



Quotes Compiled from the Amgen Tour of California Pre-Race Press Conference

May 10, 2019

Kristin Klein, President of the Amgen Tour of California – “The 14th annual Amgen Tour of California is here, and it will not disappoint. This year the riders will face the most climbing, the longest road days and arguably the most competitive field in the history of the race.”

“The riders know when they come to the Amgen Tour of California they’ll get a bit of everything...mountains, ocean breezes, lush forests, farm fields and vineyards – it’s quite a way to sightsee this beautiful state, and we’re proud to call the Amgen Tour of California an international postcard for the state.”

Bob Stapleton, Chairman of USA Cycling – “Kristin (Klein) calls this one of America’s greatest races, I call it one of the world’s greatest races.”

“Economically this really is a Grand Tour. If you look at where the money and interest and eyeballs that support cycling come from, American companies are the number two direct sponsor of teams, and if you look at the total support, all the money, goods and services that come into cycling, United States is number one.”

“On the women’s side [the race] has been more significant. There are only two other races on the women’s WorldTour calendar outside of Europe. The other two are in China and are both heavily government supported, so the role that this event plays in the sport from an economic perspective is really remarkable.”

Rob DeMartini, USA Cycling President and CEO – “I was immediately impressed by the depth of talent that is here at the Amgen Tour of California. I look forward to spending time with all of the American riders here and am pleased we were able to field a National Team and give our up and coming riders an opportunity to race on home soil.”

Mark Cavendish, Team Dimension Data – “I’ve been here many times, not just for the bike race, but for holiday and for training camps, and I always feel welcome at The Amgen Tour of California, so it’s good to be back.”

“The race has gotten harder, and the race has stepped up. As Bob (Stapleton) said, it’s one of the most important races on the calendar now, and with that comes a bigger challenge to win, and it’s good that more people are watching.”

Peter Sagan, BORA-hansgrohe – “I’m very happy to come back here. It’s already my 10th Amgen Tour of California. I hope it’s going to be a good year and I’m hoping to do something.”

(On taking time off, skipping Liège-Bastogne-Liège to prepare for Amgen Tour of California) “It was not really only for the Amgen Tour of California, but also to take time to rest because after this is another long part I have to be ready for, Tour de Suisse, Nationals and Tour de France.”

George Bennet, Team Jumbo-Visma – “[Winning the Yellow Jersey] is the main objective. I don’t know if it’s going to be easier, but it will be a lot different than last time, without the time trial and different riders here as well. It’s going to be a challenging week.”

“The winner on (Mount) Baldy is going to get the Lexus. Mount Hamilton is hard, but it’s not like two years ago when we could light it up and survive to the finish...it all comes down to Baldy and staying out of trouble the other days.”

Richie Porte, Trek-Segafredo – “A lot of ways this [The Amgen Tour of California] is leading how cycling has got to go.”

“In the GC game every day is the most important. There’s no day you can switch off. Maybe a bit of a shame for me there’s no time trial, but there’s plenty of climbing.”

Nacer Bouhanni, Cofidis-Solutions Credits – *(On what he knows of this race)* “This is a race I’ve watched on TV for a few years. I’m not that familiar with the Amgen Tour of California, but I’ve seen very nice footage on TV, and I’m happy to be here.”

Evan Huffman, Rally UHC Cycling – “We’re still underdogs and we feel like underdogs. When you race against the bigger teams it’s hard not to. But at the same time this is one race in particular that we have performed really well at in the past, so we’re confident we can do that again.”

“This race is for sure a huge target, and it’s something that our team has been talking about all spring, that we need to be ready to do well at this race.”

“For me, what would make a successful week – I’d like to win the KOM jersey again, and if there’s an opportunity for a stage result, I’d like to take advantage of that as well.”

Tejay van Garderen, EF Education First Pro Cycling – “It’s always a treat to be able to come home. Now being on a truly American team coming and racing on American soil provides a different feel and a different level of motivation.”

(On GC leadership role on the team) "I think it's going to be more of an open approach this week. Because really it's going to come down to Mt. Baldy and who has the best legs there."

Alex Hoehn, USA Cycling – "I'm grateful to USA Cycling for giving me the opportunity to showcase my talent here at the Amgen Tour of California in front of the best teams in the world. It's not often that a young rider like me gets to line up with some of the best in the pro peloton, and this will be an experience I will remember for the rest of my life."

Also in attendance was Kendall Ryan (Ventura, Calif.), who will compete in the Amgen Tour of California Women's Race empowered with SRAM, which begins May 16 in Ventura, Calif., and concludes May 18 in Pasadena.

Kendall Ryan Team TIBCO-Silicon Valley Bank – "I'm really excited the race is in Ventura. I know the finish line like the back of my hand; I know every pothole and crack in the road."