

= Bradley Wiggins =

Sir Bradley Marc Wiggins , CBE (born 28 April 1980) is a British professional road and track racing cyclist who rides for the UCI Continental team WIGGINS , after leaving Team Sky . Nicknamed " Wiggo " , he began his cycling career on the track , but has made the transition to road cycling and is one of the few cyclists to gain significant elite level success in both those forms of professional cycling .

The son of the Australian cyclist Gary Wiggins , Wiggins was born to a British mother in Ghent , Belgium , and raised in London from the age of two . He competed on the track from the early part of his career until 2008 . He has won seven gold medals at the track world championships , his first in 2003 and his most recent in 2016 ; three in the individual pursuit , two in the team pursuit and two in the Madison . He won a gold in the individual pursuit at the 2004 Olympic Games and two golds in the individual and team pursuit at the 2008 Olympic Games . Wiggins returned to the track at the 2014 Commonwealth Games , and has announced his intention to compete in track cycling at the 2016 Summer Olympics .

After the 2008 Olympics , Wiggins took a break from the track to focus on the road . Initially viewed as a time trial specialist and as a rouleur , he showed his ability in stage races when he came fourth in the 2009 Tour de France ; he was later promoted to third after Lance Armstrong 's results were annulled in 2012 . In 2011 he claimed his first victory in a major stage race in the Critérium du Dauphiné , and he also finished third in the Vuelta a España . In 2012 , Wiggins won the Paris ? Nice , the Tour de Romandie , the Critérium du Dauphiné , and became the first British cyclist to win the Tour de France and the time trial at the Olympic Games . Following his success in 2012 , Wiggins was the subject of several honours and awards ; the Vélo d 'Or award for best rider of the year , the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award and awarded a knighthood as part of the 2013 New Year Honours . In 2014 he won gold in the time trial at the 2014 road world championships . In June 2015 he set a new hour record with a distance of 54 @. @ 526 km (33 @. @ 881 mi) .

= = Early life and amateur career = =

Wiggins was born on 28 April 1980 in Ghent , Belgium , to an Australian father , Gary Wiggins and a British mother , Linda . His father lived in Belgium as a professional cyclist . His father left the family when Bradley was two . Bradley moved with his mother to her parents ' flat in Kilburn , north @- @ west London , then to a Church Commission flat at Dibdin House estate in neighbouring Maida Vale . He was educated at St Augustine 's junior school and then St Augustine 's Church of England High School in Kilburn , where his mother was a secretary . He has a younger half @- @ brother , Ryan , from his mother and her partner Brendan , who separated when Bradley was in his late teens .

Wiggins played football in his youth and was an Arsenal fan , although he would watch rivals Tottenham Hotspur play because his friends supported them . He had trials as a junior at West Ham . He discovered cycling when his mother told him to watch the television coverage of the individual pursuit final of the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona , which Briton Chris Boardman won . She explained it was one of the events at which his father had been successful . He watched the rest of the Olympics and fell in love with cycling and the Olympics itself .

In 1992 , aged 12 , he entered his first race , the West London Challenge 92 , on the unopened A312 dual carriageway in Hayes , west London . Later that year he broke a collarbone in a road accident . He received £ 1 @, @ 700 compensation for his injuries . He gave his mother £ 700 and used the rest to buy his first racing bicycle . " At 12 " , he recalled , " I told my art teacher , I 'm going to be Olympic champion , I 'm going to wear the yellow jersey in the Tour . " He joined the Archer Road Club , where his father had been a member in the late 1970s . He raced at Herne Hill Velodrome and on the road around Crystal Palace National Sports Centre . He gained domestic sponsorship from Condor Cycles 's Olympia Sport and then Team Brite . He represented Westminster in the London Youth Games as a teenager , and in 2010 he was inducted into the London Youth Games Hall of Fame .

At 16 , he won the 1 km (0 @. @ 6 mi) time trial at the 1996 junior national track championships at Saffron Lane sports centre in Leicester . Selectors invited him to train at weekends at Manchester Velodrome . After leaving school he enrolled on a BTEC foundation course in business studies , but left due to cycling commitments . At the 1997 junior national track championships he won the one @- @ kilometre time trial , 3 km (1 @. @ 9 mi) individual pursuit , points race and scratch race . He was the only British competitor for the 1997 junior track world championships in Cape Town , coming 16th in the individual pursuit and fourth in the points race .

His breakthrough came in June 1998 , winning the three @- @ kilometre individual pursuit at the junior track world championships in Cuba , aged 18 . The following week , he retained his titles at the junior national track championships in Manchester . He represented England at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur , finishing fourth in the individual pursuit , and was a member of the team that won a silver medal in the team pursuit , his first senior medal . He became a full @- @ time Lottery @- @ funded athlete , with a grant of nearly £ 20 @, @ 000 a year (equivalent to £ 32000 in 2016) .

In 1999 he began training with the Great Britain team pursuit squad and rode the PruTour ? now known as the Tour of Britain , his first stage race at that level . In October he competed in the track world championships in Berlin , coming fifth in the team pursuit , and with partner Rob Hayles , came tenth in the Madison , securing qualification for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney . At the Olympics he won a bronze medal in the team pursuit , beating France in the bronze medal match , and came fourth in the Madison with Hayles . In October 2000 , he took silver in the team pursuit at the track world championships in Manchester , losing to Germany in the final by under half a second .

= = Professional career = =

= = = 2001 ? 2004 : Early years = = =

In 2001 he signed for the Linda McCartney Racing Team , a British professional road cycling team , but it disbanded after internal problems . He was briefly seen in Sigma Sport colours after the collapse of the Linda McCartney team , but then secured further lottery funding , and began racing for the British national team . He came second in the prologue of the Tour of Rhodes , two seconds behind Fabian Cancellara of Mapei ? Quick @- @ Step , before winning the general classification in the Cinturón a Mallorca and Flèche du Sud . In September he crashed his bike , requiring two metal pins in his right wrist . Two weeks later he went to the track world championships in Antwerp , managing seventh place in the individual pursuit and consecutive silver in the team pursuit .

