

= 2016 Paris ? Roubaix =

The 2016 Paris ? Roubaix was a one @-@ day classic cycling race that took place on 10 April 2016 in northern France . It was the 114th edition of the Paris ? Roubaix and was the tenth race of the 2016 UCI World Tour and the third monument of the season .

The race took place over 257 @.@ 5 kilometres ( 160 @.@ 0 mi ) . The principal difficulty was provided by the 27 sectors of cobbled roads , which cover a total distance of 52 @.@ 8 kilometres ( 32 @.@ 8 mi ) . The difficult conditions caused by the cobbles have earned the race the name " the Hell of the North " . It came at the end of the cobbled classics season , a week after the 2016 Tour of Flanders ; the favourites included the winner of that race , Peter Sagan ( Tinkoff ) , as well as Fabian Cancellara ( Trek ? Segafredo ) and Tom Boonen ( Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step ) .

The race was hard from the very beginning , with major attacks being made over 100 kilometres ( 62 mi ) from the finish . Cancellara and Sagan were held up by crashes and a five @-@ rider group formed in the final 20 kilometres ( 12 mi ) and , despite many more attacks in the closing part of the race , came to the velodrome in Roubaix together . The sprint was won by Mathew Hayman ( Orica ? BikeExchange ) ahead of Boonen , with Ian Stannard ( Team Sky ) in third .

= = Route = =

The route of the 2016 Paris ? Roubaix was not significantly changed from the 2015 edition . It was slightly longer at 257 @.@ 5 kilometres ( 160 @.@ 0 mi ) . There were 27 sectors of cobbled roads : these included one addition to the route , the uphill Hameau du Buat sector . Several sections of cobbles , including the difficult one at Mons @-@ en @-@ Pévèle , had been renovated since 2015 .

Despite its name , the race did not start in Paris : it started in Compiègne ( 80 kilometres ( 50 mi ) to the north ) and travelled generally north towards Roubaix . The main difficulty came from the 27 cobbled sectors , with a total distance of 52 @.@ 8 kilometres ( 32 @.@ 8 mi ) ; the race organisers gave these sectors a difficulty rating with the three five @-@ star sectors the most difficult and the one one @-@ star sector the easiest . The first 98 @.@ 5 kilometres ( 61 @.@ 2 mi ) were generally flat on normal roads , with the first sector coming between Troisvilles and Inchy . Over the following 60 kilometres ( 37 mi ) , there were another eight cobbled sectors , before the first five @-@ star sector . This was the Trouée d 'Arenberg ( English : Arenberg Trench ) and was 2 @.@ 4 kilometres ( 1 @.@ 5 mi ) in length . The riders turned back on themselves several times around Wallers to take in several more sectors . With the route again heading north , the riders crossed several more cobbled sectors ? all rated as either three @-@ star or four @-@ star in difficulty ? on the way to the next five @-@ star sector , a 3 @-@ kilometre ( 1 @.@ 9 mi ) road through Mons @-@ en @-@ Pévèle . At the end of this sector , there were 45 kilometres ( 28 mi ) to the finish line .

After Mons @-@ en @-@ Pévèle , there were seven more cobbled sectors before the final five @-@ star sector . This was the 2 @.@ 4 @-@ kilometre ( 1 @.@ 5 mi ) Carrefour de l 'Arbre ; by the end there were 15 kilometres ( 9 @.@ 3 mi ) to the finish line . This included three more cobbled sectors ? two two @-@ star sectors and the final one @-@ star sector as the route entered Roubaix itself . The route ended on the Vélodrome André @-@ Pétrieux in Roubaix : the riders enter the velodrome half @-@ way round ; they ride one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half laps of the 500 @-@ metre ( 550 yd ) circuit to complete the race .

