

Post-race quotes

Stage One winner and General Classification Leader: Lorena Wiebes (Team DSM)

"The last lap was super-fast. Anna [Henderson] had a big time gap and it was going up and down, so I wasn't that confident ahead of the final.

"Fortunately, we were able to prepare for the sprint and I was able to carry it out as I wanted, which was great. The final kilometre was chaotic, and the team lost each other a bit, but it worked out well in the end.

"Tomorrow it is a case of surviving. It will be really hard, and the climb is just before the finish so I will suffer if I want to defend the general classification. I hope my legs feel good tomorrow as this was hard. Tonight, it's time to rest."

Sprint Classification Leader: Elisa Balsamo (Trek-Segafredo)

"Today was hard, we started slowly but when we entered the final sequence it was full gas. It was a hard final and it's my first race after a small break, but my team-mates did great to set up the sprint.

"The team did well in closing the break and in the final kilometres, but at that point it was a hard sprint. I'm here to find good feelings, so second place is good.

"Tomorrow is definitely the hardest (and longest) stage; for now it is about rest.

"We saw a lot of people on the road, which is always great to see, especially on an up-and-down stage, which makes it difficult. It's wonderful racing in the UK, and I'm excited for the days ahead."

Ford Queen of the Mountains Leader: Anna Henderson (Jumbo-Visma)

"I wish the Finish Line was 200m closer! It was a fun day out and a good ride for me and the team.

"We wanted to be aggressive and be in the break, as we know there are fast sprinters here. It made sense to attack after they had been looking at each other after the first sprint. But being alone wasn't ideal, so I didn't commit, but I had to after the gap went out.

"There was a hill near the end, but the final 5km was on a big road and it was hard fighting the wind and the peloton at this point.

"I think a few teams were surprised and no smaller teams attacked at the start. It was a bit windy, but no one was interested. I was going all-out for the stage win initially, but the jersey is a nice bonus.

"I'm going to be tired tomorrow, but am ready for the days ahead."

British Leader: Alice Barnes (Canyon//SRAM)

"Today was pretty fast, and the roads were quite open because the wind was unpredictable. We knew that, although the wind was unlikely to split the race, it was going to be a fast final. We needed to balance chasing her and conserving energy for the final.

"Our plan didn't go that well, we wanted to be better positioned. Now we want to defend the jersey, although we know it will be warm and hilly. We have a strong team so there are a few cards we can play.

"I love racing here; the kids were at school and out cheering us on and the crowd helped us over the line. We weren't really looking at the General Classification, but we have to take it stage by stage.

"I'm the first person to wear this jersey, which is great. It's so nice to have two WorldTour stage races now and to make this a three-day event. I'm excited for what is to come."

Pre-race quotes

Pfeiffer Georgi (Team DSM), British National Champion

“I feel good and am excited to be here, and it is always nice to race on home roads. I don’t know these specific roads too well, but the team has prepared well.

“We are here with a strong team, and I think we have some nice opportunities coming up, which I’m looking forward to. There are sprint opportunities, we have a good lead-out team and that gives us options.

“It’s exciting for the race to be over three days, I have done it twice before but only one day in London. It is always good when cycling can grow.”

Lotte Kopecky (Team SD Worx), winner of 2022 Strade Bianche and Tour of Flanders

“I feel strong, I am happy I could start at [La Vuelta a] Burgos and get some racing in my legs ahead of this one. I am in good shape, for me a good result is winning, that is my goal today.”

Hannah Barnes (Canyon//SRAM), former British National Champion

“We used to race around London for one day and expanding it to three days is a great thing for cycling. Normally we have a 90-minute race around Buckingham Palace, but a lot more preparation goes into this. There are three days to consider and we need different tactics.

“I know a few people here so have been asking for tips on the roads, small advantages are good – English racing is unique and the roads are very different to those we normally race on. They are very twisty, can go from big to small very quickly and it’s good to have these little pieces of knowledge. A few riders have done the Tour of Britain, so more riders know about these things than before.

“I’ve been asked about the wind a lot, but it’s harder to predict things. In England it is harder to split the peloton with the wind because of the hedges on the roadsides. The villages and towns and unexpected road furniture are what we need to be aware of.

“We are not solely focused on General Classification, we are learning to lead-out together and we want to gain experience. We are focused ahead of the Women’s Tour next week, and a good result here is important. We had May off to train and we are using this to get our legs and race craft in shape; we want to do the best we can.”