

Thursday, July 19, 2001

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

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## Armstrong again whips field in climb, now 3d in standings

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
CHAMROUSE, France — Lance Armstrong hunched over the handlebars, lowered his head and gritted his teeth as he powered up the steep mountain climb from Grenoble to Chamrousse.

This time, he wasn't bluffing. But the result was the same yesterday.

The Texan blew away his rivals for a second day running and took another big step toward a third Tour de France title.

"We're getting closer and closer to the yellow jersey," Armstrong said after finishing the uphill time trial a minute faster than his main rival, Germany's Jan Ullrich.

Taking the start in fourth from last position, the U.S. Postal Service rider pedaled at a tempo that made the 5,019-foot climb high into the French Alps look effortless.

About 26 miles from the finish, he had set a time 42 seconds faster than Ullrich's. In the final uphill stretch, he extended the margin by a further 18 seconds, clocking a time of 1 hour, 7 minutes, 27 seconds.

But it wasn't enough to satisfy the two-time champion.

"I still believe that there's an other level of Lance Armstrong," he said.

The performance was all the more impressive given Ullrich's strong showing on the 19.87-mile leg. He placed second, beating Spaniard Joseba Beloki by 35 seconds.

With yesterday's win, Armstrong rose from fourth to third place in the overall standings.

The two riders ahead of him — Frenchman Francois Simon and Kazakhstan's Andrei Kivilev —

are expected to lose ground in the next three stages in the Pyrenees mountains, whereas Armstrong is tipped to shine.

He leads Ullrich by 3 minutes, 34 seconds, which the German will be hard-pressed to reduce given Armstrong's current form in uphill stages.

The win gave Armstrong his second stage victory. He left his rivals behind in Tuesday's first mountain climb, surging past them at the foot of L'Alpe d'Huez and powering to the summit.

He later admitted he had used TV coverage to bluff his competitors, who exhausted themselves in the first two climbs believing Armstrong was tired and unable to keep pace.

There was no room for poker tactics in yesterday's grueling climb.

"In a time trial there are no tactics. It's an event that anyone can figure out," Armstrong said. "The only slight consideration is that it's a hard course, so you have to judge where you use your efforts."

To help judge the climb, Armstrong and his teammates did four practice runs at Chamrousse before the start of the race.

"We spent a lot of time being here and figuring out what to do," Armstrong said.

Armstrong had earlier warned that it would be "tough" to recover from the effort at L'Alpe d'Huez, but showed no sign of flagging yesterday.

"I didn't expect to recover and feel as good as I did," Armstrong said. "From now on, I will be very careful with my efforts."

Ullrich, the 1997 champion, was distraught after being beaten by Armstrong a second day running.

"Lance Armstrong once said that Jan Ullrich is the greatest talent in cycling. This doesn't seem to be the case," the Team Telekom rider said. "But I am not giving up despite everything, and I'll try everything. I've never been in such good shape."

Today is a rest day for the cyclists, during which riders are to be transferred by plane from Grenoble to Perpignan at the foot of the Pyrenees.

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## Tour de France at a Glance

Yesterday: Stage 11



Today: Stage 12

Tomorrow: Stage 13

After Tomorrow: Stage 14

After Tomorrow: Stage 15

After Tomorrow: Stage 16

After Tomorrow: Stage 17

After Tomorrow: Stage 18

After Tomorrow: Stage 19

After Tomorrow: Stage 20

After Tomorrow: Stage 21

After Tomorrow: Stage 22

After Tomorrow: Stage 23

After Tomorrow: Stage 24

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After Tomorrow: Stage 81

After Tomorrow: Stage 82

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After Tomorrow: Stage 86

After Tomorrow: Stage 87

After Tomorrow: Stage 88

## Temple might take action vs. Big East

The school might sue the conference, which is poised to oust the Owls' football team in 2002.

By Kevin Tatum

INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Temple University, which was told March 2 by the Big East that the conference would drop the Owls' football program on June 30, 2002, is considering litigation, according to a source close to the situation.

A lawsuit by Temple, which completed a \$7 million practice facility last fall and later extended the contract of coach Bobby Wallace to 2005, would claim that the Big East did not give the university proper and timely notice about its decision to oust the football program, the source said.

The firm of Ballard, Spahr, Andrews and Ingersoll, which is representing Temple in the matter, has prepared the papers, but they have not been served. A spokesman for the law firm said yesterday it would have no comment about filing a lawsuit on Temple's behalf.

Meanwhile, Howard Gittis, chairman of Temple's board of trustees, continues to court the presidents of the Big East member schools in a diplomatic effort to get the conference to reconsider its decision.

When the Big East said it was ousting Temple, it cited the school's