= = = Maps = = =

Maps of the 2016 Paris ? Roubaix route . Cobbled sectors are shown in green

= = = Cobbled sectors = = =

= = Teams = =

As Paris @-@ Roubaix is a UCI World Tour event , all 18 UCI World Teams were invited automatically and were obliged to send a squad . In February 2016 , the race organisers announced the seven UCI Professional Continental teams that had received wildcard invitations , completing the 25 @-@ team peloton . With each team allowed to enter up to eight riders , the maximum size of the peloton was 200 . Astana was the only team to submit just seven riders . Team Katusha 's Jacopo Guarnieri failed to start the race , so the race began with 198 riders .

= = Pre @-@ race favourites = =

The recent editions of Paris ? Roubaix had been won in various ways . Seven of the previous ten editions had been won by riders who had made solo breakaways ; the most recent of these was Niki Terpstra in 2014 . Other editions had been won in small group sprints : there were three riders together at the finish in 2008 Paris ? Roubaix , two riders in 2013 and six in 2015 .

John Degenkolb ( Giant ? Alpecin ) won the sprint in 2015 , but was unable to defend his title in the 2016 edition due to injuries sustained in a collision with a car during winter training . Greg Van Avermaet ( BMC Racing Team ) , who finished third in 2015 , was also unable to start the race after breaking his collarbone in a crash at the Tour of Flanders the previous week .

The two principal favourites to win the race were Peter Sagan ( Tinkoff ) and Fabian Cancellara ( Trek ? Segafredo ) . Sagan , the reigning world champion , had won the Tour of Flanders ( the other monument raced on cobbled roads ) in a solo breakaway . He was able to win both from a breakaway and in a group sprint . Sagan 's best previous result in Paris ? Roubaix was his sixth @-@ place finish in 2014 . Cancellara had won the race on three previous occasions ( in 2006 , 2010 and 2013 ) and had finished in the top ten on five other occasions . Cancellara was racing in his final Paris ? Roubaix , after announcing that he would retire at the end of the 2016 season .

One of Cancellara 's main rivals in classics races over his career was Tom Boonen ( Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step ) , who had won Paris ? Roubaix on four occasions in the past . He had not been in strong form , however , in the 2016 season and had struggled with a wrist injury in the Tour of Flanders . His team , however , was very strong , with Terpstra , Stijn Vandenbergh and Zden?k ?tybar all possible winners of the race .

Other possible winners included Sep Vanmarcke ( LottoNL ? Jumbo ) , who was third in the Tour of Flanders , Alexander Kristoff ( Team Katusha ) , Lars Boom ( Astana ) , Ian Stannard ( Team Sky ) and Edvald Boasson Hagen ( Team Dimension Data ) .

= = Race summary = =

There was a high @-@ speed start to the race , with several groups attempting to form breakaways ; each was chased by the main peloton . An initial group of six riders was caught within 20 kilometres ( 12 mi ) of the start ; a group of 25 then briefly held a 30 @-@ second lead before they were recaptured by the peloton . After several more attacks and a total of 67 kilometres ( 42 mi ) , the riders were still all together in one group . A group of sixteen riders then attacked and built a lead , despite the efforts of the Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step and Bora ? Argon 18 teams to chase it . As the riders arrived on the first cobbled sectors , Sky took over at the front of the peloton to protect their riders and the breakaway 's advantage increased to two minutes , although it was reduced to fourteen riders . The riders in the breakaway were Sylvain Chavanel ( Direct Énergie ) , Mathew Hayman and Magnus Cort ( Orica ? BikeExchange ) , Jelle Wallays ( Lotto ? Soudal ) , Yaroslav Popovych ( Trek ? Segafredo ) , Johan Le Bon ( FDJ ) , Marko Kump ( Lampre ? Merida ) , Tim Declercq ( Topsport Vlaanderen ? Baloise ) , Salvatore Puccio ( Sky ) , Reinardt Janse van Rensburg ( Dimension Data ) , Frederik Backaert ( Wanty ? Groupe Gobert ) , Maxime Daniel ( AG2R La Mondiale ) , Borut Bo?i? ( Cofidis ) and Imanol Erviti ( Movistar Team ) . The breakaway was notable for the presence of Popovych , who had announced that the race would be the last of his career , and Erviti , who had finished in the top ten at the Tour of Flanders a week earlier having

again been in the early breakaway .

