

## UCI ProTour: Di Luca following in the footsteps of Rebellin

With three wins in the nine first races, Danilo Di Luca (ITA) has become the new leader of the UCI ProTour individual general ranking.

The Italian rider from Liquigas, who has won in the following order the la Vuelta Ciclista al País Vasco, the Amstel Gold Race and the Flèche Wallonne, is in extraordinary form ahead of the «Doyenne» of the classics, Liège-Bastogne-Liège, which will be raced on Sunday.

Di Luca, fourth rider to have taken the lead in the UCI ProTour after Julich (USA), Freire (ESP) and Boonen (BEL), winner of the Tour of Flanders and Paris-Roubaix currently in second place, will try to repeat the performance of Davide Rebellin a year ago when he dominated the week of Ardennes races by seizing a third consecutive win in Liège, wearing the UCI ProTour jersey of course.....

## UCI ProTour: world TV coverage for the Tour de Romandie

For the first time in its history, the 2005 Tour de Romandie, 11th race in the UCI ProTour will enjoy worldwide TV coverage. Race coverage will be broadcast on 4 continents: Europe, America, Australia and Africa. The Tour de Romandie will be broadcast live, not only in Switzerland, but also in Spain (TVE), France (Sport +), Germany (DSF), Belgium (VRT and RTBEF) and the US (OLN). An hour of highlights will be shown by Sky Italia (Italy), Premier Media Group (Australia) and Supersport (South Africa).

## First round of the UCI Cross-Country Mountain Bike World Cup

The first round of the 2005 UCI Cross-Country Mountain Bike World Cup will take place this Sunday 24th April on the famous Formula 1 circuit at Spa Francorchamps, in Belgium.

Since the MTB circuit is close to the UCI ProTour road race circuit for Liège-Bastogne-Liège, the TV channel RTBF will broadcast the first 30 minutes live of the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup, which will therefore benefit from the technical facilities installed for the «Doyenne».

Over 300 Elite men and women riders will be lining up at the start of the Cross-Country circuit in the first race of the 2005 UCI Mountain Bike World Cup.

## Twenty-three new South American coaches

After a 3-month intensive training course at the World Cycling Centre (WCC), twenty-three South American coaches from 19 countries successfully passed the «International Cycling Coaching Course» the objective being to ensure a high level of practical and theoretical knowledge of road and track coaching. During their course, the coaches were also given instruction on the basic training for Mountain Biking and BMX. Some coaches will work at the National Technical Centres to detect and train young talented riders. Others will be assigned to lead a team of road riders or track riders. All these coaches will play a key role in the UCI development and training strategy. The skills acquired during their course will enable them to train young athletes more effectively and to work on improving coaching skills in their country.

In terms of effectiveness, the training of a trainee coach is equivalent to the training of 15 to 20 (average number of riders trained by a coach) athletes at the WCC.

## The Senegalese Federation at the UCI

On 8th April last, the UCI had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Michel Thioub, Technical Director of the Senegalese National Federation and Director of the Tour of Senegal. During his visit, Mr Thioub was able to meet, other than the Management, several other UCI staff, in particular Frédéric Magné, Manager of the Training and Development Department, with whom he had a constructive discussion on the possibility of opening a top level Cycling Centre in Senegal, in cooperation with CONFJES (Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sport from French-speaking countries).

After being informed about how the Federation operates and cycling activities in Senegal, Mrs Dominique Raymond, Manager of Relations with National Federations, took him on a visit of the Olympic Museum in Lausanne.

## The UCI visits the Madrid venue, candidate for the 2012 Olympic Games

On 5th April 2005, Messrs. Quéguiner and Chevallier, respectively Sports Coordination Department Manager and UCI Road Sports Coordinator were invited by Madrid, candidate city for the organisation of the 2012 OG. They visited the venues planned for cycling races in order to approve the organisation plan for the time-trial road race circuit which would finish in the 75,000 capacity Olympic stadium.

The UCI gave its approval in principle on the feasibility of a truly innovative time-trial project.

The sites where cycling facilities would be installed (road time-trial circuit, velodrome, track and BMX) and their proximity to the Olympic village and airport were pointed out and assessed by the UCI.

## The following riders were sanctioned:

**Luis FERNANDEZ OLIVERA** (ESP19800119), tested positive with triamcinolone acetonide during the race Bira (ESP) on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2004, sanctioned by **Real Federacion Española de Ciclismo**, fine of 601€ (art. 64 AER) **Victor GARCIA ESTEVEZ** (ESP19810405), tested positive with triamcinolone acetonide during the Vuelta Ciclista a Leon (ESP) on 5, 6 and 7 August 2004, sanctioned by **Real Federacion Española de Ciclismo**, fine of 601€ (art.64 AER). **Victoriano MARTINEZ FERNANDEZ** (ESP19730707) tested positive with triamcinolone acetonide during the race Troféu Joaquim Agostinho GP Int. de Ciclismo de Torres Vedras (POR) on 10 July 2004, sanctioned by **Federação Portuguesa de Ciclismo**, suspension of 6 months from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2005, disqualification of the race. **Alice Cristina PEREIRA AZEVEDO COUTO** (Portugal) tested positive with ephedrine during the Masters European Championships (POR) on 25 July 2004, sanctioned by **Federação Portuguesa de Ciclismo**, suspension of 3 months from 25<sup>th</sup> October 2004 to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2005 (idle period held in account), disqualification of the race.