



Tim in KY TdF Stage 18 is 185 kilometers from Voiron south into the Hautes-Alpes for a summit finish at the ski resort Orcières-Merlette.

07-22-2026
01:16:47 pm



Tim in KY <https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1784740921-stage-18-route.jpg>

07-22-2026
01:17:02 pm



Tim in KY The route features 3,900 meters of elevation gain on five categorized climbs: two Cat 3, a Cat 2 and two Cat 1s that open and finish the stage. The last climb is 7.1 kilometers averaging 6.7% at a very steady incline.

07-22-2026
01:17:57 pm



Tim in KY <https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1784740993-stage-18-profile.jpg>

07-22-2026
01:18:13 pm



Tim in KY <https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1784741005-stage-18-profile-finale.jpg>

07-22-2026
01:18:26 pm



Tim in KY Kilometer zero is scheduled for 12:50 CEST. Finish is imagined either side of 17:30. Forecast is for sunshine in the mid-20s.

07-22-2026
01:19:22 pm



Tim in KY There were no abandons on the stage.

07-22-2026
01:19:52 pm



Tim in KY Stage 17 Fines and penalties Arthur Van Dongen (Visma Lease-a-Bike DS) - 1,000 CHF, yellow card, relegation of car to 23rd place on stage 18 Hugo Page (Cofidis) - 500CHF for urinating in public.

07-22-2026
04:29:13 pm



Tim in KY José Félix Parra (Caja Rural) will not start today.

07-23-2026
06:22:01 am



Tim in KY No change in the forecast.

07-23-2026
06:25:19 am



Tim in KY The temperature here right now is 57. It hasn't been that cool since May. As soon as Km0 I'm going out for a walk.

07-23-2026
06:55:27 am



Tim in KY Km0 nine minutes late.

07-23-2026
06:58:50 am

VOIRON

Côte d'Engins

Côte de Monteynard

Côte des Terrasses

**ORCIÈRES
MERLETTE**

Côte de Saint-Léger les-Mélèzes



VOIRON

197 m



ORCIÈRES-MERLETTE

(7.1 km à 6.7%) 1 825 m



ISÈRE

HAUTES-ALPES

0

185.2 km

ORCIÈRES-MERLETTE

1 825 m - **km 185.2**

(7.1 km à 6.7 %)



1 785 m Merlette - **km 184.5**

1 721 m

Les Plautus

km 183.7

1 649 m

Les Veyers

km 182.5

1 348 m Bousensayes - **km 178.1**

1 395 m ORCIÈRES - **km 179**

Pourcentage moyen par kilomètre

5.4

8.2

6

7.6

7.4

6

7

7

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

1 900 m

1 800 m

1 700 m

1 600 m

1 500 m

1 400 m

1 300 m

1 200 m

**BusterSci** 5 with 35 seconds07-23-2026
07:12:47 am**BusterSci** 45 seconds. Might we have the break this easily?07-23-2026
07:17:23 am**BusterSci** On the first climb07-23-2026
07:25:18 am**BusterSci** 14s. Breaks disappear fast on Cat 1s07-23-2026
07:30:03 am**BusterSci** Lost two from the break. Peloton letting the other three dangle07-23-2026
07:32:34 am**BusterSci** All together07-23-2026
07:37:00 am**BusterSci** Healy on the attack on his own07-23-2026
07:40:13 am**BusterSci** Healy caught and Simmons goes07-23-2026
07:43:54 am**BusterSci** Healy and Sean Quinn with a gap, Schmid with them.07-23-2026
07:48:20 am**BusterSci** Now Crapass and V Parrot Painter07-23-2026
07:51:47 am**BusterSci** VPP gets the Kom07-23-2026
07:51:54 am**BusterSci** Together again07-23-2026
07:52:15 am**Tim in KY** Mads out front looking for green points. But those are a long way ahead.07-23-2026
07:55:35 am**BusterSci** But only a 2 and a 3 ahead, so he could certainly stick around if that particular break holds.07-23-2026
07:56:09 am**Tim in KY** Sure. And Phillipson is way behind.07-23-2026
07:56:53 am



Tim in KY Over the top of that huge un categorized lump at the imagined time.

