



Tim in KY Gdl Stage 2 is a hefty 221 kilometers from stage 1's finish town, Burgas, west into central Bulgaria to an uphill finish at Veliko Tarnovo.

05-08-2026
04:08:13 pm



Tim in KY <https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1778271230-GI%2026%20stage-2-route.jpg>

05-08-2026
04:08:51 pm



Tim in KY The first half of the route is mostly flat. The second half is lumpy with three of the lumps being Cat 3s. The last Cat 3 crests 10 kilometers from the finish. The last two km are back up hill and partly cobbled.

05-08-2026
04:09:44 pm



Tim in KY <https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1778271313-GI%2026%20stage-2-profile.jpg>

05-08-2026
04:10:15 pm



Tim in KY <https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1778271366-GI%2026%20stage-2-profile-finale.jpg>

05-08-2026
04:11:08 pm



Tim in KY [https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1778271414-stage-2-route-finale%20\(1\).jpg](https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1778271414-stage-2-route-finale%20(1).jpg)

05-08-2026
04:11:55 pm



Tim in KY Kilometer zero is scheduled for 12:05 EEST. Live stream from before the start. Finish is imagined either side of 17:15. Forecast is for temps in the upper teens and a good chance of rain as the route moves inland.

05-08-2026
04:12:59 pm



Trish in MA Greetings from Melbourne and the MCG where we are watching a Collingwood Magpies (the good guys) vs the Geelong Cats (boo) footy game. 80000 fans. Go Pies!

05-09-2026
05:26:48 am



Trish in MA <https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1778319215-1778318915927.jpeg>

