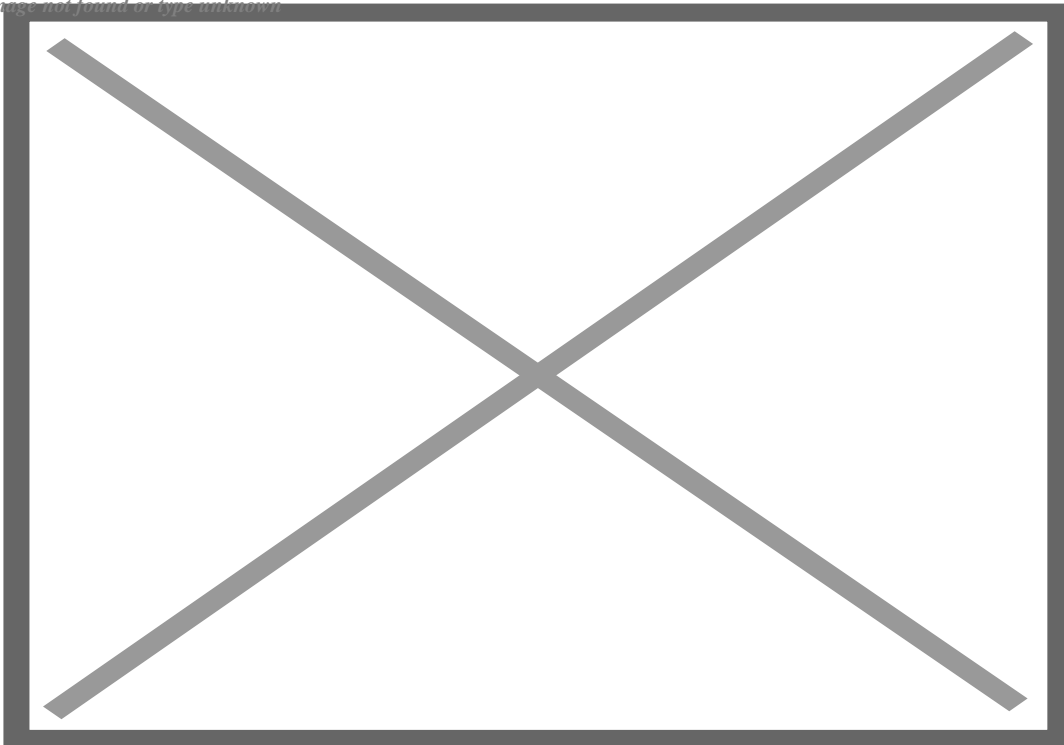


Belgian Van Aert consolidates lead in Tour de France

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Havana, July 5 (RHC)-- Belgian cyclist Wout Van Aert (Jumbo-Visma) won today the fourth stage of the Tour de France, and besides keeping the leader's yellow jersey, he extended his lead in the general classification.

Van Aert rode the 171.5 kilometers between the northern towns of Dunkerque and Calais in four hours, one minute and 36 seconds, ahead of compatriot Jasper Philipsen (Alpecin-Deceuninck) and Frenchman and teammate Christophe Laporte.

In the individual classification, the Jumbo-Visma rider extended the gap to 25 seconds over Belgian Yves Lampaert (Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl Team) and 32 seconds over Slovenian favorite Tadej Pogacar (UAE Team Emirates), champion of the last two versions of the Grande Boucle.

For Latin America, Colombian Daniel Martinez (INEOS Grenadiers) continued in 22nd place, but now one minute and nine seconds behind the leader, while Nairo Quintana (Team Arkéa-Samsic) is 26th and Rigoberto Urán (EF Education-EasyPost) is 79th.

The Dunkirk and Calais leg included six fourth-category climbs, which Denmark's Magnus Nielsen (EF Education-EasyPost) took advantage of to remain in the lead in the battle for the mountains prize, with 11 points.

Van Aert is also the clear leader in the points classification, with 170.

Tomorrow the Tour de France will stage five, 157 kilometers between Lille and Arenberg, with the difficulty of the dreaded cobbled sections.

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