

= 1905 Tour de France =

The 1905 Tour de France was the third Tour de France , held from 9 to 30 July 1905 , organized by the newspaper L 'Auto . Following the disqualifications after the 1904 Tour de France , there were changes in the rules , the most important one being the general classification not made by time but by points . The race saw the introduction of mountains in the Tour de France , and René Pottier excelled in the first mountain , although he could not finish the race . Due in part to some of the rule changes , the 1905 Tour de France had less cheating and sabotage than in previous years , though they were not completely eliminated . It was won by Louis Trousselier , who also won four of the eleven stages .

= = Changes from the 1904 Tour de France = =

After the 1904 Tour de France , some cyclists were disqualified , most notably the top four cyclists of the original overall classification , Maurice Garin , Lucien Pothier , César Garin and Hippolyte Aucouturier . Maurice Garin was originally banned for two years and Pothier for life , so they were ineligible to start the 1905 Tour de France . Of these four , only Aucouturier (who had been " warned " and had a " reprimand inflicted " on him) , started the 1905 Tour . They were disqualified by the Union Vélocipédique Française , based on accusations of cheating when there were no race officials around . In 1904 Tour , it was difficult to observe the cyclists continuously , as significant portions of the race were run overnight , and the long stages made it difficult to have officials everywhere .

Because these disqualifications had almost put an end to the Tour de France , the 1905 event had been changed in important ways , to make the race easier to supervise :

The stages were shortened so that no night riding occurred .

The number of stages increased to 11 stages , almost double from the previous year .

The winner was selected on points , not time .

The first cyclist to cross the finish line received 1 point . Other cyclists received one point more than the cyclist who passed the line directly before him , plus an additional point for every five minutes between them , with a maximum of ten points . In this way , a cyclist could not get more than 11 points more than the cyclist that crossed the finish line just before him .

As an example for this point system , the result for the first seven cyclists in the first stage is in this table :

The other important introduction were the mountains . One of Desgrange 's staffers , Alphonse Steinès , took Desgrange for a trip over the Col Bayard at 1 @, @ 246 metres (4 @, @ 088 ft) and the Ballon d 'Alsace at 1 @, @ 178 metres (3 @, @ 865 ft) , that had an average gradient of 5 @. @ 2 % with 10 % at some places , to convince Desgrange to use these climbs in the route . Desgrange accepted it , saying that Steinès would take the blame if the mountains would be too hard to climb . In the two previous editions , the highest point was the Col de la République at 1 @, @ 145 metres (3 @, @ 757 ft) . In 1905 , Desgrange chose to overlook this , and focused instead on the introduction of the Ballon d 'Alsace , because he saw that he had missed the opportunity for publicity previously .

There were two categories of riders , the coureurs de vitesse and the coureurs sur machines poinçonnées . The riders in the first category were allowed to change bicycles , which could be an advantage in the mountains , where they could use a bicycle with lower gears . The riders in the machines poinçonnées category had to use the same bicycle in the entire race , and to verify this , their bicycles were marked .

= = Participants = =

Before the race started , 78 riders had signed up for the race . Eighteen of those did not start the race , so the Tour began with 60 riders , including former winner Henri Cornet and future winners René Pottier and Lucien Petit @-@ Breton . The riders were not grouped in teams , but most of

them rode with an individual sponsor . Two of the cyclists ? Catteau and Lootens ? were Belgian , all other cyclists were French . Leading up to the start of the Tour , Wattelier , Trousselier , Pottier and Augereau were all considered the most likely contenders to win the event .

= = Race details = =

Despite the rule changes , there were still protesters among the spectators ; in the first stage all riders except Jean @-@ Baptiste Dortignacq punctured due to 125 kg of nails spread along the road . The first stage was won by Louis Trousselier . Trousselier was serving the army , and had requested his commander leave for the Tour de France ; this was allowed for 24 hours . After he won the first stage and led the classification , his leave was extended until the end of the Tour . From 60 starting cyclists , only 15 cyclists reached the finish line within the time limit ; 15 more reached the finish after the limit and the rest took the train . The Tour organizer Desgrange wanted to stop the race , but was persuaded by the cyclists not to do so , and allowed all cyclists to continue with 75 points .

In the second stage , the first major climb , the Ballon d ? Alsace , made its debut . Four riders were the fastest climbers : Trousselier , René Pottier , Cornet and Aucouturier . Of those four , Trousselier and Aucouturier were the first to be dropped , and Cornet had to drop in the final kilometers . The top was therefore reached first by René Pottier , without dismounting , at an average speed of 20 km / h . Cornet , who reached the top second , had to wait 20 minutes for his bicycle with higher gear , because his support car had broken down . Later Aucouturier caught Pottier , and dropped him , and won the stage . Pottier became second in the stage and led the classification . Seven cyclists did not reach the finish in time , but they were again allowed to start the next stage .

In the third stage , Pottier had to abandon due to tendinitis . The lead was back with Trousselier , who also won the stage .

In the fourth stage , the Côte de Laffrey and the Col Bayard were climbed , the second and third mountains of the Tour de France . Julien Maitron reached both tops first , but Aucouturier won the stage . Trousselier finished in second place , still leading the overall classification , although with the same number of points as Aucouturier .

In the fifth stage , Trousselier won , and because Aucouturier finished in twelfth place , Trousselier had a big lead in the general classification . After the fifth stage , Aucouturier could no longer challenge Trousselier for the lead .

In the seventh stage to Bordeaux , Trousselier punctured after only a few kilometers . The rest of the cyclists quickly sped away from him , and Trousselier had to follow them alone for 200 km . A few kilometers before Bordeaux , Trousselier caught up with the rest , and even managed to win the sprint . Louis Trousselier kept his lead until the end of the race , winning five stages . Trousselier was accused of bad sportsmanship : he reportedly smashed the inkstands of a control post to prevent his opponents from signing . Unlike the 1904 Tour de France , no stage winners , nor anyone from the top ten of the general classification , were disqualified .

= = Results = =

= = = Stage results = = =

In the first and last stage , the cyclists were allowed to use pacers . All the 11 stages were won by only three cyclists :

= = = General classification = = =

The cyclists officially were not grouped in teams ; some cyclists had the same sponsor , even though they were not allowed to work together .

= = = Other classifications = = =

Pautrat was the winner of the coureurs sur machines poinçonnées category , having used the same bicycle through the whole event .

The organising newspaper L 'Auto named René Pottier the meilleur grimpeur . This unofficial title is the precursor to the mountains classification .

= = Aftermath = =

The tour organizers liked the effect of the points system , and it remained active until the 1912 Tour de France , after which it was reverted to the time system . In 1953 , for the 50 @-@ years anniversary of the Tour de France , the points system was reintroduced as the points classification , and the winner was given a green jersey . This points classification has been active ever since .

The introduction of mountains in the Tour de France had also been successful . After the introduction of the Vosges in the 1905 Tour de France , in 1906 the Massif Central were climbed , followed by the Pyrenees in 1910 and the Alps in 1911 .

The winner Trousselier received 6950 Francs for his victory . The night after he won , he drank and gambled with friends , and lost all the money . In later years , Trousselier would not win a Tour de France again , but he still won eight more stages and finished on the podium in the next year . The unofficial mountain champion of the 1905 Tour de France , Pottier , would be more successful in the next year , when he won the overall classification and five stages .

For L 'Auto , the newspaper that organized the Tour de France , the race was a success ; the circulation had increased to 100 @,@ 000 .