

## JULIEN ABSALON

Julien Absalon is a French mountain bike racer who is widely considered one of the best riders in the sport's history. He is certainly one of the most decorated athletes in the sport, winning titles at every level and across the globe. Absalon picked up mountain biking at the age of 14 after his neighbor introduced him to the sport. After experiencing some success as a junior in France, Absalon realized this would eventually become his career. He became the French National Champion during his second year as a junior and he never looked back.

Since then, Absalon has dominated the elite UCI Mountain Bike Cross Country scene. Beyond the World Cup circuit, the Frenchman won Olympic gold in both 2004 (Athens) and 2008 (Beijing). He has been overall winner of the World Cup mountain bike cross-country series six times (2003, 2006–2009, 2014) and has won a record 30 World Cup cross-country races as of May 31, 2015. He won five cross-country Mountain Bike World Championships (2004–2007, 2014). He has also won all thirteen French cross-country championships between 2003 and 2015. Although Olympic glory has opened doors for Absalon and brought him plenty of attention, he claims that the best thing to come from Mountain Biking in the Olympics has been the attention it has brought to the sport, especially in his home country of France.



*“One of the most important skills in mountain biking is the ability to remain calm and focused no matter the obstacles ahead. I rely on my Oakley frames and Prizm technology to eliminate the clutter and keep my attention on what’s coming next.”*