He joined the French team Française des Jeux in 2002 , relocating to Nantes , and soon became homesick , finding it a huge contrast to the British Cycling set @- @ up . At the Commonwealth Games in Manchester he won silver medals in the individual pursuit , losing to Française des Jeux team @- @ mate Bradley McGee (Australia) in the final , and team pursuit , beaten by Australia , who set a new world record with a time of three minutes and 59 @. @ 583 seconds . At the track world championships in Copenhagen , he came fifth in the individual pursuit and won a bronze medal in the team pursuit . Wiggins was frustrated with his result in the individual pursuit at the world championships and became disillusioned with his future with Française des Jeux . British Cycling then enlisted the newly retired Chris Boardman as his mentor .

In May 2003 , Wiggins made his Grand Tour debut at the Giro d 'Italia . On the 18th stage he was eliminated from the race , finishing outside of the time limit in a group of 53 riders . In the summer he competed in the track world championships in Stuttgart , qualifying fastest in the individual pursuit , before beating Russia 's Alexey Markov in the first round , setting up a place in the final against Australia 's Luke Roberts . He beat Roberts by 0 @. @ 736 seconds to win the gold medal , his first senior world title . He also came away with a silver medal in the team pursuit , beaten by Australia in the final , who broke their own world record with a time of three minutes and 57 @. @ 280 seconds . In September he won stage one of the Tour de l 'Avenir , beating team @- @ mate Benoît

Vaugrenard and Rabobank's Joost Posthuma by 14 seconds . In November he won the Six Days of Ghent with Matthew Gilmore of Vlaanderen ? T Interim .

Wiggins signed with Crédit Agricole for the 2004 season , advised by Boardman , who rode for them his entire professional road career . He began training for the Olympic Games in Athens , at first struggling with illness and fitness , he arrived in peak form ; he qualified for the individual pursuit with a time of four minutes and 15 @.@ 165 seconds , an Olympic record and fifth fastest time in history . In the final he beat McGee by over four seconds to win the gold medal . Wiggins was brought in to the team pursuit squad for the first round against France , replacing Bryan Steele , and advanced into the final , where the team were beaten by Australia , settling for the silver medal . Wiggins then partnered Rob Hayles in the Madison . With 90 laps left of the 200 , Hayles crashed with Dutchman Robert Slippens , returning after a few laps . They lost a lap to their rivals , but with 30 to go Wiggins attacked , and they regained the lost lap , moving into second place . They lost points in the final sprint , moving them down to third , taking the bronze medal with 12 points , behind Switzerland on 15 and Australia on 22 . Wiggins became the first British athlete in 40 years to win three medals at one Games , the last being Mary Rand at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo . On 31 December 2004 he was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2005 New Year Honours , for services to sport .

= = = 2005 ? 2007 : On the road = = =

In early 2005 , he revealed his desire to compete in road cycling , and in April won the 16 km (9 @.@ 9 mi) time trial around the town of Briey in northeastern France , on the second stage of the Circuit de Lorraine . In September he won his first race stage since 2001 , stage eight of the Tour de l'Avenir ; finishing with team @-@ mate Saul Raisin , with third @-@ placed Steve Cummings (Landbouwkrediet ? Colnago) coming in three minutes and 24 seconds later . Wiggins competed in the Giro d'Italia , finishing 123rd overall . He came seventh in the time trial at the road world championships in Madrid , one minute and 31 seconds down on winner Michael Rogers of Australia . He moved to Cofidis for the 2006 season , and was selected to ride in the Tour de France , finishing his first Tour in 124th place .

In 2007 March , Wiggins returned to the track for the track world championships in Palma , Majorca , his first appearance at the championships since 2004 . In the qualifying round for the individual pursuit , he set his second fastest time since his personal best at the Olympics in Athens , with a time of four minutes and 15 @.@ 976 seconds ; he beat Germany's Robert Bartko in the final to win the gold , catching him after 2750 m . He then went on to win gold in the team pursuit , beating Ukraine in the final . He finished in 13th place in the Madison , with Rob Hayles .

On the road he won stage one of the Four Days of Dunkirk and the prologue of the Critérium du Dauphiné Libéré , before competing in the Tour de France and finishing fourth in the prologue in London . On stage six Wiggins launched a solo breakaway after 2 km (1 @.@ 2 mi) of racing , leading the race for 190 @.@ 5 km (118 @.@ 4 mi) , before being caught by the peloton with 7 km (4 @.@ 3 mi) remaining . It was seen as a tribute to British rider Tom Simpson , on the 40th anniversary of his death in the 1967 Tour de France , but was a gift to his wife on her birthday , with Wiggins only finding out about the date's significance after the race . He received the stage's combativity award , for the most aggressive rider . Cofidis withdrew from the race before stage 16 after Cristian Moreni failed a doping test . Wiggins and his team @-@ mates were interviewed by police and had their hotel rooms searched . In the aftermath of the positive drug tests on Moreni and on race leader Alexander Vinokourov of Astana , Wiggins spoke out against dopers in the Tour and threw away his Cofidis kit in a bin in Pau Pyrénées Airport , vowing never to race for the team again .

