



Media Release
Sunday, 13 October 2013

Back-to-back wins for Bouhanni

(Amending third paragraph from previous release stating that Michael Matthews had finished third in yesterday's second stage when in fact it was his teammate Mitchell Docker)

Flying Frenchman **Nacer Bouhanni** (FDJ.Fr) has made it two from two, winning the third stage of the 2013 Tour of Beijing.

Bouhanni prevailed in a sprint finish on a day where it was expected that a mountain man would take the spoils with seven climbs on the challenging 176km parcours.

Australian **Michael Matthews** (Orica GreenEDGE) was second, just shading Russian **Aleksei Tsatevich** (Katusha) who finished third.

In an exciting finale to a picturesque stage, on the final climb the Movistar team of world champion **Rui Costa** attacked, but the attempt was nullified before two-time Tour of Beijing winner **Tony Martin** (Omega Pharma Quick-Step) tried his luck. The German opened a 100m lead on the descent, with Costa trailing, but the FDJ.Fr team of Bouhanni closed the gap.

With Martin's brave challenge over, Omega Pharma-Quick-Step began the lead out heading into the five-hundred metre finishing straight with an eye to setting up **Alessandro Petacchi** but once again it was Bouhanni burning down the outside, with **Elia Vivani** (Cannondale), **Michael Matthews** (Orica GreenEdge) and **Aleksei Tsatevich** (Katusha) left fighting it out for the minor placings. In the end, it was Matthews ahead of Tsatevich with Viviani missing the podium.

"I was behind Viviani with 250 to go and I went on the left and I didn't hesitate," Bouhanni said of the run into the finish.

Just as fast as he crossed the finish line, Bouhanni was just as quick to pay tribute to his teammates who spent much of the stage on the front of the peloton, controlling the race.

“It was hard but I had a super team to support me and I didn’t want to disappoint them and I went for it,” he said.

The 23-year old started the day with a one second advantage over his rivals in the battle for the red leader’s jersey and following Sunday’s victory, extended that lead by a further 10 seconds. **Thor Hushovd** (BMC) was forced to abandon the race on Saturday night, flying home to Norway to be with his daughter who is ill in hospital.

Bouhanni, despite his good fortune on today’s stage, does not expect to still be in red on Monday afternoon, although he did say the same thing after yesterday’s stage.

“The fifth stage, yes, I’d like to win but tomorrow will be a bit too hard,” he said.

The road to Qianjiadian

After plenty of attacks, the day’s break was finally established following the stage’s first sprint at the 17km mark, won by Matthews ahead of **Matti Breschel** (Saxo-Tinkoff), **Rui Costa** (Movistar) and **Willem Wauters** (Vacansoleil-DCM). A six-man break consisting of **Albert Timmer** (Argos-Shimano), **Marc Goos** (Belkin), **Damiano Caruso** (Cannondale), **Manuele Boaro** (Saxo-Tinkoff), **Hayden Roulston** (RadioShack Leopard) and **Wes Sulzberger** (Orica GreenEdge) charging ahead with the first KOM of the day on the horizon.

As would be the case on the next six climbs, it was Caruso and Sulzberger going toe-to-toe in the battle for the polka dot jersey, with the Italian succeeding on all but the cat. 1 Si Hai climb where the Australian got his nose in front.

At the start of the fifth climb, the breakaway reached its maximum advantage of 3:53, but the peloton was charging with new world champion Costa at the head of the chase. The pace of the peloton would prove too much for some, with at least nine riders falling off the back of the group while FDJ.Fr and Omega Pharma-Quick-Step set the tempo.

“We both knew that this stage was important for the KOM jersey so we both wanted to be in a breakaway,” Caruso explained with the lead in the classification secured at day’s end. “We struggled and fought and in the end I won. Tomorrow there’s four categorised climbs so it will be important to be in the breakaway again.”

Panda-monium on the Mountain

There was one other prize up for grabs on Si Hai apart from the KOM points, the prize for the first rider to reach the Panda of the Mountain, 100 metres before the summit bringing a distinctively Chinese flavor to the Dutch Corner theme seen in Europe. Roulston, surrounded by around 60 locals in panda attire, took the prize and will celebrate with his teammates following the conclusion of the Tour of Beijing. By the time the peloton hit the POM, it was **Dan Martin** (Garmin Sharp) who led the charge with

Panda in tow, in scenes reminiscent of his ride to the finish at this year's Liege-Bastogne-Liege. The breakaway's time at the front meantime, was gradually being whittled down.

With one kilometre to the summit of the penultimate climb, Cang Mi Gu Dao, the breakaway's advantage had been reduced to just over a minute, while the winding descent was the catalyst for bringing the escapees back to the bunch.

With one small, cat. 3 climb remaining, and the peloton regrouped, it was 'ironman' **Adam Hansen** (Lotto Belisol) who eventually found himself alone off the front of the bunch after a few surges off the front. Wearing his self-proclaimed "lucky shoes" – the ones he won a stage of the Giro d'Italia in earlier this year – the Australian quickly built an advantage over the peloton.

