



Media Release
Monday, 14 October 2013

Intxausti conquers climb to take stage and Tour lead

Spain's **Beñat Intxausti** has a stranglehold on the 2013 Tour of Beijing after taking the stage four win in a spectacular final climb on Mentougou Miaofeng Mountain.

The 27-year-old Movistar rider burst away from what remained of the peloton over the final two kilometres to hold off a fast finishing **Dan Martin** (Garmin Sharp) and a gallant **David Lopez** (Sky Procycling) to claim a three second advantage. Intxausti was part of the day's early breakaway and with the addition of 12 bonus seconds on the road, he will hold a 10 second margin for tomorrow's final stage.

Given the final day is a fast, flat and relatively short 117km, featuring a start at Tian An Men Square before 12 laps of the Olympic precinct at the Bird's Nest, the overall victory should be secure if the Spaniard remains upright.

"I am really happy this is my first win since the Giro, because the Vuelta didn't go really well. I am now ending the season very well," Intxausti explained.

"I am dedicating this victory to Xavi Tondo. He is a very special person to me," he said, speaking of his friend who died in a tragic accident at home in 2011, when crushed by his garage door. Intxausti was with Tondo at the time of the horrific incident.

Intxausti said the team plan was to put both world champion **Rui Costa** and himself in contention on the final climb.

"Yes at the start of the day the plan was for Rui Costa and for me, so we had both options. In the last two kilometres, I tried to attack so that I could win the stage. Also, we worked hard to take the bonifications, because they were also important."

"It was a very close finish; I could see Daniel Martin was very close to me. I went full gas to the end so I could raise my hands with enough time."

If successful tomorrow his debut WorldTour stage-race win will add to a stage of the

Giro d'Italia this year, in what has been a busy one – racing both the Giro and the Vuelta a Espana, along with an eighth place finish at the Tour of the Basque Country.

The road to the Mountain Summit

In a pulsating final stage, which contained three climbs before the final ascent to the top of Miaofeng, four riders worked their way clear at the 29km point. The group contained Intxausti, along with his Movistar teammate **Jose Ivan Gutierrez**, **Zdenek Stybar** (Omega Pharma Quick-Step) and **Maurits Lammertink** (Vacansoliel – DCM).

After the first sprint Intxausti returned to the peloton and the gap grew to two minutes 45 seconds, the biggest margin of the day, as the watchful peloton ensured the gap didn't extend.

On the first category one climb, three more riders joined the break, with KOM leader **Damiano Caruso** (Cannondale), **Moreno Hofland** (Belkin) and **Stijn Vandenberg** (Omega Pharma Quick-Step) joining the fray.

At the foot of the final and decisive climb, the leaders split, leaving Vandenberg alone, before the rampaging peloton, led by Sky, closed the gap to bring the race together for the final 12km journey to the summit.

With overnight leader **Nacer Bouhanni** resting his sprinters legs for tomorrow's final stage, the bunch disintegrated up the mountain as the attacks came. **Adam Hansen** (Lotto-Belisol), **Marco Pinotti** (BMC) and **Josh Edmondson** (Team Sky) all made attempts to break clear, however none proved successful.

Lopez and Tour de France stage winner **Jan Bakelants** (RadioShack-Leopard) were next to try and secure victory, opening a 20 second gap with 4km remaining.

In an exciting finale, Martin could see the danger so helped drag back the leader, but along with Lopez, world champion Rui Costa (Movistar) also briefly looked a likely winner, before his teammate Intxausti made his final push to the summit. With the finish line looming it looked likely that Martin would pinch the win, but the Spaniard prevailed.

Lopez was third, with Costa finishing fourth, six seconds behind the winner, with defending champion and two-time Tour of Beijing winner **Tony Martin** putting forward a brave defence of his title to finish sixth on the stage, a position he also holds on the general classification, 24 seconds adrift.

