

### Stage Classement

- 1.Niccolo Bonifazio
- 2.Lorenzo Manzin
- 3.André Greipel

### Stage 1

**Bongoville**  
→ Moanda

**100 km**



### General Classement

- 1.Niccolo Bonifazio
- 2.Tesfom Sirak
- 3.Didier Munyaneza

## NICCOLO BONIFAZIO WINS BUNCH SPRINT

**19**

The stage victories of Jean-René Bernaudeau's riders since 2008 on the Tropicale

**5**

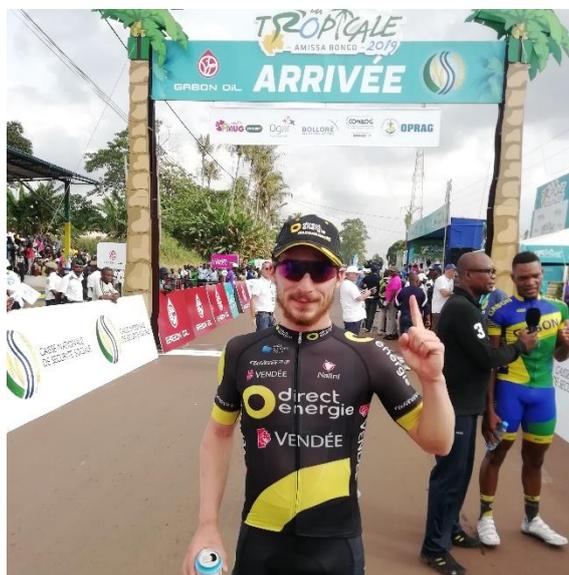
The number of Africans ranked today in the top 10 of the stage

The Italian Niccolo Bonifazio did not miss the first opportunity offered to the sprinters by winning today in Moanda ahead of the French Lorenzo Manzin (Vital Concept-B & B Hotels) and André Greipel (Arkéa-Samsic). The German, who was the great favorite of the day with his 36 years and his experience (155 victories since the beginning of his career) has not taken advantage of the work done by his teammates during the last twenty kilometers. Arkéa-Samsic riders have controled alongside South African Pro Touch Team all the day the breakaway of three riders, Eritrean Sirak Tesfom, Moroccan Mohamed Tasmana and Rwandan Didier Munyaneza. The three riders had never been able to increase their lead by more than 2'50".

Once picked up 18 kilometers from the finish, André Greipel's team-mates had accelerated their pace even more for their leader, but it was finally Niccolo Bonifazio, 26, who was fastest on the line. The Italian, who had never raced the Tropicale Amissa Bongo, will wear the first yellow jersey of the 14th edition tomorrow.

### Niccolo BONIFAZIO (the stage winner) :

« It's a great victory to start my new adventure with the Direct Energie team. My teammates worked very well, we waited for the last moments to really start the sprint. The stage had been hard before with heat. It is a great satisfaction to win here in Gabon. »



## The analysis of Bernard Hinault

« It was necessary to play very tight today and especially to be very smart. It is not those who worked the most who won but those who waited for the right time to take out their card. With this heat, it was not necessary to show his strength right away, as perhaps André Greipel's guys did a little too much. Jean-René Bernaudeau's men have more experience on the roads of Gabon. It worked !»

### The story of the day

**Daniel Teklehaimanot** was returning to Gabon for the first time with his national colors of Eritrea since 2011. He is still looking for a new professional team.

### About the winner

**Birthday : 29-10-1993**

**Italy**

**Team : Direct Energie**

**Professionnal since : 2013**

Tropicale : 1<sup>st</sup> participation

Tour of Croatia : 1 stage (2018)

Tour of Poland : 1 stage (2016)

Milan-San Remo : 5<sup>th</sup> (2015)

### Tomorrow

**2<sup>nd</sup> stage**

Franceville -

Okandja

169 km