



**Tim in KY**

standings

04-21-2018 04:55:42



**BusterSci**

The break: Florian Vachon (Fortuneo-Samsic), Jérôme Baugnies (Wanty-Groupe Gobert), Loïc Vliegen (BMC), Anthony Perez (Cofidis), Mark Christian, Casper Pedersen (Aqua Blue Sport), Paul Ourselin (Direct Énergie), Antoine Warnier (WB Aqua Protect Veranclassic) and Mathias Van Gompel (Sport Vlaanderen-Baloise).

183km to go, 5:40 the gap.

04-22-2018 06:31:33



**Tim in KY**

Never heard of 'em.

04-22-2018 06:47:55



**BusterSci**

Me neither. Doing other things for a bit while I wait for real things to happen here.

04-22-2018 06:53:44



**Tim in KY**

Moi, aussi.

04-22-2018 06:58:11



**Joanna in New York**

Hi and Bye! Have a great day everyone! Enjoy the Spring Classics Finale! Jo

04-22-2018 07:21:47



**Tim in KY**

H&G, Jo.

137 km to go. Gap is 4:30.

04-22-2018 07:31:29



**Mons Soseman**

Is Jo leaving? Has Jo left?  
Good morning everyone.

04-22-2018 07:35:33



**Tim in KY**

Thunderstorms at the finish. What larks.

Good morning.

With about 35 km to go, the route climbs the Cote de La Redoute. Same hill came early in FW on Wednesday.

04-22-2018 07:35:56



**BusterSci**

Ok, I think I'm mostly back

04-22-2018 07:46:05



**Dr. Evil**

Morning all!

04-22-2018 07:50:57



**BusterSci**

Doc Evil, I thought you'd be at Mini-Me's funeral.

04-22-2018 07:51:34



**Dr. Evil**

04-22-2018 07:52:28

I'm just checking in on my phone.  
Can't find video yet.



**Mons Soseman**

04-22-2018 07:53:01

So is it that close to the end already?  
I am preparing something, to leave for posterity, I suppose.



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 07:54:06

You've got at least 3 hours.



**Dr. Evil**

04-22-2018 07:54:14

No, it's a ways from the finish!



**Tim in KY**

04-22-2018 07:54:28

118 km to go.



**Dr. Evil**

04-22-2018 07:54:50

A Mons essay doesn't need to be rushed!



**Mons Soseman**

04-22-2018 07:55:11

Oh, above Tim meant 135 km to go? LOL  
Coming from someone called "Dr. Evil" I am not sure how to repond to that. Actually, I start my busy morning in a few minutes, so it does have to be rushed this morn. :)  
Ciao Maite



**Tim in KY**

04-22-2018 07:56:16

No, Mons, that redundant climb come with 35 km to go.



**Mons Soseman**

04-22-2018 07:56:29

Got you. Thanks Tim



**Dr. Evil**

04-22-2018 07:57:41

Looks like no live stream for another 30 mins. Time to make breakfast!



**Maite Jaureguizar**

04-22-2018 07:58:55

Morning, All. General elections today, so I'll be in here once in a while. Nd to make things more l interesting, 4 female cats getting spayed. Readying their sleeping area for when they get back.



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 08:05:35

Gold coming up



**Tim in KY**

It is up.

04-22-2018 08:07:00



**Mons Soseman**

04-22-2018 08:11:36

I am going to post something and see if it works, paragraph by paragraph... Otherwise, the jpg becomes just a part of the photo archive...

La Doyenne. The Liège–Bastogne–Liège, held for the first time in 1892, and 104 times since then, is sometimes known by this title. La Doyenne. I cringed, absolutely cringed, when I saw this translated on Wikipedia as "the old lady." Indeed? Doyenne means much more than that. Perhaps in English we could best translate it by using another term from French, the Grand Dame.

