



## RACE CONCLUSION

### Quotes Compiled After Stage 7 of the Amgen Tour of California and Stage 3 of the Amgen Tour of California Women's Race empowered with SRAM

*May 18, 2019*

**Kristin Klein, president of the Amgen Tour of California and executive vice president of AEG Sports** – “I first want to say congratulations to everyone. What a fantastic week. This is our 14<sup>th</sup> edition, and I have to say this is our best edition yet. We had the strongest field for both the men and the woman....There has been spectacular performances by all of the riders. We continue to have a platform that is a launching pad for all of the young talent. Looking back at our race, the likes of Peter Sagan, Mark Cavendish, then the past few years with (Julian) Alaphilippe and (Egan) Bernal, (Fernando) Gaiaria, George Bennet, then this year, look at all the young talent. It's phenomenal to see it and we're proud that we continue to be a launching pad for all of the riders. Congratulations once again to everybody.”

**Tadej Pogacar, UAE Team Emirates, 2019 Amgen Tour of California Champion and TAG Heuer Best Young Rider Jersey Winner** – “This race was my main goal this year. I knew that I was prepared. I surprised myself a bit that I took the overall win. But I'm really happy and looking forward to next season.”

*(On victory yesterday and the strategy and craft that led to it)* – “I think from all the racing over the years with great coaching. If you race like I do for 10 years now, you learn stuff. I still don't know everything, but that's how it is.”

*(On how he got into racing)* – “First my brother started, then I wanted to start cycling also because everything my brother did I had to do. He quit and I was still pursuing my dream.”

**Anna van der Breggen, Boels Dolmans Cycling Team, Two-time Amgen Tour of California Women's Race empowered with SRAM Race Champion & Visit California Sprint Jersey Winner** – “It feels really good. It was a hard stage race. They had three beautiful stages and they didn't make it easy for us the last day....To finish first and second is an amazing result.”

*(On finishing first and second with teammate Katie Hall)* – “It's really special. Katie won it here last year, and I won the year before, and we can work together now. Getting a one-two result,

of course we didn't think that was possible before, so it's really great for the team here, and put a spirit for the team for the rest of the season."

**Davide Ballerini, Astana Pro Team, Lexus King of the Mountain Jersey Winner** – "It's the first time for me here in California. It's a beautiful country. I tried to win one stage, but it's not easy. I tried to breakaway also today, but it's a very, very short day, and fast all day. I'm really amazed by this country, and we'll see you next year."

*(On getting into the breakaways this week)* – "It's not easy to take the breakaway here, but I tried. My goal was to win a stage. When I was in the breakaway I see the point of the mountain, and I tried to take the jersey. Day by day I do better, and finally I win and I'm happy."

**Kasper Asgreen, Deceuninck – Quick-Step, Visit California Sprint Jersey Winner** – "It feels amazing. This week has been way more than I expected when I came here. I'm really happy with what I did here."

*(On young riders doing especially well at The Amgen Tour of California)* – "This stage race is really hard. The stage races in Europe are also hard. I think there's just a really good generation coming up now. It's natural that this generation is starting to make results."

**Alex Hoehn, Breakaway from Cancer® Most Courageous Rider Jersey Winner** – "It's an amazing experience to be here against some of the best riders in the world, and just going head to head with them that this team has always wanted to do. To get this opportunity to do that, and walk away with a podium and multiple jerseys, I can't thank USA Cycling enough for giving us this chance to get out there and compete against the best in the world. It's been amazing."

*(On walking away with the jersey)* – "It means a lot. We were coming into this race, we weren't expecting to win or a lot of stuff, just because we were one of the last teams to get entered, and so to be able to walk away with the jersey just really shows that we can compete, and that's ultimately what we wanted to come to do."

**Juliette Labous, Team Sunweb, Women's TAG Heuer Best Young Rider Jersey Winner** – "It was three hard days, especially yesterday with Mt. Baldy. But today wasn't a super hard stage....We raced it with full gas from the start almost. It was tough because today almost went perfectly for us because we had a really good lead out with our sprinter, but her chain got caught the last corner, but personally I'm really happy about how I felt and happy to win this jersey."