05-09-2026
05:28:41 am

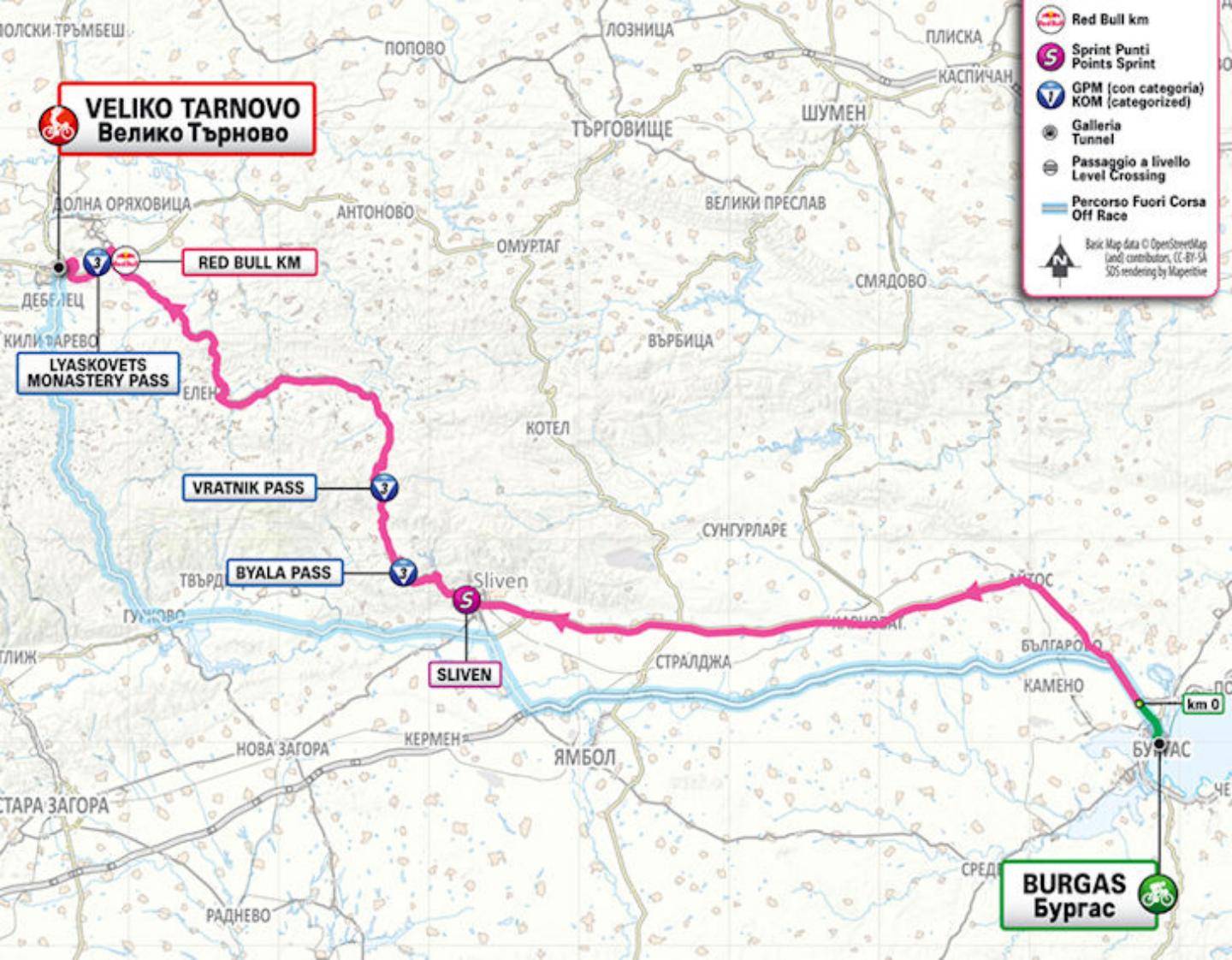


Tim in KY 60 km into the stage the paint continues to dry. The rider who finished last yesterday DNS today. Crash related I assume.

05-09-2026
06:45:10 am

Tim in KY What does Trish have against Geelong?

05-09-2026



VELIKO TARNOVO Велико Търново

RED BULL KM

LYASKOVETS
MONASTERY PASS

VRATNIK PASS

BYALA PASS

SLIVEN

BURGAS
Бургас

- Red Bull km
 - Sprint Punti Points Sprint
 - GPM (con categoria) KOM (categorized)
 - Galleria Tunnel
 - Passaggio a livello Level Crossing
 - Percorso Fuori Corsa Off Race
- Basic Map data © OpenStreetMap
Land contributors, CC-BY-SA
SOS rendering by Mapester

52- BURGAS (Бургас)

