

Result of Floyd Landis's abnormal analysis at the Tour de France: Pat McQuaid reasserts the UCI's firmness in the fight against doping

After having been informed about the abnormal result of the anti-doping test carried out on Floyd Landis at the Tour de France, the UCI President, Pat McQuaid has given an immediate reaction. According to him, if the counter-analysis confirms this first result «it would be a great disappointment and an unacceptable violation». Pat McQuaid also stated however that in the event of a positive result «it would be regrettable for cycling, but prove once again the effectiveness of the measures taken by the UCI and the sports world to fight against doping and reaffirmed that the UCI «is determined to continue its fight against doping with the greatest severity».

The women's peloton heads for Scandinavia

The UCI Women's Road World Cup will be heading north at the end of this week. Two new races will be taking place in Scandinavia: the Swedish Open in Vargarda, on 28 July, and the Ladies Golden Hour in Aarhus, Denmark on 30 July. The first event will be raced on a 12 km circuit. The second, which will be a first in the women's category, will be a team time-trial with 6 riders, raced over 45 km. This event will naturally award points to teams, but also individually to riders. The level of participation in these two events is encouraging with 17 teams entered for the time-trial and 20 for the Swedish Open. These figures are much higher than those recorded over the last few years for other races in faraway places. These two races are very popular in Scandinavia and will be shown live on the Viasat Sports Channel, and the Ladies Golden Hour will be under the patronage of Princess Mary of Denmark.

Development of Mountain Biking: the Argentinian Federation attends a course at the World Cycling Centre

Argentinian mountain biking specialists are staying in Aigle from 17 July to 8 August. This course is part of a mountain biking development

project in Argentina, supported by the National Federation and the Minister for Sport in this country. The course is being lead by Mr Dario Linkowski, trainee coach at the World Cycling Centre in 2005.

With regard to cross-country, Argentina is one of the eight countries in South America that features in the UCI country ranking, behind Colombia, Chile and Brazil. Argentina is currently in 32nd place out of 43 ranked countries (full rankings at www.uci.ch).

Training and development: no holidays at the World Cycling Centre!

Four groups will be training at the World Cycling Centre (WCC) during the summer months: «Road», «Track», «BMX» and «young athletes». The course of the Road riders began in February and will finish in September. The Track riders arrived in Aigle in June, and will stay at the WCC until March 2007. As for the BMX group, a course run by Hervé Krebs for Chinese riders, began on 2 July and will finish on 30 September. Seven athletes and a coach will be taking part. The «young athletes» group is being managed by Michel Thèze and Richard Wooles. The group in Aigle from May to August is made up of 18 juniors (born in 1988 and 1989) and are Road and Track specialists, preparing for the upcoming UCI Juniors Road and Track World Championships, that will be held in Gand and Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium, from 5 to 13 August. The young riders originate from 18 countries and 5 continents. Since 1st January 2006, 121 trainees representing 64 countries, including 16 trainee coaches, have attended courses at the WCC as part of the UCI's training and development programme.

UCI Juniors Road and Track World Championships: increase in the number of countries taking part

The UCI Juniors Road and Track World Championships which will take place at the Flemish Cycling Centre 'Eddy Merckx', in Gand, and in the Ardennes Spa resort in Belgium, have recorded an increase in the number of countries

taking part. In 2005 this figure was 44 and has gone up to 46 this year. The number of riders is stable.

Visit of the President of the Guinean Cycling Federation to the UCI headquarters

Mr Yéro Bah, President of the Guinean Cycling Federation and Treasurer of the African Cycling Confederation, was welcomed by Mrs Dominique Raymond, Head of National Federations relations, on 27 July at the World Cycling Centre. As part of its cycling development policy, the UCI gave a dozen Road bikes to Mr Bah. The Guinean Cycling Federation will send a trainee coach, who has received a grant from his National Olympic Committee, to the WCC next September. The creation of a future Tour of Guinea included in the UCI Africa Tour next year was also discussed.