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## Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 10-05-2008 09:29

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I know it's a little tainted with AC and his cronies being allowed in at the last minute, but at least I've got someone to cheer against. It'll be nice to see High Road with Wiggins and Cavendish riding. Weren't they excluded as well at one point?

I think di Luca and Contador are the favourites, but it'll be interesting to see how the third week pans out. I am looking forward to seeing Riccardo Ricco especially as he expressed his dislike of that watery twat Pelizotti.

Is Andy Schleck injured or is he being saved for the tour? Simoni is too old, Piepoli, MacEwan, Menchov, Pelizotti, Brushegin, Soler and Fother for stage wins.

- 1.Contador
  - 2.Ricco
  - 3.di Luca
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## Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 11-05-2008 09:08

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Say what you like about di Luca, he looked great in that pink skin suit yesterday, especially the time trial overshoes. I'd love to be able to where one of them around town. Imagine the abuse!

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## Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by ursus arctos - 11-05-2008 10:10

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Pink always goes down well in Palermo.

My understanding is that Andy Schleck is focusing on the Tour. Lots of quotes from the Astana boys here about how they were on the beach when they heard they were in and haven't had any time to prepare, etc.

Kloden is the local bookies' favourite.

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## Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 11-05-2008 15:47

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Schleck would be a serious contender wouldn't he.  
Ricco was very impressive today wasn't he?

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## Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by ursus arctos - 11-05-2008 19:37

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Agreed on both points, even if I saw none of today's stage given that we were at the Meazza watching Inter revert to their traditional form.

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## Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by toro toro toro toro - 12-05-2008 20:26

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- 1.Ricco
- 2.Schleck

3.Simoni

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### Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by ursus arctos - 12-05-2008 20:50

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Ricco thought that he broke a finger in one of today's pile-ups (not the one that has McEwan going home), but the x-rays have proven to be negative.

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### Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by Tony C - 13-05-2008 21:26

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Didn't Cavendish win a stage today?

That's good isn't it?

I know bugger all about cycling.

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### Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by ursus arctos - 14-05-2008 06:01

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Indeed he did. And that is a very good thing.

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### Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 14-05-2008 11:16

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I missed yesterday's stage and waited around til 11 to see the Eurosport highlights, only to find minor boxing had pushed it back to 1140. 'Fuck that', I thought. 'Must've been an uninteresting stage'. Imagine my surprise when I find out who won.

Eurosport moves in mysterious ways.

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### Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 14-05-2008 17:31

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I had the same problem Felicity but I recorded it and watched it this afternoon. Cavendish did brilliantly. A greta big pile up near the end with Nick Nuyens getting in an ambulance. Cavendish was very impressive and Bennati was very magnanimous.

That boxing was quite good though. Who won, the big German or the thuggish looking Italian veteran? I haven't seen or heard about today's stage, but it's a high casualty count so far.

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### Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 15-05-2008 13:51

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I stayed up for it last night, still glowing with happiness at Rangers' defeat and it was on at 11 this time. So I saw the previous day's finale, the pile-up etc.

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No British joy this time, as Millar's chain snapped in the last few hundred metres, just as he was going onto the wheel of the eventual Russian winner. He stood looking back along the road, saw no team car, so threw the bike over the hoarding. Great stuff.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 16-05-2008 06:00

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It was great wasn't it? He must have been sick. The thing is I just think of Kimmage's, "He does in his bollocks" quote every time I see or hear Millar now.  
I'm not sure he would have won that stage anyway. I thought he looked a bit tired and Brutte played it perfectly. It was good to see someone almost too exhausted to raise his arm as he crossed the line.  
I haven't watched yesterday's stage yet. I'll watch it this afternoon when I get home from work.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 21-05-2008 13:45

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Interesting time trial stage yesterday, but no big moves up or down resulted from it.

I guess the big Q answered was 'is Contador in good shape?'

I didn't doubt that he was-the commentators made too much of his refusal to chase after the others the other day, but he knows there are far bigger mountains to, er, fry.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by ursus arctos - 21-05-2008 13:54

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DiLuca was very disappointed, and rightly so.

It is going to be interesting to see what Astana's strategy is in the mountains.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 23-05-2008 16:04

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I just don't understand Kloeden's mentality. He's a GC contender if ever I saw one. He's more than handy in the mountains, he can TT and he's got form. Why does he want to be a super domestique for a bloke in his early 20's?

Tomorrow should be very interesting.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by ursus arctos - 23-05-2008 16:13

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I wonder if they have a deal in which they switch roles for Le Tour.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 23-05-2008 16:17

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Well I thought that but aren't Astana banned from le Tour?

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by ursus arctos - 23-05-2008 16:24

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For now, yes . . .

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 23-05-2008 17:42

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I know what you mean, but I think ASO are likely to be stricter and less pliant than the Giro organisers. I think the tour will stick to what they said, particularly after last year's tour.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by ursus arctos - 23-05-2008 19:38

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So do I, actually. But I'm not taking anything for granted this season.

