



Stage winner Slovenia's Primoz Roglic celebrates on the podium

Roglic clinches Tour 17th stage

Serre-Chevalier, France

Former champion ski-jumper Primoz Roglic took a sensational solo victory on the mountainous 17th stage of the Tour de France yesterday.

Chris Froome came home third to stretch his overall lead to 27 seconds as Rigoberto Uran moved up to second and Fabio Aru dropped to fourth, with Romain Bardet remaining third.

Slovenia's Roglic, 27, was junior world ski-jumping champion in 2007 but became a professional cyclist in 2014.

He was part of an initial 33-man breakaway that was whittled down to just six riders when Roglic attacked solo 6.4km from the summit of the hors category Col du Galibier, which at more than 2,600 metres above sea level was the highest point of this year's Tour.

He crested the climb, 28km from the finish in Serre-Chevalier, with a lead of just over a minute and half on a group of chasers including the top contenders.

On the descent, Roglic easily managed his lead while a five-man chase group developed, including Froome.

But Italian Aru, who started the day second at 18sec, had been dropped by an acceleration from Bardet just before the Galibier summit and he was chasing desperately to limit his losses.

Uran took second, 1min 13sec behind Roglic, to snatch six bonus seconds that moved him up to second, on the same time as Bardet. Froome also took four bonus seconds for finishing third to help increase his lead.

Aru came 31sec later to drop to fourth at 53sec ahead of Thursday's second straight Alpine stage with its brutal finish at the summit of the imposing Col d'Izoard. (AFP)

Wednesday July 19

2 0 1 7

17th stage 183 km

- 1 **P. Roglic** 5h07:41 (SLO/Lotto NL Jumbo)
- 2 **R. Uran** at 1:13 (COL/Cannondale)
- 3 **C. Froome** at 1:13 (GBR/Sky)
- 4 **R. Bardet** at 1:13 (FRA/AG2R)
- 5 **W. Barguil** at 1:13 (FRA/Sunweb)

Overall

- 1 **C. Froome** 73h27:26 (GBR/Sky)
- 2 **R. Uran** at 0:27 (COL/Cannondale)
- 3 **R. Bardet** at 0:27 (FRA/AG2R)
- 4 **F. Aru** at 0:53 (ITA/Astana)
- 5 **M. Landa** at 1:24 (ESP/Sky)

Points

- 1 **M. Matthews** 364 pts (GBR/Sunweb)

Mountains

- 1 **W. Barguil** 129 pts (FRA/Sunweb)

Source: ASO

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Cink finishes 17th place overall

Bahrain Merida positions:

Results from stage 17, a 183km ride.

47. J Brajkovic (SLO, one hour 49 minutes 12 seconds)
61. Cink (CZE, 2:06:24)
78. T Grmay (ETH, +2:28:15)
108. Y Arashiro (JPN, +2:51:47)
119. J Moreno (ESP, +3:02:08)
123. S Colbrelli (ITA, 3:08:00)
146. G Bole (SLO, +3:24:28)
163. B Bozic (SLO, +3:46:56)

Aidan Payne/DTNN
aidan@dt.bh

Manama

Bahrain's Merida Pro Cycling Team rider, Ondrej Cink (Czech Republic, five hours 12 minutes 48 seconds) finished 17th overall on the 17th stage yesterday of the 104th Tour de France from La Mure to Serre-Chevalier over 188km.

Cink was five minutes and

seven seconds behind stage winner, Dutchman Primoz Roglic (5:07:41) of the Team Lotto NL- Jumbo.

During the latest stage of the tour, Bahrain's other seven riders were all classified with the same time of 33 minutes 41 seconds behind the stage leader - Tsgabu Grmay, (Ethiopia, 91st), Janez Brajkovic (Slovenia, 132nd), Yukiya Arashiro (Japan, 141st), Javier Moreno (Spain, 142nd),

Grega Bole (Slovenia, 145th), Borut Bozic (Slovenia, 148th), Sonny Colbrelli (Italy, 152th).

The tour resumes today with the 18th stage taking the remaining (169) riders further into the Alps mountain range from Briancon to Izoard over 179.5km.



Ondrej Cink (file pic)

Aru defiant despite losing podium spot

Serre-Chevalier, France

Italian Fabio Aru remained defiant yesterday despite dropping from second to fourth at the Tour de France after struggling on the monster Galibier climb.

Aru held the race leader's yellow jersey for two days last week but was caught out by poor positioning on Friday and gave up the race lead back to Chris Froome.

He remained second at 18sec but yesterday he couldn't match the bursts of acceleration by Frenchman Romain Bardet. (AFP)

Green jersey Marcel Kittel quits tour

Serre-Chevalier, France

Sprint star Marcel Kittel quit the Tour de France yesterday after a crash on the 183km, 17th stage in the Alps from La Mure to Serre-Chevalier. The 29-year-old

German was leading the sprinters' green jersey competition at the time he abandoned having won five stages so far.

"Another sad news: Green jersey @marcelkittel, and winner of five #TDF2017 stages, has stopped at the top of Col de la Croix de Fer," said the German's Quick-Step team on Twitter.

What had been a hugely successful Tour for Kittel quickly turned sour as he crashed 20km into Wednesday's stage.

He was cut and bloodied and even needed to change a shoe while hanging onto his team car as the race continued. (AFP)



Germany's Marcel Kittel



The pack rides during the 183 km seventeenth stage of the 104th edition of the Tour de France cycling race yesterday between Le La Mure and Serre-Chevalier, French Alps (AFP)