07-23-2026
08:14:33 am



BusterSci I'm filling out a Bobke Bingo card: "Absolutely flying" is my first square. His Barney Rubble giggle is the second.

07-23-2026
08:27:47 am



bikerabe 5 chasing front 8 44 sec gap

07-23-2026
08:34:54 am



BusterSci I don't think you catch that front group without the interest of a GC team.

07-23-2026
08:42:10 am



Katie S Good day.

07-23-2026
08:44:30 am



Rocket City Gal Good morning, all!

07-23-2026
08:51:47 am



BusterSci How's the eye?

07-23-2026
08:52:17 am



Rocket City Gal After Philipsen's win yesterday, the gap in the green jersey is a mere 7 points. Pedersen knows he has to really work for those intermediate sprints ... which is darn hard in this terrain.

07-23-2026
08:52:38 am



Rocket City Gal Eye is status quo. Pressure was OK yesterday -- up some but still in the normal range. I get a day off from eye dr visits today -- yay! My focus over the next few days will be thorough decontamination of the kitten foster area so that nothing lingers for our own cats (and potential future fosters, although if that happens it will be a long time from now and not with the recent rescue organization) won't contract anything icky.

07-23-2026
08:54:15 am



BusterSci True on Mads, but he has the good fortune that none of the remaining opportunities are good for Philipsen, and Girmay doesn't seem to be trying any more

07-23-2026
08:56:16 am



Rocket City Gal I think it will likely take weeks to months for all the inflammatory stuff inside the eye to go away. Hopefully it will go away... They tried to do a tomography scan of my retina this week and couldn't get a reading because there was so much "stuff" in the way.

07-23-2026
08:56:41 am



Rocket City Gal I think after yesterday Girmay is out of the points hunt. The stage win Sunday isn't for a pure sprinter any more... it will go so someone riding heads-up who does well in hilly, cobbled classics races and doesn't have the bad luck of an ill-timed puncture. That leaves only the intermediate sprints.

07-23-2026
08:57:49 am



BusterSci I think Tadej is going to take Paris. I think he was annoyed by Wout beating him last year and that's the sort of thing that motivates him. OTOH, it would be a perfect opportunity for MvdP

07-23-2026
08:59:27 am



Charlie in Tenn Checking in from Greenville SC. Board game convention. My son and myself are the only ones that could make it. He is still asleep because he is a teen and stayed p way to late.

07-23-2026
08:59:41 am



BusterSci That CapitalOne guy must be pretty tall. He doesn't look short next to Sir Charles.

07-23-2026
09:01:08 am



BusterSci The Round Mound of Rebound.

07-23-2026
09:01:24 am



Katie S Hi Charlie. My brother is a fan of board game conventions. He signed on as an instructor as a recent one out here, which got him a free entrance pass and he had fun teaching others. Don't ask me which game, though...

07-23-2026
09:03:08 am



bikerabe 6 riders including VPP polka dot wearer joining front 8

07-23-2026
09:05:43 am



Charlie in Tenn Yes, that is a great way to get entrance fees waved. I have worked for some companies at some of the big ones (Origins, GenCon) and gotten free rooms and admission and the companies pay you is swag (free games, shirts, hats, dice, etc.). The black market trading all of the swag is always and entertaining part of the event for me.

07-23-2026
09:07:58 am



Tim in KY Katie, your brother the Presbyterian minister?

07-23-2026
09:08:07 am



Rocket City Gal I think based on his current positioning Pedersen has a good chance of winning or at least getting some of the intermediate sprint points today. He might possibly even get intermediate sprint points tomorrow as there are over 60 km between the Noyer Cat one climb and the intermediate sprint, but none of the sprinters will be getting sprint points Saturday. There are a max of 25 points up for grabs about halfway through Stage 21 also. Mads knows he has to ride

07-23-2026
09:09:59 am

heads-up and scoop up as many intermediate sprint points as possible. It will be tough the next 3 days.



