

= 2015 Critérium du Dauphiné =

The 2015 Critérium du Dauphiné was the 67th edition of the Critérium du Dauphiné cycling stage race . The eight @-@ stage race in France began in Ugine on 7 June and concluded in Modane Valfréjus on 14 June , and was sixteenth of the twenty @-@ eight races in the 2015 UCI World Tour season . The Dauphiné was viewed as a preview for July 's Tour de France and a number of the contenders for the general classification of the Tour participated in the race .

The first leader of the general classification was Team Sky 's Peter Kennaugh , who won the opening stage . He lost the race lead to BMC Racing Team rider Rohan Dennis , whose team won stage three 's team time trial . His teammate Tejay van Garderen then took over after the race 's first mountain stage , stage five . Vincenzo Nibali of the Astana team took the lead after the stage six , before Van Garderen regained it following stage . Chris Froome (Team Sky) , who was second to Van Garderen after the penultimate stage , claimed the race victory with his win on the final stage . Van Garderen finished second overall , ten seconds in arrears , with Lampre ? Merida 's Rui Costa third , a further one minute and six seconds down .

In the race 's other classifications , Nacer Bouhanni (Cofidis) won the sprinter 's points classification . The mountains classification was won by MTN ? Qhubeka 's Daniel Teklehaimanot , who achieved it by getting in the early breakaways and placing highly over categorised climbs . Simon Yates of Orica ? GreenEDGE won the young rider classification as the best rider born after 1 January 1990 . The team classification was won by Movistar Team .

= = Teams = =

As the Critérium du Dauphiné was a UCI World Tour event , all seventeen UCI WorldTeams were invited automatically and obligated to send a squad . Four second @-@ tier UCI Professional Continental teams were given wildcard invitations , forming the race 's 21 @-@ team peloton . The number of riders allowed per squad was eight , therefore the start list contained a total of 168 riders .

The teams entering the race were :

= = Pre @-@ race favourites = =

Former winners of the general classification named in the start list were both the 2008 and 2009 edition 's Alejandro Valverde (Movistar Team) , 2013 's Chris Froome (Team Sky) and the 2014 's Andrew Talansky (Cannondale ? Garmin) . The leading contenders for general classification were two of the four Tour de France favourites , Froome and Vincenzo Nibali (Astana) . Both winners of the previous two Tours , they were thought to have planned to use the Dauphiné 's likeness to Tour 's mountainous route as preparation . The riders considered outsiders included Talansky , Valverde , Joaquim Rodríguez (Team Katusha) , Tejay van Garderen (BMC Racing Team) , Rui Costa (Lampre ? Merida) , Romain Bardet (AG2R La Mondiale) , Bauke Mollema (Trek Factory Racing) and 2014 's winner of the young rider classification , Wilco Kelderman (LottoNL ? Jumbo) .

= = Route = =

On 2 April 2015 , the organiser of the race , Amaury Sport Organisation (ASO) , announced the route of 2015 Critérium du Dauphiné at a presentation in Lyon , France . The eight @-@ stage race in the Dauphiné region of France was held from 7 ? 14 June , and was seen as a preview for the Alpine stages in the Tour de France , which took place the following month . The race opened with a 132 km (82 @. @ 0 mi) hilly circuit stage in around Albertville . Stage two crossed the flat Dombes area west from Le Bourget @-@ du @-@ Lac to Villars @-@ les @-@ Dombes and covered a distance of 173 km (107 @. @ 5 mi) . The third stage was a team time trial , the first since the 1980 edition . The 24 @. @ 5 km (15 @. @ 2 mi) route from Roanne to Montagny was described by Stephen Farrand of Cyclingnews.com as rolling and could " seriously influence " the general

classification . Stage four , the longest at 228 km (141 @. @ 7 mi) , moved the race south to Sisteron and to the Alps . The fifth stage covered the same distance and course of stage seventeen in the Tour de France . It featured the Col d 'Allos mountain pass and ended with a summit finish at the Pra Loup ski resort . Stage six took the race north , with the 183 km (113 @. @ 7 mi) route from Saint @-@ Bonnet @-@ en @-@ Champsaur to Villard @-@ de @-@ Lans including six climbs . The penultimate stage was another mountainous stage that featured the Col de la Croix Fry and Col des Aravis climbs before a final accent to Saint @-@ Gervais @-@ les @-@ Bains . The final stage took in the Lacets de Montvernier before moving through the Maurienne valley to the finish at Modane Valfréjus .

