

Stage Three rider quotes

Post-race quotes

General Classification winner and Sprints Jersey winner: Lorena Wiebes (Team DSM)

“I’m really happy to deliver this for the team after they did so much for me this week. I was saving my energy for the final as I didn’t need any extra seconds because I was 18 seconds ahead. We were fully focused on the final sprint.

“I’m in really good shape, but I can still be better after a long block of training. I go with a lot of confidence into the next race, as can the team. I don’t want to say I’m the best in the world, but I’m very pleased.

“There were some bumps on the road but there were a lot of people, which made for a great atmosphere.

“I will rest for a few days and then it is The Women’s Tour. I hope to be back next year to defend the title.”

Best Young Rider: Julia Borgström (AG Insurance-NXTG Team)

“It’s the best result of my career, so I’m so pleased. We wanted some bonus seconds to catch up on the leader of this jersey as we heard that Vittoria [Guazzini] dropped out at the beginning. We knew the jersey was in reach but would be hard.

“I have never raced once in England, but I loved it. I haven’t left yet, but I already can’t wait to come back!”

Second overall on General Classification and second on Stage Three: Elisa Balsamo (Trek-Segafredo)

“Today was a fast sprint and I tried to jump from wheel to wheel. It was a good sprint and a good way to end after a break.

“Lorena [Wiebes] is in very good shape and very strong, but I am pleased with second overall for now. It is good preparation for the summer.”

Third overall on General Classification: Emma Norsgaard Bjerg (Movistar Team)

“Today was really nice. It was my first time racing here but I really loved it. I have been here on vacation before but not to race, and it reminds me of Harry Potter!

“Today’s sprint is not really my style; it was super-fast, and I needed it to be harder to be a contender, but I’m very pleased with third overall. I am always going for the win and at least the podium, but we can be proud of ourselves as a team.”

Ford Queen of the Mountains winner and Best British Rider winner: Anna Henderson (Team Jumbo-Visma)

“It was a fast day, and the streets were twisty and bumpy, but it’s always special to race on these roads. We had a plan to be at the front and show ourselves throughout and I think we did that, so we’re pleased.

“I’m now looking ahead to The Women’s Tour.”

Third on Stage Three: Lotte Kopecky (Team SD Worx)

“I was frustrated after taking consecutive fourth places on the last two days, so I’m happy to get on the podium in London. I want to win but Lorena was outstanding this week. We keep on working and we will beat her in the end!

“It’s good preparation for the summer and to get some miles in the legs.

“The race was fast and the tight corners meant we needed to be well positioned throughout. If you’re outside the first 30 riders, you would have needed to accelerate too hard after corners so that was hectic, but we managed it well.

“I am going to rest and then it is time for the Giro and the Tour and the busy month of July.”

Pre-Stage Three quotes

Best Young Rider: Vittoria Guazzini (FDJ Nouvelle-Aquitaine Futuroscope)

“The knee is not so good (after yesterday’s crash), but the rest is OK. I did some short spins on the rollers this morning after yesterday’s crash to see how I felt but let’s hope the adrenaline of the race will be enough to see me through.

“After the crash the team were all around me asking how I was and ensuring I could keep my energy and I am sure they will work hard to keep this jersey today. I need to defend myself and stay safe and I will see how I feel in the final. I hope it will be OK, but we will see.

“It will be a nervous race. We have seen this in the other stages. We all want to be at the front, but it can’t always be that way. I trust the team and we will see what happens.”

Emma Norsgaard Bjerg (Movistar Team) third in General Classification, third in first two stages

“I feel super great. It’s good to be in London and we are hoping for a good result. It has been a very enjoyable event and I am really pleased this is now a three-day event and part of the calendar.

“We are enjoying being here, and while I can’t enjoy much as it happens, I will do my best afterwards.”

General Classification Leader and Sprints Jersey Leader: Lorena Wiebes (Team DSM)

“I hope the legs are good, but we will see on the road. I really love crit-style racing, and today will be fast so it suits my style.

“I believe my main competitors for the sprint will be Emma [Norsgaard Bjerg], Elisa [Balsamo], Lotte [Kopecky] and Chiara [Consonni], although there are so many fast girls. It is a very different stage from the last two days.

“I am fine with pressure. We will go for it as I really like this course. It is special to be in the city centre and I want to enjoy the views on the way around if I can!

“We will do everything as a team to have the bunch sprint, and they will set me up for the final.”