Rocket City Gal (winning intermediate points, not the stage)

07-23-2026
09:11:10 am



Charlie in Tenn That is a good group in the break. Crapass is still trying to wear down VPP. Even if he manages to beat him he still has a Pog problem.

07-23-2026
09:11:16 am



Charlie in Tenn Mads doesn't have to win any points as long as Jasper doesn't get any so the calculations are a lot easier.

07-23-2026
09:12:28 am



Tim in KY Crappas and VPP have caught the front group.

07-23-2026
09:12:55 am



Rocket City Gal It would be nice to see Piggy Pog let someone else win today. They all want to win Alpe d' Huez tomorrow. I think that's Pog's, and that it would be realistic for the likes of Carapaz/VPP to take the win today if UAE decides to save their energy for tomorrow.

07-23-2026
09:13:47 am



Mikey Good Morning all Welcome to yellow hair day

07-23-2026
09:16:52 am



Rocket City Gal There has been debate about which is the "queen" stage, but it's gotta be stage 20 with 3 HC climbs including the Galibier (this year's Souvenir Henri Desgrange climb)

07-23-2026
09:17:04 am



Charlie in Tenn I think Jorgenson, Bernal, and Arensman could all be up for trying today.

07-23-2026
09:17:06 am



Rocket City Gal Charlie, if I was Mads I'd want a cushion just in case something happened with Sunday's intermediate sprint. That's why he's up there. If he gets today's intermediate sprint, he can breathe much easier.

07-23-2026
09:18:32 am



Charlie in Tenn The break is going to need a lot more time at the base of the final climb, if any of them are going to win.

07-23-2026
09:19:02 am



Rocket City Gal Arensman for sure. Bernal has been looking better but I don't think he'll ever be pre-crash Bernal. Jorgenson's been sick but maybe he's over it.

07-23-2026
09:19:36 am



Charlie in Tenn RCG, I agree. He will take any points he can.

07-23-2026
09:19:53 am



Charlie in Tenn Jorgenson is also probably motivated since his leader is gone. However he might be out front as a bridge for one of his other teammates.

07-23-2026
09:21:44 am



Rocket City Gal Adam Yates was super sick Tuesday night / all during the stage yesterday. Really, really sick to the point he was unable to eat and take in calories. Wellens was riding back with him yesterday, but eventually the team pulled Wellens up with others. I hope Yates had a better night last night. I'll bet the team is quarantining him....

07-23-2026
09:21:52 am



Rocket City Gal I thought Sepp would be out front today and am surprised it's Matteo. But maybe their plan was for Sepp to try for one of the next 2 stages.

07-23-2026
09:22:32 am



Charlie in Tenn I always hated being sick at work...

07-23-2026
09:22:37 am



Tim in KY Yates has been looking much better today. Even had bottle duty earlier.

07-23-2026
09:23:06 am



Rocket City Gal Wow, I wouldn't want to stick a recently-sick team member of 2 of the top 3 GC guys handling any of the water bottles....

07-23-2026
09:23:44 am



Mikey I have Phil on my fantasy team soooooooooo congrats Mads

07-23-2026
09:23:45 am



Charlie in Tenn Sepp might be the plan. The pack is only 45 sec behind. Who is driving the peloton?

07-23-2026
09:23:53 am



Tim in KY A bit faster than the imagined time right now.

07-23-2026
09:24:34 am



Tim in KY UAE, Charlie is at the front of the Yellow group.

07-23-2026
09:25:10 am



Charlie in Tenn Sorry the chasers are 45 sec behind, the peloton is 5 min.

07-23-2026
09:25:14 am



Mikey Even though I am anti-yates I thought it was pretty cool to see him finish with 10 minutes to spare

07-23-2026
09:25:38 am



Charlie in Tenn As they should be.

