

Issy-les-Moulineaux, 21st of April 2008

## CUNEGO IN THE CLAN

Time has come for revenge. In the world of classic specialists, time is counted to extend line by line the length of a prize list. The Ardennes week will give the riders the opportunity to clinch prestigious victories that stand out in a career. The one conquered after a violent effort in the famous Mur de Huy is part of the most coveted of the year.

Already considered as a clear contender after his first two Belgian campaigns in 2006 and 2007, Damiano Cunego has climbed one step higher by triumphing last Sunday at the Amstel Gold Race. In the Cauberg, the Italian managed to counter an impressive threesome with Franck Schleck, Alejandro Valverde and Davide Rebellin. For these three former winners of one of the Ardennes races, two big dates remain to re-establish the balance with the Flèche Wallonne and Liège-Bastogne-Liège. Unless others like Yaroslav Popovych, Karsten Kroon, Thomas Dekker or the likes of Philippe Gilbert, manage to enter that very exclusive club of winners.

### The main riders from the 25 teams

#### **Germany**

*Gerolsteiner*: Rebellin (Ita), Schumacher (Ger)  
*Team Milram*: Zabel (Ger), Astarloa (Esp), R.Grabsch (Ger)

#### **Belgium**

*Topsport Vlaanderen* : Pauwels (BEL)  
*Silence - Lotto*: Evans (Aus), Popovych (Ukr)  
*Quick Step*: Barredo (Esp), A.Efimkin (Rus)  
*Landbouwkrediet - Tónissteiner*: Cappelle (Bel)

#### **Denmark**

*Team CSC*: F.Schleck, A.Shleck (Lux), Kroon (Hol), Sastre (ESP)

#### **Spain**

*Caisse d'Epargne*: Valverde, Rodriguez, Pereiro, L.L.Sanchez (Esp)  
*Euskaltel - Euskadi*: Astarloza, Isasi (ESP)  
*Saunier Duval - Scott*: Cobo Acebo (Esp), Ricco (Ita)

#### **United States**

*High Road*: Kirchen (Lux), Boasson Hagen (Nor)  
*Slipstream Chipotle*: Millar (Gbr)

#### **France**

*AG2R – La Mondiale*: Gadret (Fra), Nocentini (Ita), Valjavec (Slo)  
*Agritubel*: Moreau, Bichot (Fra)  
*Bouygues Telecom*: Pineau, Lefèvre (Fra)  
*Credit Agricole*: Caucchioli (Ita), Gerrans (Aus), Rolland (Fra)  
*Cofidis Le crédit par téléphone*: Duque (Col), Monfort, Verbrugge (Bel)  
*Française des Jeux*: Casar (Fra), Gilbert (Bel)

#### **Greta Britian**

*Barloworld*: Cheula (Ita), Duenas Nevado (Esp)

#### **Italy**

*Liquigas*: Carlström (Fin), Kreuziger (Rtc)  
*Lampre*: Cunego, Rigghi (Ita)  
*Tinkoff Credit Systems*: Ignatiev (Rus)

#### **Netherlands**

*Rabobank*: T.Dekker (Hol), Freire (Esp), Gesink (Hol)  
*Skil-Shimano*: Den Bakker (Hol), Hupond (Fra), Rooijackers (Hol)  
*Cycle Collstrop*: Wesemann (Sui)

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