



Race Riders Quote Sheet Compiled After Stage 7 of the Amgen Tour of California

George Bennett, Team LottoNL-Jumbo

“Today is really special. I had a few hours last night to let it sink in, and then it clicked over to business time, and we knew we had a job on our hands today, and we were up to the task. It’s really relieving to be over the line and still have this jersey on.”

(On his mentality before Stage 6 to now) “Before the time trial I didn’t have huge expectations of myself. I just went out and rode based on feeling, didn’t really worry about the power (meter) or anything like that. So it was disbelief at first, and then last night it turned into focus.”

(On his overall impression of this race and racing in California) “It’s a race all the riders look forward to. We used to think of coming to California as a holiday race, a fun, away from home time where you could sit and take it a bit easy, but now it has turned into a super-hard race and a really competitive race....You see a lot of big stars here now.”

Peter Sagan, BORA-hansgrohe

(On the race overall) “It’s a very nice race. Good weather, nice people and good stages. I’m very happy I got one stage. That’s very good for me....I got another green jersey, so I’m pretty satisfied with this Tour of California. Yes, we could have done more, but a race is a race, and everyone is different.”

Evan Huffman, Rally Cycling

(On the final sprint) “(David) Lopez didn’t take a single pull all day, so I knew he was going to go for it. With 2K left I swung out and decided I was going to sit on his wheel, and I knew that Rob (Britton) would keep it from completely stalling out and keep us going to the line. I got stuck on the front with Lopez. He was on the right side and I was on the left, and we just started sprinting really early and I was able to out muscle him.”

(On finding success in his home state) “It’s awesome. I think that’s part of why I was able to achieve such success. I was more relaxed the whole lead-up to the race, just at home training. I didn’t have to worry about traveling. It’s really cool to win here with so many friends and family here at the race and at home watching as well.”

Daniel Alexander Jaramillo, UnitedHealthcare Pro Cycling Team

“We already knew that we could keep the KOM jersey today, even if I didn’t score points. I still tried to go for it, but in the end I’m happy to win it.”

Lachlan Morton, Team Dimension Data

“Obviously it was disappointing yesterday having a mechanical issue. I had to pay back the team for all the work they did for me this week. I just let it hang out, and went to the finish which was pretty sweet....there was three from Rally (Cycling) there, and they’re probably three of the strongest domestic riders. I think they proved today they deserve a spot in this race.”

Kristin Klein, Amgen Tour of California president and executive vice president of AEG Sports

“First, congrats to George and all the riders. What an amazing week of racing. The overall course, the competition, and we couldn’t have asked for better weather. We’re really proud as we’ve reached a new level for our race as we’re part of the UCI WorldTour, which is the highest level of cycling. We owe a lot to our teams and our riders for continuing to make the Amgen Tour of California a priority....Not only do we have the best teams and riders, but every year we continue to not only have a competitive course, but also a compelling course.”

“Since 2006, AEG has been committed to this sport, not only from a men’s perspective but also from the women’s side. Last year was the first year for the women to be part of the WorldTour, and then this year for the men. We have to give a lot of credit to the teams and the riders, our partners, and of course the governing bodies, UCI and USA Cycling. Everybody has been involved with the growth of the Amgen Tour of California. We’re very proud but we don’t feel like we’re settled. We know we have so much more opportunity to continue to grow this race as well.”

About the Amgen Tour of California

The Amgen Tour of California is a Tour de France-style cycling road race created and presented by AEG that challenges the world's top professional cycling teams to compete along a demanding course that traverses hundreds of miles of California's iconic highways, byways and coastlines each spring. The teams chosen to participate include Olympic medalists, Tour de France contenders and World Champions. The Amgen Tour of California is part of the UCI WorldTour and awards important, world-ranking points to the top finishers. More information is available at amgentourofcalifornia.com.