



The African Telatelist

Newsletter 187 of the African Telately Association – January 2014.

The 1996 Tour de France

The 1996 Tour de France was the 83rd Tour de France, starting on 29 June and ending on 21 July 1996, featuring 19 regular stages, 2 individual time trials, a prologue and a rest day (10 July).

This Tour was noted by the "fall" of favorite Miguel Indurain, ending his record run of 5 consecutive victories. The course included a stage through his home town Villava, however he suffered bronchitis because of the poor weather in the first week, and was fined and penalised for accepting drinks illegally. Indurain started to lose time in stage 7 and finally ended 11th failing to win a single stage or spend one day in the yellow jersey.

Stage 9 was scheduled to be a 176 kilometer ride from Val-d'Isère to Sestriere. However, due to appalling weather conditions, including snow, the organizers cut the stage to just 46 km. Bjarne Riis won the stage and opened a crucial 44 second gap over Jan Ullrich. Ullrich, only 22, really broke through in this Tour, and won the individual time trial of stage 20.

Several riders with Team Telekom have confessed to doping offences around the period of the 1996 tour, including support riders Rolf Aldag, Udo Bölts, Christian Henn and Brian Holm and team masseur Jef d'Hont has admitted in his autobiography that there was organised use of EPO in the team. On 24 May 2007, Erik Zabel admitted to using EPO during the first week of the race. The winner of the Tour, Bjarne Riis, admitted on 25 May 2007 that he also used EPO during the Tour, as a result he has been asked by the International Cycling Union (UCI) to return the yellow jersey he received. So far, runner-up Jan Ullrich, who has been under suspicion of doping as a part of the Operación Puerto doping case, has not commented on allegations that he also used EPO. Third place Richard Virenque and fourth place Laurent Dufaux were implicated in the 1998 Festina scandal.

Although UCI lawyer Philippe Verbiest has stated that the statute of limitations for removing Riis as winner of the Tour de France has expired, "you cannot strip him of the title but it possible not to mention it anymore ... Because of what he admitted, he is not the winner of the Tour de France. Riis did not win." Tour spokesman Philippe Sudres also stated that: "We consider

philosophically that he can no longer claim to have won.". In 2007, Riis' victory was removed from the Tour de France, but the following year they listed Bjarne Riis again as winner of Tour de France 1996, albeit with a remark about his confession.

Results

There were several classifications in the 1996 Tour de France. The most important was the general classification, calculated by adding each cyclist's finishing times on each stage. The cyclist with the least accumulated time was the race leader, identified by the yellow jersey; the winner of this classification is considered the winner of the Tour.

Additionally, there was a points classification, which awarded a green jersey. In the points classification, cyclists got points for finishing among the best in a stage finish, or in intermediate sprints. The cyclist with the most points lead the classification, and was identified with a green jersey.

There was also a mountains classification. The organisation had categorized some climbs as either hors catégorie, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th-category; points for this classification were won by the first cyclists that reached the top of these climbs first, with more points available for the higher-categorized climbs. The cyclist with the most points led the classification and was identified with a polkadot jersey.

The 4th individual classification was the young rider classification, which was not marked by a jersey. This was decided the same way as the general classification, but only riders under 26 years were eligible.

For the team classification, the times of the best three cyclists per team on each stage were added; the leading team was the team with the lowest total time.

For the combativity classification, a jury gave points after each stage to the cyclists they considered most combative. The cyclist with the most votes in all stages led the classification.

Source: Wikipedia

Anton de Klerk.

1996 Tour de France



Route of the 1996 Tour de France

Race details

Dates	29 June – 21 July 1996
Stages	21+Prologue
Distance	3,895.4 km (2,420 mi)
Winning time	95h 57' 16" ^[1] (40.697 km/h or 25.288 mph)

Palmares

	Winner	 Bjarne Riis (Denmark)	(Team Telekom)
	Second	 Jan Ullrich (Germany)	(Team Telekom)
	Third	 Richard Virenque (France)	(Festina)
	Points	 Erik Zabel (Germany)	(Team Telekom)
	Mountains	 Richard Virenque (France)	(Festina)
	Youth	 Jan Ullrich (Germany)	(Team Telekom)
	Team	Festina	

