



Foix,
Sunday July 15th 2007

**THE 2007 ETAPE DU TOUR MONDOVELO – 15th EDITION
FOIX / LOUDENVIELLE**

Tomorrow, on Monday July 16th, **8,000 amateur cyclists** will joyfully take the start of the Etape du Tour Mondovelo : Foix / Loudenvielle. This 15th edition will follow the itinerary set out for the 15th stage of this years Tour de France, one of the hardest stages this year. After the magnificent scenery found in the High Alps and the Isère region, it's now the turn of the Ariège , the Haute Garonne and the High Pyrénées regions to welcome the most coveted amateur bike race. The same route that will be taken by the Tour de France pro riders during the 15th stage, scheduled on Monday July 23rd.

No fewer than 162 women will be participating in the event (including Karine SAYSSET, winner of the 2006 edition of the Etape du Tour : Gap / L'Alpe d'Huez). **50 countries** will be represented: 4,522 French riders (including **Greg Lemond**, 3 times winner of the Tour de France, **Patrice Lagisquet**, Biarritz Olympique Rugby Club coach, **Laurent Benezech**, French Champion with the French Racing Club in 1990, as well **Paul Belmondo** and **Stéphane Mitsuf**, Static diving World Champion), 1,319 English, 48 Spanish (including Abraham Olano, 2nd Atlanta Olympic Games time trials after Miguel Indurain). It will also be the meeting point for 163 Americans, 59 Swiss, 62 Irish without forgetting the Belgians, Australian, Japanese, Chinese, Italian, Polish....Also present at the start line : Blaise Sonnery, winner of the 2006 : Gap / L'Alpe d'Huez edition and Laurent Marcon, winner of the 2005 Mourenx / Pau edition.

The village, settled on the Ayroule Sports Ground will close tonight at 9 pm. During two days, more than 25,000 visitors, riders and relatives will have met the sponsors, the exhibitors and seen the local animations. The riders have been able to collect their bibs in a festive atmosphere, and the day will end, as usual, with the Pasta Party.

The start of the event will be given at 7am, on the Cours Gabriel Fauré, in Foix, by the City Mayor Jean-Noël Fondere and the event Director Jean-François Alcan. The race will lead every participant on a course designed for the World Cycling stars. No less than 5 formidable peaks are on the agenda ; the **Col de Port** (1 249m), **Col de Portet d'Aspet** (1 069m), **Col de Menté** (1 349m), **Port de Balès** (1 755m) et **Col de Peyresourde** (1 569m).

After **199 kilometers** of pain and joy, the race will end in Loudenvielle, where the first rider is expected at 1:pm; as for the last one, let's predict an optimistic 7pm finish time.

Find out the Etape du Tour - MONDOVELO details on our Website:
www.letapedutour.com

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