



TEAM TYPE 1 PRESS RELEASE

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Preidler takes GPM, El Fares 2nd overall at "brutally hard" Tour du Haut Var

FAYENCE, France, Feb 19 - Team Type 1-Sanofi attacked its way onto the podium at the Tour du Haut Var on Sunday, with two riders raising their arms in celebration at the end of the two-day stage race in southern France.

Team Type 1-Sanofi rider Georg Preidler won the red Best Climber's Jersey, escaping into a day-long breakaway with 11 other riders over four categorized mountaintops, while Julien El Fares rocketed up into the steeply inclined village of Fayence at the end of six hours of racing to take second overall in what he called a brutally hard day.

"I knew I was in good form for today, and after more than two weeks of bad weather in France I was very eager for this stage. The final climb was very, very hard, but I knew I was strong and I waited until the steepest part," El Fares said.

El Fares, from Aix-en-Provence, was with four riders in the final 1km of the race when the road angle rose to 26% for more than 200m. He passed all but one rider coming to a final 180-degree hairpin turn with just 50 meters to go.

"Another French rider attacked first and I chased very hard to catch him. He was in the lead until 100m to go, and then we were all passed by the winner. I was dying every pedal stroke on the last hill. Then I looked over and say Jon just floating," El Fares said, twiddling his index and middle fingers.

Stage two and overall GC winner Jonathan Tiernan-Locke of England won his second French stage race in as many weekends on Sunday, astounding the peloton.

"He's so strong, and this is a really hard race. We had 8 World Tour teams and all the best French squads at Haut Var. I would have preferred a victory today, but against Jon this week second is really, really good," El Fares said.

Team Type 1-Sanofi Director Sportif Massimo Podenzana praised the squad's attacks over the weekend.

"Rubens Bertogliati was in the breakaway all day on Saturday, and then we put Preidler on the hunt today. We knew from the start that we could protect El Fares for GC, because his form has been strong but untested with all the French weather problems this month. Sunday was about as perfect as we could get, minus five seconds," Podenzana said.

Preidler escaped early in Sunday's stage with 12 other riders, then quickly moved to the front of the group to lead up the climbs.

"I looked at my Polar data and I did 6,000 vertical meters today. Probably 4,500 of those I was at the front. The Japanese rider from Europcar worked with me at first, then I told the rest of the guys in our escape that I wanted to increase our gap from one minute, and they were happy to let me do the work," Preidler said.

By the end of the second climb Preidler had widened the gap to the peloton to 3:40 and took enough mountaintop finish points to secure the GPM competition and don the red jersey in the winner's circle.

Team Type 1-Sanofi races at the Omloop Het Nieuwsblad and Kuurne-Brussels-Kuurne in Belgium next weekend, and in France at the Les Boucles des Sud Ardeche on Feb. 26.

Team Type 1-Sanofi races on five continents to show that diabetes is no obstacle to an extraordinary life. Five of the 23 men on the pro team have type 1 diabetes, a chronic disease that requires lifelong monitoring and control.