



Larry H. Miller
TOUR OF
UTAH

News Release

American Kuss Conquers Another Mountain to Win 2018 Larry H. Miller Tour of Utah

Kuss Grabs Third Stage Win at Finale of "America's Toughest Stage Race"



PARK CITY, UTAH (Aug. 12, 2018) – Young American Sepp Kuss of Team LottoNL-Jumbo successfully fended off all challengers to earn both the stage and overall title at the 2018 Larry H. Miller Tour of Utah on Sunday. A dominant Kuss accelerated away from all competitors on the slopes of Empire Pass, one of the hardest climbs in the world, to win Stage 6 presented by Utah Sports Commission in front of huge crowds undeterred by rain. Kuss covered the 78.3-mile course in 3 hours and nine minutes.

Behind him, the chase was on for the stage and General Classification (G.C.) placings. Brent Bookwalter (USA) of BMC Racing Team and Jack Haig (AUS) of Mitchelton-Scott cut loose on the descent to the finish line on Historic Main Street in Park City. Bookwalter outsprinted Haig for second place on the stage, crossing the line eight seconds behind the winner.

“On the descent, it was a bit wet so I didn’t want to take any chances at all. I knew that guys behind, especially Brent (Bookwalter), would probably take some chances. I just tried to ride a safe descent and make it to the finish line,” said Kuss, who won his third stage victory of the seven-day race. “The fans were so loud that I couldn’t hear anything behind me, like anybody switching gears or anything. I thought if they pass me I won’t even know because it’s just so loud. I was just trying to drive all the way to the line, but I was definitely suffering.”

Over the course of seven days of hard racing, two different riders wore the Larry H. Miller Dealerships Overall Leader’s yellow jersey, Prologue winner Tejay van Garderen (USA) of BMC Racing Team and Kuss, who climbed into the lead on Stage 2 in Payson. The final G.C. time for Kuss was 21 hours and 41 minutes.

Ben Hermans (BEL) of Israel Cycling Academy moved into second overall on Saturday and clinched second place on Sunday, 2 minutes and nine seconds back. Haig and Bookwalter moved up to third and fourth overall, respectively. Defending champion Rob Britton (CAN) of Rally Cycling placed 15th. Van Garderen finished 18th overall.

The 14th edition of the Tour of Utah, known as "America's Toughest Stage Race" included 548 miles of racing and 43,780 feet of elevation gain for the 2.HC stage race. The start of Stage 6 presented by Utah Sports Commission featured a group of 15 riders who broke away from the 101-rider peloton at the first of two Utah Sports Commission Sprint lines in Kamas. Kept on a short leash by Team LottoNL-Jumbo, the escapees saw their gap decrease from a maximum of four minutes to just two minutes and 30 seconds on the bottom of Empire Pass, the second Utah Office of Tourism King of the Mountain climb. Halfway through the tough 7.7-mile climb, with a maximum gradient of 23 percent, Kuss powered away from the decimated peloton for the win.

"Coming from Durango, there's a lot of connections to the Utah area. It's cool to see familiar faces. I think that what makes the race special, everyone is super enthusiastic, respectful fans and it has that kind of American flair. It's fun to be here," said the 23-year-old Kuss, who claimed the biggest victory of his career in his second appearance at the Tour of Utah.

Nathan Brown (USA) of EF Education First-Drapac presented by Cannondale, who led numerous attacks in the break, was awarded the Larry H. Miller Dealerships Most Aggressive Rider jersey. His team won the Best Team Classification.

"I put in an attack and settled in, and it was enough to drop the other breakaway guys. I just rode my own pace and I hoped it was enough to hold on for the win. Obviously, Sepp is riding incredibly and he caught me near the top. But, I can't say that I didn't try. I'm very happy with the way I rode," said Brown who finished ninth on the stage. "The last time I did this race was 2013 and I didn't finish, so that just tells you how hard it is. I came back here to prove to myself that I could get through it. It's super hard and that also makes this race that much harder. The quality of the field is one of the best I've seen in the U.S."

Kuss also claimed the Utah Office of Tourism King of the Mountain jersey. Travis McCabe (USA) of UnitedHealthcare Pro Cycling Team successfully defended the Utah Sports Commission Sprint jersey. Placing eighth overall put 20-year-old Luis Villalobos (MEX) of Aevolo Cycling in the WCF Insurance Best Young Rider jersey. Fans selected Utah-native Taylor "TJ" Eisenhart (USA) of Holowesko-Citadel presented by Arapahoe Resources as the America First Credit Union Fan Favorite in the Overall Fan Favorite category.

Pending final UCI approval, the tentative race dates for the 2019 Tour of Utah will be Aug. 12-18. "Congratulations to all the riders in America's Toughest Stage Race and our worthy champion. Through the heat, smoke and altitude, you were all very impressive. We hope everyone enjoyed this showcase of the state of Utah and sport of cycling," said Tour of Utah Managing Director John Kimball.

