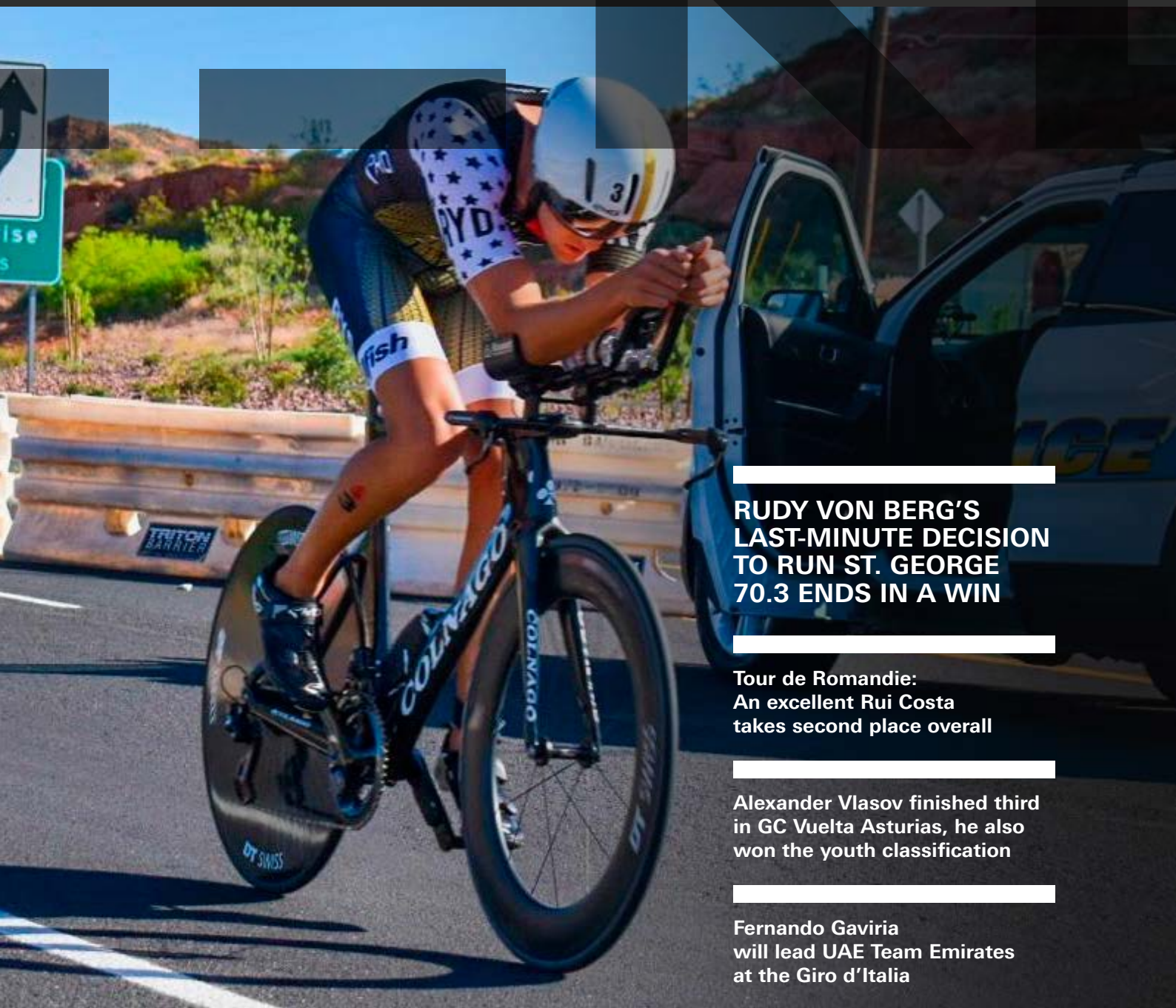


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Rudy Von Berg's last-minute decision to run St. George 70.3 ends in a win

Rudy Von Berg wasn't going to run the St. George 70.3. The 25-year-old, who attends the University of Colorado-Boulder, had the race on his calendar but was fighting off the pain that would have kept him out of the race. But, on Monday, Von Berg felt no pain and made the quick decision to compete in the 70.3.