Perhaps the best translation, one which also has relevance in sports related English, is to say that Doyenne is the female form of "Dean." The race originally ran from Spa to Bastogne to Spa, which is actually on the race route many years, but always seems to have had a length of about 250 km. I suspect that the route left Spa, reached Bastogne, arched up through Liege, and returned to Spa. That, however, is rampant speculation. Spa, you say? Couldn't they be more original with a name than that? The city of "Spa," though, is the original. Years ago, in the mid 1990s, I was visiting friends in Brussels. I was a young priest, and they, although not weekly congregants, were very excited, almost in awe, to be having Holy Mass in their home. Then, the mother of the family got an excited look. "Could we use Spa water for Mass?" she asked. "Certainly," I said. In Belgium, a place where bottled water is quite common, Spa water is highly prized, and somewhat expensive. Since I was in college I had stayed with that family many times, and had never been served the Spa water. She then explained that Spa water was bubbly, naturally effervescent the salesmen would say now, because of the high mineral content. I responded that as long as it was natural, it was still water, even with minerals. I didn't know how much. As I poured the drop of water into the wine in the chalice at the Offertory, it bubbled up inside. Spa water is really bubbly.

Real Belgians are also Bubbly. At an art opening I was attending in college (the artist was the father of the family, my friends), I met a woman, and asked her in my stupid college way "Are you French or Flemish?" She, God bless her, responded "I am Belgian." The LBL races through the Ardennes, thoroughly in the Walloon area of Belgium, is definitely Belgian. Sometimes even the Belgians are not even sure what that means, but challenge them on it, or have the national team win a crucial game, and they definitely wave the Belgian flag. They are pleased neither to be subject to the Orange throne of Holland, or of the Grand Duke, or of the French to the south.

They complain about their own king, often, until it seems as if the monarchy might be threatened, and then they rally around. They speak Walloon and Flemish to each other, but when they speak with the world, it is Dutch and French, and actually German as a third national language, because of a few thousand in the northwest. Challenge them, and they always come through with an offbeat sense of humor, a keen desire to be accommodating, and a true pride of being Belgian, or "Belgium" as the style was until about 75 years ago. Think Poirot, but a bit more bubbly.

Kind of like the Lugnuts Nut Pub group. A vestige of something much greater, sometime recalling the old, glory days, when we were led by real pros. We're not always sure exactly who we are, unless questioned, and then we hang together. and Penguins. Don't forget the penguins. That Sidney Crosby may turn it around yet. Enjoy the Liège–Bastogne–Liège. Enjoy the day.



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 08:15:16

Sorry, Charles. I deleted your hello post to keep Mons' essay uninterrupted.

Anna van der Breggen wins the women's race. Boels-Dolmans is the Quick-Step of the women's peloton. Or is it the other way around?



**Mons Soseman**

04-22-2018 08:18:37

//rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1524399804-Liege.jpg

did that come out OK? Sorry for any typos, as I am rushed. If you could message me with any comments, I also have just posted the "traditional" format.



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 08:19:38

The essay so nice he posted it twice! All came out good.



**Tim in KY**

04-22-2018 08:20:03

As far as consistency, Buster, I think it's the other way around.



**Mons Soseman**

04-22-2018 08:20:07

I can sway you with penguin talk, every time



**Tim in KY**

04-22-2018 08:21:23

3 KU to go.



**Charles Davis**

04-22-2018 08:22:00

Interesting. Thanks Mons.



**Mons Soseman**

04-22-2018 08:22:06

The essay as a picture works OK, live, but then it is archived with the photos, rather than appearing in the text, so anyone reading through race coverage later misses it. Since the crowd here is so much smaller, I have debated not doing anything, but because we are friends, I like to afflict you. :)  
3 KU is my call to do other things. I will check in on the coverage here and there, and thanks to all of you for providing it!



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 08:23:18

I tend to agree, Tim. They're so dominant. Maybe best to compare them to the UConn Huskies women's Basketball team.  
Mons, glad to see the essay.



**Mons Soseman**

04-22-2018 08:24:32

Quick Step is always exciting. Even their Soccer team is exciting. :)



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 08:25:18

Their floors are boring though. They just lay there.



**Mons Soseman**

04-22-2018 08:26:27

So wooden



**Tim in KY**

04-22-2018 08:26:55

Alberto Bettiol of BMC has abandon after a crash, apparently involving a spectator.



**Mons Soseman**

04-22-2018 08:27:30

Darn it, I had him on my squad. He is a nice kid. HIs parents are nice too...  
He was with p/b Cannodale last year  
#rideformerlyargyle

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Enjoy the Liège–Bastogne–Liège. Enjoy the day.

 **BusterSci**

04-22-2018 08:28:47

Nice

When we were little (my brothers and I) we called the pattern "gargoyle." We had gargoyle socks and gargoyle sweaters. I think somebody on the team needs to get the nickname "The Argyle Gargoyle."