Despite this Wiggins continued racing for Cofidis , and in August he won the time trial on stage four of the Tour du Poitou @-@ Charentes . In September , with team @-@ mate Michiel Elijzen , he won the Duo Normand , a two @-@ man team time trial over a course of 53 @.@ 4 km (33 @.@ 2 mi) . His season on the road ended riding for Great Britain at the road world championships in Stuttgart , coming tenth in the time trial , two minutes and ten seconds behind winner Cancellara of

Switzerland ; a result he was disappointed with , after hoping to finish on the podium .

In September he signed for the T @-@ Mobile Team ? later known as Team High Road ? for the 2008 season , joining compatriot Mark Cavendish , forming a partnership in the Madison . Their first race was the Six Days of Ghent in November , finishing in tenth place ; Wiggins still riding for Cofidis . Wiggins then made his only appearance for the T @-@ Mobile Track Team ? which is separate from the road team ? at the Beijing round of the 2007 ? 2008 Track World Cup Classics in December , winning gold in the individual pursuit and silver in the Madison with Cavendish .

= = = 2008 : Back to the track = = =

For the 2008 season , Wiggins 's focus was on the track and on the Olympic Games in Beijing , deciding not to compete in the Tour de France . In February he travelled to the United States to train , and rode the Tour of California , coming second in the prologue , behind Cancellara (Team CSC) .

In March Wiggins competed in the track world championships in Manchester , defending his individual pursuit title by beating Dutchman Jennings Huizenga to win , his third world title in the discipline . He then won the team pursuit , setting a new world record of three minutes and 56 @.@ 32 seconds in the final against Denmark . Wiggins was due to partner with Hayles in the Madison , but Hayles failed a routine blood test , and was subsequently banned for two weeks . Cavendish was then brought in as his replacement . At around halfway through the race they appeared to be out of contention , with their closest rivals all gaining a lap ; but with 35 laps left to race , Wiggins launched an attack which helped them reach the field ten laps later , taking the lead , due to their superior points they had collected in the sprints . They held on to win the gold medal , finishing with 19 points , ahead of Germany on 13 .

Wiggins then rode the Tour de Romandie and the Giro d 'Italia , as preparation for the Olympics in August . At the Giro he was part of the lead @-@ out train that helped Cavendish win two stages . Wiggins came fourth in the final stage 's 28 @.@ 5 km (17 @.@ 7 mi) -long time trial in Milan , six seconds behind team @-@ mate Marco Pinotti , finishing the race in 134th place , three hours , one minute and 39 seconds down on overall winner Alberto Contador of Astana .

At the Olympics he began the defence of his title in the individual pursuit , qualifying with a time of four minutes and 15 @.@ 031 seconds , breaking his own Olympic record from 2004 . In the semi @-@ final he beat Russia 's Alexander Serov , before taking gold in the final against Hayden Roulston of New Zealand , becoming the first rider to defend an Olympic pursuit title successfully . He was a member of the team pursuit that broke the world record in the heats with a time of three minutes and 55 @.@ 202 seconds . The following day , the team won the gold medal , beating Denmark by 6 @.@ 7 seconds with another new world record of three minutes and 53 @.@ 314 seconds , averaging a speed of 61 @.@ 719 km / h (38 @.@ 4 mph) . He paired with Cavendish in the Madison , and as the reigning world champions , they were favourites for the gold medal , but they only finished ninth . Cavendish felt that Wiggins had not performed to the best of his ability in the Madison .

In September Wiggins joined the American team Garmin ? Slipstream for the 2009 season . On 14 December he came ninth in the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award , with 5 @,@ 633 votes , and was a member of the British cycling team that won the Team of the Year Award . On 31 December he was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2009 New Year Honours .

= = = 2009 : Tour de France breakthrough = = =

Wiggins switched his focus to road and moved with his family to the city of Girona in north @-@ east Spain , where Garmin ? Slipstream were based . He started the season in February by helping the team win the opening team time trial of the Tour of Qatar , crossing the line first to take the leaders jersey . In March he came second to Contador in the opening time trial of Paris ? Nice , before riding Milan ? San Remo and then placing second in the time trial at Critérium International .

In April he won the time trial on the final stage of the Three Days of De Panne , twenty seconds ahead of Vacansoleil rider Lieuwe Westra in second place , then had top @-@ 30 finishes in the Classics : Gent ? Wevelgem and Paris ? Roubaix . After finishing in 71st position in the Giro d'Italia and taking second place in the 14 @-@ 4 km (8 @-@ 9 mi) -long time trial on the final stage in Rome , he won the Beaumont Trophy , a domestic one @-@ day race in Northumberland , using it as preparation for the Tour de France three weeks later .

Wiggins arrived at the Tour de France having lost 6 kg (13 @-@ 2 lb) , and was nicknamed " Twiggo " , instead of the usual " Wiggo " . He came third in the time trial on stage one in Monaco , 19 seconds behind Team Saxo Bank 's Cancellara and one behind Contador . He then helped Garmin ? Slipstream to second in stage four 's team time trial , despite losing four riders . On stage seven he finished 12th in the first mountain finish and was in fifth place overall at the beginning of the second week . On stage fifteen in Verbier ? the second mountain finish , Wiggins finished fifth , rising to third place overall . On stage 17 Contador , Andreas Klöden (Astana) and Team Saxo Bank riders Fränk and Andy Schleck attacked on the final climb ? the Col de la Colombière , measuring 7 @-@ 5 km (4 @-@ 7 mi) at an average gradient of 8 @-@ 5 % , and was left with Astana 's Lance Armstrong and Vincenzo Nibali of Liquigas , who let Wiggins do all the work before attacking one @-@ kilometre from the summit . Wiggins failed to gain time on the descent and finished three minutes and seven seconds down on winner Fränk Schleck , dropping to sixth overall .