Three hours and 49 minutes later, that decision paid off as Von Berg took first among the pro men at the IRONMAN St. George 70.3. Bart Aernouts and Jackson Laundry finished second and third, respectively.

"Obviously, pretty happy I decided to race," Von Berg said. Rounding out the top five finishers are Salt Lake City native Stephen Kilshaw in fourth and Boulder native Sam Long. Von Berg and Eric Langerstrom led the pack of pro triathletes coming out of the water, but Von Berg jumped into the lead after Langerstrom dropped a bottle he had to go back and retrieve. Once Langerstrom had to vacate his spot in the lead, Von Berg pushed the pace throughout his KOne and going into the run. The result was Von Berg sitting in a consistent three-minute lead for most of the race. He finished three minutes and 21 second ahead of Aernouts. "I pretty much never saw anyone," Von Berg said. "I figured I would be in the lead in one point for sure. Maybe not three and a half minutes for sure."

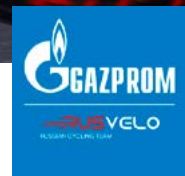


Tour de Romandie: An excellent Rui Costa takes second place overall

Rui Costa, UAE Team Emirates, confirmed his good feelings in the Swiss stage race, getting on the final podium for the fourth time after the third places of 2012, 2013 and 2014.

The Portuguese cyclist closed the final individual time trial in seventh position with a gap to the stage and eventual overall winner Pimoz Roglic (Jumbo-Visma). He climbed onto the final podium together with the Slovenian and third place Geraint Thomas (Team Ineos).

Rui Costa: "The course of this time trial was very interesting and selective. The last part was very fast and managing my energy well along the way, maintaining the necessary forces to be able to run the whole six kilometres with the road slightly downhill, was fundamental. "Placing seventh today in the time trial and winning the final second place is big for my morale. To beat Roglic like this was practically impossible, so my second takes on more value. Now I want to continue to work well and try to get the most out of the Tour of Switzerland."



**Alexander Vlasov finished third
in GC Vuelta Asturias,
he also won the youth classification**

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Fernando Gaviria will lead UAE Team Emirates at the Giro d'Italia

"Together with the management, directors and coaches of UAE Team Emirates, we decided that I should participate in the 2019 Giro d'Italia".

Fernando Gaviria confirms that on May 11 he will be in Bologna for the start of the Giro d'Italia.

"With great pleasure, I will return to the roads of the Giro d'Italia, which I feel a special relationship with. With the 2017 Giro, my career took its international dimension. The points classification jersey and the four stage victories lifted me into the elite sprinters' group. Those were beautiful and very important moments for me, the thought of having the chance to relive them is exciting".

The Colombian sprinter has clear objectives for the coming grand tour.

"In the first part of the Giro, the stages will offer sprinters a good number of opportunities. As often happens in the Giro, there will be no straightforward stages, so even we sprinters, and our teams, will always have to fight for the sprint finish. The goal is to make the most of the opportunities to compete in sprints. It will be very difficult to fight for the points classification, because the second part of the Giro will be almost exclusively for the climbers".

Gaviria greeted the Giro project immediately with enthusiasm when it came about.

"Given Fabio Aru could not race, the team shifted the focus from the general classification to stages. This meant that the directors had the opportunity to add a nice group dedicated to the sprints to the group it already had hunting stages. It seemed like a good project, able to offer me all the necessary conditions to do well. I had no doubts and I confirmed to the team my desire to race in Italy".

Gaviria considers that the Giro will be an important junction between the first and second part of the season.

"Participation in the Giro is balanced within my season. The missed Paris-Roubaix participation due to an illness closed the first part of my season earlier. I observed a period of rest and then resumed training with good sensations. The Giro d'Italia will be a highlight of my first year in the team, then we'll think about the second part of the season".



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