 **Tim in KY**

04-22-2018 08:32:36

Off to church.

 **Marc @ Toad Hall**

04-22-2018 08:38:17

Is the break still composed of those guys in your first post, Buster?

 **BusterSci**

04-22-2018 08:44:13

Far as I can tell

There appears to be a lone chaser as well.

I don't have the volume on because Frau is still sleeping and the speakers are in the wall that divides the bedroom from the living room. So I see, but don't hear.

Florian Vachon (Fortuneo-Samsic), Jérôme Baugnies (Wanty-Groupe Gobert), Loïc Vliegen (BMC), Anthony Perez (Cofidis), Mark Christian, Casper Pedersen (Aqua Blue Sport) and Paul Ourselin (Direct Énergie). Van Gompel is the rider chasing the break, which is why the break is 7 strong instead of 8.

 **Marc @ Toad Hall**

04-22-2018 08:47:19

Thanks, but these unknowns don't have a chance once Valverde and the QS gang get going.

 **Dr. Evil**

04-22-2018 08:48:55

Pederson took a mountain prime and kept going.

 **Charles Davis**

04-22-2018 08:49:35

The break is breaking up. Pederen is out front trying to win hilltop points for Aqua Blue. The other are spread out behind him.

 **BusterSci**

04-22-2018 08:49:51

Marc, I would argue with you vociferously if I could just find a single salient point to make in opposition.

 **Dr. Evil**

04-22-2018 08:52:43

And the climb HURTS. Pederson caught by the break.  
Lots of attacks out the back of the peloton

 **Marc @ Toad Hall**

04-22-2018 09:02:54

Must say gold provides damned fine video, but I almost miss some of the Eurosport commercials.  
And, Buster, you are allowed to argue on your own time.

 **BusterSci**

04-22-2018 09:05:36

My Favorite Martin (Dan) must think he can win this, what with all the time UAE is spending on the front.



**Marc @ Toad Hall**

04-22-2018 09:10:02

DM is a force to be respected, though he hasn't had his chance to shine yet this yer.  
2 KUs.

The territory looks like my neighborhood; lovely weather too.



**Dr. Evil**

04-22-2018 09:30:00

Will any team launch someone up the road on the next climb? Too big of a group still together



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 09:32:05

I'm classic'd out. I'm trying to contribute, but it just isn't in me.



**Marc @ Toad Hall**

04-22-2018 09:34:25

Who can blame you? Lots of hours, and very little to get snarky about. Did anybody else catch Andrew Hood's suggestion about brightening up this final classic?



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 09:38:46

Just read it. I'm generally for change. I support him



**Charles Davis**

04-22-2018 09:39:06

To move the finish? I think it would be a good idea.

Fw was the most exciting that it has been for years but it is still a wait for the finish. LBL could benefit from some earlier attacks.

One of the members of the break just got absorbed and possibly took a short cut. The Sean Kelly thinks he may have gotten lost and took a wrong turn.

He was between the break and the pack and just kinda appeared on the right of the pack. Commentators not sure.

Danny Navarro in a crash.



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 09:47:11

I think there are iconic finishes that shouldn't change. The chase of the Poggio, The Mur, The velodrome. But we don't need two of any of them. I suspect some races have tried to chase an iconic finish by mimicking others.



**Marc @ Toad Hall**

04-22-2018 09:49:02

Agreed, Buster. The races should not compete with each other. Except for the Giro and ATOC, they don't overlap.



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 09:54:22

One man off alone in front

Sherwin is so much more palatable when Phil isn't around.



**Charles Davis**

04-22-2018 09:56:31

The big names are at the front of the pack.

I always liked Sherwin.



**Marc @ Toad Hall**

04-22-2018 09:57:23

Perhaps more nuts (the smart ones) will tune in just for the last KU.



**Mons Soseman**

04-22-2018 09:58:34

Normally I post on my facebook, twitter, etc. whenever the nuts are meeting, but haven't done that this year. If we all did that, it might bump up the lower margin  
Any 30 second update before I am off to my next Mass (and Baptism)?



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 09:59:21

Break has 1:22 at 36.5km  
Dullest classic of the season  
MSR was more exciting for the first 200km



**Marc @ Toad Hall**

04-22-2018 10:00:29

Trying to imagine riding 250k on a 19th-Century bike.



