



2007 Tour de Georgia Athlete Quotes STAGE FIVE - April 20, 2007

Janez Brajkovic (Slovenia), Discovery Channel Pro Cycling Team

Regarding Christian Vande Velde of CSC, contesting for the G.C. lead, who battled Brajkovic up Brasstown...

"I just focused on his wheel... He attacked at least 20 times and I have to say it was hard, but I was able to stay with him and that's all that matters."

Levi Leipheimer (USA), Discovery Channel Pro Cycling Team

On the epic Brasstown Bald climb today...

"David Millar (Prodir-Saunier Duval) really turned up the gas at the end of the climb. (Gilberto) Simoni (Prodir-Saunier Duval) took over. He's very smart with his effort. He was hitting it hard on the steep parts. After a while, at the 5k to go mark, it was just Tom (Danielson) and I on his wheel. I sensed that he had slowed down a little bit and I tried hitting him hard a little bit. I felt great yesterday, and today, and I had the legs to keep going."

Tom Danielson (USA), Discovery Channel Pro Cycling Team

Why Brasstown Bald Mountain is so special to him...

"I think that the fact that it is very, very difficult and that it's in America. The spectators can see high-speed climbing by the best climbers in the world. People can come from all over the country and...see the best climbing in the world in front of them. You can see us suffering just as spectators suffer on their training rides. It's incredible. It's like no other climb and that's what makes it so special."

"I've won the race twice and (was) second today and I love this stage. Truly I feel this has launched my career."

"I absolutely love the Tour de Georgia it's close to my heart. The fans are rowdy and aggressive and I love Brasstown Bald."

Ryder Hesjedal (Canada), Health Net presented by MAXXIS

On finishing 7th on Stage Five...

"If there was a chance to get in a breakaway – a head start on the climb – that was the best scenario for me. We had the KOM going into the stage. I was more focusing on the stage and having a good ride at the end."

"I wanted to try and have a great race today, in general being older. I was pretty aggressive on the first attacks."