= = Stages = =

= = = Stage 1 = = =

7 June 2015 ? Ugine to Albertville , 132 km (82 @. @ 0 mi)

The race opened with its shortest race stage , at 132 km (82 @. @ 0 mi) . The route left Ugine and passed the finishing city of Albertville , before a loop that featured the category 4 Côte d ? Esserts @-@ Blay , 17 km (10 @. @ 6 mi) in . On the return to Albertville the riders crossed the finish line for the first time for a 19 @. @ 5 km (12 @. @ 1 mi) lap . In this lap were two climbs , the third @-@ category Côte du Villard (442 m (1 @, @ 450 ft)) and the fourth @-@ category Côte du Cruet , the highest of the stage at 551 m (1 @, @ 808 ft) . As the race crossed the finish line for the second time , a shorter 15 @. @ 5 km (9 @. @ 6 mi) circuit was undertaken five times , with primary difference the exclusion of the Côte du Cruet .

In the opening 5 km (3 @. @ 1 mi) , Gert Dockx of Lotto ? Soudal was involved in a crash and was forced to abandon the race due to his injuries . After 11 km (6 @. @ 8 mi) , a breakaway was formed by Romain Guillemois (Team Europcar) , Björn Thurau (Bora ? Argon 18) , Daniel Teklehaimanot (MTN ? Qhubeka) and Maarten Wijnants (LottoNL ? Jumbo) . Their advantage over the peloton increased to over four minutes at the 33 km (20 @. @ 5 mi) mark , which moved up to a maximum of around seven minutes twenty seconds . Teklehaimanot accrued enough mountains classification points to secure the polka dot jersey with two climbs of the Côte du Villard to go .

Wijnants and Guillemois were dropped from the quartet on the penultimate ascent of the Villard , with 28 km (17 @. @ 4 mi) to go . Thurau attacked Teklehaimanot on the last passing of the Villard , which led to an attack by Daniel Oss (BMC Racing Team) from the chasing peloton . With 10 km (6 @. @ 2 mi) remaining , four more riders joined Oss and the group caught Thurau in the final 5 km (3 @. @ 1 mi) , with the six @-@ rider group holding a margin of twelve seconds . Peter Kennaugh of Team Sky attacked from the group with 2 km (1 @. @ 2 mi) and took the stage victory two seconds ahead of the bunch sprint . Kennaugh 's first place gave him a ten @-@ second time bonus in the general classification ; he also took the lead of the points classification and Sky topped the team classification . Tiesj Benoot of Lotto ? Soudal became the first lead of the young rider classification .

= = = Stage 2 = = =

8 June 2015 ? Le Bourget @-@ du @-@ Lac to Villars @-@ les @-@ Dombes , 173 km (107 @. @ 5 mi)

Stage two 's 173 km (107 @. @ 5 mi) course was the flattest of the race . The stage left the start at Le Bourget @-@ du @-@ Lac and within 3 km (1 @. @ 9 mi) crossed the second @-@ category Col du Chat . After five smaller climbs , 74 km (46 @. @ 0 mi) in , the riders then came to the day 's highest climb at 1 @, @ 156 m (3 @, @ 793 ft) , the first @-@ category Col de Cuvery . The route then followed a 52 km (32 @. @ 3 mi) descent that included three uncategorised climbs . The final 44 km (27 @. @ 3 mi) to the finish in Villars @-@ les @-@ Dombes were flat .

