

Issy-les-Moulineaux, 3rd of September 2008

114 PROMISING RIDERS AT THE START

The cycling season has witnessed a great experience in the Montargis area with the start of the first major stage race of the year, Paris-Nice, at Amilly. A new episode will take place there on Friday the 5th of September when 114 riders registered in the Tour de l'Avenir will start fighting it out during a prologue at Chalette-sur-Loing. This time it will be the young and promising riders of World cycling who will meet up for the biggest event of the year in the under-23 category: after ten days of racing, the Nations Cup for which Portugal, Italy and France are still in contention will know its winner.

The course through France offered to the young riders will require just as much consistency as solid riding. The hilly stages that will for instance go through the Burgundy, Centre and Auvergne areas, will offer possibilities to the attacking riders on every single day. The Nations interested by the battle for the title will need to keep a close eye on every attempt. But most of all, managing the efforts should be key throughout the race, especially with a big mountain stage planned on the penultimate day of the event. Before the finish at Guzet in the Ariège area, the climbers will have the opportunity to make gaps in the climbs up the Port de Lers and then the Col d'Agnes. The best of the young riders of 23 years of age and under who will have the privilege for the second year running of the Tour de l'Avenir to carry their national jerseys, will then finish off their event on the road to Mirepoix, after 1386,5 kms of racing.

The teams invited (by order of appearance in current standings of the Nations Cup)

Portugal, Italy, France A, Denmark, Germany, Slovenia, Russia, Belgium, Ukraine, Netherlends, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Canada, United States, Luxemburg, Switzerland, Mixed team, France B

Find all the details on the course and the full list of riders at www.letour.fr

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