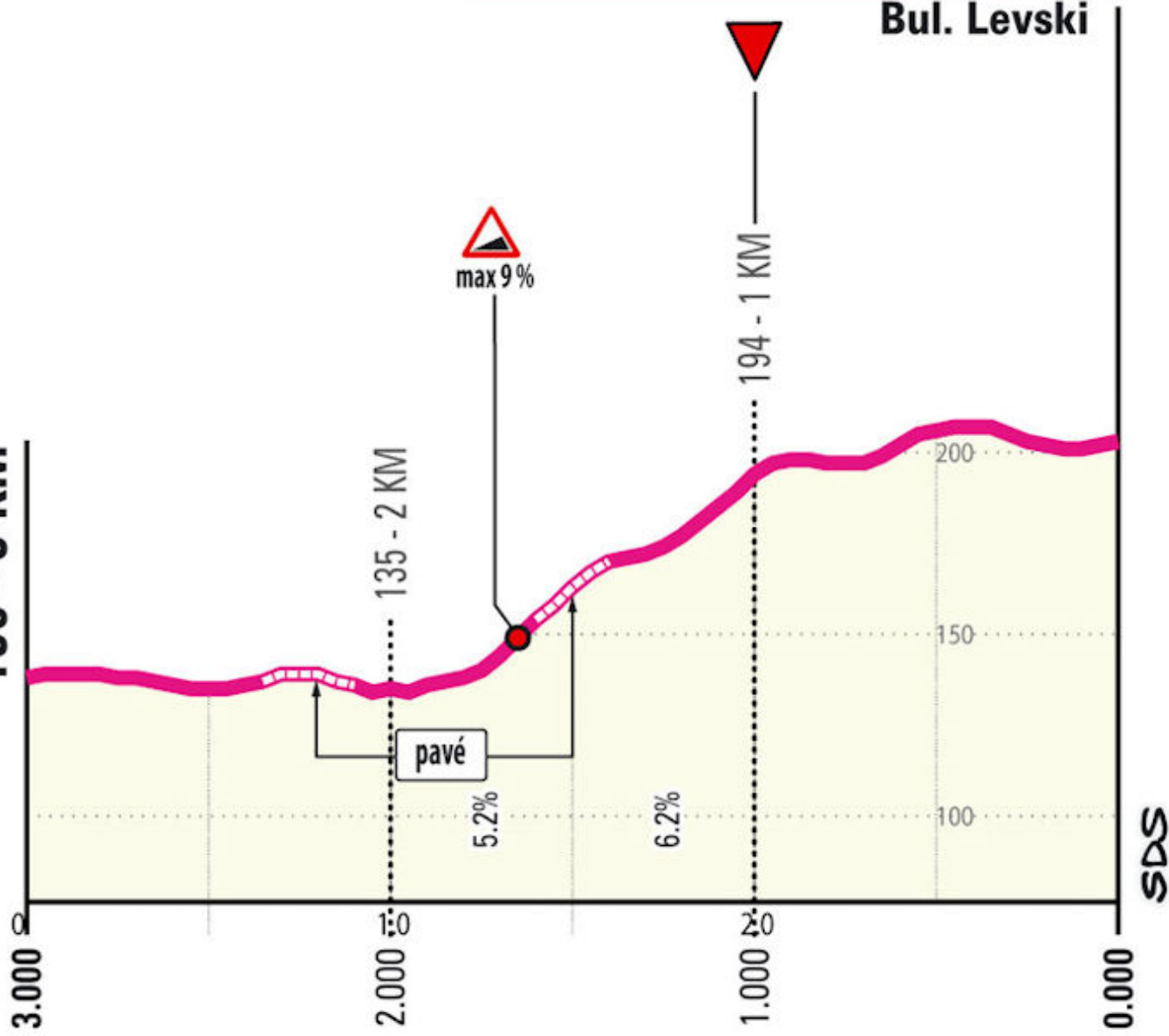


SOS

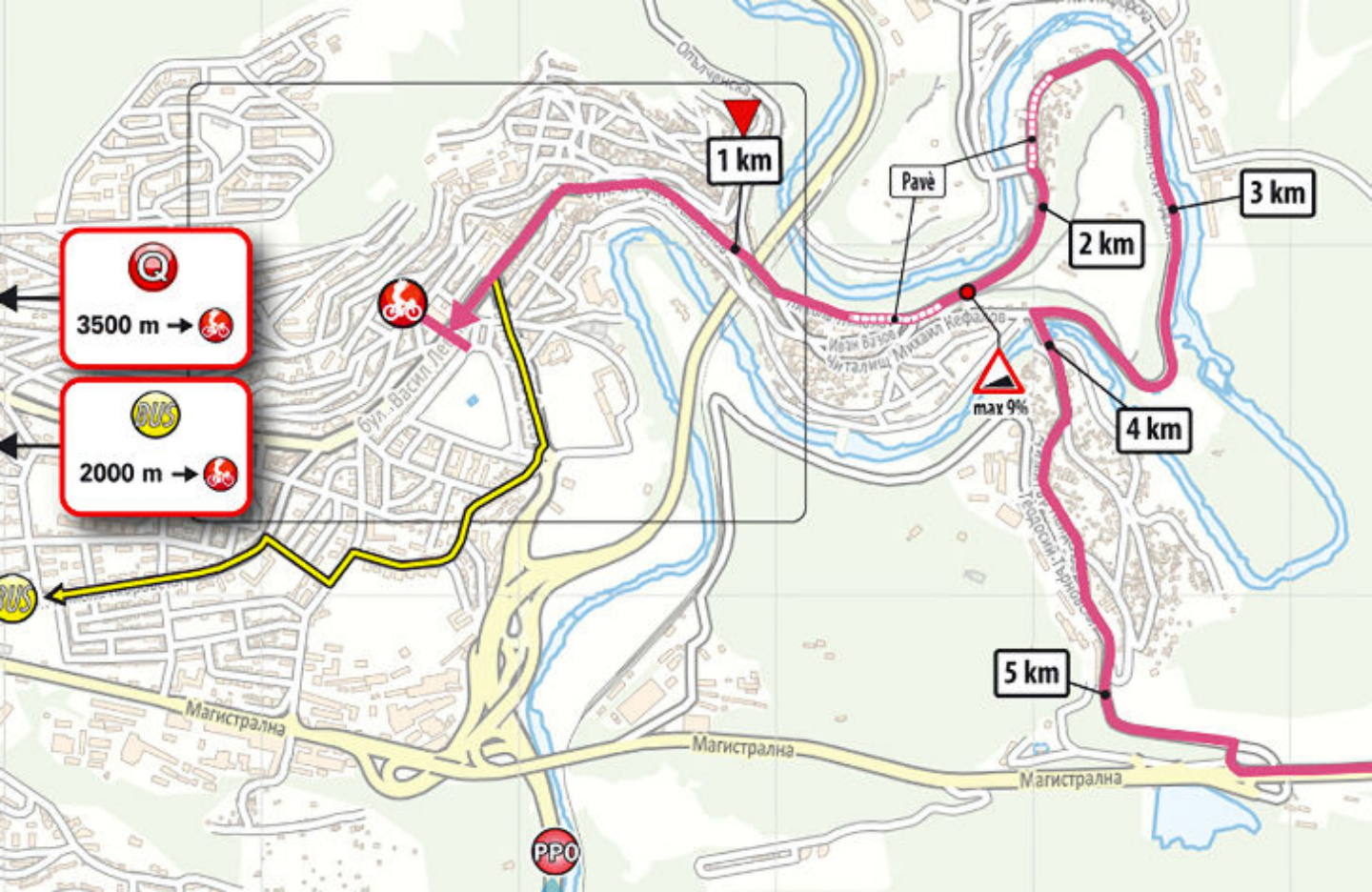
197 - VELIKO TARNOVO (Велико Търново)

138 - 3 KM

Bul. Levski



SDS



1 km

Павè

2 km

3 km

4 km

5 km

3500 m →

2000 m →

Магистрална

Магистрална

Магистрална

PPO

Бул. Васил Левски

Меж Вазов
Чуталищ Михаил Кюфаров

Училищ Терзиев

Опълченска





BusterSci Hi all. It's been a year so far. It wasn't until about 15 minutes ago that I remembered the Pub even existed. Today is fishing season opener here in the north country so I'll be trying to catch delicious walleyes instead of hanging here, but I'll pop in early the next few days and probably a bit more as of Wednesday.

05-09-2026
06:58:17 am



Trish in MA The Geelong Cats are a traditional rival of the Collingwood Magpies. It's like a Yankees/Red sox atmosphere only with 80,000 crazy Aussies.

05-09-2026
07:03:16 am



BusterSci I sense redundancy at the end there.

05-09-2026
07:04:26 am



Trish in MA Wer watching Australian Rules Football , known as Footy

05-09-2026
07:04:56 am



Tim in KY Rain chances at the finish have decreased significantly. But not to zero. 33% right now.

05-09-2026
07:37:14 am



Tim in KY The reason they can get 80,000 fans at that game is that Collingwood and Geelong are both suburbs of Melbourne so it's essentially a home game for both.

05-09-2026
07:38:43 am



Trish in MA It's a home game for Geelong because their home stadium only holds 40K so they always hold this game at the MCG. How's the race in Italy? This game is a disaster for the Pies

05-09-2026
07:43:11 am



Tim in KY The race "in Italy" is in Bulgaria this weekend and it's three days of drying paint.

05-09-2026
07:48:15 am



Tim in KY Sprinkling just enough to make the road slippery.

