



Tour de France 2026: Philipsen Ends Wait With Brilliant Stage 17 Sprint in Voiron

Description

There are victories that feel inevitable in hindsight, and Jasper Philipsen's win in Voiron on Wednesday was one of them. The Belgian sprinter had come agonisingly close on multiple occasions at this year's Tour de France, seeing stages slip away in the final metres. Stage 17, from Chambéry to Voiron across 174.7 kilometres of rolling Chartreuse terrain, finally delivered and he seized it with complete authority.



Philipsen finally gets his stage win in Voiron. © ASO

How Stage 17 Unfolded

A large breakaway formed early, with more than 40 riders making the cut into the day's main move. Alpecin-Premier Tech were present in strength, with Mathieu van der Poel orchestrating from within the group. As the flat run-in to Voiron approached, the question was simply when van der Poel would light the fuse.

The lead-out was textbook: perfectly timed, ruthlessly executed. Van der Poel laid down a searing effort into the final bend before Philipsen launched from his wheel with approximately 200 metres remaining. He crossed the line in 3 hours, 41 minutes and 13 seconds. Mauro Schmid (Jayco AlUla) and Olav Kooij (Decathlon CMA CGM) arrived in the same time, contesting the sprint for second and third.

It was Philipsen's 11th career Tour de France stage victory but his first of the 2026 edition after a series of near-misses that had left him visibly frustrated. "The Tour de France always is an emotional rollercoaster," he said afterwards. Few at this year's race would argue with that.

The Green Jersey Battle

Philipsen's victory has injected fresh drama into the points competition. Mads Pedersen of Lidl-Trek holds the maillot vert with 452 points, but the gap to Philipsen now stands at just seven points (445 pts). With Stage 21's traditional sprint finish on the Champs-Élysées still to come, the green jersey race could go to the very last kilometre of the race.



Pogacar continues to command the general classification. © ASO

General Classification After Stage 17

In the overall standings, Tadej Pogacar remains firmly in command. The UAE Team Emirates leader holds a time of 60 hours, 04 minutes and 17 seconds. Remco Evenepoel sits second at 4 minutes 32 seconds, followed by Isaac Del Toro in third at 6:51. Young French talent Paul Seixas is fourth at 7:11, with Juan Ayuso rounding out the top five at 9:22.

The race's GC picture changed dramatically on Stage 15 when Jonas Vingegaard widely considered Pogacar's most dangerous rival abandoned following a crash. His absence has transformed what many expected to be a two-horse duel into what looks increasingly like Pogacar's coronation.

What Comes Next

Today's Stage 18 takes the peloton from Voiron to Orcières-Merlette, the first proper mountain-top finish since the intermediate time trial in Évian. Then come the Tour's most iconic stages Gap to Alpe d'Huez on Stage 19, followed by a second ascent of the legendary climb on Stage 20 before the traditional Paris procession on Stage 21.

The 2026 Tour de France is entering its decisive final chapter. Pogacar looks imperious in yellow; the green jersey race is knife-edge; and Philipsen, finally off the mark in Voiron, will be hunting more stage wins and points at every opportunity. La Grande Boucle rolls on towards Paris and its final days promise to be unmissable.

For more cycling coverage on LBRD, see [Pogacar Poised for Tour de France 2026 Glory: Five Stages Left as Alpe d'Huez Double Awaits](#) and [Singapore Swimmers Eye Commonwealth Games Glory in Glasgow 2026](#).

Date Created

23/07/2026

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