Wiggins moved back up to fourth , after finishing in second place in the time trial on stage 19 , finishing in sixth place 42 seconds down on winner Contador . On stage 20 to Mont Ventoux , Wiggins was dropped by the yellow jersey group 1 @-@ 4 km (0 @-@ 9 mi) from the summit , finishing in tenth place and kept fourth overall , three seconds ahead of Fränk Schleck ; he held that position in the final stage , equalling Robert Millar 's highest ever finish by a British rider in the Tour . In October 2012 , following the disqualification of Armstrong , who had originally placed third in the general classification , Wiggins was promoted to third place overall . This decision retroactively gave him the first podium finish by a British rider in Tour de France history .

In September Wiggins won the national time trial championship in Buckinghamshire , and in September at the road world championships in Mendrisio , Switzerland , was on course for a bronze medal in the time trial , until a mechanical problem and a delay getting a replacement bike ended with him finishing in 21st place . In October he ended the season by winning the Herald Sun Tour in Victoria , Australia , after helping team @-@ mates for most of the race . He led the race after winning the time trial on stage five in Geelong , beating second @-@ placed team @-@ mate Svein Tuft by fourteen seconds .

Wiggins had been contracted to ride for Garmin Slipstream again in 2010 , but it was announced on 10 December that he was to leave to join Team Sky , having signed a four @-@ year contract with the new British team .

== 2010 : Move to Team Sky ==

Wiggins began 2010 as a team leader for the first time and his main target was to win the Tour de France . In February he was part of the team that won the opening team time trial of the Tour of Qatar , before taking second place in the time trial on stage four of the Vuelta a Andalucía , behind Alex Rasmussen of Team Saxo Bank . He then went on to finish third at the Tour of Murcia in March , behind winner Frantisek Rabon of Team HTC ? Columbia and Rabobank rider Denis Menchov in second .

In May Wiggins took his first Grand Tour victory on the wet streets of Amsterdam in the opening time trial of the Giro d'Italia , becoming the second Briton to wear the pink jersey after Cavendish in 2009 . A series of crashes on the second stage put him 32 seconds behind in the general classification to the new leader Cadel Evans (BMC Racing Team) . Another crash on stage three cost him a further three minutes and 58 seconds . He recovered time on stage 11 , finishing fourth , from a group of 56 riders , and lay tenth overall . He faded quickly towards the end of the race , however , losing time in the final stages . He came seventh in the 15 @-@ 3 km (9 @-@ 5 mi) final

time trial in Verona . He finished the race 40th overall , one hour , 47 minutes and 58 seconds behind overall winner Ivan Basso of Liquigas ? Doimo . Throughout the race he told the press he was saving himself for the Tour de France , when asked about his form , but in fact felt physically unfit .

Wiggins then went to a training camp in the Alps , testing the mountain stages used for the Tour ; he struggled to find his fitness . He made a poor start in the Tour , taking 77th place in the prologue after an early starting position left him exposed to poor conditions . He finished eighth on stage three , as cobblestones troubled a number of favourites , but on stage eight at Morzine @-@ Avoriaz , the first mountain summit finish of the Tour , he could only manage 19th place , losing one minute and 45 second to stage winner Andy Schleck (Team Saxo Bank) . The following day he lost more time , coming 13th and losing four minutes and 55 seconds to the main contenders . He finished in 36th place on stage fourteen , falling to 18th overall , 11 minutes and 30 seconds behind race leader Andy Schleck ; to the press he described his form as " consistently mediocre " . On stage 19 's time trial from Bordeaux to Pauillac , he finished in ninth place , three minutes and 33 seconds behind winner Cancellara . Wiggins finished the Tour in 24th place , 39 minutes and seven seconds down on winner Contador and seven places behind team @-@ mate Thomas Löffqvist . In February 2012 , Contador was found guilty of doping and Wiggins 's overall position was upgraded to 23rd .

He returned to racing in August , at the GP Ouest @-@ France in Plouay . In September retained his title at the national time trial championships , around the 52 @.@ 7 km (32 @.@ 7 mi) -long course in South Wales , before finishing the season at the Tour of Britain . His season ended at the Giro di Lombardia , where he was forced abandon following a crash . Over the winter he trained with the Great Britain squad at Manchester Velodrome .

= = = 2011 : Dauphiné and Vuelta = = =

Wiggins was team leader of Team Sky again at the start of 2011 . He opted not to enter the Giro d 'Italia , concentrating instead on shorter events and the classics before undertaking altitude training to improve his climbing for the Tour de France . His season began at the Tour of Qatar in February , before winning the team pursuit at the Manchester round of the 2009 ? 2010 Track World Cup Classics , with a time of three minutes 55 @.@ 438 , the fifth @-@ fastest time . He then came second in the 27 km (16 @.@ 8 mi) -long time trial on the sixth stage of the Paris ? Nice in March , 20 seconds behind Tony Martin of HTC ? Highroad . He finished third overall , behind Martin and Team RadioShack rider Andreas Klöden . In April he rode Paris ? Roubaix , and then the Tour de Romandie , finishing third in time trial on stage and helped lead @-@ out team @-@ mate Ben Swift to victory on the final stage . In March he finished second in the time trial on the third stage of the Critérium International , four seconds down on Klöden . In May he won the 26 km (16 @.@ 2 mi) -long time trial on stage four of the Bayern @-@ Rundfahrt , beating Leopard Trek 's Cancellara by 33 seconds , and finished the event in 14th place overall , while also helping team @-@ mate Geraint Thomas to win the event .

He then went for altitude training in the Alps , in preparation for the Tour . He took the overall lead in the Critérium du Dauphiné after finishing second in the time trial on stage three . On the final three mountain stages , Wiggins maintained his lead over second @-@ placed Evans to win the race , at that time his biggest victory on the road . In June Wiggins won the national road race championship in Northumberland . On the seventh stage of the Tour , a crash around 40 km (24 @.@ 9 mi) from the finish in Châteauroux forced Wiggins to retire from the race with a broken collarbone .