"I didn't really want to go but we had eight guys before that which was perfect but no one wanted to go so it was a bit strange, I sort of just rode off the front and got a bit of a lead," he explained. It was an attack that would earn Hansen, whose season began with the Tour Down Under in January, the award for the day's most aggressive rider. Hopeful that the upcoming climb would grant him a reprieve, Hansen pressed on but would only get out as far as 1:15 before he was reeled in.

"Once GreenEdge and FDJ got in the front it was a bit hard and it's always hard by yourself downhill so it wasn't so good," Hansen explained.

With five kilometres to go, the 32-year-old was caught by the peloton and the sprinters once again had their say.

Stage Four – Yanqing – Mentougou Miaofeng Mountain

On Monday at the Tour of Beijing, stage four concludes with a Tour deciding summit finish on Mentougou Miaofeng Mountain – but the peloton needs to get there first.

Starting in Yanqing, the race again will pass in the shadows of The Great Wall, before the Cat. 1 7.7km Xian Ren Dong climb (5.5%) at the 61.5km mark. There's a short decent to follow before the nasty Cat. 2 Gao Ya Kou climb, which is short at 3.5km, but steep with a 7.1% average gradient. Of the riders that were here in 2012, they will remember the road leading up to Gao Ya Kou, which they descended off, this time, the only way is up. Descending into the valleys around the outskirts of Beijing's 6th Ring Road, there's a 30km reprieve before the final climb to Mentougou (12.6km, 5.7%). When the 150.5km stage is complete, an overall winner of the Tour of Beijing should be decided.

RESULTS

For full results, including all classifications, [click here](#).

Stage 3 176km – Yanqing to Qiandajian

Pos	Nom Prénom	Team	Nat	Split
1.	BOUHANNI Nacer	FDJ	FRA	4h08'15"
2.	MATTHEWS Michael	OGE	AUS	00"
3.	TSATEVICH Aleksei	KAT	RUS	
4.	VIVIANI Elia	CAN	ITA	
5.	KOHLER Martin	BMC	SUI	
6.	BOZIC Borut	AST	SLO	
7.	VAN DER SANDE Tosh	LTB	BEL	
8.	HARREDA LOPEZ Jesus	MOV	ESP	
9.	BARDET Romain	ALM	FRA	
10.	BRESCHERL Matti	TST	DEN	

General Classification

Pos	Nom Prénom	Team	Nat	Time	Split
1.	BOUHANNI Nacer	FDJ	FRA	13h28'18"	00"
2.	MATTHEWS Michael	OGE	AUS	13h28'29"	11"
3.	BOUET Maxime	ALM	FRA		
4.	TSATEVICH Aleksei	KAT	RUS	13h28'34"	16"
5.	MAES Nikolas	OPQ	BEL		
6.	BRESCHERL Matti	TST	DEN	13h28'36"	18"
7.	COSTA Rui	MOV	POR	13h28'37"	19"
8.	INTXAUSTI Benat	MOV	ESP		
9.	NISHIZONO Ryota	CSS	JPN		
10.	PETACCHI Alessandro	OPQ	ITA	13h28'38"	20"

Points Classification

Pos	Nom Prénom	Eq.	Nat	Points
1.	BOUHANNI Nacer	FDJ	FRA	38pts
2.	MATTHEWS Matthew	OGE	AUS	31pts
3.	PETACCHI Alessandro	OPQ	ITA	24pts
4.	BRESCHERL Matti	TST	DEN	21pts
5.	MEZGEC Luka	ARG	SLO	21pts

Mountain Classification

Pos	Nom Prénom	Eq.	Nat	Points
1.	CARUSO Damiano	CAN	ITA	37pts
2.	SULZBERGER Wesley	OGE	AUS	35pts
3.	BEYER Chad	CSS	USA	17pts
4.	KAISEN Olivier	LTB	BEL	16pts

5.	BOARO Manuele	TST	ITA	16pts
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Young Rider Classification

Pos	Nom Prénom	Eq.	Nat	Time	Split
1.	BOUHANNI Nacer	FDJ	FRA	13h28'18"	00"
2.	MATTHEWS Michael	OGE	AUS	13h28'29"	11"
3.	TSATEVICH Aleksei	KAT	RUS	13h28'34"	16"
4.	VIVIANI Elia	CAN	ITA	13h28'38"	20"
5.	HERRADA LOPEZ Jesus	MOV	ESP		

2013 Tour of Beijing Stages:

Stage One – Friday, 11th October
190.5km – Shunyi to Huairou Studio City

Stage Two – Saturday 12th October
201.5km – Huairou Studio City to Yanqing

Stage Three – Sunday 13th October
176km – Yanqing to Qiandajian

Stage Four – Monday, 14th October
150.5km – Yanqing to Mentougou Miafeng Mountain

Stage Five – Tuesday, 15th October
117km – Tian an men Square to Bird's Nest Piazza

