

## **Ford RideLondon Classique Stage Two post-race quotes**

Podium winners and riders speak about today's (27 May) eventful Stage Two race and the nail-biting finish.

### **Stage Two winner Chloe Dygert (Canyon//SRAM Racing, GER)**

"It's really great, it's been a long time coming and I'm really happy to pull this off for the team. We worked so hard, it was a brilliant day for us, and we really worked well together today. Yeah, with Maïke up the road it was super exciting, in the radio we had two options here and it really worked out perfectly because the other teams had to chase and that kept Soraya and I fresh for the final.

"Tomorrow is a day for the pure sprinters, so it'll be a good day to lead out Maïke."

### **Lizzie Deignan (Trek-Segafredo, USA), second place**

On winning the second spot, she said: "It's not what I came here for, it's better than what I came here for to be honest. I'm really happy, as long as I keep going up the podium steps, I might end up with a win tomorrow.

"[A win in London] would be amazing, I'm really pleased. I think the team has made the best out of a bad situation losing Elisa on the first day. I'm pleased with my form, I didn't expect to be able to produce that kind of result and the team has really performed well.

"[Today's stage] was really undulating, it was a really racy circuit. I think the organisers did a good job in creating the circuit....it was impossible to cruise around and come up with the sprint in the end. It really was a racy circuit and I think that's why it suited me.

"The crowds have been fantastic the whole race. Brilliant to see so many children out on the circuit as well, I think it's really important. It's an [Olympic] legacy event, RideLondon, so it's all about the next generation and they're out here watching, that's great."

On fighting for the win tomorrow, she added: "You've got to be prepared, we'll go down fighting, we've got nothing to lose. Second in GC [general classification] is great, I don't think we are going to try and protect second in the GC, we are going to try and win the thing."

Describing the closing stage of race, she said: "It was a bit tricky. It's hard to manage, they had a rider up the road that we were just catching, and then Paladin and Chloe were both there, so I was like who's going? I got sandwiched a bit and hesitated a bit. I feel slightly disappointed in my final climb and sprint, because I didn't feel like I really unleashed my full power. Props to Chloe, it is pretty impossible sometimes to try and beat Chloe Dygert, so I think second was a good result."

Speaking about fellow Briton Pfeiffer Georgi's stellar performance, she said: "Pfeiffer was phenomenal today. I think if Charlotte Kool didn't have Pfeiffer in the race, then she wouldn't still be in the jersey anymore. She really was the rider of the day."

**Soraya Paladin (Canyon//SRAM Racing, GER), third place**

She said: "I'm happy, we won so, yeah, it was a really hard race, but we had our really strong team here – I think we show it and really happy to have the win."

"It was hard, I started from the bottom of the climb with a hard pace and then I saw Chloe. She came around me and actually she was really strong, and it was a really nice day."

"Tomorrow it will be a bit different, I think a bunch sprint like at Colchester, we will see tomorrow, I think we will have for sure racing in London. It will be really fun, I think I will enjoy racing in the centre of London."

**Hanna Johansson (Team Torelli, IRL)**

The Queen of the Mountains winner, as long as she finishes tomorrow (28 May), said: "I'm tired but happy. [Winning QofM] would be great, it would be the biggest we have done. For me, it would definitely be the biggest I've done, so super happy. I was nervous, so that made me a bit tired as well. I was really tired towards the end, happy to have finished."

**Charlotte Kool (Team DSM, NED)**

The Stage One winner said: "I am really proud of the team, how we rode today was really special. Everyone did everything to keep me and Pfeiffer safe for the final. In the final it was up to me and Pfeiffer, and we were actually always there in the perfect position. In the end there was a late attack, but I think we still had it under control."

"Then there was a crash in the group in front of me and there was no way for me to avoid this one, so that was a bit unlucky, especially after all the work the team did today. I'm really, really happy that I'm still leading GC, so at least the effort was not for nothing today." She added the aim for Stage Three was "to bring GC home and try to go for one more stage win."