

Issy-les-Moulineaux, 10th of April 2007

A new King for the Queen of Classics?

The science of prognosis is rarely precise. For a race like Paris-Roubaix it's even more random. At the start in Compiègne on April the 15th, one would be wiser to go for a group of survivors still able to capture the win, then to name a clear favourite. In 2006, despite the signs of good health that he had shown at the beginning of the Belgian campaign, Tom Boonen had failed to manage a double that many thought he would achieve. Nothing guarantees that Fabian Cancellara, impressive during his first triumph in Roubaix will be in the same winning form. The last two winners will however have a role to play in the final explanation for victory. They will probably have to keep an eye on Alessandro Ballan, recent winner of the Tour of Flanders and of the Three Days of De Panne. Several other riders will do their best to remain among the leading bunch in the famous Tranchée d'Arenberg, where selection is traditionally severe. In the Belgian contingent, Peter Van Petegem will have a new status as a Quick Step team mate, but the men from the Flanders area will be strongly represented with the likes of Leif Hoste, back in the Predictor-Lotto team and Stijn Devolder, leader of the Discovery Channel team due to the absence of Hincapie. Juan-Antonio Flecha, who still hopes to become the first Spaniard to win the Queen of Classics will try to make the best of the possible confusion within the front group, exactly like Filippo Pozzato or Lars Michaelsen, who has decided to bid farewell to elite cycling on the Roubaix Velodrome.

The main contenders of the 24 teams

Germany

Gerolsteiner : Förster (ALL), Wrolich (AUT)
Team Wiesenhof Felt : Pollack (ALL), Wesemann (SUI)
T-Mobile Team : Burghardt (ALL), Eisel (AUT), Hammond (GBR)

Belgium

Chocolade Jacques – Topsport : Eeckhout (BEL)
Predictor - Lotto : Hoste, Steels Vansevenant (BEL)
Quick Step - Innergetic : Boonen, Steegmans, Van Petegem (BEL)
Landbouwkrediet - Tonissteiner : Boucher (RFA), Meirhaeghe (BEL)

Denmark

Team CSC : Cancellara (SUI), Michaelsen (DAN), O'Grady (AUS)

Spain

Euskaltel - Euskadi : Aranaga (ESP)
Caisse d'Epargne : Garcia Acosta (ESP), Brard (FRA)
Saunier Duval - Prodir : Pagliarini (BRE), Ventoso (ESP)

United States

Discovery Channel Team : Devolder (BEL), Vaitkus (LTU)

France

AG2R – Prevoyance : J-P. Nazon (FRA)
Agritubel : Balciunas, Baranauskas (LTU)
Bouygues Telecom : Clerc (SUI)
Credit Agricole : Bodrogi (HON), Engoulvent (FRA), Hushovd (NOR)
Cofidis Le crédit par téléphone : Nuyens (BEL)
Française des Jeux : Gilbert (BEL), Guesdon, Mengin (FRA)

Italy

Lampre - Fondital : Ballan, Bennati, Franzoi (ITA)
Team Milram : Cortinovis (ITA)
Liquigas : Backstedt (SUE), Pozzato (ITA)

Netherlands

Rabobank : Flecha (ESP), Posthuma, Van Bon (HOL)
Skil – Shimano : Tjallingii (HOL), Vierhouten (HOL)

Switzerland

Astana : Haselbacher (AUT)

Find the full list of riders and all the information on www.letour.fr

Press Contact

Matthieu Desplats

Mdesplats@aso.fr / 00 33 (0)1 41 33 15 30