In the mean time, this was nice to see:

<http://images.gazzetta.it/Hermes%20Foto/2008/05/23/0K1BUHQM--346x212.jpg>

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by gerontofiel - 23-05-2008 20:50

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(count me in with the 'know bugger all about cycling' brigade)

Cavendish won another one, and came second a few days ago. Is there a points thingy in this Tour (sorry, Giro)?

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 24-05-2008 08:08

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<http://www.tifoshop.com/scheda/immagini/giro7coci.jpg>

This is the jersey worn by the points winner. It's called the ciclamino and is currently worn by Daniele Bennati.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by ursus arctos - 24-05-2008 08:24

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Seen eating Cavendish's dust off his right shoulder in the photo above.

Current top five for the Ciclamino:

Bennati 144 points  
Cavendish 86  
Bettini 71  
Ricco 69

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 24-05-2008 09:14

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I was fortunate to see the 6 tappa of the Giro d'Italia pass our village on 15 May: the stage from Potenza-Peschici.

Many people young and old turned out to see them whizz by. It was a real event. It had not been by for 8 years.

We watched by the cement works, where many of the workers had knocked off waiting to see the cyclists.

Then I had coffee at my elderly aunt's house on the way back and she'd been to see it to and was really stoked by it all.

I know very little about cycling but it was rather impressive and dramatic to see them swing en masse round a tight corner and whoosh down the hill towards us.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by ursus arctos - 24-05-2008 10:31

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We are fortunate enough to live on the traditional route for the last stage (and less than 200 metres from the finish line), but it never loses its fascination.

The experience in the countryside is even more special, though, because one has the great sense of expectation and then it's all over in a flash. Kuhisek (an erstwhile member of the OTF Peleton who is much missed) wrote something similar about his experience of Le Tour in rural Burgundy last year.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 24-05-2008 12:00

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Ursus what a great location!

That's exactly what it was like! We waited ages, chatting excitedly, they swooped round the corner into sight in a mass of colour, whooshed very fast down the hill at us, then swept precariously round a sharp corner and were gone...

We sort of stood there bewildered for a few seconds after.

Mind you we haven't even got a cinema here, so we are easily pleased!!!

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by ursus arctos - 25-05-2008 15:09

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Quite a weekend for Sig. Sella.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by toro toro toro toro - 25-05-2008 16:58

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Indeed! Good to see, he's been there or thereabouts for a good while now without ever getting a big move or making a breakthrough.

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Contador in la maglia rosa, bollocks. But I have every faith in Ricco's ability to reel him in by sheer strength of ego.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by ursus arctos - 26-05-2008 17:15

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And Contador extends his lead on the time trial up to Plan de Coronas (which the locals all call Kroenplatz, being that they are German-speaking).

Still only 41 seconds over Ricco, though.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by toro toro toro - 27-05-2008 00:44

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Aye. A great ride for Phillip Deignan, too, he finished within forty seconds of the lead.

He's a properly classy rider, who's had shitty luck with illness the last two years. I think he's due a big breakthrough soon...

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 27-05-2008 10:40

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Been in London for the past three days and got back to watch the last three stage highlights, back to back. Sella was fantastic. I've been reading David Walsh's "From Lance to Landis", and I can't help but be totally cynical with regard to any of Bruyneel's riders. I don't know if Ricco is clean, but AC is hugely suspect and I want to see him beaten.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 27-05-2008 11:46

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If Sella had won 3 in a row yestaerday I was gonna start a fresh thread called 'Sella, Italia'.

What a great effort. He's my new hero.

I loved Baliani too, when he fell over the cobbles on that breakaway. Forza CSF-Navigare! (since Euskaltel, 'my team' normally are putting very little into it, I don't need to feel guilty about cheating on them).

I'm struck by the fact that the diddy teams invited in for the Giro really have a go, whereas, say, Agritubel and other agriculturally-named invitees in the Tour in the past have tended to be totally outclassed.

Is there just a bigger base of decent cyclists in Italy, even below the Pro-Tour level?

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by ursus arctos - 27-05-2008 11:55

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I think that is basically the answer.

Italy has been more successful at preserving a culture of competitive cycling than France, and one sees the results in the Giro.

It's also my sense (though I have no data) that the logistics of the Giro are significantly less expensive for sponsors than

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those of Le Tour, which allows the Italian teams to spend relatively more on riders than their French counterparts.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 27-05-2008 12:29

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The French might argue that they are cleaner.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by ursus arctos - 27-05-2008 13:30

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I'm sure they would, though that doesn't necessarily mean that they are right.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 27-05-2008 14:31

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The French might argue that they are cleaner.

"Cof(idis)"

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by Felicity, I guess so - 27-05-2008 15:05

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Or I could've cleared my throat in a way that sounded like 'Virenque'!

Good letter in 'Cycling Weekly' recently about the ASO/Tour taking jerseys and stage wins off various individuals now that their drug use is known/admitted. Tricky Ricky, the weeping crawler seems to have held on to all his polka dots.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 27-05-2008 19:51

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Felicity I agree. I was thinking more of their French only protest last year. They can be a little sanctimonious can't they? Then again if many of them are clean, it must be tough to see fat arsed cyclists sailing up hors category climbs.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by ursus arctos - 28-05-2008 15:57

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The lad does it again

<http://images.gazzetta.it/Hermes%20Foto/2008/05/28/0K1L4UQM--346x212.jpg>

at Locarno and takes over second in the points jersey.

