

= 1907 Tour de France =

The 1907 Tour de France was the 5th running of the annual Tour de France , one of cycling 's Grand Tours . From 8 July to 4 August , the 93 cyclists cycled 4488 km (2 @, @ 788 mi) in fourteen stages around France . The winner , Lucien Petit @-@ Breton , completed the race at an average speed of 28 @.@ 47 km / h (17 @.@ 69 mi / h) . For the first time , climbs in the Western Alps were included in the Tour de France . The race was dominated at the start by Émile Georget , who won five of the first eight stages . In the ninth stage , he borrowed a bicycle from a befriended rider after his own broke . This was against the rules ; initially he received only a small penalty and his main competitors left the race out of protest . Georget 's penalty was then increased and Lucien Petit @-@ Breton became the new leader . Petit @-@ Breton won two of the remaining stages and the overall victory of the Tour .

= = Changes from the 1906 Tour de France = =

The 1907 Tour de France incorporated 14 stages , which was one more than in 1906 . For the first time , roads in Switzerland were included . The mountain stages in 1906 had been so successful , according to the organiser Henri Desgrange , that the western Alps were included in the race for the first time . The 1907 race was also the first time that a car with bicycle repairmen drove behind the riders , to give assistance in solving mechanical problems on bicycles .

As in 1906 , the race was decided by a points system . At the end of every stage , the winner was given one point , the next cyclist two points , and so on . After the eighth stage , when there were only 49 cyclists left in the race , the points given in the first eight stages were redistributed among the remaining cyclists , according to their positions in those stages .

= = Participants = =

René Pottier , the winner of the 1906 Tour de France , did not defend his title because he had committed suicide in early 1907 . Although the riders officially rode the Tour as individuals , some shared the same sponsor and cooperated as if they rode in teams . At the start of the race , it was expected that the riders sponsored by Alcyon and the riders sponsored by Peugeot would compete for the overall victory . Alcyon started with three main contenders : Louis Trousselier , Marcel Cadolle and Léon Georget ; Peugeot counted on Emile Georget .

As in the previous years , there were two classes of cyclists , the coureurs de vitesse and the coureurs sur machines poinçonnées . Of the 93 cyclists starting the race , 82 were in the poinçonnée category , which meant that they had to finish the race on the same bicycle as they left , and if it was broken they had to fix it without assistance . The coureurs de vitesse could get help from the car with bicycle repairmen when they had to fix a bicycle , and when a bicycle was beyond repair , they could change it to a new one .

Not all cyclists were competing for the victory ; some only joined as tourists . The most notable of them was Henri Pépin . Pépin had hired two riders , Jean Dargassies and Henri Gauban , to ride with him . They treated the race as a pleasure ride , stopping for lunch when they chose and spending the night in the best hotels they could find . Dargassies and Gaubin became the first cyclists in the history of the Tour de France to ride not for their own placings but for another rider 's interest . During the race , they found another Tour de France competitor , Jean @-@ Marie Teychenne , lying in a ditch . They helped him get up and fed him ; from then on Teychenne also helped Pépin .

= = Race details = =

Early in the race , Trousselier , François Faber and Emile Georget were the main contenders . Trousselier , winner of the 1905 Tour de France and eager to win again , won the first stage . In the second stage , the Tour passed the French @-@ German border to finish in Metz , which was then

part of Germany . The German authorities allowed the cyclists to finish there , but did not allow the French flag to be flown or the cars of race officials to enter the city . At the end of the stage , Emile Georget seemingly beat Trousselier with a very small margin . After inquiry , Desgrange , the Tour 's organiser , decided to put both cyclists in first place , to keep both sponsors satisfied .

In the third stage , the Tour returned to France ; at the border , the riders were stopped by two French customs officers and the delay took so long that the stage had to be restarted . During the stage in the Alps , Émile Georget was better than his competitors ; he won the stage and became leader of the general classification . Georget won five of the first eight stages , and had a commanding lead . In the seventh stage , Marcel Cadolle , at that time in second place , fell and his handlebar penetrated his knee , after which he had to give up .

During the ninth stage , when Georget was leading the race , he broke the frame of his bicycle at a checkpoint . According to the rules , Georget should have fixed his bicycle alone ; he knew this would take him more than five hours , so he switched bicycles with Pierre @-@ Gonzague Privat . This was against the rules , so Georget was given a fine of 500 francs . After this stage , won by Petit @-@ Breton , the general classification was as follows :

Unsatisfied with the fine given to Georget , Trousselier and the other riders sponsored by Alcyon left the Tour in protest .

After the tenth stage , the organisers gave Georget an additional penalty for the bicycle change in the ninth stage . They changed the classification of the ninth stage , moving Georget from 4th on the stage to last (48th place) . This effectively cost him 44 points in the general classification and moved him from first to third place . The new classification , after the tenth stage , was

Lucien Petit @-@ Breton became the new leader of the race . Although he had already finished in fifth place and fourth place in previous years , he was still relatively unknown , and had started in the coureurs sur machines poinçonnées category . Petit @-@ Breton finished in the top three in the next stages , so no other cyclist was able to challenge him for the overall victory . At the end of the race , he had increased his lead to a margin of 19 points ahead of Garrigou and 27 points ahead of Georget .

= = Results = =

= = = Stage results = = =

In the first and final stages , the cyclists were allowed to have pacers .

= = = General classification = = =

Although 110 riders were on the starting list , 17 did not show up , so the race started with 93 cyclists . At the end of the Tour de France , 33 cyclists remained . The cyclists officially were not grouped in teams ; some cyclists had the same sponsor , even though they were not allowed to work together .

The total prize money was 25000 French francs , of which 4000 francs were given to Petit @-@ Breton for winning the Tour . In total , he received more than 7000 francs .

= = = Other classifications = = =

Lucien Petit @-@ Breton was also the winner of the " machines poinçonnées " category .

The organising newspaper l 'Auto named Emile Georget the meilleur grimpeur . This unofficial title is the precursor to the modern @-@ day mountains classification .

= = Aftermath = =

Petit @-@ Breton also started the 1908 Tour de France . He won five stages and the general

classification , and became the first cyclist to win the Tour de France two times .