



ASTANA

PROTEAM

Astana comes to win

A must-attend team present every year in Plouay since its arrival in the WorldTour in 2006, the Astana team will once again be very ambitious by presenting a collective that does not know the Bretagne Classic Ouest-France but has beautiful references at the international level.

2nd last year with Michael Valgreen - since then in a rival team - the **Astana** team now knows how to tackle Bretagne Classic - Ouest-France, an atypical classic considered as one of the toughest races in the world.

For the fourth edition of the great classique race in Brittany, Astana has mobilized a team of neophytes, only two of its riders, Laurens De Vreese and Jan Hirt, have already had the opportunity to compete in the breton classic. Without big favorites but with riders used to winning after breakaways, the Kazakh team will be expected to blast the race during the crossing of the Montagnes Noires. She can be the team that will put the game to the race.

It should be noted that Astana's sports director, Dimitri Fofonov, has already played the Grand Prix de Plouay four times. He knows in what atmosphere he will lead his riders.

A team of fencers

Astana presented its first riders list scheduled in Plouay under the direction of the sports director **Dimitri Fofonov**.

11. Pello Bilbao Lopez (Esp, 29). Double winner stage on the last Giro d'Italia, the explosive Basque climber has the ideal profile to boost the Bretagne Classic by taking advantage of the many hills on the road course.

12. Davide Ballerini (Ita, 24). Italian rider full of future, he can play the leading roles as he did last year on the end-of-season italian classics.

13. Laurens De Vreese (Bel, 30). The Belgian has already raced twice at Plouay, accustomed to the Flandrian classics, he should enjoy the breton course.

14. Jan Hirt (Cze, 28). 126th in 2016, the Czech will live his second Bretagne Classic, he will be a good support for his teammates.

15. Merhawi Kudus (Eri, 25). The Eritrean climber will also discover Plouay. Unaccustomed to classics, the young African can be a good support for his teammates or try the breakaway morning.

16. Jonas Gregaard (Den, 23). The young Danes know Brittany well since he won the Kreiz Breizh Elites in 2017. He can also be a player in the first part of the race.

The announced substitute is **Andrey Zeits (Kaz)**.