05-09-2026
08:37:54 am



Bikerabe La Vuelta Femiminine has finished on Angliru Swiss rider wins last stage Stiasny and 23 yo Paula Blasi is second aqnd wins overal by a Spaniard.

05-09-2026
08:48:56 am



Tim in KY Real rain now.

05-09-2026
09:20:01 am



SFinAus Hiya and good morning

05-09-2026
09:28:08 am



Katie S Good morning! Despite adding a team to our VG league, I managed to forget the race started yesterday. And then here I am late today. Great to be here with you.

05-09-2026
09:28:30 am



Tim in KY Hi, Sean and Katie.

05-09-2026
09:28:44 am



Tim in KY Trish, do you have ties to Aussie?

05-09-2026
09:29:18 am



Tim in KY Paint drying, rain not.

05-09-2026
09:30:18 am



Trish in MA Well, back from footy game for it was not a good night at all for the Pies. I had never realized that most of the footy teams are close suburbs of Melbourne. Geelong is a rarity because it is over an hour away

05-09-2026
09:30:47 am



Tim in KY Perth has a footy team and it's a couple thousand miles away.

05-09-2026
09:31:58 am



PasadenaK8 🙌

05-09-2026
09:34:25 am



Tim in KY Hi, K8.

05-09-2026
09:34:46 am



Katie S So this is Bulgarian, huh? Been there, briefly, a stop in a riverboat cruise from Bucharest to Budapest.

05-09-2026
09:35:57 am



Katie S Bulgaria. I don't know if there are any actual Bulgarians in the race

05-09-2026
09:36:25 am



SFinAus Hi k8

05-09-2026
09:36:36 am



Tim in KY I only know Vulgarians.

05-09-2026
09:36:50 am



PasadenaK8 Some of the heli-shots yesterday, that were out along the coast, were beautiful.

05-09-2026
09:37:48 am



Trish in MA Tim, my sister and her husband live in Melbourne, so we've been visiting them for the past 2 weeks. I'll find a picture of the Penguin Parade we saw down in Phillip Island. Penguins suddenly appearing from the ocean, gathering in small clumps, and then scurrying across the sand to their burrows.

05-09-2026
09:39:35 am



PasadenaK8 How were the mountains today?

05-09-2026
09:40:33 am



SFinAus An actual penguin parade and not a human one in honor of penguins. That's cool.

05-09-2026
09:40:58 am



Tim in KY My wife's mother is from Perth, Trish.. She was a war bride in 1945 and turns 105 next month.

05-09-2026
09:41:06 am



Tim in KY K8, the mountains were wet and forested.

05-09-2026
09:41:59 am



PasadenaK8 Thx. Will have to scrub thru to those parts later *;-)

05-09-2026
09:42:52 am



Trish in MA Not allowed to take photos of the penguins, because the flashes and phone lights screw up their sight. Here's a link to photos provided by the Foundation: <https://www.penguins.org.au/attractions/penguin-parade/photo-gallery>

05-09-2026
09:42:54 am



SFinAus Cute li'l buggers.

05-09-2026
09:43:55 am



Tim in KY Blue penquin?

05-09-2026
09:44:02 am



Trish in MA Little Penguins are the only blue and white penguins in the world. Excellent camouflage, since they are tasty little morsels.

05-09-2026
09:46:55 am



Tim in KY I've never even heard of blue ones.

05-09-2026
09:47:41 am



Tim in KY The break about 25 minutes slower than the slowest imaginable...

05-09-2026
09:50:15 am



PasadenaK8 Unfortunately, it's a pop-in-pop-out kind of day today for me. Committee "bored" meeting about to start. Hope to be here

05-09-2026
09:57:34 am

tomorrow before they hit the Borvets Pass. (Been a bit rough adjusting to the early Giro times. Been a night owl lately). Enjoy the rest of the stage 🙌



SFinAus The peloton seems content to let Mullen from NSN sit on the front do all the donkey work until they see fit to close the gap. Not a fun day for him to sit there while they pass the time. Bye K8.

05-09-2026
09:58:30 am



Tim in KY Interesting looking finish town.

