

Antoine's Belgium Racing Experience – Week 2



Week 2 the racing wasn't until the weekend so we had the whole week for riding and activities. We planned a long ride out to do 4 of the cobbled classic climbs. The cobbles are so rough that I thought my bike was going to fall apart. The Koppenberg was my favorite out of the 4 we rode as the cobbles were not too harsh and it was really steep. I cannot remember the name of the other climbs but all I can say is that they were hard. We stopped in Oudenarde on the way back for coffee and waffles. Oudenarde is a really nice town with great riding. We stopped for photos of the Cathedral.

The rest of the week were just endurance rides for 2hrs. Saturday was the first race of the week in Dentergem. I was not feeling too good so I rode to the race to see if I would feel better. Unfortunately I didn't but started the race anyway. I pulled out after 7 laps with a really bad headache, the heat during the race didn't help either.





Sundays race was much better at Langemark-Hagebos. The race started off with a decent pace, a break had not gone until the second lap. I was sitting in the bunch and working to chase it back. We ended up catching it with 9 laps to go, a group with some of the strongest riders went after we caught the break but I was boxed in and didn't make it. A couple attacks went to bridge but none of them worked. After about 5 attempts I was rolling a turn on the front and a rider went so I decided to go with him. Nobody chased so we started working together to try catch the break, but the gap was already quite large. We got down to 15seconds from the break but never made it. We stayed away from the peloton for the next 7 laps of the race and put a 4min gap on the bunch, with the break putting 1:30min into us. I ended up on the front in the sprint and tried to swing off but the other rider beat me by

a wheel length. I ended up coming 6th which I am really happy with as me and the other rider worked really hard to stay away and this is my best result yet. I came to Belgium wanting a top 10 and I have achieved that. Next goal is a podium. The results were in the newspaper the next day with a race report except it is in Flemish.



Martine Verfaillie



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...de Belgier Nor Weimberg, de Brit Tom Portsmouth, de Spanjaard Mateo Gonzalez Torres, de Rwandees Felicien Hakizimana en Audric Leleu. In de spurt met acht was Portsmouth de snelste voor Maes, Gonzalez en Martens. (ids)

LANGEMARK TOM PORTSMOUTH

Even na halfkoers reden Lars Collie, de Zuid-Afrikaan Lian Aucamp en de Brit Tom Portsmouth weg uit een omvangrijke kopgroep. Michiel Nuytten kon de kloof overbruggen. Audric Leleu en de Australiër Antoine Richard Gizardin-Pradeau slaagden er niet in om aan te sluiten. In de spurt toonde Portsmouth zich duidelijk de snelste. Daags voordien was hij ook al het feest in Dentergem. Nuytten werd tweede voor Collie. (tvm)

NIEUWELINGEN

DENTERGEM HENRY DIETZE

oakruazam (Mas) 42"; 4. Jens Pronk (Ned); 5. Brecht Goossens 58"; 6. Sam Meijdam (Ned) 59"; 8. Aleksandr Maas (Ned); 9. Sibe Franken; 10. Mohamed Rayes (Syr); 11. Max van Balkom (Ned); 12. Staf Galle 2'03"; 13. Michael Decoster; 14. Jasper Coenegrachts; 15. Lennert Bruyns.

LANGEMARK-HAGEBOS - 32

DEELNEMERS: 1. Tom PORTSMOUTH (GBr) 84.0 km in 2u00'12" (gem.: 41.93 km/u); 2. Michiel Nuytten; 3. Lars Collie; 4. Lian Aucamp (Zaf); 5. Audric Leleu 2'15"; 6. Antoine Richard Gizardin-Pradeau (Aus); 7. Aiden Vanderbeke 3'02"; 8. Ewout Verstraete 3'35"; 9. Sander Dekien; 10. Birger Rosseeuw; 11. Ricky De Geest; 12. Bastien Lechantre (Fra); 13. Jonas Quartier; 14. Arvin Jansen (VSt); 15. Guillian Demeyer.

VLIERMAAL - 44 DEELNEMERS:

1. Kars TEN BOSKE (Ned) 79.9 km in 1u49'00" (gem.: 43.982 km/u); 2. Owen Jacobs; 3. Leon Eduard Brescher (Dui); 4. Jan

WILSELE - 12

2. Jarne Van Dyck; Sallaerts; 5. Manuel BOELS; 2. Chiara Pe

13-jarigen:

1. Chertin; 3. Jonas Leema; Grim Artoos. **Meisj** 2. Margot ROTTIER Van De Kerkhof. 14 LEGHEM; 2. Enzo R 4. Jordi Vrancken;

NEVENBOND

ZATERDAG

LWU IN RUIE

Tim De Baene; 3. (Van Laethem; 5. C CLERCQ; 2. Tom Sa re; 4. Jan Motte; 5 DE SWERT; 2. Pedr 4. Kenny Michels;

D:

1. Tony RENIER Patrick Watteng; 4

ke
u-

ELLE - 82 DEEL-

INNE (Ruisselede) gem.: 42.759 km/u); Yannick Franssens 12"; n Neiryck; 6. Jan niel Vanderbauwhede "; 9. Bram Van Ren-andevyvere; 11. Kim imenant; 13. Sven n Francys; 15. Brent athan Breyne; 17. ieters; 19. Niels Nach-oore.

DEELNEMERS:

1) 114.0 km in (km/u); 2. Steven laele; 4. Jens Moens; Trustan Fivé; 7. Gilles k; 9. Levi Jacobs 14"; 11. Thierry De-