07-23-2026
09:25:40 am



Mikey 57 here this morning as well Walked

07-23-2026
09:26:41 am



Mikey Norman and wore a sweater

07-23-2026
09:26:59 am



Mikey Me not the dogger

07-23-2026
09:27:41 am



Charlie in Tenn 78 here in Greenville with rain just north of us.

07-23-2026
09:29:17 am



Katie S Gee, a person takes a shower and misses all the chatter. Yep, Tim, it's my brother the Presbyterian minister.

07-23-2026
09:31:09 am



Rocket City Gal <https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1784813798-1784813498855.jpeg>

07-23-2026
09:31:40 am



Rocket City Gal Last lap opportunity yesterday. Things are sure quiet. Bit less stressful, which is what I need right now.

07-23-2026
09:32:46 am



Charlie in Tenn Anyone a fan of anyone in the chaser group for the win today? Healy maybe but he is probably to help Crapass.

07-23-2026
09:35:03 am



Mikey Sure why not Charlie

07-23-2026
09:36:21 am



Charlie in Tenn Well, I have to go lay games so good luck everyone. Chat it up so I will have some good reading tonight.

07-23-2026
09:37:24 am



Mikey The groups will come together

07-23-2026
09:37:26 am



Charlie in Tenn play games after I lay them out.

07-23-2026
09:37:42 am





Katie S Have fun, Charlie!

07-23-2026
09:37:45 am



Rocket City Gal Everytime I think the pink guys are working for Carapaz, some other pink guy ends up out front... and vice versa

07-23-2026
09:37:58 am



Mikey Enjoy your day Charlie

07-23-2026
09:38:03 am



Charlie in Tenn Find out what game your brother teaches.

07-23-2026
09:38:14 am



Rocket City Gal Have fun with your son, Charlie!

07-23-2026
09:38:16 am



Mikey Time for the eating bag

07-23-2026
09:40:04 am



Rocket City Gal There's lots of guys in those 2 front groups who could win today. Don't forget TH Johanessen. Although the UnoX boys haven't been performing anywhere near like they did last year overall.

07-23-2026
09:40:54 am



Katie S And of course I have no one in any break..

07-23-2026
09:41:25 am



Tim in KY Nor I Katie.

07-23-2026
09:42:07 am



Rocket City Gal Gonna try breakfast, I guess. Haven't been hungry lately.

07-23-2026
09:42:07 am



SFinAus Good morning, everyone.

07-23-2026
09:42:47 am



Katie S Hi Shawn

07-23-2026
09:43:03 am



Rocket City Gal I am rooting for Carapaz, Baudin and Simmons today ;-)
Lipowitz' crashing out in the ITT has doomed my VG team to slide down in the standings with each passing day in the mountains.

07-23-2026
09:43:39 am



Rocket City Gal Good morning, Shawn!

07-23-2026
09:43:52 am



Tim in KY You know how many kilometers of stage 20 are on l'Alpe Huez? Eight.

07-23-2026
09:45:48 am



BusterSci Ok, hypothetical: The get to the last climb today or tomorrow or even Saturday. One of the non-Pog top 7 attacks and Pog goes with. They quickly open a 30s gap. Then our attacker starts pulling away from Pog. It's clear Pog isn't cracking because he's still making time on the chasers, but our attacker keeps opening a gap and ends up beating Pog by 45-90 seconds and Pog takes a similar amount of time from the rest of the contenders. What's your take on our hypothetical Pog slayer?

07-23-2026
09:45:50 am



Mikey He only lets his own teammate do that Buster

07-23-2026
09:47:06 am



Tim in KY He sure wouldn't do that for Remco.

07-23-2026
09:48:21 am



Mikey Where is Sepp? Maybe Crapass?

07-23-2026
09:49:11 am



Katie S I think Mikey's right on teammates, but I was thinking about a concession prize for Lisa Bike, so Sepp or Matteo

07-23-2026
09:50:04 am



Mikey Sorry distracted by manscaping

07-23-2026
09:50:21 am



BusterSci Wait. Your're assuming my hypothetical is Pog is letting him win? That's interesting because it wasn't what I was thinking. I'm saying this guy is riding Pog off his wheel. But it seems everyone is saying that can't happen, so he has to be letting it happen?