The early breakaway was formed by three riders , Perrig Quéméneur (Team Europcar) , Arnaud Courteille (FDJ) and , for the second day running , Daniel Teklehaimanot . Teklehaimanot took the maximum points over the Col du Chat . The trio were under seven minutes ahead of the peloton at the foot of the Col de Cuvery . Teklehaimanot again took the points at the top , where the lead had dropped to over a minute .

A crash in the peloton with 21 km (13 @. @ 0 mi) remaining left a group of riders chasing to the back of the main group , including pre @-@ race favourite Joaquim Rodríguez . The breakaway was caught with 3 km (1 @. @ 9 mi) . In the final kilometre , the MTN ? Qhubeka team controlled the front before leading out their sprinter , Edvald Boasson Hagen . His move was made too early and he was overtaken by three other riders , with Nacer Bouhanni (Cofidis) crossing the finish line first . Third @-@ placed Sacha Modolo (Lampre ? Merida) took the lead of the points classification , with Bouhanni becoming the best young rider .

== = Stage 3 == =

9 June 2015 ? Roanne to Montagny , 24 @. @ 5 km (15 @. @ 2 mi) (TTT)

The route for the team time trial of stage three from Roanne to Montagny was 24 @. @ 5 km (15 @. @ 2 mi) in length . At the 8 km (5 @. @ 0 mi) in mark , a small climb preceded a descent to the intermediate time check at 14 km (8 @. @ 7 mi) . A gradual incline took the stage to its finish .

FDJ were the first team to set a time , with 31 ' 31 " . They were soon displaced by the third team to start BMC Racing Team , the team time trial world champions , who set a time of 29 ' 58 " . Astana then came in with a four @-@ second deficit to BMC and placed second . Movistar Team were next recording a time of 30 ' 16 " , which put them third . Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step 's time of 30 ' 16 " placed them fourth , with fifth taken by Orica ? GreenEDGE , a further five seconds in arrears .

Team Sky , who placed sixth , lost their lead of the team classification to stage winners BMC . Although BMC 's highest placed rider in the general classification was Manuel Quinziato , he was not one of the five riders required to finish ; the highest of the five was Rohan Dennis , who became the new leader in both the general and young rider classifications . Second placed overall Tejay van Garderen , who was BMC 's general classification leader and a pre @-@ race favourite praised his team 's effort and was confident about his chances in the race , saying " I feel good . This was the first big test of the Dauphiné , and going into the mountains I feel ready to put up a good challenge . " Nacer Bouhanni moved into the lead of the points classification .

== = Stage 4 == =

10 June 2015 ? Anneyron to Sisteron , 228 km (141 @. @ 7 mi)

The fourth stage was the longest of the race at 228 km (141 @. @ 7 mi) . Starting in Anneyron , the route covered rolling terrain until the passing of the third @-@ category Col de Lescou at 93 @. @ 5 km (58 @. @ 1 mi) . A short descent led to the foot of the fourth @-@ category Col de Pre @-@ Guittard , the stage 's highest point . A similarly sized uncategorised climb followed . The long descent featured a number of small rises before the Côte de la Marquise with 12 @. @ 5 km (7 @. @ 8 mi) to go . A series of small climbs then took the stage to the flat finish at Sisteron .

A breakaway duo consisting of Martijn Keizer (LottoNL ? Jumbo) and Tosh Van der Sande (Lotto ? Soudal) escaped 3 km (1 @. @ 9 mi) into the stage . Their lead had six minutes and thirty seconds after they had passed the Lescou and Pre @-@ Guittard climbs . At the foot of the Côte de la Marquise , the pair had a one @-@ minute advantage . Van der Sande was dropped on the climb and Keizer led over the summit with margin of twenty seconds . Attacks from the peloton on the descent saw the formation of a group consisting of Cyril Gautier (Team Europcar) , Tim Wellens (Lotto ? Soudal) , Lawson Craddock (Giant ? Alpecin) and Wilco Kelderman . Wellens attacked and then passed Keizer .