With 140 kilometres ( 87 mi ) completed and more than 115 kilometres ( 71 mi ) remaining , there was a crash in the peloton before the eighth cobbled sector . Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step immediately sent Tony Martin and Guillaume Van Keirsbulck to the front of the group and accelerated hard ; this caused the group to split up . The front group included Boonen , Boasson Hagen , Stannard , Rowe and Vanmarcke along with several others , with Sagan , Cancellara , ?tybar and Terpstra all in a chasing group . LottoNL ? Jumbo had six riders in the front group . The gap between the first and second chasing groups quickly grew to a minute , thanks in particular to Martin 's work ; he spent around 40 kilometres ( 25 mi ) at the front of Boonen 's group . Martin 's effort reduced the group to five riders , with Vanmarcke and Rowe among the riders dropped . As they reached the Trouée d 'Arenberg , the break had just over a minute 's lead over the first chasing group ; the Vanmarcke group was around 20 seconds behind them , with Cancellara and Sagan in another group that was around a minute further back . Sagan himself was making efforts at the front of the group to try to bring the first chase group back .

With 87 kilometres ( 54 mi ) remaining , Vanmarcke 's group merged with Boonen 's , forming a 16 @-@ man group that was 55 seconds behind the breakaway group . Alexander Kristoff had punctured and been dropped from the group containing Cancellara and Sagan . Over the following kilometres , Hayman attacked solo from the breakaway ; meanwhile , Jasper Stuyven ( Trek ? Segafredo ) rode hard to bring his teammate Cancellara back to within 40 seconds of the first chasing group . Hayman was brought back by the rest of the group , while Popovych dropped back from the breakaway to help Cancellara 's group with 64 kilometres ( 40 mi ) remaining . After the next cobbled sector , Boonen 's group caught the remainder of the breakaway and formed a group of around 20 riders , led by Team Sky , that was around 50 seconds ahead of the Cancellara group .

Cancellara and Sagan worked hard together at the front of what was now the second group on the road . Shortly afterwards , the front group was disrupted when three of the four Team Sky riders in the front group ? Rowe , Puccio and Gianni Moscon ? crashed in just a few corners , leaving Stannard as the team 's only rider in the leading group . With 48 kilometres ( 30 mi ) remaining and the chasers 37 seconds behind the lead group , the riders crossed the five @-@ star Mons @-@ en @-@ Pévèle cobbles . Cancellara crashed on a muddy section , slipping off the crown of the road . Sagan , riding immediately behind him , managed to bunny hop over him ? with only one foot clipped into his bike ? and continued in pursuit of the lead group ; Cancellara , although able to continue the race , never rejoined the group . Terpstra was also among those to crash in the incident . Cycling Weekly described Sagan 's manoeuvre as " unbelievable bike handling " .

Rowe rejoined the leading group with Heinrich Haussler and Aleksejs Saramotins ( both IAM Cycling ) to form a ten @-@ man leading group which led Sagan 's group by over a minute with 30 kilometres ( 19 mi ) remaining . Rowe was tired after coming back from his crash ; he agreed to work fully for Stannard . He put in a strong effort with 20 kilometres ( 12 mi ) remaining that dropped Erviti , Haussler , Saramotins and Marcel Sieberg ( Lotto ? Soudal ) , who formed a chase group behind . A five @-@ man group then formed on the Camphin @-@ en @-@ Pévèle sector , with Stannard , Boonen , Boasson Hagen , Hayman and Vanmarcke the only riders remaining . Vanmarcke put in a big attack on the Carrefour de l 'Arbre ; although he briefly had a significant gap , the other four riders brought him back before the next section of cobbles .

