

Stage Classement

1. Niccolo Bonifazio
2. André Greipel
3. B. Uwizeyimana

General Classement

1. Niccolo Bonifazio
2. Tesfom Sirak
3. André Greipel

19

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

3

3rd time that a rider wins the first 2 stages of the Tropicale after Palini (2016) and Chtioui (2015)

Niccolo BONIFAZIO (the stage winner) :

« I suffered a lot at the beginning of the stage because of an upset stomach. I think I drank too much ice water. But fortunately the doctors of the race relieved me and I felt better afterwards. Before the sprint, I stayed in the wheel of Greipel because I knew he would want to catch up after his defeat yesterday. But I was still the fastest today. »



Stage 2

Franceville
→ Okondja

169 km

THE DOUBLE FOR NICCOLO BONIFAZIO

After his victory yesterday in Moanda, the Italian Niccolo Bonifazio renewed his performance by winning for the second time consecutively. As the day before, he won this new trophy in sprint ahead André Greipel, the German of the team Arkéa-Samsic who has not yet managed to find the opportunity when he was presented like the great favorite of the sprints in Gabon. « I made some mistakes, he explained, but I feel I'm on the right track. The benchmarks with my team-mates are beginning to take shape. » The other sprinter Niccolo Bonifazio did not wait so long with his new team Direct Energie to win his first successes. The Italian has also benefited from the experience of his manager Jean-René Bernaudeau who knows the roads of Gabon perfectly with his team present at the Tropicale Amissa Bongo since 2008. The winner of the day is in full confidence after his difficult start stage today where he found himself in trouble, dropped into a second group behind the pack because of stomach problems. His courage allowed him to come back among the first riders of the bunch before following the rhythm of his teammates until the arrival where awaited a new success. He consolidated his yellow jersey leader.



The analysis of Bernard Hinault

« We saw today a very aggressive first hour racing because each team wanted to place riders in the breakaways. None of them had to leave before a good time and the daring who managed to escape did not get along too well. The sprinters teams have collaborated more today and the peloton managed to come back on them in the last kilometers. Bonifazio was still the fastest but also the smartest. He is also the most confident. »

The story of the day

The exclusion of the Italian Matteo Spreafico and his sport director Giovanni Ellena of the team Andron-Giocattoli. The reason ? A rule violation that prohibits a rider from clinging to the car of his team.

About the winner

Birthday : 29-10-1993

Italy

Team : Direct Energie

Professional since : 2013

Tropicale : 1st participation

Tour of Croatia : 1 stage (2018)

Tour of Poland : 1 stage (2016)

Milan-San Remo : 5th (2015)

Tomorrow

4th stage

Mitzi-Oyem

122 km