**Mons Soseman**

04-22-2018 10:00:41

Ciao for now. Hasta il Giro, Israel



**Kim Crosby**

04-22-2018 10:02:16

Good morning! Loved the essay Mons!



**Charles Davis**

04-22-2018 10:02:29

Everyone quiet today. The race has not helped.



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 10:03:10

Then try to imagine the 560km of Bordeaux-Paris on those same bikes.



**Kim Crosby**

04-22-2018 10:03:42

The Velogames classics have been hard for me because every time I change riders, I can't remember who to look for or cheer on.



**Charles Davis**

04-22-2018 10:04:21

I am cleaning my desk today. Kinda, it has more organized piles. Except for that huge stack that I put on my wife's desk. Not sure what to do with that one but I must do something with it.



**Dr. Evil**

04-22-2018 10:04:35

It's been more like a TdF stage than a Monument One KU, hopefully someone lights the blue touch paper...



**Charles Davis**

04-22-2018 10:05:34

Kim, if you use your transfers up early it is easy to follow later.





**Kim Crosby**

04-22-2018 10:05:40

Put a sticky note on that pile and maybe she'll take care of it. That's what my hubs does to me!



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 10:05:43

My general cleaning strategy is to make 3 piles. Throw, file, and TBD. The next time I clean I move everything from the TBD pile to the throw pile, figuring if something hasn't been pulled out of the TBSD pile it isn't worth keeping.



**Kim Crosby**

04-22-2018 10:05:43

Lol!!



**Dr. Evil**

04-22-2018 10:05:45

If you're not in the Eurosport feed, I'd like to remind everyone to "Fight for your hair!"



**Kim Crosby**

04-22-2018 10:06:13

Hahaha!



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 10:06:20

I guess in other parts of Europe the slogan is "Doping for your hair"  
Crash  
Warbasse



**Kim Crosby**

04-22-2018 10:08:41

Good morning Marie!



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 10:08:42

Not really clear what happened.



**Kim Crosby**

04-22-2018 10:08:49

Maite



**Charles Davis**

04-22-2018 10:09:48

This cleaning thing is hard.  
Buster has the right idea though.



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 10:14:23

On Sherwen: I think when he's with Phil, Phil sets the pace and tone. It's clear that Phil is way past his prime and Paul spends a lot of time trying to correct him and is thrown way off his game. On his own, Paul gets to set the pace and the commentary is, as a whole, far more coherent.



**Marc @ Toad Hall**

04-22-2018 10:16:54

I'm impressed that his voice holds up.



**Dr. Evil**

04-22-2018 10:19:42

Gruppo compacto. UAE drilling ot for the Shark



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 10:21:10

It's nice to see GC guys other than Valverde in these races. I don't consider Martin a GC guy yet, since he hasn't had a GT podium yet.  
OMG. PhilGil attacks  
Tommy D chases  
Henao closes



**Marc @ Toad Hall**

04-22-2018 10:21:54

Lots of talent here. There goes PhilGil.



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 10:22:00

And he takes off  
TD passes PhilGil, who just doesn't have it  
Woods leading the group  
Jungels chasing  
Jungels and Woods catch Henao and they pass him  
Now it's 4 together,, with Fuglsang joint that trio  
About a dozen now in the lead  
Jungels attacks on the descent  
Woods leading the chase of Jungels  
Jungels has about 100m  
Valverde attacks the chase  
12s to Jungels  
Maybe 18 in that chase



**Charles Davis**

04-22-2018 10:25:30

Go Jungels...



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 10:25:42

Then another small chase  
Maybe 20 in the second chase group  
All the big names in that first group behind Jungels  
18km  
20s for Jungels  
A pace line of 5 closing on the first chase  
Wellens, Martin, Ala  
Valverde  
Those 4 chasing, with Ala sitting on  
Martin looks the weakest



**Charles Davis**

04-22-2018 10:27:34

YEah, racing. Go everuone.



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 10:27:35

Bardet looking stornng

Chase together



**Dr. Evil**

04-22-2018 10:27:47

Setting up nicely for Alaphillipe



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 10:27:53

Kreuz looks strong

19s

17.1km

Gap drop g

Ala in front of the chase, oddly

24s. He's blocking

Martin goes again

Big attack

Wellens behind

Kreuziger tries to close it, dragging the rest of the chase back

25s

15.6km

23s

Jungels can TT, for sure

Alejandro goes

Valverde has a gap

Wellens tries to close

Martin

Ala

Together again

27s

14.4km

Wellens in front of the chase

Ala stays in the front of that chase, 2nd or 3rd wheel, blocking when he gets to the front

30s

13.7km

30s at 13.3km



**Charles Davis**

04-22-2018 10:33:07

Had to move to Sporza. Very good video.