Stannard attacked with 6 kilometres ( 3 @.@ 7 mi ) remaining . He had a 20 metres ( 20 yd ) advantage , but the group was able to come back to him . In the final 3 kilometres ( 1 @.@ 9 mi ) , Boonen attacked several times . On the last of these attacks , Hayman accelerated past him and the two riders came together into the velodrome , with Vanmarcke joining soon afterwards . With one 500 @-@ metre ( 550 yd ) lap remaining , Stannard and Boasson Hagen rejoined the group . Hayman led out the sprint : Boonen was on his wheel and Stannard came around the outside . Neither was able to come around him and Hayman crossed the line first to take the victory . Boonen was second with Stannard third . Vanmarcke finished with them in fourth place ; Boasson Hagen was three seconds behind in fifth place .

The chase group of Haussler , Sieberg and Saramotins finished a minute back , with Erviti a further

seven seconds back to finish in ninth . Sagan 's group arrived more than two minutes after Hayman , with Adrien Petit ( Direct Energie ) outsprinting Sagan for tenth place .

= = Result = =

= = Post @-@ race analysis = =

= = = Reactions = = =

The race was given widespread praise . Bernard Hinault , who won the race in 1981 , described it as " magnificent " . He particularly praised Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step 's aggression a long way from the finish , describing it as the kind of move that used to exist but had not been seen in a long time . Similarly , Marc Madiot ( the manager of the FDJ team and the winner of the race in 1985 and 1991 ) described it as " a beautiful race , of great quality " and praised Hayman as " a fine winner " . VeloNews described it as an " epic battle " and as " one @-@ day racing at its absolute best " . The cycling journalist and former cyclist Daniel Lloyd tweeted that it had been " one of the best races I 've ever seen " ; David Millar , another former cyclist , wrote " That was exhausting " after watching the race .

Mathew Hayman described his reaction as " disbelief " . He had broken his arm in a crash at the Omloop Het Nieuwsblad at the beginning of the classics season and had barely raced before the race began . He said that he had realised that the other riders were not superior to him after they failed to get away from him in the closing kilometres . He stated that he could " gamble " and that it had paid off . Hayman 's team manager , Shayne Bannan , described him as " so professional " and suggested that he had been helped by good preparation and motivation combined with a lack of expectation ; he called it " an incredible ride " .

Boonen praised Hayman 's victory . He said that Hayman was " the rider nobody was really looking at " and that he had ridden a " good sprint " , although no one had much energy left by the velodrome ; Vanmarcke had faded in the final metres and boxed Boonen in at the bottom of the track . He stated that he had received a text message on the morning of the race from a doctor who had treated him after he fractured his skull in the 2015 Abu Dhabi Tour ; the doctor had said that the day of the race would be the first day that Boonen would be able to get back on his bike . He noted that he " couldn 't be unsatisfied " even though he had not won the race . Stannard described the race as " so close yet so far " and thought that he could have managed a better result than his third place had he not attacked in the final kilometres . He said that he was " super happy " to see Hayman win ; he also said that there were " two more steps to work my way up now " .

Fabian Cancellara finished his final Paris ? Roubaix in 40th place , seven minutes behind Hayman . He said " I ? m not sad , I ? m happy not to be in hospital . I ? m happy to have finished , " and that he was hurting all over ? as well as crashing during the race , he had crashed in the velodrome ? but said that he was " happy it is done " . Sagan described the race as " a crazy day " ; he said that he was lucky not to have crashed with Cancellara , but that his race was over at that point . He described Paris ? Roubaix as " very hard to win " .

= = = UCI World Tour standings = = =

In the 2016 UCI World Tour season @-@ long competition , the top 10 of the standings remained relatively unchanged after the race . Sagan was still on top , 49 points ahead of Alberto Contador . Vanmarcke moved up from eighth to fifth , while Stannard moved into tenth place . Tinkoff remained ahead of Team Sky in the team rankings ; in the nations ' rankings , Australia moved back into the lead , with Belgium moving into second and pushing Spain into third .