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Bretagne Classic 2019 / Newsletter n°78

 [GrandPrixPlouay](#)

Oliver Naesen writes to us

Oliver Naesen is the greatest specialist of the Bretagne Classic - Ouest-France. Winner of two of the three editions contested, in 2016 and 2018, the Belgian will return to conquered lands to try to establish a record of three wins at Plouay. In great condition after winning the last stage of the Binck Bank Tour in Geraardsbergen, the leader of the Ag2r - La Mondiale team wrote to us to answer some little questions ...

Oliver, how does a specialist of Flanders Classics approach the Bretagne Classic of Plouay?

There are many similarities to the spring classics but the approach is not the same. At the beginning of the year, we must still look for the fitness. Now, after the Tour, it's mostly maintain the fitness.

After having won the Bretagne Classic twice, do you have a particular attachment to this race?

Obviously yes. It was my first victory in WorldTour under dantesque conditions (both times). So I only have good memories of the Bretagne Classic.

What is the opinion of the Flanders riders about the Bretagne Classic ?

I can not answer for all Flanders riders, but I like this race. This is a great race one day race that punchers and attackers have many opportunities to win. It's not a race that finish 99% of the time in a massive sprint like so many others. And that's what attracts us. There is also the long distance, the hills...

What place has the Bretagne Classic in the season?

It's a race well placed for us, the riders, between the Binck Bank Tour and the Canadian races, in Quebec City and Montreal. She is quite important enough herself, but the fact that her date is placed between these races is for me a bonus.

What are the flaws and qualities of the Bretagne Classic?

Ghoh, hard to answer. As the course changes very often, it is difficult to prepare it perfectly. But maybe that's part of his charm. For me, no difficulties!

The route of the 2019 edition is announced more difficult with 3,500 m of height difference...

We will see sunday, it's difficult to judge a course before the race 😊 The difference in height is important, but on 250 km it is fortunately not "too much" for me.