Wellens was caught by the peloton in the final 2 km (1 @. @ 2 mi) , before a failed move by a trio consisting of Daniel Oss , Tony Martin (Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step) and Bram Tankink (LottoNL ? Jumbo) . Tony Gallopin (Lotto ? Soudal) launch a late attack , but was caught by the bunch sprint

that was won by Nacer Bouhanni , his second stage victory of the race . There were no changes to the classifications .

=== Stage 5 ===

11 June 2015 ? Digne @-@ les @-@ Bains to Pra Loup , 161 km (100 @.@ 0 mi)

Stage five from Digne @-@ les @-@ Bains to Pra Loup was the first classified as mountainous and was 161 km (100 @.@ 0 mi) in length . The first section of the stage was flat , until the passing of the third @-@ category Col des Lèques at 40 km (24 @.@ 9 mi) . After a descent and small rise a came another third @-@ category climb , the Col de Toutes Aures . The route then dropped down before a further rising up to the second @-@ category Col de la Colle @-@ Saint @-@ Michel which came 161 km (100 @.@ 0 mi) in . The descent was followed by the first @-@ category Col d 'Allos . The resulting descent , which began with 22 km (13 @.@ 7 mi) to go , was long and technical . The final climb to the finish at Pra Loup was 6 @.@ 2 km (3 @.@ 9 mi) -long and had an average gradient of 6 @.@ 5 % .

Mountains classification leader Daniel Teklehaimanot was the first to initiate the early seven @-@ rider breakaway ; the other riders were Christophe Riblon (AG2R La Mondiale) , Tim Wellens , Pieter Serry (Etixx ? Quick @-@ Step) , Romain Sicard (Team Europcar) , Arnaud Courteille , and Albert Timmer (both Giant ? Alpecin) . Courteille claimed the points at the Col des Lèques , with Teklehaimanot second , with the aforementioned first over the Col de Toutes Aures and Col de la Colle @-@ Saint @-@ Michel . Team Sky set a high pace at the head of the peloton throughout the Col d 'Allos , leading to a large number of riders being dropped , including the race leader Rohan Dennis . In the breakaway , an attack by Serry dropped Riblon , Teklehaimanot , and Courteille . Before the summit of the climb , with 24 km (14 @.@ 9 mi) remaining , the break was caught .

As the race reached the summit , Romain Bardet attacked , and the bottom had gained a twenty @-@ second advantage over the front group of around thirty riders , increasing it to one minute at the foot of the Pra Loup climb . Sky again controlled the head of the chase , with Vincenzo Nibali , Alejandro Valverde and Wilco Kelderman the notable riders distanced . Chris Froome launched an attack in the final 2 km (1 @.@ 2 mi) , with Tejay van Garderen and Beñat Intxausti following . Van Garderen dropped Intxausti and passed Froome to take second place , thirty @-@ six seconds behind stage winner Bardet . The new leaders in the classifications were Van Garderen in the general , Bardet in the young riders ' and Sky in the team standings .

=== Stage 6 ===

12 June 2015 ? Saint @-@ Bonnet @-@ en @-@ Champsaur to Villard @-@ de @-@ Lans , 183 km (113 @.@ 7 mi)

The sixth stage from Saint @-@ Bonnet @-@ en @-@ Champsaur to Villard @-@ de @-@ Lans moved the race into the high mountains with six categorised climbs . It was the second longest stage at 183 km (113 @.@ 7 mi) . The opening third of the route crossed hilly terrain that featured two third @-@ category climbs , the Rampe du Motty and the Côte du Barrage de Sautet . The riders traversed the second @-@ category Col de la Croix Haute at the 67 @.@ 5 km (41 @.@ 9 mi) mark , before a short descent and a further rise to the third @-@ category Col de Grimone . After a long descent and short rise , the race came to the foot of the first @-@ category Col du Rousset . At the summit with 51 km (31 @.@ 7 mi) remaining , the day 's highest point (1 @.,@ 254 m (4 @.,@ 114 ft)) , the riders dropped down to the final hills before the summit finish at the third @-@ category climb to Villard @-@ de @-@ Lans .

