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WINS DOWN UNDER**

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Jasper Philipsen wins Down Under

Jasper Philipsen put his name on the first victory of the 2019 year for UAE Team Emirates. The 20-year-old new professional only needed five days of racing to take his first win in UAE Team Emirates colours. That came in Strathalbyn after 149.5km of racing from Glenelg in the Tour Down Under's fifth stage.

Philipsen was not the first rider over the line, instead it was Caleb Ewan (Lotto-Soudal). However, the jury regulated Ewan to the back of the pack for an irregular sprint and gave the honours to Philipsen, second over the line. "It's an important victory for me, my first WorldTour race, but it arrived in a strange way, so I missed that feeling of crossing the line first. Still, success is always beautiful and I'm very content to have taken it," Philipsen said. "The final, just like in the past days, had a lot of movement. There was a good fight for position and a crash, but I was in good position for the last curve. I feel that I have strength and spark, and like that I was able to realise a good sprint. Thanks to the team and the sponsors who wanted me and brought me into this team. And to all my team-mates for the contestant support that they gave these days".



UAE Team Emirates wins team classification in the Tour Down Under

The 2019 Tour Down Under ends successfully for the UAE Team Emirates, taking the overall team classification (photograph by Bettini). Domination from the first stage and held to the last, ending today up the Willunga Hill. Three men in the team directed by Neil Stephens made the top spots, meeting the high expectations established beforehand. Ulissi arrived on Willunga Hill in eighth at 17 from the day's winner Porte, Poga ar 15th at 20 and Polanc 17th at 30 . In the overall, Ulissi finished 9th at 40 from winner Impey, Poga ar 13th at 43 and Polanc 15th at 53 .

"It was a beautiful result for UAE Team Emirates to get on the podium as the best team in the first WorldTour race of the year," said sports director Neil Stephens. "Today we had more goals that we were after. We wanted to take the team classification but to try to be in the best possible spots in the individual classification. We achieved that considering that we have three riders in the top 15 of the classification, with Ulissi in the top 10. The great work that characterises this group added up over the week. It's an important factor that will show positively in the next competitions".

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Aru makes official his participation in the 2019 Giro d'Italia

Fabio Aru will be at the start of the 2019 Giro d'Italia on May 11. The decision was a result of recent tests of the Italian cyclist with UAE Team Emirates's technical staff, trainers and doctors.

"The idea of starting in the Giro d'Italia always hugely motivates me given I'm a climber and there's that extra bit of emotion added given I'm Italian," the 28-year-old Sardinian explained. "You can imagine my desire to reap some rewards on the road during this Corsa Rosa – rewards I weren't able to enjoy in the last edition. I have a desire to repay the sponsors, fans and organisers who continued to believe in me in these last months. The Giro's route offers plenty of serious climbs to balance with the number of kilometres in the time trials. We will arrive prepared physically and technically in order to confront every detail of the race in the best way possible."

Aru's lead up to the Giro d'Italia sees him debuting in the Trofeo Mallorca, January 31 to February 3. He will continue with the Volta ao Algarve, February 20-24, and the Volta a Catalunya, March 25-31. He will train at altitude in Colorado, in the U.S., for his final step ahead of the Giro. The race marks the end of Aru's first chapter in the 2019 season.



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