



Friday 29 April 2017

Home favourite Deignan wins Asda Women's Tour de Yorkshire

Yorkshire's very own Lizzie Deignan wowed the massive crowds who turned out to watch the 2017 Asda Women's Tour de Yorkshire by breaking away and claiming an incredible solo victory in Harrogate.

Deignan - who hails from Otley - made her move by attacking with her Boels Dolmans teammate Anna van der Breggen on the brutish Côte de Lofthouse climb and then left her rivals in the dust as she pressed on to the finish.

The 28 year old had 55-second advantage as she raced up Parliament Street and had time to soak up the deafening support before she crossed the line with her arms aloft. American Coryn Rivera (Team Sunweb) took second place by outsprinting Italy's former world champion Giorgia Bronzini (Wiggle High5).

After the stage a delighted Deignan said: "The race really suited me and I knew the roads better than anyone else, so I took advantage of that.

"With 15km to go my Sports Director was telling me to save myself for the sprint but I knew we still had some small climbs to go. I knew it wasn't going to come back together so I went on the attack. I didn't dare believe I'd actually won the race until about 1km to go though because I felt like I was getting slower and slower.

"The finish was so special and so surreal, and it meant so much to me to receive such great support. It was incredible and I'm struggling to get my head around it. This is up there with the biggest wins of my career, definitely. There were a lot of big teams here and the Tour is growing into a really prestigious race.

"We don't get crowds like this in women's cycling very often and it was unbelievable to see so many people on the roadside. The fact that the whole race was televised live as well was really important. You'll only see stronger and stronger women coming to this race in the future because of that, and the best riders specifically targeting this race."

More photos can be downloaded here:

<https://yorkshire.box.com/s/s66wydho3fppc0uy7yta4ed85ydpkrt2>

Welcome to Yorkshire Chief Executive Sir Gary Verity said: “Lizzie did Yorkshire proud today and this will have been a hugely popular victory right across the county.

“The course made for really exciting racing and Lizzie took full advantage of it. Like she said, Yorkshire people really look out for each other and the backing they gave Lizzie really spurred her on.

“I’d like to congratulate her and all the riders of the Asda Women’s Tour de Yorkshire today for given us such a brilliant race.”

Deignan’s triumph meant she was awarded the blue winner’s jersey sponsored by Asda on the podium and also topped the best sprinter’s classification sponsored by Aunt Bessie’s. Wiggle High5 rider Claudia Lichtenberg was awarded Queen of the Mountain sponsored by Virgin Trains after cresting the Côte de Lofthouse in first place, while Deignan’s Boels Dolmans claimed the team classification prize sponsored by FlyBe and Doncaster Sheffield Airport. The Tour’s youngest rider – 18 year old Gwenno Hughes (NCC Group-Kuota-Torelli) – was being supported by Mug Shot in the lead up to the race, and despite ultimately finishing outside the time cut, will have learned a great deal from the experience.

Daily video highlights can be viewed/embedded here:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/welcometoyorkshire/videos>

Brief Result:

- 1 Elizabeth Deignan (GBR) Boels Dolmans 3:09:36
- 2 Coryn Rivera (USA) Team Sunweb +0:00:55
- 3 Giorgia Bronzini (Ita) Wiggle-High5 +0:00:55
- 4 Amy Pieters (Ned) Boels Dolmans +0:00:55
- 5 Hannah Barnes (GBR) Canyon-SRAM +0:00:55

Full information on the Tour de Yorkshire and Asda Women’s Tour de Yorkshire can be found at <http://letour.yorkshire.com>

Notes to editors:

- The Tour de Yorkshire was launched in 2015 to extend the legacy of the 2014 Grand Départ.
- The men’s race is a three-day event with a 2.1 UCI Europe Tour classification taking place between 28-30 April.
- The single-day Asda Women’s Tour de Yorkshire was awarded 1.2 status in 2016 and this year’s race takes place on Saturday 29 April.
- Two million spectators lined the route for the 2016 edition, up from 1.5 million in 2015.
- The 2016 edition was watched by 11.4 million TV viewers in 178 countries.
- The 2016 edition generated £60 million for the Yorkshire economy.

- Our ambition is to grow the men's Tour de Yorkshire to a four-day race and extend the women's race to two days.
- The race is supported by Yorkshire Bank, Asda, Virgin Trains, Dimension Data, Doncaster Sheffield Airport and Flybe, Mug Shot, Aunt Bessie's, JCT600, Tissot, Le Coq Sportif and Mavic.

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