After he had recovered from his injuries , Team Sky confirmed that Wiggins would ride in the Vuelta a España for the first time , as well as in the road world championships . Wiggins also confirmed that he would take part the Tour in 2012 , even though the Olympics would follow soon after . The Vuelta and the world championships were seen as a dress rehearsal for 2012 . He had a difficult start to the Vuelta , as Team Sky finished 42 seconds behind winners Leopard Trek in the opening team time trial in Benidorm , but a strong first week brought him back into contention , leaving him twentieth overall after stage eight . On stage nine , Wiggins and team @-@ mate Chris Froome

attacked on the final climb to finish fourth and fifth respectively , gaining time on Team Katusha rider Joaquim Rodríguez , Michele Scarponi (Lampre ? ISD) and other contenders . Wiggins was expected to take the overall lead in the time trial on the following day , but Froome confounded expectations by finishing second on the stage , and Wiggins only rose to third overall . He eventually took the lead after the rest day . Stage fourteen saw Wiggins and Froome gaining on most of their rivals . However , Wiggins lost the lead to Geox ? TMC 's Juan José Cobo on stage fifteen , when he finished fifth on the climb up the Angliru and dropped to third in the standings , behind Froome , who was second . Wiggins finished the Vuelta in third place ? his first podium finish in a Grand Tour .

In September he competed in the road world championships in Copenhagen , he won the silver medal in the 46 @. @ 3 km (28 @. @ 8 mi) time trial , finishing one minute and fifteen seconds behind Germany 's Martin , and four seconds ahead of reigning champion Cancellara (Switzerland) in third . Four days later , he was part of the Great Britain team that set up Cavendish 's victory in the road race ; Wiggins took over lead on the final lap of 17 around the 14 km (8 @. @ 7 mi) circuit , setting a high pace to chase down the breakaway and stop attacks from developing .

= = = 2012 : Tour de France and Olympic gold = = =

In 2012 Wiggins continued to focus on road racing . The individual pursuit was removed from the programme at the Olympics later in the year , and in December 2011 coach Rod Ellingworth told The Guardian , " The chances of him doing the team pursuit are really slim now " . He began his 2012 season with third place in the Volta ao Algarve , including victory in the concluding time trial , edging out world champion Martin (Omega Pharma ? Quick @- @ Step) by less than a second .

In March Wiggins finished second in the opening time trial of the Paris ? Nice , one second behind Vacansoleil ? DCM 's Gustav Larsson , who avoided the wet conditions , unlike Wiggins and the other favourites that set off later in the day . The following day he took the lead in the race after being part of a 30 @- @ man breakaway as the peloton split into echelons . He held the lead for the rest of the event , winning the final stage , a time @- @ trial on the Col d 'Èze , to win the race by eight seconds overall and become the first British rider to win the race since Tom Simpson in 1967 . His final stage victory was also good enough to give him the points classification . Wiggins ' time is the fastest time for the traditional time @- @ trial on the Col d 'Èze .

On the stage one of the Tour de Romandie in April , Wiggins took a rare sprint victory from a group of 59 riders . He lost the jersey to Rabobank rider Luis León Sánchez after Sánchez won two consecutive stages , but won the final time trial , despite suffering a dropped chain , to take the overall victory and become the first Briton to win the race in its 65 @- @ year history .

In June Wiggins competed in the Critérium du Dauphiné , and began the defence of his title with a second @- @ place finish in the prologue , one second behind Orica ? BikeExchange 's Luke Durbridge . He took the overall lead the following day , after Durbridge was dropped on one of the stage 's six climbs . Wiggins won the fourth stage of the race , a time trial over a course of 53 @. @ 5 km (33 @. @ 2 mi) , 34 seconds ahead of Martin , his nearest rival , extending his lead over him to 38 seconds . He held the lead to the end , eventually winning by over a minute , with team @- @ mate Rogers in second place .

Wiggins entered the Tour de France as one of the favourites to win it . Wiggins began the Tour with second place in the prologue , behind Cancellara of RadioShack ? Nissan . He took over the yellow jersey by finishing third on stage seven , the first mountaintop finish , becoming the fifth British rider to wear the jersey , and first since David Millar in 2000 . Wiggins won the time trial on stage nine . On stage ten , he and his team staved off an attack by Nibali on the descent of the Col du Grand Colombier , leading Nibali to accuse Wiggins of disrespecting him . Wiggins extended his lead on stage 11 after Froome helped him to bridge across to his rivals , who had attacked on the finishing climb to La Toussuire . Froome accelerated about 4 kilometres (2 @. @ 5 mi) from the finish , and was ordered via his team radio to wait for his leader .

During stage fourteen , a mountain stage , a spectator threw carpet tacks onto the narrow road at the top of the Mur de Péguère climb . Several riders suffered punctures , including Evans , the

defending champion , who lost approximately two minutes while his team repaired his bicycle . Wiggins and his fellow members of Team Sky emerged without a puncture . Believing that a puncture resulting from an unfortunate incident should not determine the fate of a competitor , Wiggins then had his team @-@ mates and the rest of the peloton slow down to allow Evans and other affected cyclists to catch up . It was perceived as a generous act of sportsmanship and Wiggins was called " Le Gentleman " as a result . On stage 16 , Wiggins and Froome were able to follow attacks by Nibali on the final climb of the day and finished with the same time as the Italian . On stage 17 , the final mountain stage , Froome and Wiggins finished together in second and third place respectively , with Nibali coming in 19 seconds later . Wiggins won the time trial on stage 19 , giving him a lead of three minutes and 21 seconds at the start of the final stage . On that stage , Wiggins helped team @-@ mate Cavendish achieve his fourth consecutive victory on the Champs @-@ Élysées and confirmed his own overall victory in the process . Wiggins became the first , and is currently the only person in history to win the Paris ? Nice , the Tour de Romandie , the Critérium du Dauphiné and the Tour de France in a single season .

