

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Hamilton wins first stage, Armstrong leads

By John Leicester
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAYONNE, France — Riding with the pain of a broken collarbone, veteran American racer Tyler Hamilton won his first-ever stage in the Tour de France on Wednesday after a brave solo breakaway effort.

Lance Armstrong retained his 67-second overall lead with four days of racing left. He finished 24th in Wednesday's stage, 1 minute 55 seconds behind Hamilton.

Hamilton applauded himself as he crossed the line at the end of the 16th stage, a 122.5-mile trek from Pau to Bayonne and the last punishing day in the mountains.

"It was incredible, incredibly difficult," Hamilton said. "I knew I had to give it everything. I really can't believe it."

Armstrong leads Jan Ullrich, his German archrival who won the Tour in 1997. After Wednesday's stage, Alexandre Vinokourov of Kazakhstan was third overall, 2 minutes and 45 seconds behind Armstrong.

With the win, Hamilton was propelled one notch in the overall standings to sixth and now

has a good shot at finishing in the top five when the race ends Sunday in Paris. He said winning the 16th stage made up for the two weeks of pain.

"To win a stage of the Tour de France is fantastic. It's beyond my wildest dreams," Hamilton said. "After today, I'll forget about the disappointment."

Hamilton broke his collarbone in a crash on the second day of the three-week race but continued riding. Armstrong gave him a hug at the finish Wednesday.

"I think this is the biggest day of the Tour," Armstrong said. "Incredible."

Hamilton was long Armstrong's U.S. Postal Service teammate, but now races against him as the star rider for Team CSC.

During Wednesday's stage, Hamilton broke away and raced alone at the front for much of the race, finishing in 4 hours, 59 minutes and 41 seconds. Afterward, he said his collarbone, which was broken in two places, is still sore but felt better.

"The first week was just brutal, both on and off the bike. I was suffering," he said. "It's probably been my most difficult race ever."

Hamilton, 32, of Marblehead, Mass., was viewed as one of a handful of cyclists capable of denying Armstrong a record-tying fifth-straight Tour victory before he was injured in the crash involving 35 riders.

Armstrong and Ullrich will battle for the Tour title in a time trial Saturday, the day before the finish in the Champs-Elysees.

Ullrich beat Armstrong in the last time trial, taking 96 seconds out of the 31-year-old Texan's overall lead. If the 29-year-old German does so again Saturday, he has a good chance of winning overall.

"From the first to the last meter, I'll give everything," Ullrich said Wednesday. "I hope I can beat Lance. At least I still have a chance."

But Armstrong was dehydrated during that event last Friday and, while finishing second, was far from his best. If he holds Ullrich off in Saturday's race against the clock, his slim lead will probably be enough to give him his fifth successive Tour win, tying the record of Spanish racer Miguel Indurain.

"My goal is to win the stage," Armstrong said. "I've never lost the final time trial in a Tour de France and I don't plan on starting this year."



TOUR DE FRANCE 2003

Hamilton wins his first Tour stage

Suffering from a fractured collarbone, Tyler Hamilton battled on to become the sixth American rider to win a stage of the Tour de France.

16th Stage (Pau to Bayonne), 122.5 mi.

1 Tyler Hamilton (U.S.)	4 hr. 59 min. 41 seconds
2 Erik Zabel (Germany)	1 min. 55 seconds behind
3 Yuriy Krivtsov (Ukraine)	same time
4 Luca Paolini (Italy)	same time
5 Gerrit Glomser (Austria)	same time

Overall standings

1 Lance Armstrong (U.S.)	70 hrs. 37 min. 59 seconds
2 Jan Ullrich (Germany)	1 min. 7 seconds behind
3 A. Vinokourov (Kazakhstan)	2 min. 45 seconds behind
4 Haimar Zubeldia (Spain)	5 min. 16 seconds behind
5 Iban Mayo (Spain)	5 min. 25 seconds behind
6 Tyler Hamilton (U.S.)	6 min. 35 seconds behind
7 Ivan Basso (Italy)	8 min. 8 seconds behind
8 Christophe Moreau (France)	11 min. 12 seconds behind
9 Francisco Mancebo (Spain)	16 min. 5 seconds behind
10 Carlos Sastre (Spain)	16 min. 12 seconds behind