Bookwalter, who has ridden the Tour of Utah 11 times, added similar insights about the race. "My first time in (Utah) was 2008. It intimidated me and it was so daunting to get through it. I'm probably not as intimidated by it now as I was then, but it's still challenging. The heat, the altitude, (and) the competition is just getting higher and higher, and raised up every year. America's Toughest Stage Race is an accurate description and I'm happy it's back in 2019."

RESULTS AND STANDINGS

www.tourofutah.com/race/results

Stage 6 presented by Utah Sports Commission

1. KUSS Sepp (USA), TEAM LOTTO NL-JUMBO - 3.09'22"
2. BOOKWALTER Brent (USA), BMC RACING TEAM - 3.09'30" +8"
3. HAIG Jack (AUS), MITCHELTON-SCOTT - 3.09'30" +8"
4. CARTHY Hugh John (GBR), EF-DRAPAC pb CANNONDALE - 3.09'49" +27"
5. SWIRBUL Keegan (USA), JELLY BELLY pb MAXXIS - 3.09'50" +28"
6. HERMANS Ben (BEL), ISRAEL CYCLING ACADEMY - 3.10'00" +38"

7. DOMBROWSKI Joe (USA), EF-DRAPAC pb CANNONDALE - 3.10'05" +43"
8. VILLALOBOS HERNANDEZ Luis Ricardo (MEX), AEVOLO - 3.10'36" +1'14"
9. BROWN Nathan (USA), EF-DRAPAC pb CANNONDALE - 3.10'36" +1'14"
10. CONCI Nicola (ITA) TREK-SEGAFFREDO - 3.10'37" +1'15"

FINAL GENERAL CLASSIFICATION - Top 10

1. KUSS Sepp (USA), TEAM LOTTO NL-JUMBO – 21.41'12"
2. HERMANS Ben (BEL), ISRAEL CYCLING ACADEMY - 21.43'21" +2'09"
3. HAIG Jack (AUS), MITCHELTON-SCOTT - 21.43'33" +2'21"
4. BOOKWALTER Brent (USA), BMC RACING TEAM - 21.43'51" +2'39"
5. CARTHY Hugh John (GBR), EF-DRAPAC pb CANNONDALE - 21.43'54" +2'42"
6. DOMBROWSKI Joe (USA), EF-DRAPAC pb CANNONDALE - 21.44'10" +2'58"
7. SWIRBUL Keegan (USA), JELLY BELLY pb MAXXIS - 21.44'51" +3'39"
8. VILLALOBOS HERNANDEZ Luis Ricardo (MEX), AEVOLO MEX 21.45'09" +3'57"
9. WOODS Michael (CAN), EF-DRAPAC pb CANNONDALE - 21.45'50" +4'38"
10. STETINA Peter (USA), TREK-SEGAFFREDO - 21.47'02" +5'50"

AWARD JERSEYS

- Larry H. Miller Group of Companies Overall leader – Sepp Kuss (USA), Team LottoNL-Jumbo
- Utah Sports Commission Sprint leader – Travis McCabe (USA), UnitedHealthcare Pro Cycling Team
- Utah Office of Tourism King of the Mountain – Sepp Kuss (USA), Team LottoNL-Jumbo
- WCF Insurance Best Young Rider - Luis Villalobos (MEX), Aevolo Cycling
- Larry H. Miller Dealerships Most Aggressive Rider (Stage 6) – Nathan Brown (USA), EF Education First-Drpac p/b Cannondale
- America First Credit Union Fan Favorite Overall – Taylor "TJ" Eisenhart (USA), Holowesko-Citadel p/b Arapahoe Resources

-- tourofutah.com --

About the Larry H. Miller Tour of Utah

The Larry H. Miller Tour of Utah, referred to as "America's Toughest Stage Race™," is a week-long, professional cycling stage race for the best men's teams in the world. The 2018 event will be held Aug. 6-12, covering 548 miles of racing and 43,780 feet of elevation gain. Now in its 14th year, the event was elevated in 2015 as a 2.HC-rated UCI stage race, making it one of the premier events in North America. The Tour of Utah is owned by Larry H. Miller Sports & Entertainment. More information about the Tour of Utah, host venues and professional teams can be found by visiting www.tourofutah.com, as well as social channels [Facebook](#) (tourofutah), [Twitter](#) (tourofutah), [Instagram](#) (thetourofutah) and [YouTube](#) (tourofutah).

Photo Credit

Jonathan Devich, epicimages.us

Media Contact

Jackie Tyson, Media Relations Manager, Tour of Utah
TourofUtahPR@pelotonsports.net, 678-362-6228

