



2007 Tour de Georgia Athlete Quotes STAGE SEVEN - April 22, 2007

Janez Brajkovich (SLO), Discovery Channel Pro Cycling Team

On his Discovery Channel team helping him over past few days to retain the AT&T Leader's Jersey...

"Yesterday and today they did an amazing job protecting me. Yesterday for the first hour and half there were so many attacks and when I saw them sacrificing themselves for me it was an amazing thing."

On getting a flat tire on one of the circuits in Atlanta today...

"Immediately Brian (Vandborg) gave me his rear wheel... within seconds the whole team was at the back of the peloton waiting for me. It wasn't a problem... we were in the front of the group in a matter of a few minutes. To have the guys like George (Hincapie), Tom (Danielson) and Levi (Leipheimer) helping me, a young guy, it's an amazing feeling."

On winning the 2007 Tour de Georgia...

"(This is the) the biggest win of my career so far. I wasn't even planning to be here, so it's really an amazing victory. To win this race by myself would be impossible, but with the team we had here, they were just amazing and they did a lot of work the past few days."

On his future...

"It's going to be a long way to win a race like a Grand Tour, but I have to be optimistic. I know it's not gonna be possible in the next two, three, four or even five years..."

Juan Jose "JJ" Haedo (ARG), Team CSC

On the final circuit of Stage Seven in downtown Atlanta...

"(With) two km (kilometers) to go, there was a crash... I almost crashed... the last 700m a train with the Tinkoff guys came up and I moved behind them. (It was an) uphill sprint and headwind, so you have to wait as long as you can 'til the end. I think I wait long enough and then I touch a little with Ivan Dominguez (Toyota-United), so I lost speed with like 100m to go, but I was still able to pass Freddie (Rodriguez) with 50m to go."

Ryder Hesjedal (CAN), Health Net presented by Maxxis

On winning the United Community Bank King of the Mountain jersey...

"I'm really happy to be wearing this jersey after a hard race like this. That was pretty much all I could do to be happy with the race after having no G.C. hopes."

Christian VandeVelde (USA), Team CSC

On the his team's effort at the 2007 Tour de Georgia...

"We came in to this race with J.J. (Haedo) and myself and Dave (Zabriskie) for the overall (win). I was fortunate to get in the break (on Stage 3) at the last minute and given a great opportunity to take advantage of the situation and play my biggest card I ever had for the race... and get on the

podium. The team supported me 100%... but it was like we were playing bridesmaids a little bit too many times. And it was getting to be frustrating, but we're lucky to have such a stud in J.J. to pull through today."

On racing in Atlanta...

"It's cool to come back here. The crowds were great... I think circuit races are great. The course has been great, the crowds have been great... even in the middle of the week people taking off work, people flying down here to Georgia. It's fun for us to be able to showcase our skills, being a climber or a time trialist, whereas most races in the U.S. are criteriums or sprint-oriented races."

Cesar Grajales (COL), Jittery Joe's Pro Cycling Team

On racing with a separated right shoulder and fractured wrist...

"Two weeks ago I wasn't going to do it (race the Tour de Georgia). Today the race was pretty hard for me especially because I couldn't get any feeds... the feed zone you have to grab the bars on the right side."

Tyler Hamilton (USA), Tinkoff Credit Systems

On racing here in Georgia ...

"Last time I raced here was Tour DuPont (1996)... (The) fans have been fantastic. Great race... can't wait to come back. "