

Leon van Bon 6th between Protour riders in Gullegem - Koerse (Belgium)

Thursday, 03 June 2010

Leon van Bon from the Marco Polo Cycling Team is warming up for the upcoming races in Europe. In the Gullegem - Koerse pro-kermesse in Belgium he was present in the 17 rider break-away and managed to get away with 6 at the end, taking a great 6th place in this extremely strong field.

Brad Hall just arriving from Australia also finished 86th in the peloton. Eritrean Daniel Abraham rode well in his first real pro race. He even came back from a flat tire at the time Topsport Vlaanderen was closing a 1 minute gap to a break-away with Lotto, Quickstep, Katusha and Vacansoleil among others.

Here follows the report from Leon van Bon. Read more...

Leon van Bon: When we arrived at the race in the Belgian town Gullegum (1st of June) I knew it would be serious business that day. I was amazed by all the team cars and busses from the Pro-tour teams, which all were standing there on the parking place. I was wondering: was I good enough to participate in this race? But my mind already got nice distraction by meeting my old colleagues and friends from pro cycling. They seemed to be suprised I was there. I have to admit, I was amazed myself.

I knew the race would be tough, from the beginning onwards. The first 2 hours we did 97,5 km. I was having some problems in the corners, I was suffering and in the mean time I saw riders and groups escaping. Actually, I couldn't care less. All I wanted was to finish and race those kilometers as training for the upcoming Tour de l'Oise.

After 100 km a big group came back because of the high racing speeds of Topsport Flanders. I had a change of mind. I saw Phil for the La Redoute

escaping and I knew I had to take that opportunity. We were the last two to make it to the group of 17 in the front. We had a gap of 2 minutes on the peleton. But I was questioning myself: "why didn't I just stay in the peleton?" I felt very bad.

But then suddenly 3 guys were able to come back and the group decided to wait for them. And there it was again; I had to take my opportunity and

attacked again. 1 km later I was in a breakaway group with 5 other riders. From that moment on I don't remember that much, I was only focussing on the wheels in front of me, I didn't even feel the pain. So incredible, I became 6th. Maybe form is coming?

The race was won by Wouter Weylandt from Quickstep.

1. Wouter Weylandt Quickstep - Innergetic 03:43:46 25 -
2. Greg Van Avermaet Omega Pharma-Lotto zt. 23 -
3. Arnoud Van Groen Vacansoleil zt. 21 -
4. Jurgen Francois Palmans Cras zt. 19 -
5. Frédéric Amorison Landbouwkrediet 00:10 17 -

6. Leon Van Bon Marco Polo Cycling Team 00:22 15 -
7. Gorik Gardeyn Vacansoleil 00:37 14 -
8. Maxim Debusschere An Post-M. Donnelly-Grant Thornton - S... zt. 13 -
9. Michael Van Staeyen Topsport Vlaanderen - Mercator zt. 12 -
10. Philippe Gilbert Omega Pharma-Lotto zt. 11 -