05-09-2026
10:04:10 am



Trish in MA And it's midnight here in Oz, so I'm going off to sleep and hoping for no rain-induced crashes. Will likely miss the next few days between doing stuff and flying back to the States. Enjoy the rest of the stage.

05-09-2026
10:04:16 am



SFinAus Good night.

05-09-2026
10:05:00 am



Katie S Sleep well! Have fun! Safe tesvels. See you back in the Pub when you're back in this hemisphere

05-09-2026
10:05:04 am



Katie S Travels. WTH is a "tesvel"?

05-09-2026
10:05:54 am



Tim in KY Rain appears to have stopped.

05-09-2026
10:06:15 am



Tim in KY And then it didn't.

05-09-2026
10:07:50 am



SFinAus Peloton has awoken for sure.

05-09-2026
10:08:00 am



Katie S It's appropriate that this is a paint-drying stage. I am experiencing a concrete drying stage after having had our basement excavated and concreted in. But it's much warmer in our basement than out here on the road in Bulgaria. When I went to check on it last night, it was 78° and steamy in the basement. I had no idea that concrete put off that much heat as it did its thing.

05-09-2026
10:09:18 am

















SFinAus No bonus Red Bull \$s for the brave, brave, break.

05-09-2026
10:11:37 am



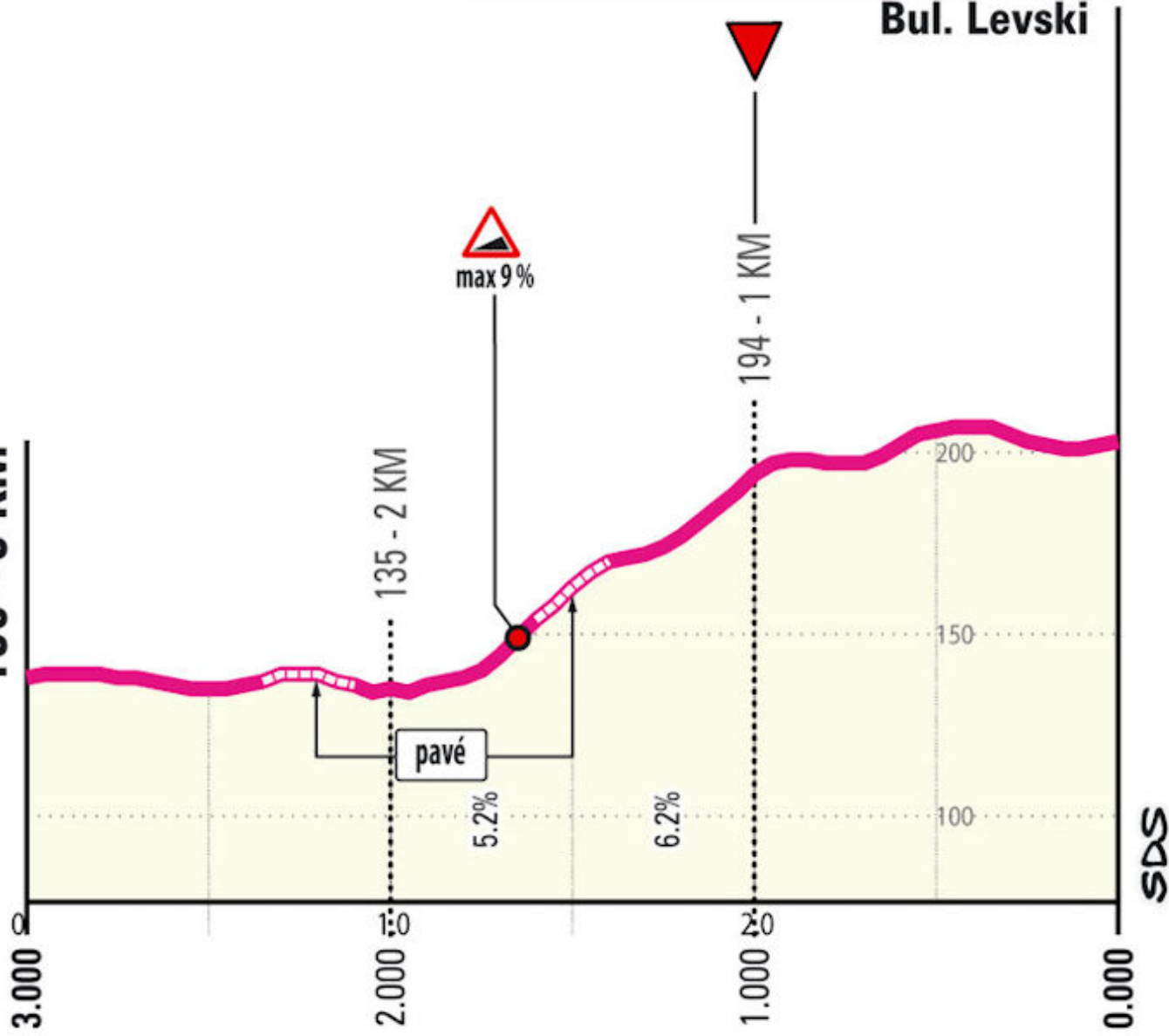
Tim in KY Concrete usually doesn't set up in a closed space so the heat isn't as noticable.

