

2006 Jayco Herald Sun Tour Simon Gerrans



Date of birth 16 May 1980 (26 years)
Lives Jamieson, VIC , Nice, France
Club Mansfield Cycling Club
& AG2R Prévoyance
Occupation Professional Cyclist

Honours:

2006 Tour Down Under – 1st General Classification
2006 Tour Down Under – 1st Stage 1
2005 Jayco-Herald Sun Tour - 1st General Classification
2005 Tour Du Finistere – 1st General Classification
2005 Jayco-Herald Sun Tour – 1st Stage 3
2005 Tour de France – 3rd Stage 17



2004 Herald Sun Tour – 1st Stage 11
2004 Paris-Corrèze – 2nd
2004 Australian Road Race Titles – 4th
2003 Melbourne to Warrnambool – 1st
2003 Herald Sun Tour – 4th
2002 Australian U23 Road Race Titles – 1st

Following the lead of his mentor Phil Anderson, Simon Gerrans is another Australian talent making his mark on the cycling world.

From the Victorian high country of Jamieson, Gerrans won the Australian Under 23 Road title in 2002 and the famous Melbourne to Warrnambool in 2003 before gaining a solid grounding with a raft of European teams.

Seven wins with French amateur squad Team U Nantes-Atlantique in 2004 culminated in Gerrans joining AG2R, immediately repaying their faith with second in the Paris-Corrèze.

2005 can only be described as a breakthrough year for Gerrans, his first full year in the sport's top echelon.

A winner of the Tour du Finistere, Gerrans then embarked on his first Tour de France with AG2R. Along with helping his team to a Top 10 finish, Gerrans claimed third in a grueling 17th Stage over 239.5 kilometres from Pau to Revel. His efforts as part of long breakaway took him to the brink of exhaustion.

Gerrans returned home for the 2005 Jayco Herald Sun Tour, joining Neil Stephens and Baden Cooke as the only Australians to win the event in the past 20 years, as well as taking the honours in Stage three from Bendigo to Shepparton.

2006 began with much promise, with victory in the Tour Down Under where he became the first rider in the eight year history of the race to claim the lead on the first stage and hold it to the finish.

However things quickly turned sour, with Gerrans forced to withdraw from the Commonwealth Games team after complications in his recovery from damage to his right shoulder and left collar bone injured in a crash during the GP d'Ouverture la Marseillaise event in France in February. Further surgery was required in a French hospital after he developed an infection in the scar tissue.

The 26 year-old is back on the bike, finishing 6th in the recent Schwarzwald GP in Germany earlier this month before lining up in the Tour de Suisse.

Cyclingnews.com reported recently that AG2R's team manager Vincent Lavenu was adamant that Gerrans will line up in the Tour de France. "He was the last man with Francisco Mancebo on the climbs at our training camp last week", he said. "He'll get his plate taken out either after Tour de Suisse or after the Tour de France."

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