07-23-2026
09:51:01 am



Tim in KY Yes, Buster. It would have to be a gift.

07-23-2026
09:51:38 am



Tim in KY How do you find white cows in the snow on the Alps?

07-23-2026
09:52:36 am



BusterSci Because if it wasn't we wouldn't believe it?

07-23-2026
09:52:40 am



BusterSci Paint them blue

07-23-2026
09:52:49 am

Mikey How now blue cow

07-23-2026
09:53:45 am



BusterSci I've never seen a blue cow. I hope to never see one.

07-23-2026
09:54:30 am



Mikey Nice

07-23-2026
09:55:53 am



Tim in KY Mads gets the 25 points.

07-23-2026
09:58:32 am



bikerabe easy sprint forMads

07-23-2026
09:58:33 am



BusterSci Does he hang in or drop back?

07-23-2026
09:58:54 am



Katie S https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1784815438-IMG_1469.jpeg

07-23-2026
09:58:59 am



Katie S How about a blue sheep?

07-23-2026
09:59:09 am



SFinAus Too hypothetical for me contemplate.

07-23-2026
09:59:18 am



SFinAus That was a quick find, Katie.

07-23-2026
09:59:40 am



Katie S A photo from our recent trip to Merry Olde England

07-23-2026
10:00:11 am



Mikey Sheep on call Shawn

07-23-2026
10:02:04 am



Katie S This stage is in really striking landscape

07-23-2026
10:02:17 am



Katie S 1KU ish

07-23-2026
10:03:06 am



Katie S Retract that

07-23-2026
10:03:14 am





Tim in KY Sprint tomorrow comes with 38 km to go. Saturday it's at 66 km from the start but at the bottom of the descent of an early HC climb.

07-23-2026
10:06:03 am



Katie S Won't be a sprinter's sprint, then... so ????

07-23-2026
10:09:16 am



Katie S Favors only Mads

07-23-2026
10:10:01 am



Tim in KY The only sure thing is that Philipsen isn't likely to score any sprint points Friday or Saturday. Sunday is likely for him but even if he gats 25 then he can't beat Mads for the green.

07-23-2026
10:12:53 am



Katie S Yup

07-23-2026
10:14:05 am



BusterSci Mads is also fully capable of picking up some final points on Sunday if they were somehow necessary

07-23-2026
10:19:02 am



BusterSci Both intermediate and final sprints.

07-23-2026
10:19:14 am



Tim in KY It is unlikely that Sunday's finish will be a sprint.

07-23-2026
10:22:08 am



Tim in KY <https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1784816836-stage-21-profile.jpg>

07-23-2026
10:22:17 am



BusterSci True, but it's a classics course which Mads is suited for

07-23-2026
10:22:32 am



Mikey Did McNulty call it quits?

07-23-2026
10:26:18 am



Tim in KY He seems to have caught Yates disease but he's still riding.

07-23-2026
10:28:35 am



Katie S ick

07-23-2026
10:29:44 am



Trish in MA Good morning all. Caught up on the chat but will likely be gone before the finish. Hooray for Mads. He's on my team. Same for Carapaz. They are my only hope

07-23-2026
10:30:48 am

THOIRY

121 m

**PARIS Champs-Élysées**

38 m



YVELINES

HAUTS-DE-SEINE
PARIS

133 km

0



BusterSci I'm headed out for the day and will be driving much of tomorrow. I should see Saturday though, if I'm not out fishing.

07-23-2026
10:34:20 am



Rocket City Gal We are all assuming that Pog won't catch the Yates /McNulty cooties. There are still 3 stages after today

07-23-2026
10:34:38 am



Mikey Enjoy yourdayBuster

07-23-2026
10:34:53 am



Rocket City Gal "Enjoy the day"

07-23-2026
10:35:22 am



BusterSci Pog at the hotel

07-23-2026
10:35:35 am



BusterSci <https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1784817642-1784817342171.png>

07-23-2026
10:35:43 am



Katie S HA!

