



1^{er} Septembre 2019

Bretagne Classic 2019 / Newsletter n°77

GrandPrixPlouay

Olivier Le Gac is back

7th of the race and first breton in 2018, Olivier Le Gac (Groupama - FDJ) will return to Plouay on Sunday 1st September to ride his fourth Bretagne Classic. The Finisterien will obviously be one of the most encouraged riders on the breton roads.

Olivier, what's the feeling at the moment to return to Plouay?

It's always nice to race in Brittany, not far from the house. Especially this year, I have not had the opportunity to compete at home. As it is nearby, it allows family and friends to come and see. And then Plouay, we love because it's famous. There is always a strong field. I was already there before becoming a professional, I competed in the Grand Prix amateurs. It's also good to race in Brittany because people are more fans of cycling and there is a special atmosphere.

How do you find the new format of the race, road race in line since 2016?

I only knew this format because I raced for the first time Plouay WorldTour race in 2016. Since then, I come every year. The Bretagne Classic has not yet the same reputation as Gent-Wevelgem or the Tour of Flanders, but by switching from a circuit race to an in line race, the opinion will change. She will become a classic as we see in Belgium. Moreover, we see riders like Naesen and Van Avermaet who come to dispute it which would perhaps not have been



the case with a race in circuit ending with a bunch sprint. Now it's a race that they'll check. From the moment it gives rise to a movement race, it will interest the classics riders more than the sprinters. Because the breakaway can go to the end ...

Last year you had a great race before placing 7th!

I had just enjoyed a race of movements. In addition to that, the rain had played a role and it had given a special race in the final with small wet roads. That day, I did not expect to have such a good race. I had good legs. My season had been different from this year because I had done the Tour de France, Plouay was a bit my return to racing. I had only done the Hamburg classic between Tour and Plouay. This year, I did not do the Tour. My approach is different but the motivation is the same. Well there will still be 250 km, we'll see how legs will be ...

What do you think about the route of Bretagne Classic and the routes taken?

We used also small roads on the Belgian classics, but our little roads in Brittany are a little different. Riders who have loved the races like the Tour de Bretagne or the Kreiz Breizh Elites will also enjoy the Bretagne Classic. This year, we will have two gravel sections. I think this type of course is good even if you do not go to extremes. We approach this as a classic WorldTour where placement is important. If it's wet, it's a little more dangerous and it favors attackers. If it's dry, it can finish in a small peloton. What is certain is that placement in decisive places is important and the whole team needs to be well motivated for these passages. At Groupama-FDJ, we are all motivated.

Do you know the course of the 2019 edition?

I know it's going to places that I know like Saint-Ségal, the Terenez bridge ... It's also happening in the Kaliforn hill that we had on the 2018 Tour. I know we're going to take small roads in all directions. We will go recognize the course wednesday morning with several Breton riders. We will then know more. As the course changes every year, I think it will become important to recognize it. By going on place, we will have a better idea of what the race will be, even if we also have to take into account the weather. At Groupama-FDJ, we have a team that can distinguish itself in any scenario. And we will also Arnaud Démare who will be there if there will be a sprint finish !

 www.bretagne-classique-ouest-france.bzh

