

History of Tour de France from the Geographical Point of View

Vladimír Bačík | Michal Klobučník

Abstract

The Tour de France, a three weeks bicycle race has a unique position in the sports world. In 2013, even the 100th year of this prestige has been hold. Over 110-year history, people could notice unique stories and duels in particular periods, which the sports world will never forget, and celebrities that became legends, and many others. Also many places where the races took place entered the history of Tour de France. Our attempt in this article was to point out the spatial context of this event using advanced technologies for the purpose of distribution of historical facts on the Internet. The introductory part characterizes briefly the attendance of particular stage centres from a regional point of view. This part was a sort of entry into the main topic dealing with selected historical aspects of difficult ascents which decide every year on the winner of Tour de France, and also attract fans from all over the world to races taking place on French roads. At the final stage of research, the distribution of results on the website available to a wide circle of fans of this sports event played a very significant part (www.tdfrance.eu). Using advanced methods and procedures we have tried to capture the historical and spatial dimensions of Tour de France in a general form and thus offer not only to the expert community a new view of this unique sports event.

Keywords: *history, Tour de France, ascents, places, internet application*

The full paper is available at:

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