

Sports

BICYCLE RACING

Colombian Egan Bernal wins the Tour de France at age 22

By John Leicester and Samuel Petrequin
AP Sports Writers

PARIS — The skies over Paris were yellow, ignited by a glorious golden sunset.

The partying fans' shirts were yellow, Colombians making themselves at home on the Champs-Elysees.

But the yellow that counted most was the iconic jersey that fit so snugly on the slim shoulders of Egan Bernal.

His crowning Sunday as the Tour de France's youngest post-World War II champion, and its first from South America, heralded the birth of a new supernova in the cycling universe.

Winning a Tour for the ages at the unusually young age of 22 immediately prompted the question: How many more might he win?

Get this: He's younger than the Tour's greatest champions — five-time winners Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain — all were when they were first crowned. Pity those in the peloton who also hope to win future editions of cycling's greatest race: They could be in for quite a wait.

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"I am the most happy guy in the world. I just won the Tour de France, and, yeah, I can't believe it."

— Egan Bernal

I can't believe it," Bernal said, looking bemused on the podium in the race winner's jersey and silhouetted by the splendid sunset.

The slightly built Colombian with a killer instinct on the road proved to be the strongest of the 176 strong men who roared off from the start in Brussels, Belgium, on July 6 on their 2,092-mile odyssey that delivered the most absorbing, drama-packed Tour in decades and confirmation that the prodigy Bernal is the real deal.

Riding a yellow bike, and cheered by Colombian fans who were partying even before he rattled up the cobblestones of the Champs-Elysees, Bernal crossed the line with his teammate Geraint Thomas, the 2018 champion who this year finished second. Steven Kruijswijk completed what Tour organizers said was the tightest podium in the 116-year history of the race, with just 1 minute, 31 seconds separating first and third places

after three weeks of racing.

The 21st and final stage was won in a sprint finish on the famous avenue by Australian Caleb Ewan, the dominant sprinter of his first Tour with three stage wins. Keeping with race tradition on its final day, the 155 riders who survived the Tour rode at a pedestrian pace and in a joyful atmosphere before hitting the Champs-Elysees. Bernal chatted with French rival Julian Alaphilippe and raised a glass of champagne as he rode.

At the finish, Bernal fell into the arms of his family.

"I cannot believe it. It's just incredible. I am sorry. I have no words," he said through a translator. "I still can't understand what is happening to me."

Tearful Colombians celebrated their new hero.

"When I saw that he won, I said, 'I need to go with my music to support him,'" said clarinet-playing Colombian fan Sebastian Cortes, who traveled from Strasbourg in eastern France for the celebration.

But millions of French fans who had lined the roads through east, central and southern France, and up into the thinning air of the Pyrenees and Alps, were ruing a

bittersweet Tour.

First, their hearts soared with fabulous racing from French riders Alaphilippe, who held the iconic yellow jersey for 14 days, and Thibaut Pinot, who won on the first of seven 6,500-foot-plus peaks scaled by the highest Tour in history.

But joy turned to sorrow when Alaphilippe and Pinot's prospects of becoming France's first winner since Hinault in 1985 were cruelly dashed just two days before the grand finale in Paris, on an epic Stage 19 where Mother Nature became a party-pooping guest. An almighty dump of torrential rain and hail severed the Tour route just as Bernal was succeeding in ripping the race lead off Alaphilippe, who'd clung to it like a kid with a favorite toy.

Alaphilippe, more than anyone, first ignited and then stoked what will long be remembered as a Tour of fireworks. With his goatee beard and can't-catch-me attacks that rivals couldn't match, Alaphilippe embodied "panache," the old-school class so cherished by Tour fans.

Alaphilippe's enterprise first put him in yellow in Champagne country on Stage 3 and then, after he lost the lead on Stage 6, got him the jersey back on Stage 8, which he held through the Pyrenees and into the Alps.

And it was there that Bernal, raised at altitude in Colombia and at home in thinner air, struck.

Baker football camp Aug. 19-22

The annual Baker football camp is set for Aug. 19-22. Youth camp, for grades 3-6, will be from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Middle school camp, for grades 7-8, will run from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

All grades will have camp on Aug. 22 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., followed by the Baker Quarterback Club barbecue at 6:30 p.m., which is open to the public.