07-23-2026
10:37:37 am



BusterSci Although he's gone for a much more controlled hair style this year. It doesn't pop out of the helmet all over.

07-23-2026
10:38:26 am



bikerabe Go Matteo USA Win !

07-23-2026
10:39:26 am



BusterSci I think that was trying to catch them sleeping.

07-23-2026
10:40:44 am



BusterSci Ok. As Mikey would say: Bah.

07-23-2026
10:42:03 am



Tim in KY Now McNulty has abandoned.

07-23-2026
10:42:30 am



Katie S Poor guy.

07-23-2026
10:43:13 am



Tim in KY Right now the front group is faster than the fastest...

07-23-2026
10:45:34 am





Katie S 5 km

07-23-2026
10:57:16 am



Katie S argh. nevermind. what the heck did that kite say?

07-23-2026
10:57:31 am



BusterSci Just saw a theory that Pog is wearing black shorts today for a reason. (See Yates, A and McNulty, B.)

07-23-2026
11:06:20 am



Tim in KY Last climb starts.

07-23-2026
11:06:50 am



Katie S Things should pep up a bit

07-23-2026
11:07:08 am



Katie S ick, Buster. Ick.

07-23-2026
11:07:16 am



Tim in KY I think that's silly, Buster.

07-23-2026
11:07:43 am



Katie S Wait, were those mankinis?

07-23-2026
11:09:15 am



Toulouse Those don't seem to be as "popular" as they once were.

07-23-2026
11:10:13 am



Katie S thank the good lord

07-23-2026
11:10:38 am



Mikey How about 5 k now Katie?

07-23-2026
11:11:28 am



Katie S Still all together - long climb to the top. Maybe Crapass will start to light things up with 3 km? But maybe Matteo will give a try at 4?

07-23-2026
11:11:28 am



Katie S yes! Now! I was just being clairvoyant earlier.

07-23-2026
11:11:43 am



Mikey One step ahead

07-23-2026
11:12:03 am



Mikey Katie Unit

07-23-2026
11:12:26 am



Tim in KY Schmid seems to be having another good day. He's had too many of those lately.

07-23-2026
11:13:03 am



Katie S There goes Crapass, 1 km sooner than I predicted

07-23-2026
11:15:34 am



Tim in KY Too soon?

07-23-2026
11:15:34 am



Katie S i think so, yes.

07-23-2026
11:15:39 am



Tim in KY Still too soon.

07-23-2026
11:17:05 am



Katie S I think he's got it now

07-23-2026
11:19:07 am



Tim in KY This what EF has been looking for since Km0.

07-23-2026
11:19:08 am



Rocket City Gal I think Richard's gonna get it

07-23-2026
11:20:28 am



Rocket City Gal The others are just too far behind now

07-23-2026
11:20:42 am



Tim in KY Glad I have him on my podium team.

07-23-2026
11:21:38 am



Tim in KY VPP isn't going to get the Dots outright today.

07-23-2026
11:22:19 am



Rocket City Gal Red kite

07-23-2026
11:22:38 am



Mikey Zip up the jersey

07-23-2026
11:24:42 am



Katie S Perfect win!

07-23-2026
11:24:48 am



Rocket City Gal Carapaz! A good thing for EF.... And my VG team.

07-23-2026
11:24:50 am



Tim in KY Smack on the imagined time.

07-23-2026
11:24:53 am



Mikey Ta da

07-23-2026
11:24:53 am



Rocket City Gal Then Schmid and Jorgenson

07-23-2026
11:25:37 am



Tim in KY Things to do.

07-23-2026
11:26:08 am



Mikey ba

07-23-2026
11:26:21 am



Trish in MA Hooray for Carapaz, EF and my team!

07-23-2026
11:28:46 am



Katie S See you tomorrow. We'll have a visitor - 18-year-old step-niece is boarding her flight in Phoenix, bound for SFO.

07-23-2026
11:28:59 am
