

Liège, 4th of April 2006

“VINO’S” FIRST GOAL

The Spring Classic campaign finishes this year on the 2th of April in Liège, after a 262-kilometre effort through the hilliest area of Belgium. After a succession of difficulties that come one after the other in the final 90 kilometres, the attacking rider that will want to win will need to be solid, lucid and able to read the race perfectly. In 2005, Alexandre Vinokourov made the best of all these qualities to add a second Classic victory to his record after conquering the Amstel Gold Race in 2003. With the ambition of playing a key role during all the season and especially in the Tour de France, "Vino" will be one of the riders to keep an eye on for his first big goal of the year. The man from Kazakhstan will battle it out with quite a few of his main rivals for the month of July race starting with Ivan Basso, winner in March of the Criterium International, but also the likes of Alejandro Valverde, Cadel Evans or Iban Mayo.

The key riders of the 25 teams

Germany

Gerolsteiner : Rebellin (Ita), Totschnig (AUT), M.Zberg (SUI)
T-Mobile Team : Rogers (AUS), Sinkewitz (ALL)

Belgium

Chocolade Jacques Topsport : Renders (BEL)
Davitamon - Lotto : Evans (AUS), Horner (USA), Van Summeren (BEL)
Quick Step - Innergetic : Bettini (ITA), Vasseur (FRA)
Landbouwkrediet - Colnago : Cummings (GBR)
Unibet.com : Dominguez (ESP), Vandenbroucke (BEL)

Denmark

Team CSC : Basso (ITA), Julich (USA), Sastre (ESP), Voigt (ALL)

Spain

Euskaltel - Euskadi : Mayo, S.Sanchez (ESP)
Caisse d'Epargne - Illes Balears : Garcia Acosta, Valverde (ESP)
Liberty Seguros - Würth Team : Vinokourov, Kashechkin (KAZ), Contador, D.Extbarria (ESP)
Saunier Duval - Prodir : Simoni (ITA)

United States

Discovery Channel Team : Azevedo (POR), Devolder (BEL), Noval Gonzalez (ESP)

France

AG2R - Prevoyance : Mancebo (ESP), Moreau (FRA)
Agritubel : Mercado (ESP), Salmon (FRA)
Bouygues Telecom : Fedrigo, Rous (FRA)
Credit Agricole : Caucchioli (ITA)
Cofidis Le crédit par téléphone : Sy.Chavanel (FRA), Marichal (BEL)
Française des Jeux : Gilbert (BEL), Löfqvist (SUE), Casar (FRA)

Great Britain

Barloworld : Astarloa (ESP)

Italy

Lampre - Fondital : Comnesso (ITA), Petrov (RUS)
Team Milram : Den Bakker (HOL), Grivko (UKR), Iglinskiy (KAZ)
Liquigas : Di Luca (ITA)

Holland

Rabobank : Boogerd, E.Dekker, T.Dekker, Posthuma (HOL), Menchov (RUS), Freire (ESP)

Switzerland

Phonak Hearing Systems : Martin Perdiguero (ESP), Merckx (BEL), Moerenhout (HOL)

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