A high school scrimmage will take place after the barbecue.

All events will be at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium.

Blazers sign Pau Gasol

PORTLAND (AP) — The Portland Trail Blazers have added six-time All-Star Pau Gasol to their roster.

President of basketball operations Neil Olshey announced Gasol's signing Thursday.

The 39-year-old Gasol has averaged 17.0 points, 9.2 rebounds and 3.2 assists over an 18-year career that has included stints with Memphis, the Lakers, Chicago, San Antonio and Milwaukee. He won two NBA titles with the Lakers.

Yankees top Red Sox to avoid 4-game sweep

By Jimmy Golen
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON — The visiting manager's office at Fenway Park pulsed like a Lansdowne Street nightclub, and the sound of players shouting could be heard through the closed door.

"Obviously, that's a happy room," manager Aaron Boone said after his New York Yankees beat the rival Red Sox 9-6 on Sunday night to avoid a four-game sweep that could have vaulted Boston back into the AL East race. "This was a good one, Yeah."

Didi Gregorius and Austin Romine each hit a two-run homer off Chris Sale, and Domingo Germán struck out nine for the Yankees, who had lost the first three games of the series by a combined score of 38-13 and saw their lead over Boston trimmed from 11 games to eight.

New York closer Aroldis Chapman inherited a 9-4 lead to start the ninth inning but allowed the Red Sox to cut the margin to three runs before striking out Michael Chavis to end the game.

"It definitely felt good to get this one," Boone said. "It's been a difficult weekend for us, you know."

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PGA TOUR: WORLD GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Koepka outduels McIlroy

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Brooks Koepka turned his final-round duel with Rory McIlroy into a runaway for his first World Golf Championships title.

Koepka had three birdies in a four-hole stretch on the front nine to take the lead and never trailed the rest of the way, closing with a 5-under 65 for a three-shot victory in the FedEx St. Jude Invitational.

With his third victory of the season, Koepka wraps up the regular-season points title a week early and claims a \$2 million bonus from the

Wyndham Rewards program. He is assured to go into the FedEx Cup playoffs as the No. 1 seed.

Koepka finished at 16-under 264 and earned \$1.745 million.

McIlroy, in his first final-round pairing with Koepka, didn't make a birdie until the 14th hole on the TPC Southwind and closed with a 71 to tie for fourth.

Webb Simpson had a 64 to finish second. Marc Leishman (67) was another shot back. Tommy Fleetwood (66) and Matthew Fitzpatrick (69) joined McIlroy at 11 under.

Koepka won for the seventh time on the PGA Tour, and he became the sixth player to win a major championship and a World Golf Championship in the same year. He won the PGA Championship for the second straight year in May, and was runner-up in the Masters and U.S. Open. He tied for fourth last week at the British Open.

He also had a pair of top 10s in this WGC when it was at Firestone, and he had a pair of top 3s at the TPC Southwind when it was the St. Jude Classic.

SCOREBOARD

BRIDGE

Baker Ladies Golf Association
July 24
1. Carol Stevens. 2. Kathy Eidsen. 3. Joan Colton

MAJOR LEAGUES

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
New York	67	38	.638	—
Tampa Bay	60	48	.556	8½
Boston	59	48	.551	9
Toronto	40	67	.374	28
Baltimore	35	70	.333	32
Central Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Minnesota	64	41	.610	—
Cleveland	62	43	.590	2
Chicago	46	57	.447	17
Kansas City	40	67	.374	25
Detroit	30	71	.297	32
West Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Houston	68	39	.636	—
Oakland	60	47	.561	8
Los Angeles	55	52	.514	13
Texas	53	53	.500	14½
Seattle	46	63	.422	23

Saturday's Games

Toronto 10, Tampa Bay 9, 12 innings
Boston 9, N.Y. Yankees 5
Seattle 8, Detroit 1
Chicago White Sox 5, Minnesota 1
Cleveland 9, Kansas City 1
Houston 8, St. Louis 2
Baltimore 8, L.A. Angels 7
Oakland 5, Texas 4