Early in the wet stage , a group of nine riders broke away , only to be pulled back the peloton , with a second group of nineteen also failing . An unsuccessful move from Tony Martin was followed by an attack by Vincenzo Nibali over the Col de Grimone and the formation of an elite five @-@ strong group on descent with Rui Costa , Alejandro Valverde , and Tony Gallopin . This attack reduced the main group of chasers and caused the abandonment of several riders . The advantage of the break was over three minutes as they climbed the Col de Rousset , with Nibali briefly escaping on the

subsequent descent .

Martin was dropped with 22 km (13 @. @ 7 mi) remaining , with the advantage at over two minutes . In the chasing main group , Simon Yates (Orica ? GreenEDGE) and Dan Martin (Cannondale ? Garmin) moved clear . Gallopin launched an attack from the breakaway with 4 @. @ 5 km (2 @. @ 8 mi) to go , with Nibali following at 1 @. @ 5 km (0 @. @ 9 mi) . Costa was able to pull both back ahead and passed them to take the stage win . Nibali took over the lead of the general classification , with a margin of twenty @-@ nine seconds over Costa . Movistar Team moved into the lead of the team classification .

= = = Stage 7 = = =

13 June 2015 ? Montmélián to Saint @-@ Gervais @-@ les @-@ Bains , 155 km (96 @. @ 3 mi)

Stage seven was the queen stage of the race , with five first @-@ category climbs and the third @-@ category Col des Aravis . It was the shortest in length of the three mountain stages . The initial 27 @. @ 5 km (17 @. @ 1 mi) were flat apart from one small climb . The riders then began the climb of the Col de Tamié , which was followed by the ascent of Col de la Forclaz . After a decent and a number of small hills , the Col de la Croix Fry was climbed . At the top a small drop and climb over the Col des Aravis took the riders to a descent and a long gradual incline . A further descent and flat section placed the race at the foot of the Côte des Amerand . After a small drop the stage concluded with the climb to Saint @-@ Gervais @-@ les @-@ Bains .

Another wet stage saw a breakaway of thirty @-@ five riders move away 15 km (9 @. @ 3 mi) in , which decreased to twenty @-@ five on the Col de la Croix Fry . On the aforementioned climb , Team Sky reduced the size peloton and the advantage of the breakaway . Daniel Teklehaimanot took maximum points over the opening four climbs to secure the mountains classification . The Col des Aravis split the breakaway , and on the descent , an attack out of the eighteen @-@ strong leading group by Daniel Navarro (Cofidis) and Riccardo Zoidl (Trek Factory Racing) gained a lead of three minutes . The peloton fractured on the Côte des Amerands , with race leader Vincenzo Nibali being dropped .

At the start of the final climb , the leading duo were joined by Jonathan Castroviejo (Movistar Team) and Bartosz Huzarski (Bora ? Argon 18) . Sky set a high pace in pursuit of the leading group , and with 4 km (2 @. @ 5 mi) to go , Chris Froome attacked , followed by Tejay van Garderen , and they soon passed the leaders . With 1 @. @ 5 km (0 @. @ 9 mi) remaining , Froome attacked to win the stage by a margin of seventeen seconds . Van Garderen moved into the lead of the general classification , and although placing second in the stage , he was content , saying " My tactic was just to mark Froome and when he went there was no way I could follow him , but I 'm very happy with the yellow jersey . "

