

Issy-les-Moulineaux, 4th of March 2009

PARIS-NICE: TRY TO CONVINC

The Race to the Sun has a double characteristic: it supplies analysis elements for the remaining part of the season and sets up an intermediate but major term for the leaders that have decided to compete. Ending this first journey through France with a new title or even an extra stage win on one's record confirms a status in the world hierarchy. The big explanation that will take place on 1250 kilometres starting with a time-trial in Amilly on the 8th of March all the way to the finish line set on the Promenade des Anglais on the 15th of March, will therefore take place in a context of fierce competition. A former winner back in 2007, Alberto Contador who already started his season with a win on the Tour of Algarve, will be part of the men under high surveillance in the pack. He'll have to keep an eye on Rinaldo Nocentini, 2nd in 2008, just 3" behind Rebellin. Expected in the Top 10, several riders will be looking, during the whole week, for an opportunity to shine and climb on the podium or go for victory: Cadel Evans will naturally be among them, as well as unstoppable Luis-Leon Sanchez, used to hit hard on Paris-Nice, or Olympic Champion Samuel Sanchez, Frank Schleck and David Millar.

Inspired since the start of the season, the French riders could renew with a hoped for local triumph at the end of the week. Such a performance hasn't occurred since the third success of Laurent Jalabert, in 1997, but the roads of Paris-Nice will give Sylvain Chavanel the opportunity to express himself as a leader in his new team. Rémi Pauriol, David Moncoutié or Thomas Voeckler, will also try to confirm their fine performances witnessed during the season's opening weeks, while Sandy Casar and Pierre Rolland will be looking to enter the club of French victors.

THE 20 TEAMS INVITED, THE MAIN RIDERS

Germany

Team Milram (MRM): M.Fothen, Knees

Belgium

Quick Step (QST): S.Chavanel, Barredo

Silence - Lotto (SIL): Evans, Gilbert

Denmark

Team Saxo Bank (SAX): F.Schleck, Voigt

Spain

Caisse d'Epargne (GCE): Pereiro, L.L.Sanchez

Euskatel - Euskadi (EUS): S.Sanchez

United States

Garmin - Slipstream (GRM): Millar, Wiggins

Team Columbia – High Road (THR): Burghardt

France

BBox Bouygues Telecom (BTL): Voeckler, Rolland

Cofidis le crédit en ligne (COF): Moncoutié, Pauriol

Française Des Jeux (FDJ): Casar, Ladagnous

AG2R - La Mondiale (ALM): Nocentini, V.Efimkin

Agritubel (AGR): Moreau, Feillu

Italy

Lampre – N.G.C. (LAM): Caucchioli, Spilak

Liquigas (LIQ): Kreuziger, Chicchi

Kazakhstan

Astana (AST): Contador, Popovych

Netherlands

Rabobank (RAB): Flecha, Posthuma

Skil-Shimano (SKS): Hupond

Russia

Team Katusha (KAT): Steegmans, Colom

Switzerland

Cervelo Test Team (CTT): Haussler

Discover the full list of registered riders at www.letour.fr

Press Contact

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