Wiggins was selected to participate in two road cycling events at the Olympic Games in London ? the time trial and the road race . Wiggins finished 103rd in the road race . Wiggins won gold in the time trial ahead of Martin of Germany and Froome of Britain . By doing so he became the most decorated British Olympian , with seven medals , surpassing the six won by Sir Steve Redgrave . This record is now shared with Sir Chris Hoy , who also obtained his seventh Olympic medal in 2012 . Wiggins entered the Guinness World Records , becoming the first cyclist to win an Olympic gold medal and the Tour de France in the same year . Wiggins 's boyhood idol Miguel Indurain won five consecutive Tours between 1991 and 1995 , and won a gold medal at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta .

Wiggins returned to racing at the Tour of Britain in September , pulling out on the sixth stage with a stomach bug . The road race at the road world championships in Limburg , Netherlands , was his last of the season . In October he was awarded the prestigious Vélo d 'Or trophy in recognition of his achievements in 2012 . In November he was involved in a road accident and taken to hospital with suspected broken ribs , but was released next day with only minor injuries . In December he won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award with 492 @,@ 064 (30 @.@ 25 %) of the votes cast . Wiggins was knighted in the 2013 New Years Honours for services to cycling , although he claimed he would use the title for ' comedy purposes ' , stating that he felt " a little bit inferior " to others receiving knighthoods saying " I ? ve won a bike race , you know , and I feel a little bit inferior to everyone " , saying " I was just talking to some of the other people getting stuff , and asking them what they ? ve been honoured for , and they ? re historic things , ground @-@ breaking sciences or whatever " . He was among the nominees for the Laureus World Sports Award for Sportsman of the Year , with Jamaican athlete Usain Bolt taking the prize .

= = = 2013 : Giro d 'Italia and Tour of Britain = = =

It was widely expected that Wiggins would ride to retain his Tour de France title in 2013 . However , in February he asserted that his focus for the season would be the Giro d 'Italia , after which he would ride the Tour de France in support of team @-@ mate Froome . In April he let it be known that he desired to win another Tour , and had hopes of achieving the Tour and Giro double ? a feat that has not been achieved since Marco Pantani in 1998 .

Wiggins participated in a winter training camp in Mallorca . His first race of the season was the Tour of Oman in February . On the first stage he was caught behind a crash , the time delay pushing him back to the back of the field . For the remainder of the race Wiggins helped Froome , who won the overall classification . Wiggins opted not to defend his title at the Paris ? Nice , or ride the Tirreno @-@ Adriatico , instead participating in a training camp on Mount Teide in Tenerife . He returned to action at the Volta a Catalunya in March , finishing the race in fifth place overall , 54 seconds behind winner Dan Martin of Garmin ? Sharp .

In April Wiggins rode the four @-@ day Giro del Trentino in Northern Italy as preparation for the Giro d 'Italia . The first day 's race schedule consisted of a road race followed by a team time trial .

An unexpected breakaway in the road race caused Wiggins to lose over six minutes . However he led the team to victory later in the day during the team time trial . On stage two he cut his deficit to race leader Maxime Bouet of Ag2r ? La Mondiale in half , lifting Wiggins into the top @-@ five overall . On the fourth and final stage Wiggins suffered a mechanical problem at the foot of the final 14 @-@ 6 km (9 @-@ 1 mi) climb . He ended up finishing the race in fifth place , one minute and 40 seconds down on winner Nibali (Astana) .

Wiggins entered the Giro d 'Italia as one of the favourites for the general classification . Team Sky won the stage two team time trial on the island of Ischia , covering the distance of 17 @-@ 4 km (10 @-@ 8 mi) 14 seconds quicker than Nibali 's Astana squad . On stage four Wiggins lost 17 seconds after being delayed by a crash within the final 3 km (1 @-@ 9 mi) , dropping him in the standings from second to sixth . A wet stage seven saw Wiggins crash while making a descent some 6 km (3 @-@ 7 mi) from the finish , placing him in difficulty . Team @-@ mates Rigoberto Urán and Sergio Henao helped pace him back toward the leaders , but could not close the gap . Wiggins finished 90 seconds down on the race favourites , dropping him out of the race 's top 20 . In the following stage , a 54 @-@ 8 km (34 @-@ 1 mi) time trial , Wiggins placed second to compatriot Alex Dowsett of Movistar Team . A bike change compelled by a puncture cost Wiggins some time , and he ended up finishing the race ten seconds down on Dowsett . Wiggins struggled on the wet roads of stage nine , losing touch with the peloton on the descent of the Vallombrosa some 60 km (37 @-@ 3 mi) from the finish . A group of team @-@ mates helped pace him back , and the gap was closed . Following stage 11 Wiggins revealed that he was suffering from a chest infection . He withdrew from the race the following day , after losing over three minutes on the day 's stage .

The presence of a knee injury was disclosed to the public on 31 May , which forced Wiggins to forgo defending his title in the Tour de France . He subsequently suggested he may never ride the Tour again . He returned to racing at the Tour de Pologne , winning stage seven 's 37 km (23 @-@ 0 mi) time trial , 56 seconds ahead of second placed Cancellara .

In September , Wiggins led Team Sky at his home race , the Tour of Britain . He won the time trial on stage three on roads around Knowsley Safari Park , close to his home in Lancashire . He held the lead for the rest of the week to win the race for the first time , and take his first stage race victory of the season . The following week at the world championships , he took the silver medal in the time trial , behind winner Tony Martin and ahead of Cancellara in a repeat of the 2011 podium . Wiggins was also selected to ride the road race , but abandoned after one lap , and was soon followed by the other British riders as none finished the race .