05-09-2026
10:14:15 am

-  **SFinaus** Yeah, I shoveled and worked around a lot of concrete in summer construction jobs while an undergrad. Very exothermic process. That sounds like a massive project, Katie. Yikes. 05-09-2026 10:15:04 am
-
-  **Carlene in NH** morning all! I'm just now joining, and my HBO Max connection is on the fritz. 05-09-2026 10:16:08 am
-
-  **Katie S** Crash 05-09-2026 10:17:41 am
-
-  **Tim in KY** Ugly. 05-09-2026 10:17:51 am
-
-  **Tim in KY** Really ugly! 05-09-2026 10:20:38 am
-
-  **SFinaus** Yes, so many down and in bad shape. 05-09-2026 10:21:04 am
-
-  **SFinaus** Neutralized for the moment. 05-09-2026 10:23:51 am
-
-  **Katie S** Bernal gets the sprint (!!!) 05-09-2026 10:30:09 am
-
-  **SFinaus** That replay was pretty horrid. I don't ride on wet or damp roads and I'm _slow_. I don't know how these guys race 05-09-2026 10:30:28 am
-
-  **Carlene in NH** They're young. They're fit. They're mad. 05-09-2026 10:34:07 am
-
-  **Tim in KY** <https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1778338007-GI%2026%20stage-2-profile-finale.jpg> 05-09-2026 10:41:49 am
-
-  **Tim in KY** Big puddles. 05-09-2026 10:46:16 am
-
-  **Toulouse** The race is hotter than Katie's concrete. 05-09-2026 10:49:28 am
-
-  **SFinaus** Heh. I didn't realize the hounds were on the heels of the first 3 05-09-2026 10:50:23 am

138 - 3 KM

Bul. Levski





SFinAus Caught at 500m

05-09-2026
10:51:10 am



Carlene in NH Amazing finish!

05-09-2026
10:51:24 am



Katie S Haha, Toulouse!

05-09-2026
10:52:07 am



SFinAus Yes it was.

05-09-2026
10:52:18 am



Toulouse "Uruguan" doesn't roll easily off the ontgue, but good on 'im.

05-09-2026
10:53:30 am



Toulouse tongue

05-09-2026
10:53:34 am



Toulouse Oh, and I suppose there's a Y in there too.

05-09-2026
10:53:57 am



Katie S Enjoy the day, all! I'm off to fetch the niece and then the mom and then drive south to meet the brother for his birthday lunch

05-09-2026
10:55:12 am



Toulouse Have fun!

05-09-2026
10:55:32 am



Katie S Thanks!

05-09-2026
10:56:03 am



SFinAus Have a good day everyone.

05-09-2026
10:56:20 am



Carlene in NH you too! Enjoy the day!

05-09-2026
10:56:31 am