Sunday's Games

Tampa Bay 10, Toronto 9
Minnesota 11, Chicago White Sox 1
Houston 6, St. Louis 2
Kansas City 9, Cleveland 6
L.A. Angels 5, Baltimore 4
Oakland 6, Texas 5
Seattle 3, Detroit 2, 10 innings
N.Y. Yankees 9, Boston 6

Today's Games All Times PDT
Toronto (Pannone 2-4) at Kansas City (Keller

7-9), 5:15 p.m.
Detroit (Zimmermann 0-8) at L.A. Angels (Barria 4-3), 7:07 p.m.
Baltimore (TBD) at San Diego (Paddock 6-5), 7:10 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Baltimore (Eshelman 0-2) at San Diego (Lamet 0-2), 12:40 p.m.
Arizona (Clarke 3-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Happ 8-5), 4:05 p.m.
Houston (Verlander 13-4) at Cleveland (Bieber 10-3), 4:10 p.m.
Minnesota (Odriziz 11-5) at Miami (Gallen 1-2), 4:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay (TBD) at Boston (Price 7-4), 4:10 p.m.
Seattle (Leake 9-8) at Texas (Jurado 6-6), 5:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Syndergaard 7-5) at Chicago White Sox (Lopez 5-9), 5:10 p.m.
Toronto (Stroman 6-11) at Kansas City (Montgomery 1-3), 5:15 p.m.
Detroit (VerHagen 1-1) at L.A. Angels (Canning 3-6), 7:07 p.m.
Milwaukee (TBD) at Oakland (Bassitt 7-5), 7:07 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Atlanta	62	44	.585	—
Washington	56	49	.533	5½
Philadelphia	55	50	.524	6½
New York	50	55	.476	11½
Miami	40	63	.388	20½

Central Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Chicago	56	49	.533	—
St. Louis	56	49	.533	—
Milwaukee	56	51	.523	1
Cincinnati	48	55	.466	7
Pittsburgh	46	59	.438	10

West Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Los Angeles	69	38	.645	—
San Francisco	54	52	.509	14½
Arizona	53	53	.500	15½
San Diego	49	56	.467	19
Colorado	49	57	.462	19½

Saturday's Games
L.A. Dodgers 9, Washington 3

Arizona 9, Miami 2
Atlanta 15, Philadelphia 7
Cincinnati 3, Colorado 1
Milwaukee 5, Chicago Cubs 3, 10 innings
N.Y. Mets 3, Pittsburgh 0
Houston 8, St. Louis 2
San Diego 5, San Francisco 1

Sunday's Games

Philadelphia 9, Atlanta 4
Cincinnati 3, Colorado 2
Miami 5, Arizona 1
N.Y. Mets 8, Pittsburgh 7
Washington 11, L.A. Dodgers 4
Chicago Cubs 11, Milwaukee 4
Houston 6, St. Louis 2
San Francisco 7, San Diego 6

Today's Games All Times PDT

Atlanta (Keuchel 3-3) at Washington (Corbin 8-5), 4:05 p.m.
Arizona (Kelly 7-10) at Miami (Smith 6-4), 4:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Lyles 5-7) at Cincinnati (Gray 5-6), 4:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Maeda 7-7) at Colorado (Gray 9-7), 5:40 p.m.
Baltimore (TBD) at San Diego (Paddock 6-5), 7:10 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Baltimore (Eshelman 0-2) at San Diego (Lamet 0-2), 12:40 p.m.
Arizona (Clarke 3-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Happ 8-5), 4:05 p.m.
Atlanta (Teheran 5-7) at Washington (Scherzer 9-5), 4:05 p.m.
San Francisco (Beede 3-4) at Philadelphia (Shly 1-5), 4:05 p.m.
Minnesota (Odriziz 11-5) at Miami (Gallen 1-2), 4:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Musgrove 7-9) at Cincinnati (Roark 6-6), 4:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Syndergaard 7-5) at Chicago White Sox (Lopez 5-9), 5:10 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Darvish 3-4) at St. Louis (Wainwright 7-7), 5:15 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (TBD) at Colorado (Freeland 2-8), 5:40 p.m.
Milwaukee (TBD) at Oakland (Bassitt 7-5), 7:07 p.m.