

Saramon, 16th June 2017



LA DÉPÊCHE
DU MIDI

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La Route du Sud is broadcasted
everyday on

EUROSPORT
and in more than 80 countries.

Olympic champion Elia Viviani wins 2nd stage of Route du Sud – La Dépêche du Midi after a fabulous sprint.

The inhabitants of Saramon attended a top-flight sprint on Arnaud Denjoy Boulevard. Despite the beautiful resistance opposed by Miles Scotson, the fastest riders had a perfect opportunity to win the stage. The final sprint crowned a track cycling Olympic Champion : Elia Viviani concluded his teammates fantastic job.



Race summary : a supersonic Elia Viviani

As soon as the race started, many riders attacked. Miles Scotson (BMC), David Menut (HP-BTP Auber) and Pello Olaberria (Euskadi Basque Country-Murias) manage to escape the peloton after 25 kilometers. Today's breakaway had a maximum advantage of 7 minutes. The basque rider had an on-board camera on his bike, allowing viewers to feel inside the breakaway group live on Eurosport. The gap decreased steadily at the instigation of teams Sky, Fortunéo-Vital Conept and Armée de Terre, working for the red jersey Julien Loubet. Direct Énergie joined the pursuit with 30 kilometers to go. In front of the race, Miles Scotson, Australian Champion, took advantage of the hilly roads of Gers to go solo with a 2 minute advantage. The time trial specialist faced a peloton already thinking about the sprint. The high-speed chase, with head winds complicating his progression, saw Miles Scotson's brave action fail, which has been enthusiastically greeted by the crowd at the finish line.

Sprinters teams fought for the lead, and Sky, thanks to their leader Geraint Thomas, proved to be the best-prepared team. Their sprinter Elia Viviani was perfectly launched and resisted to Carlos Barbero (Movistar) and Lorenzo (Manzin) in the difficult last kilometer. A high-speed and master win for the Olympic Champion.

Arrived within the peloton, Julien Loubet is still in the lead and keeps the red jersey, posing for photographs with members of the Hôpital Sourire charity which he supports.

At the finish line : people from Sarmon welcomed warmly the peloton of La Route du Sud - La Dépêche du Midi

From the beginning of the afternoon, the town of Saramon, 803 inhabitants, set the tone to this explosive sprint. Around the refreshment stalls and the activities hosted by the Gers département, the crowd welcomed the publicity cars, with the help of the local brass band. Many thanks to people from Saramon and their

STANDINGS

Stage podium (Radio 100%)



1. Elia VIVIANI
2. Carlos BARBERO m.t.
3. Lorenzo MANZIN m.t.

General classification (Région Occitanie Pyrénées-Méditerranée)



1. Julien LOUBET
2. Silvan DILLIER à 24"
3. Mauro FINETTO à 32"

Points classification (Conseil Départemental du Tarn)



1. Silvan DILLIER 25pts
2. Julien LOUBET 21pts
3. Elia VIVIANI 20pts

Moutain classification (Conseil Départemental des Hautes-Pyrénées)



1. Silvan DILLIER 18pts
2. Julien LOUBET 16pts
3. Romain GUILLEMOIS 10pts

Best young rider (Ynergie)



1. Richard CARAPAZ
2. Clément CHEVRIER à 49"
3. Jonathan LASTRA à 5'34"

Team classification (La Dépêche du Midi)



1. Cofidis, Solutions Crédits
2. Delko Marseille Provence KTM
3. Armée de Terre

mayor Jean-Pierre Salers, not to mention Communauté de communes Coteaux Arrats Gimone : they celebrated perfectly cycling and the show performed by the riders was equal to the famous kindness of Gers.

Saturday's queen stage : climbers to face up the Pyrenees

The 3rd stage of La Route du Sud – La Dépêche du Midi, 167km long, will start in Saint-Gaudens. Thanks to its mayor Jean-Yves Duclos, the city remains a faithful host and friend of the race. However, the riders should not linger in the Comminges city, as they are coming to the Pyrenees.

The peloton will reach high mountain in Bagnères-de-Bigorre, before Sainte-Marie-de-Campan, a well-known city for lovers of the legendary Tourmalet, first climb of the day (km 99,7 – 1st category). Then, the riders will face the unprecedented ascent of Luz Ardiden by the forest road of Gaborisse (km 132,7 – cat. 2). They should keep strength for the valley leading to Gavarnie, famous for its Cirque. Finally, the ascent to Gavarnie-Gèdre ski station will be steep and decisive (cat. 1). The best climbers will animate this exceptional race near the Pyrenees National Parc.

With all these difficult climbs, could Julien Loubet resist the favourites ? Team Sky, with Geraint Thomas, Sergio Henao and the well-positioned Kenny Elissonde, already declared they will be attacking. Rigoberto Uran and Pierre Rolland are also favourites for tomorrow's stage. If they want to win this year's Route du Sud, they have to speed up right on the first slopes of the Tourmalet : tomorrow scenario should be fantastic. Regarding general classification, Julien Loubet should also keep an eye on David Arroyo and on the young rider Richard Carapaz.

