



Stage Win for Lupus Racing Team Highlights First UCI Race of 2016

Three Podiums in One Week at Dominican Republic Stage Race

ATLANTA (March 8, 2016) – The Lupus Racing Team came together to deliver a stage win and two additional podium finishes at their first UCI stage race of the season, the 37th Vuelta Independencia Nacional Republica Dominicana, Feb. 27-Mar. 5. The team raced aggressively by putting riders in the daily breakaways.



Vuelta Independencia Nacional Republica Dominicana stage 7 podium (l-r): Fernando Grijalba (Inteja-MMR) in second place, Michael Olheiser (Lupus Racing Team) in first and Marco Delgado (Ochoa Finauto) in third.

Michael Olheiser (USA) solo'ed to victory on stage seven of the eight-day UCI 2.2 race in the Dominican Republic, and Matthieu Jeannès (France) and Evan Murphy (USA) finished third in stage two and stage eight, respectively. In addition, the Team also claimed five Top 10 finishes, fifth on stage one team time trial, seventh (Chad Beyer) on stage two, eighth (Chris Horner) and 10th (Olheiser) on stage four and fifth (Evan Murphy) on stage five.

Beyer finished 18th overall in the final general classification, and the Lupus Racing Team placed fourth overall in the final general team classification out of 20 international teams. (Shown on right is the start of stage 1 of the Vuelta Independencia Nacional Republica Dominicana.)

“We saw everything, the highs and the lows. From tough transfers, changed stages (going straight up mountains), to stage wins. We fought like champions. This team is awesome, no one person got the glory, but a shared experience to propel the Lupus Racing Team into the 2016 racing season. We raced about 700 miles in eight days, and shared three podiums between three different teammates, awesome.” said Olheiser. The 41-year-old veteran attacked his break mates in the final kilometer to take the win.



“By stage 8, we were in a much better place with Mike's win the day before, so we really had nothing to lose and just put guys in every move. Chad found himself off the front with a dozen or so guys and I think we were all rooting for him as he could have probably won that stage if that group had gone to the line. Unfortunately, other teams wanted a field sprint and in the reshuffle just before we caught the break, our guys got separated. Thomas [Vaubourzeix] did a monster pull at first wheel from two kilometers to 800 meters to go. Bryan [Lewis] really smashed it in the last kilometer with me on his wheel, and I put out a great kick, but we came up just short of the win, taking third.” said Murphy about stage 8. Murphy had come close to a podium on stage five where he finished fifth after getting a leadout from Bryan Lewis and Horner.



Chris Horner climbing on Stage 6

The Vuelta Independencia Nacional commemorates the Dominican Republic Independence declared on February 27, 1844. Starting off with a team time trial, the course hilly stage race featured 1,047 kilometers of racing over eight days. Stage three, 173 kilometers from Santo Domingo to Mirador de Miches, challenged the racers with the first mountain-top finish. On the Queen Stage, the 131-km stage six, the racers faced an 18-km climb with grades up to 19% to the finish at Constanza.

37th Vuelta Independencia Nacional Republica Dominicana Stages

- Stage 1, Feb. 27, Santo Domingo, Team Time Trial, 20 kms
- Stage 2, Feb. 28, Santo Domingo to Barahona, 175 kms
- Stage 3, Feb. 29, Santo Domingo to Mirador de Miches, 173 kms
- Stage 4, Mar. 1, Santo Domingo to Samaná, 191 kms
- Stage 5, Mar. 2, Samaná to San Francisco de Macorís, 118 kms
- Stage 6, Mar. 3, Moca to Constanza, 131 kms
- Stage 7, Mar. 4, Santiago de los Caballeros to Santo Domingo, 139 kms
- Stage 8, Mar. 5, Circuito Parque Mirado Sur, Santo Domingo, 100 kms

“It was great to visit La Republica Dominicana and we were very welcomed by the people and racers. As far as I see it, it was a great opportunity for our team to bond and race, and spread awareness for the autoimmune disease, Lupus,” Murphy concluded.

The roster for the Vuelta Independencia Nacional Republica Dominica, Feb. 27 – Mar. 5, was Chad Beyer (USA), Chris Horner (USA), Matthieu Jeannès (Fance), Bryan Lewis (USA), Barry Miller (USA), Evan Murphy (USA), Michael Olheiser (USA) and Thomas Vaubourzeix (France). The Sport Director was Phil Cortes (Canada) and head mechanic was Zack Foley (USA).



Follow the Team

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About Lupus Racing Team

The Lupus Racing Team is owned and operated by Cycle Culture, Inc., a 501(c)3 Georgia business with offices in Atlanta and New York. This is the fourth year Cycle Culture has operated a cycling team, and the second consecutive year the team will compete internationally as a UCI Continental squad. The Team partners with the [Georgia Chapter](#) of the Lupus Foundation of America to raise awareness and improve funding for an illness that affects 55,00 Georgians and 1.5 million Americans. Lupus is a chronic, autoimmune disease that can damage any part of the body, for which there is currently no known cure. Learn more about the Team, beneficiary and sponsors at LupusRacingTeam.com. Follow the team on Twitter ([@lupusracingteam](https://twitter.com/lupusracingteam)), Facebook ([LupusRacingTeam](https://www.facebook.com/LupusRacingTeam)) and YouTube ([LupusRacingTeam](https://www.youtube.com/LupusRacingTeam)).

About the Lupus Foundation of America, Georgia Chapter

The Lupus Foundation of America is devoted to solving the mystery of lupus, one of the world's cruelest, most unpredictable and devastating diseases, while giving caring support to those who suffer from its brutal impact. The Foundation leads the fight to improve the quality of life for all people affected by lupus. The Georgia Chapter is the only statewide resource for the 55,000 Georgians living with lupus. The impact on the patients and families served and empowered by the Georgia chapter is compelling. In 2016, the Georgia Chapter will host eight educational symposiums and workshops, including the first programs in Tipton and Kennesaw. There are more than 30 statewide support groups for people with lupus, and the Georgia Chapter holds the country's largest Walk to End Lupus Now with 14,000 walkers raising more than \$600,000 in 2015. Ninety percent of every dollar donated funds essential education programs, patient support, advocacy and awareness in more than 120 counties across the state. For more information, visit LupusGA.org, and follow us on Twitter [@LupusGeorgia](https://twitter.com/LupusGeorgia), Facebook at [facebook.com/LupusGeorgia](https://www.facebook.com/LupusGeorgia) and Instagram [@lupusgeorgia](https://www.instagram.com/lupusgeorgia).

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