SOURCE: Associated Press

AP

Dennehy family arrives in Waco

By Angela K. Brown
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WACO, Texas — After more than a month of holding out hope that missing Baylor basketball player Patrick Dennehy would be found alive, his family went to his apartment to remove his belongings Wednesday.

The police search for his body was delayed because of rain Wednesday morning, but authorities said they planned to keep searching sites given to them by Dennehy's former teammate and roommate, Carlton Dotson, now charged with the murder.

Dennehy's mother and stepfather, Valerie and Brian Brabazon, along with their daughter Wyn and the player's girlfriend Jessica De La Rosa, went to the third-floor apartment Wednesday, the day after arriving in Waco.

The apartment complex — with well-manicured lawns, swimming pool and sand volleyball court — is across the street from the gold-domed Ferrell Center, where Dennehy hoped to play this winter. He sat out last season after transferring from New Mexico last year, as mandated by NCAA rules.

Brian Brabazon said the group planned to talk to police about the case and tour the Baptist-affiliated Baylor University campus. He declined further comment.

"We appreciate your concern, but today we'd like to do what we have to do as a family," he told news reporters gathered outside a Waco hotel.

Earlier Wednesday, Brabazon told The Associated Press that Dennehy's mother was "very upset." Since Dennehy was last seen in mid-June, relatives have said they believed he could be

alive.

Two campus ministers spent several hours with the family Wednesday, said a Baylor spokeswoman, Lori Scott Fogleman.

Brabazon said Wednesday that he was not sure if the family would meet with athletic department officials during their Waco trip. He and his wife have said that Dennehy had been threatened shortly before his disappearance and reported the threats to his coaches.

Basketball coach Dave Bliss has denied those claims, and on Tuesday he reiterated that Dennehy never reported any threats to the coaching staff.

Brabazon also said police have told family members that Dotson provided investigators with three locations to search for Dennehy's body. Authorities searched gravel pits south of Waco and along the river banks Tuesday.

Dennehy's girlfriend ineligible, claims Baylor coach gave her cash

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Jessica De La Rosa, a University of New Mexico track athlete and girlfriend of missing Baylor basketball player Patrick Dennehy, has been declared ineligible by the NCAA.

De La Rosa is ineligible because she violated an NCAA rule by accepting money for transportation while in Texas, said Janice Ruggiero, associate athletics director and director of administration and compliance at UNM.

Ruggiero said De La Rosa recently informed UNM officials of the violation.

De La Rosa, who was in Waco, Texas, with Dennehy's family on Wednesday, told the Albuquerque Tribune she accepted money "from

a member of the Baylor coaching staff for a cab ride from Waco (Texas) to Dallas" after visiting Dennehy last season.

De La Rosa declined to identify the coach and said she could not comment further.

Ruggiero said the university would not confirm or deny what De La Rosa had told the newspaper.

Ruggiero said De La Rosa's eligibility would likely be reinstated once she repays the money. De La Rosa is a hurdler, and the next indoor track season begins in January.

"She may have to lose (sit out) some competitions," Ruggiero said. "Once they make compensation, they can be eligible."

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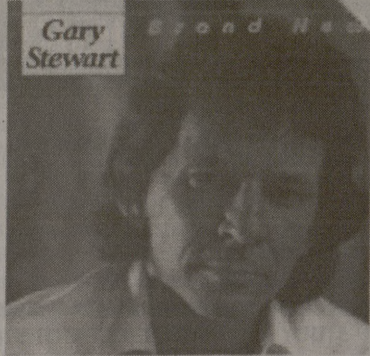
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