= = = 2014 : World time trial champion and track return = = =

Wiggins had stated that his main targets for 2014 were the Paris @-@ Roubaix one day Classic , the Tour of California and the road world championships , as well as riding the Tour de France in support of defending champion Chris Froome .

Wiggins was called up to ride the Tour of Flanders as a replacement for the injured Ian Stannard , and finished 32nd , one minute 43 seconds behind the winner Fabian Cancellara , having helped Geraint Thomas on his way to eighth . Wiggins contested Paris ? Roubaix for the first time since 2011 , becoming the first former Tour de France winner to compete at the race since Greg LeMond in 1992 , and secured a hard @-@ fought ninth position , finishing as part of a group twenty seconds down on race winner Niki Terpstra .

At the Tour of California , Wiggins won the time trial on stage two by a margin of 40 seconds over second placed Rohan Dennis (Garmin ? Sharp) to move into the overall lead which he would keep for the rest of the race . Despite that good result , Wiggins was not selected by his team to be riding the Tour de France , prompting his return to the track cycling team as preparation for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow .

At the Commonwealth Games in July , Wiggins participated in the 4000m team pursuit with Steven Burke , Ed Clancy and Andy Tennant , managing to win the Silver Medal . The following day Wiggins announced that he was " done with the road " and that he would likely never ride a grand tour again . He did not rule out some road events but wants to concentrate his training on

preparation for the team pursuit at the 2016 Olympic Games .

In September Wiggins rode the Tour of Britain , winning the final 8 @. @ 8 km (5 @. @ 5 mi) time trial in London and ending the race in third overall behind the winner , Garmin ? Sharp 's Dylan van Baarle , and Micha? Kwiatkowski (Omega Pharma ? Quick @- @ Step) . Wiggins then won gold in the time trial at the world road championships in Ponferrada , Spain , with a winning margin of 26 seconds over Tony Martin over the 47 @. @ 1 km (29 @. @ 3 mi) course .

= = = 2015 : Paris ? Roubaix , WIGGINS and hour record = = =

In January 2015 it was confirmed that Wiggins had signed a contract extension with Team Sky to the end of April 2015 , with a focus on attempting to win Paris @- @ Roubaix , before transferring to his newly founded WIGGINS team in order to prepare alongside other members of the British track endurance squad for the team pursuit at the 2016 Summer Olympics . It was also confirmed that he would attempt to break the hour record in 2015 . In March he confirmed that he would make his debut with his eponymous team at the inaugural Tour de Yorkshire at the start of May .

Early in the season , Wiggins rode the Tour of Qatar , in which he lost out on contention for the general classification after being caught out by a split in the peloton and then finished third in the race 's individual time trial stage behind Cancellara and Niki Terpstra , his first opportunity to wear his rainbow skinsuit . Wiggins then took part in the traditional opening race of the classics season , Omloop Het Nieuwsblad , finishing 44th as his team @- @ mate Ian Stannard took victory .

Wiggins returned to Paris ? Nice , a race he had won in 2012 . The race opened and closed with time @- @ trials ; Wiggins finished 12th in the prologue , did not feature in the following five stages , often riding at the back of the peloton , and then withdrew before the traditional mountain time @- @ trial up the Col d 'Èze , a stage for which Wiggins holds the fastest ever time , a legacy of his 2012 victory there . Again , his team @- @ mate Richie Porte was victorious in the race .

Wiggins was set to ride E3 Harelbeke in March , a return to the cobbled classics in the lead up to his main objective of Paris @- @ Roubaix , but withdrew . Instead he rode Gent ? Wevelgem two days later ; however , he abandoned the race , which was hit by severe weather conditions with much heavy wind and rain , and only 39 riders finished the race . During the mid @- @ week Three Days of De Panne , which began on 31 March , Wiggins acted as a lead @- @ out man of Sky 's sprinter , Elia Viviani , and then convincingly won the final stage 's short time trial , expected to be his last in Sky colours , which also gave him 3rd place overall in the race .

At Paris @- @ Roubaix , Wiggins 's much publicised last race with Sky and primary goal of the early season , he finished in 18th position . He attacked with 30 km (18 @. @ 6 mi) left to race , but was reabsorbed by the peloton . A few days after the race it was announced that Wiggins would make his bid to break the hour record on 7 June at Lee Valley VeloPark . He participated to the Tour de Yorkshire with WIGGINS Team , but did not register a significant result . A few weeks after leaving Team Sky , Wiggins said he felt " liberated " and " happier " . On 7 June 2015 Wiggins broke the hour record , riding 54 @. @ 526 km (33 @. @ 881 mi) , surpassing Dowsett 's mark of 52 @. @ 937 km (32 @. @ 894 mi) set five weeks earlier .

On 16 August , Wiggins joined Cavendish on the track for the first time since the 2008 Olympics , winning the Madison in the first round of the Revolution cycling series at the newly opened Derby Velodrome . In October Wiggins took his first gold medal at the European track championships when he was part of the British squad that won the team pursuit .

= = = 2016 = = =

Wiggins competed at the 2016 UCI Track Cycling World Championships in London , where he took two medals : in the team pursuit , he was part of the British squad that qualified for the final , where they took the silver behind Australia despite leading with 500 metres to go and going on to set the fastest time in competition by a British quartet since 2012 . However Wiggins said that he was happy with his performance , stating " that (was) the strongest I ? ve been in a team pursuit , so there ? s a bit of life left in me yet , and I ? ve got another four or five months to get a bit better " .

