



61st SCHELDEPRIJS

July 31

The weather is really nice and plenty of cycling stars takes part in the event. Verstraeten, De Geest, Delcroix and Huysmans go in the break and take an advantage of three minutes but they are caught at km 155. After that many other riders also try to attack but no way for them till Demeyer, Verreydt, Maertens, Spruyt, Debuyschere and Pauwels are able to go and increase the gap with the main pack. They reach the finish together and 21 years old Freddy Maertens wins the sprint.

ROADMAP

Schoten, Brecht, Hoogstraten, Merksplas, Westerlo, Averbode, Heist-op-den-Berg, Berlaar, Nijlen, Grobbendonk, Pulderbos, Zandhoven, Oelegem, Schilde, 's-Gravenwezel, Schoten (196 km) and three local laps in an eight shape, total 245 km.



RESULT

105 participants

1. Freddy Maertens, 245 km in 5h54m (41,525 km/h); 2. Louis Verreydt; 3. Marc Demeyer; 4. Christian Debuyschere; 5. Daniël Pauwels; 6. Jos Spruyt; 7. Bernard Bourguignon at 2'05"; 8. Harm Ottenbros (Ned); 9. Eddy Merckx; 10. Ludo Van Staeyen; 11. Walter Godefroot; 12. Giovanni Jimenez (Col); 13. Ronald De Witte; 14. Georges Pintens; 15. Raf Hooyberghs; 16. Ludo Van der Linden; 17. Johan van Katwijk (Ned); 18. Albert Van Vlierberghe; 19. William Bilsland (Gbr); 20. Gustaaf Van Roosbroeck at 2'50"; 21. Michel Pollentier at 2'55"; 22. Henk Benjamins (Ned); 23. Vic Van Schil; 24. Emile Bodart; 25. Jean-Pierre Berckmans; 26. Maurice Dury; 27. Romain Maes; 28. Noël Vantighem; 29. Luc D'Hondt; 30. Robert De Guchteneere; 31. Dieudonné Depireux; 32. Brian Jolly (Gbr); 33. Roger Swerts; 34. Ghislain Van Landeghem; 35. Englebert Opdebeeck; 36. Jos Abelshausen; 37. Marcel Maes; 38. Phil Bayton (Gbr); 39. Eddy Moreels at 3'30"; 40. Ernie Wielandt at 4'; 41. André Peirsman; 42. Frans Mintjens; 43. Frans Verhaegen; 44. Alain Vasseur (Fra); 45. Mathijs de Koning (Ned); 46. André Dierickx; 47. Franky Ebo; 48. Raymond Steegmans; 49. Lucien De Brauwere; 50. Jos van Beers (Ned).



Freddy Maertens (°Nieuwpoort 13.02.1952)

Freddy was able to win (almost) everything: sprinting and time-trial were his specialties. He only got in trouble in high mountain races.

His main victories are the following ones : two times world champion ('76 and '81), 15 stages in the Tour de France and three times winner of the points classification ('76, '78, '81), Tour of Spain where he also won 13 stages ('77), Ghent-Wevelgem '75 and '76, Amstel Gold Race '76, Grand Prix des Nations '76, Paris-Brussels '75, Paris-Tours '76, Paris-Nice '77, Champion of Belgium '76, Brabant Arrow '76, Circuit Het Volk '77 and '78. He won that edition of the Scheldeprijs while achieving his first complete season within the professional category. This is also his first big win.

René Vermeiren