazil |
| 8. Vinicius Macaco | Brazil |