Subsequently he raced with Cavendish in the madison , where they clinched their second world title in the discipline as a pairing using similar tactics to their 2008 win : accumulating points in the sprints in the early stages of the race , before making up a one lap deficit on their French , Colombian and Swiss rivals by working with the Spanish pairing of Sebastián Mora and Albert Torres in a breakaway , taking the lead and holding on for the win despite Cavendish crashing with 11 laps to go .

= = Personal life = =

= = = Family = = =

Wiggins is married to Catherine (née Cockran) , whom he met during the 2002 Commonwealth Games , after first meeting as juniors in 1997 ; they have two children together , Ben and Isabella . The family lives in Eccleston , Lancashire , close to the Manchester Velodrome , the home of British Cycling and Team Sky .

Wiggins endured a difficult relationship with his father Gary Wiggins , who made no effort to contact Bradley for fourteen years , since leaving the family when Bradley was two years old . Bradley only knew his father had been a professional cyclist . Their first meeting was in 1999 , when Bradley was at a training camp in Australia ; also meeting his two half @-@ sisters from relationships his father had in Australia before and after the one with his mother . They next met the following year , when Bradley was back in Australia training and had gone out three weeks in advance to stay with Gary . Bradley quickly became disillusioned at his father 's alcohol and drug problems , and they never met again . Gary Wiggins died in Aberdeen , New South Wales in 2008 , aged 55 . Bradley did not attend the funeral .

= = = Interests = = =

He is a well @-@ known mod and owns a collection of classic motor scooters and guitars from the 1960s and 1970s . He is a keen musician and guitarist and in December 2012 he made a surprise appearance at a Paul Weller charity concert , playing guitar on " That 's Entertainment " ; and together recorded a special for BBC Radio 6 Music discussing their love of music and mod culture , broadcast on Boxing Day . He supports Liverpool Football Club and Wigan Warriors rugby league club , and in 2012 the latter gave him a life membership , which he described as his highlight of the year . Wiggins presented the winner of the Super League 's 2012 Man of Steel Award to the Warriors player Sam Tomkins .

In July 2012 it was announced that Wiggins would collaborate with the Fred Perry clothing label " to develop an authentic , non @-@ technical range of cycle wear " . The clothing range , known as the Bradley Wiggins X Fred Perry Collaboration , was launched in July 2012 under a six @-@ year contract .

In 2012 Wiggins launched the Bradley Wiggins Foundation to draw people into sport and regular exercise . The foundation backs the professional women 's team Wiggle High5 , which launched for the 2013 season . However , in February 2015 Wiggins announced that the Foundation would be wound down in the run @-@ up to the 2016 Summer Olympics .

On 10 May 2015 , Wiggins was interviewed by Kirsty Young as guest " castaway " on BBC Radio 4 's Desert Island Discs ; his favourite musical piece was Sound and Vision by David Bowie , his book choice was Slaying the Dragon : How to Turn Your Small Steps to Great Feats by Michael Johnson and his luxury item was a family photo album .

Wiggins served as guest editor of Radio 4 's The Today Programme on 29 December 2015 : as part of this he interviewed Paul Smith about fashion , Gary Lineker about making the transition from being a sportsman to working in the media , and discussed cycling with Jeremy Corbyn and Steve Hilton .

== Other ==

Wiggins speaks fluent French through his participation with French cycling teams and after living in France for a number of years .

In a period after the 2004 Olympics , Wiggins started to drink heavily as he struggled to cope with his newfound fame . He stopped when his son Ben was born . " We had a baby . So then it was a case of , ' well , I 've got to earn some fucking money ' and the responsibility takes over , " he explained .

At the 2012 Olympics , Wiggins rang the Olympic Bell to mark the start of the opening ceremony inside the Olympic Stadium .

Wiggins has written multiple books about his career . The first , entitled " In Pursuit of Glory " , covers his success as a track cyclist at the Beijing Olympics where he won two gold medals in the team pursuit and the individual pursuit . It also talks about his triumph at the 2009 Tour de France where he finished in fourth place . In " My Time " he talks about the setbacks he faced at the 2010 Tour de France . He also talks about the " golden year " (2012) , in which he won the Tour de France and then , just days later , the Olympic individual time trial gold medal in front of a British crowd at the London Olympics . (" My Story " is the junior edition of " My Time " .) His fourth book , " My Hour " , is an account of his attempt on the hour record in 2015 , covering the record 's history , his training , and the attempt itself .

Wiggins ' power output has been measured to be over 450 watts at anaerobic threshold .

In March 2014 Wiggins made an appearance as himself in an episode of BBC Radio 4 's soap opera The Archers as part of the Sport Relief charitable appeal . Two years later he appeared in a comedy sketch filmed at the London Olympic Velodrome with Michael Crawford on Sport Relief 2016 where Crawford reprised his Some Mothers Do ' Ave ' Em character Frank Spencer .

A sculpture dedicated to and inspired by Wiggins was unveiled in 2014 at St Augustine 's CE High School , his former school .

== Career achievements ==

== Major results ==

Source :

== Grand Tour general classification results timeline ==

Source :

== Major stage race general classification results timeline ==

== Individual Time Trial timeline ==

Source :

== World records ==

== Awards and honours ==

Cycling Weekly Cyclist of the Year : 2000

Officer of the Order of the British Empire : 2005

Commander of the Order of the British Empire : 2009

London Youth Games Hall of Fame : 2010

GQ Lifetime Achievement : 2012

Vélo d 'Or : 2012

Sports Journalists ' Association 's Sportsman of the Year : 2012

Cyclingnews.com Rider of the Year : 2012

International Flandrien of the Year : 2012

Bidlake Memorial Prize : 2012

BBC Sports Personality of the Year : 2012

Laureus World Sports Sportsman of the Year Award (nominated) : 2013

Knight Bachelor : 2013