



**Thursday 27 April 2017**

### **Ewan aiming to fire at the 2017 Tour de Yorkshire**

Caleb Ewan is looking forward to making his return to racing at the Tour de Yorkshire on Friday and is hoping to produce a stellar performance as he heads into a key phase of the season.

The Orica-Scott rider is regarded as one of the world's best sprinters with six wins under his belt already this year, and is targeting Saturday's stage from Tadcaster to Harrogate in particular given its sprint-friendly characteristics.

The 22-year-old Australian will be extra motivated to prosper as well after being narrowly denied victory by Dylan Groenewegen (LottoNL-Jumbo) on the opening stage into Settle last season.

The Tour de Yorkshire will be Ewan's first race since completing the single-day Ghent-Wevelgem last month and he is hoping to sharpen his condition before taking part in the Giro d'Italia – one of cycling's three Grand Tours – which starts in Sardinia on Friday 5 May.

He said: "I'm feeling good for the Tour de Yorkshire. Having not raced in a month there is always a little bit of an unknown in terms of racing form, but I feel good in training and I'm hoping to feel good throughout the race.

"I'll be using the Tour to hone my condition ahead of the Giro d'Italia, but getting a win in Yorkshire is very important for me, for my confidence, and also for the team. It'll be a perfect way to finish my preparations."

Ewan was hugely impressed when he rode the Tour de Yorkshire last season and is expecting a tough three days to come.

He added: "It's definitely a good, challenging race, which is perfect for me. The weather and the small roads make it difficult and the crowds are always incredible. They always give you extra motivation and it's a shame I won't be able to enjoy the scenery too as I'll be 100% concentrating on the road, where I'm positioned in the bunch, and making sure I stay safe.

"It's going to be a tough race this year. Saturday is the day that looks most likely for a sprint, so that's the one I am most focused on.

“I’m always really motivated on days like that as victories are obviously always important to me. Getting a stage win in Yorkshire will massively boost confidence going into the Giro.”

**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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