= = = Stage 8 = = =

14 June 2015 ? Saint @-@ Gervais @-@ les @-@ Bains to Modane Valfréjus , 156 @. @ 5 km (97 @. @ 2 mi)

The final stage of the race left from the location of the previous stage 's finish , Saint @-@ Gervais @-@ les @-@ Bains , for a 156 @. @ 5 km (97 @. @ 2 mi) route . After the riders climbed a 7 @. @ 5 km (4 @. @ 7 mi) rise from the start , they went down a long descent with the second @-@ category Côte d 'Héry @-@ sur @-@ Ugine in the middle . The terrain remained flat until the fourth @-@ category Côte d ? Aiton , 65 @. @ 5 km (40 @. @ 7 mi) in . This was followed by the third @-@ category Côte de Saint @-@ Georges @-@ d 'Hurtières . A further flat section placed the riders at the foot of the first @-@ category Lacets de Montvernier . After the subsequent descent began a long gradual incline to the climb of the third @-@ category Côte de Saint @-@ André . A small descent took the race to Modane and the ascent to the summit finish at the Valfréjus ski resort ; the length of the climb was 8 @. @ 4 km (5 @. @ 2 mi) with an average gradient of 5 @. @ 7 % .

Wilco Kelderman 's move in the opening 10 km (6 @. @ 2 mi) initiated a breakaway of thirteen riders . Tony Martin attacked from the break on the Côte de Saint @-@ Georges @-@ d 'Hurtières

and at the foot of the Lacets de Montvernier he had an advantage of one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half minutes over them and around four over the peloton . The last of the riders from the break caught Martin on the Côte de Saint @-@ André , where Steve Cummings of MTN ? Qhubeka attacked this front group .

Cummings 's lead over the peloton at the foot of the final climb was one minute and twenty seconds . With 5 @.@ 5 km (3 @.@ 4 mi) remaining , Vincenzo Nibali moved to the front in support of Astana teammate Michele Scarponi , whose failed attack led to the formation of an elite group of chasers including the general classification leaders . Chris Froome was the only rider to have the support of a teammate , Wouter Poels , who rode on the front until Froome attacked as they caught Cummings . At first Tejay van Garderen could follow this move , but he was eventually unable to keep up with Froome and was caught by Simon Yates and Rui Costa . Froome took the stage victory , eighteen seconds ahead of the three behind , and finished the race as the winner of the general classification .

= = Classification leadership = =

In the Critérium du Dauphiné , four different jerseys were awarded . The most important was the general classification , which was calculated by adding each rider 's finishing times on each stage . The rider with the least accumulated time is the race leader , identified by a yellow jersey with a blue bar ; the winner of this classification was considered the winner of the race .

Additionally , there was a points classification , which awarded a green jersey . In the classification , cyclists received points for finishing in the top 10 in a stage . For stages , 1 , 2 and 4 the win earned 25 points , second place 22 , third 20 , fourth 18 , fifth 16 , sixth 14 , seventh 12 , eighth 10 , ninth 8 and tenth 6 . For stages 5 , 6 , 7 and 8 the win earned 15 points , second place 12 , third 10 , fourth 8 , fifth 6 , and 1 point fewer per place down to a single point for 10th . Points towards the classification could also be achieved at each of the intermediate sprints ; these points were given to the top three riders through the line with 5 points for first , 3 for second , and 1 point for third .

There was also a mountains classification , the leadership of which was marked by a red jersey with white polka dots . In the mountains classification , points towards the classification were won by reaching the top of a climb before other cyclists . Each climb was categorised as either first , second , third , or fourth @-@ category , with more points available for the higher @-@ categorised climbs . First @-@ category climbs awarded the most points ; the first six riders were able to accrue points , compared with the first four on second @-@ category climbs , the first two on third @-@ category and only the first for fourth @-@ category .

The fourth jersey represented the young rider classification , marked by a white jersey . This was decided the same way as the general classification , but only riders born on or after 1 January 1990 were eligible to be ranked in the classification . There was also a team classification , in which the times of the best three cyclists per team on each stage were added together ; the leading team at the end of the race was the team with the lowest total time .

= = Final standings = =

= = = Team classification = = =