Final Stage – Stage Five – Tian An Men Square to Mentougou, 117km

The fifth and final 117km stage of the Tour of Beijing starts at the iconic Tian An Men Square, does a ceremonial loop around the resting place of Mao Zedong before the proper start along the wide inner-city boulevard of Chang-an East Street. Working its way north the race will reach its conclusion with 12 laps around the precinct that surrounds the architectural marvel that is the Bird's Nest. A day for the pure sprinters,

so an exciting finish is guaranteed.

RESULTS

Stage and GC results attached. Full results posted when available to www.tourofbeijing.net

Stage 4 150.5km – Yanqing to Mentougou Miaofeng Mountain

Pos	Nom Prénom	Team	Nat	Split
1.	INTXAUSTI Benat	MOV	ESP	3h43'25"
2.	MARTIN Dan	GRS	IRE	03"
3.	LOPEZ David	SKY	ESP	04"
4.	COSTA Rui	MOV	ESP	06"
5.	BARDET Romain	ALM	FRA	11"
6.	MARTIN Tony	OPQ	GER	
7.	BAKELANTS Jan	RLT	BEL	13"
8.	GESINK Robert	MOV	ESP	
9.	BASSO Ivan	CAN	ITA	
10.	FRANK Matthais	BMC	SUI	18"

General Classification

Pos	Nom Prénom	Team	Nat	Time	Split
1.	INTXAUSTI Benat	MOV	ESP	17h11'50"	00"
2.	MARTIN Dan	GRS	IRE	17h12'00"	10"
3.	LOPEZ David	SKY	ESP	17h12'03"	13"
4.	COSTA Rui	MOV	ESP	17h12'08"	18"
5.	BARDET Romain	ALM	FRA	17h12'14"	24"
6.	MARTIN Tony	OPQ	GER	17h12'14"	
7.	BAKELANTS Jan	RLT	BEL	17h12'16"	26"
8.	GESINK Robert	MOV	ESP	17h12'16"	
9.	BASSO Ivan	CAN	ITA	17h12'16"	
10.	BRAVO Garikoitz	EUS	ESP	17h12'21"	31"

Points Classification

Pos	Nom Prénom	Eq.	Nat	Points
1.	BOUHANNI Nacer	FDJ	FRA	38pts
2.	PETACCHI Alessandro	OPQ	ITA	24pts
3.	BRESHELL Matti	TST	DEN	21pts
4.	MEZGEC Luka	ARG	SLO	21pts
5.	INTXAUSTI Benat	MOV	ESP	20pts

Mountain Classification

Pos	Nom Prénom	Eq.	Nat	Points
1.	CARUSO Damiano	CAN	ITA	49pts
2.	SULZBERGER Wesley	OGE	AUS	35pts
3.	GUTIERREZ Jose Ivan	MOV	ESP	18pts
4.	BAYER Chad	CSS	USA	17pts
5.	KAISEN Oliver	LTB	TST	16pts

Young Rider Classification

Pos	Nom Prénom	Eq.	Nat	Time	Split
1.	BARDET Romain	ALM	FRA	17h12'14"	00"
2.	BRAVO Garikoitz	EUS	ESP	17h12'21"	07"
3.	BETANCUR Carlos	ALM	COL	17h12'21"	
4.	POLANC Jan	LAM	SLO	17h12'31"	17"
5.	NERZ Dominik	BMC	GER	17h12'31"	

2013 Tour of Beijing Stages:

Stage One – Friday, 11th October
190.5km – Shunyi to Huairou Studio City

Stage Two – Saturday 12th October
201.5km – Huairou Studio City to Yanqing

Stage Three – Sunday 13th October
176km – Yanqing to Qiandajian

Stage Four – Monday, 14th October
150.5km – Yanqing to Mentougou Miafeng Mountain

Stage Five – Tuesday, 15th October
117km – Tian an men Square to Bird's Nest Piazza



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