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 10:33:07

Gap fluctuating right now between 27 and 30

Gold is great

32s now

Lots of looking around

Martin and Dumoulin attack

Valverde closes it

34s

35s

12.3km

38s

STANA DRIVES THE CHASE

Oops

37s

11.5km

This is Jungels race is they don't close it on the climb  
Astana getting serious  
But the gap isn't going down  
38s  
10.3km  
Ala, Valverde, follow the Astana rider  
40s  
9.6km



**Charles Davis**

04-22-2018 10:36:24

Go Jungels!



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 10:36:43

Crossing the river



**Marc @ Toad Hall**

04-22-2018 10:36:45

Can be done.



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 10:36:52

9km, 38s

He's flying

Why are you showing a friggin stadium when the race is on?

8.4km, 44s

Martin flats

He's pissed

Race over

He rides on, but that is just an awful time for a flat

7.8km 45s

Had a freeze for a bit.

7.3km

46s

The chase needs to push Ala out of the 2nd position. He's blocking well

50s

6.5km

The climb begins for Jungels

52s

6.2km 52s

Now the chase attacks

Ala covers wellens

53s

6.1km

Lottos attack.

38s

5.9km

33s

30s

28s

Woods leading

Nibs goes

Bardey is there

25s

5.5km

Jungels summits with 25s  
Venendert is the LottoS chaser  
20s  
That's not Nibali  
Bora goes  
Ala covers  
Bardet hanging with Henao  
19s  
4.9km  
This is like the chase off the Poggio  
18s  
4.7km  
Wellens dropped



**Dr. Evil**

04-22-2018 10:44:57

It's finally a proper race.



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 10:44:59

Venandert at 18s  
Ala attacked  
18s  
4km  
Formolo with Ala  
Jungels supertucks  
Gives his legs a little rest  
Venandert too  
3.4km  
22s  
2.7km  
25s



**Kim Crosby**

04-22-2018 10:46:40

Batdet!!!



**BusterSci**

04-22-2018 10:46:44

Vanendert at about 200m  
Bardet attacks  
Woods goes with  
Nobody can follow  
2.1km  
29s  
31s at 2km  
32s now  
1.7km  
32s  
1.5km  
The chase looking around  
Woods and Bardet together  
Closing on Vanendert  
1.2km  
34s



**Kim Crosby**

Red kite!

04-22-2018 10:48:39



**BusterSci**

Vanendert looks cooked  
Woods and Bardet still chase  
Bardet takes his turn on the front with Woods  
Jungels' race  
Haig chasing them back  
That's a big climb  
No gaps showing  
Jungels reaching the summit  
I did not expect this  
Nice call, those who did

04-22-2018 10:49:03



**Charles Davis**

Woo Hoo

04-22-2018 10:50:56



**BusterSci**

Jungels coming in  
Time to sit up and celebrate  
Badet and Woods coming now  
Bardet goes but Woodsie holds

04-22-2018 10:51:00



**Marc @ Toad Hall**

Splendidly earned.

04-22-2018 10:51:31



**BusterSci**

Woodsie goes!

Ala coming  
WOODSIE  
Bardet  
Ala

04-22-2018 10:51:39



**Dr. Evil**

QS goes long, everyone looks around, another victory

04-22-2018 10:54:08



**BusterSci**

I need to spend more time paying attention to Gasperatto.

04-22-2018 10:54:18



**Charles Davis**

That was unexpected but fun. Thanks Buster.

04-22-2018 10:54:27



**Marc @ Toad Hall**

I'd hoped that Valverde and Nibali would fight it out, but Jungels's success was worthy: Woods and Bardet also impress.

04-22-2018 10:54:35



**Kim Crosby**

04-22-2018 10:54:48

Thanks everyone!!! A fun morning!!



**Charles Davis**

04-22-2018 10:55:20

Bye all.



**Dr. Evil**

04-22-2018 10:55:27

Ciao!



**Marc @ Toad Hall**

04-22-2018 10:56:27

See you for the Israeli start to the Giro. Or does ATOC start first?