I don't think he can catch Bennatti, but it has been a great Giro already for him and HighRoad.

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## Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 28-05-2008 20:31

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That was super confident wasn't it? He was very gracious, but a little bit cheeky wasn't he?  
He's a superstar in the making.

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## Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by ursus arctos - 29-05-2008 20:03

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The Italian press is absolutely in love with him, as he embodies all of their notions of "English fair play". He would have been the first Englishman ever to win three stages in a Grand Tour, btw (though I wouldn't bet against him winning the last day).

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## Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 30-05-2008 15:40

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What a fantastic couple of days. OTF fave Jans Voight winning a solo breakaway yesterday in the rain and then today a truly titanic struggle up the mountains.  
AC was dropped by Ricco and Di Luca dug deep to hang to get second place. AC now leads by 4 seconds with Gavia and Motirolo to come tomorrow. AC was led up by Kloeden but Ricco's attack was superb. He's no doubt kicking himself that he didn't take the pink jersey. Pellizotti didn't have what it takes though did he?  
What was the story with Pellizotti and Lance/Simeoni? Did Pellizotti spit at Filippo Simeoni?

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## Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by toro toro toro toro - 30-05-2008 18:07

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That was Pozzatto.

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## Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 30-05-2008 18:14

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Ah yeah that's right. Pozzato. I don't like Pellizotti much though. Did you hear that Liquigas are going to sign Ivan Basso? I thought there was some sort of agreement (unwritten) between the pro-teams that they wouldn't sign someone who had been banned, thus effectively banning them for 4 years.

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## Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by toro toro toro toro - 31-05-2008 18:54

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Just after sacking DiLuca for dodginess? Weird.

So, the time trial tomorrow, and four seconds between Ricco and Contador. This could be amazing. Marzio Bruseghin could even conceivably win it - he's one of the best CLM riders in the peloton, though two minutes is almost certainly too far to make up.

Oh, and another win for Sella - what a race he's having!

(ursus - you know it's a TT on the last day this year, rather than the traditional sprint? Not so much chance for Cav...)

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## Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by ursus arctos - 31-05-2008 19:04

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I had forgotten that, which is especially grievous as the stage goes by our flat.

Not yet sure just how we will watch it or what the tifosi reaction will be.

I was hoping that Simoni could catch Sella, but it just wasn't possible. Ricco still thinks he has a shot tomorrow, and it's hard not to think about LeMond pipping Fignon in '89. I just hope that it doesn't rain; the weather here has been pretty bad (though much worse in Piemonte) and they were lucky to get today's stage in under reasonable conditions.

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## Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 01-06-2008 18:04

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AC winning is hugely disappointing. Shameless!

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## Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by snoro snoro snoro snoro - 03-06-2008 23:38

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Hugely disappointing, but hugely impressive.

In fairness, people have been saying he's this good since he was a teenager. And of all the high-profile riders who were named as his patients, Eufemiano Fuentes went out of his way to say he'd never treated Contador or Allan Davis. Given how unrepentant he was in every other respect, and how little either of them had actually achieved at the time, that should probably count for something, at least until there's solid evidence tying either of them to Puerto. (Though a definitive link to Davis would erode a great deal of Contador's credibility in this regard...)

It's worth saying that, like Pantani, even if he's dirty as all hell, you can probably count on one hand the number of climbers we've seen who are this good. Naturally. And he's still, what, twenty-five? The bastard.

Fucking Bruyneel.

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## Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by Fausto Ptang - 04-06-2008 06:05

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Exactly it's the Bruyneel link more than the Puerto link for me. Particularly as I've just finished David Walsh's book on doping in American cycling.

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## Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)

Posted by ursus arctos - 04-06-2008 10:35

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Indeed, it is hard to get overly excited about what was certainly an impressive performance by an excellent rider (whether enhanced or not). That's part of the reason why we didn't stick around to see him get the trophy (we did do that with Basso, and actually got within a metre of Ivan, and looked how that turned out).

It may well sound like sour grapes coming from someone who is lucky enough to see a Grand Tour out his front window, but I have to say that the last day chrono was significantly less of a spectacle than the traditional finale with its ten laps of the centre. I hope they go back to the traditional format next year.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by gerontofiel of trutje - 04-06-2008 20:14

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Did Contador win this? bastard.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by ursus arctos - 04-06-2008 20:23

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We didn't know you cared, man.

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**Re:Pretty in Pink (The Giro d'Italia thread)**

Posted by gerontofiel of trutje - 04-06-2008 20:28

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sort of care, but stay away from threads like this, because I dont know enough... I HATE Contador, and I hate the brazen hussey (xic, and yes I leave that) that is the guy who thinks he owns the world, but I cant remember his name (usually up there in a sprint finish and pissed OFF when he gets mullered)

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