



Race Riders Quote Sheet Compiled After Stage 4 of the Amgen Tour of California

Tejay van Garderen, BMC Racing Team

“It feels incredible. It’s been five years since I’ve been back to the (Amgen) Tour of California. It was my first major GC victory as a professional, so obviously, I have great memories. Last time I came here I was a new father, and today I was able to bring back my little girls on stage. Now I have two, and everyone got to see the little girl five years later. It’s an incredible feeling and an incredible experience, and I’m definitely going to savor it.”

“Tahoe is going to be a big test to the strength of the team, and I think we have one of, if not the, strongest team here. They’ll be able to control it, then when we get to the upper slopes of the final climb I’m going to have to stick with the climbers’ wheels. From what I understand the climb is not as demanding as what we saw on Gibraltar. The altitude might play a factor, but I’ve lived in Colorado and I was born in Montana. I’m no scrub when it comes to altitude, so I think I should be able to handle that okay. For sure there’s going to be loads of attacks from all the guys who want to take this jersey, but I think as far as motivation goes, I’m probably the most motivated guy to keep it.”

Patrick Bevin, BMC Racing Team

“One and two is a good ride for any team. Given this team’s performance in the time trials, it’s nice to get that result, and it’s nice to have Tejay in the jersey with what’s ahead, and we’ll work to keep that overall lead.”

On whether he was surprised Tejay beat him:

“Surprised? No. It’s a bike race. You cover the set distance as fast as you can, and you find out who did it the fastest on the day. It’s the second time trial now I’ve sat in the hot seat and finished second, so I can’t figure out if it’s better or worse when it’s a teammate. No, it’s nice, it’s a race of truth, and there’s no hiding out there. It’s great for the team to take the win, and now we fight for the overall.”

Tao Geoghegan Hart, Team Sky

“I’m happy with my ride. I had no idea how I’d do going into this. I had good legs, but I was just happy I’ve been able to ride my TT bike a little bit recently. It’s been pretty hard the last couple years to ever get time on it just with racing so much. So I guess this is a reflection of the three training rides I did in the past few weeks on that. It was a good course for me. It was pretty slow until the last 15k, just dragging uphill on gritty roads. I couldn’t really hear what the director said after the time split because there was a really fast downhill, so it was hard to hear the radio, but it sounded like a single number rather than a longer word, so I took that as a good sign. I just felt really good, and just tried to leave as much as I could in that last 10k. Maybe I had a bit too much left, but that’s better than the other way around.”