

Niki Terpstra defends fourth place in Driedaagse De Panne

Dortmund, 2 April 2008. MILRAM youngster Niki Terpstra is still in a promising position after the second stage of the Driedaagse De Panne (UCI „HC/April 1-3). There was no change in the top positions after the mass sprint finish. The 23 year-old Dutch rider is still in fourth place, only 11 seconds behind leader Enrico Gasparotto (Barloworld). The stage winner after 228 kilometers was Mark Cavendish from Team High Road. The Briton beat out Italian Francesco Chicchi (Liquigas) and Sebastian Chavanel (Francaise des Jeux).

Three riders dominated most of the second stage of the race through Flanders. Belgians Gianni Meersman (FDJ) and Bart van Heule (Topsport Vlaanderen), together with Frenchman David Boucher (Landbouwkrediet) used the steep climbs in the opening of the race to escape. The peloton didn't pick up its pace until there were only 80 km left, and slowly reduced the leaders' advantage. In the last of three closing laps, with 12 km to go, the peloton absorbed Boucher, while the two Belgians clung to a slight lead. But also they were overtaken with 4 km to go, and the stage came down to the expected mass sprint.

The race, which has been run since 1977, features three stages plus a time trial on three days in a row. The individual stages lead the peloton through the Belgian West Flanders region, around the cities De Panne and Koksijde.

The stages 2008:

- 01.04. 1st Stage: Middelkerke - Zottegem (192 km)
- 02.04. 2nd Stage: Zottegem - Koksijde (228 km)
- 03.04. 3rd Stage: De Panne - De Panne (119 km)
- 03.04. 4th Stage: De Panne - Koksijde - De Panne (EZF, 13,7 km)

The MILRAM line-up: Artur Gajek (GER/Bergisch Gladbach), Brett Lancaster (AUS/Pistoia;ITA), Christian Kux (GER/Chemnitz), Enrico Poitschke (GER/Gera), Markus Eichler (GER/Mönchengladbach), Martin Velits (SVK/Riemst;BEL), Niki Terpstra (NED/Krommenie), Ralf Grabsch (GER/Hürth)

Directeur Sportif: Jochen Hahn (GER)

Information and results for Driedaagse De Panne: www.veloclub-depanne.be

Additional information about Team MILRAM can be found on the team's website, www.team-milram.com.

Further Information:

Press Office Team MILRAM

Stephan Flock (+49 170-9628599)

Schirrmannweg 10

D-44267 Dortmund

Tel.: +49 (231) 467474

Fax: +49 (231) 467676

Email: press@team-milram.com