

Thomas VOECKLER	Cols and stage wins	Actual Power	watts/kg	Standard Power 78 kg	Time	Stage Cols
Dauphiné 2004 19th - 25 years old	Mont Ventoux CLM	374	5.67	392	01:02:39	1
Tour de France 2004 19th - 25 years old Team Brioches La Boulangère	La Mongie. With yellow jersey	369	5.59	383	00:27:14	2
	Beille. Keeps yellow jersey a few seconds	356	5.39	369	00:50:22	6
	Chalimont. Cedes yellow to Armstrong	X				
	Alpe d'Huez CLM	368	5.58	383	00:43:30	1
	Croix Fry	343	5.2	357	00:33:30	5
	Average	359	5.4	373	00:38:39	
Tour de France 2010 76th - 31 years old Team Bouygues Telecom	Avoriaz	355	5.38	375	00:35:40	2
	Madeleine	X				4
	Bonascre	X				2
	Bales, 1st. Breakaway at suprising level, new record	377	5.71	390	00:37:00	2
	Tourmalet	X				3
Dauphiné 2011 10th - 32 years old	Collet d'Alleverd. Great performance!	405	6.14	426	00:34:03	4
	La Toussuire	X				2
Tour de France 2011 4th - 32 years old Team Europcar	Luz Ardiden. Wears yellow jersey since Massif Central.	389	5.89	408	00:38:06	3
	Beille. Confirms his standing by keeping up with the best	381	5.77	400	00:47:15	5
	Galibier. Excellent climb, keeps jersey	387	5.86	407	00:23:51	3
	Alpe d'Huez. Breaks down alone in the Galibier.	354	5.36	372	00:44:35	3
	Average	378	5.7	397	00:38:27	
Tour de France 2012 26th - 33 years old	Grand Colombier. 1st	350	5.30	370	00:50:23	2
	La Toussuire	X				4
	Peyresourde West, 1st. See «Breakaways»	369	5.59	387	00:26:21	4
	Peyresourde East. Record with 442 watts to col de Menté.	X				3

BEST TOUR DE FRANCE: 2011. 397 watts standard
BEST PERFORMANCE: 2011. LUZ ARDIDEN 38'06" at 408 watts standard

 Suspicious Miraculous Mutant

► Prior 2010, and with the exception of the 2004 Tour de France, when he defended the yellow jersey in the mountains, Voeckler was never really a climber.
 ► The first signs of his transformation date back to the end of the 2010 Giro, in which he finished 12th in the challenging stage that concluded at the summit of Passo di Tonale.

► He finished 4th on the 2011 Tour de France developing 6 % more power on the final cols than in 2004. In 2012, he took the best climber jersey and two mountain stages, including one in spectacular fashion at Luchon.



« The Legend »



► **Born June 22nd, 1979 in Schiltigheim.** Thomas Voeckler grows up in Alsace, then Martinique, where his parents move when he turns 7. Rides in his first race at age 11. Returns to continental France at age 17. He joins sports-études at la Roche-sur-Yon then joins Vendée U amateur team run by Jean-René Bernaudeau. Interns in 2000 then goes pro in 2001 with Bonjour team also run by Bernaudeau and with whom he remains faithful.

Wins for first time in 2003 at the Classic Loire-Atlantique then on Tour du Luxembourg of which he takes two stages and, ultimately, the overall. Then wins a stage on Tour de l'Avenir.
 ► Makes a name for himself in 2004 by becoming French champion. A few days later, dons the yellow jersey on the Tour de France. Keeps it through Pyrénées. In Paris, finishes in the top 20. After this stunning year, develops more discreetly, with occasional moments like during Route du Sud, during which he wins a stage and the overall in 2006.
 ► In 2007, he wins at Grand Prix de Plouay, on the ProTour, ahead of Thor Hushovd and Danilo Di Luca. Truly remarkable. The following year, takes Circuit de la Sarthe and Grand Prix de Plumelec. In 2009, takes it up a notch, taking l'Etoile de Bessèges followed by Tour du Haut-Var. Returns after fracturing clavicle on Paris-Nice. Takes challenging Trophée des grimpeurs and a Tour de France stage, riding solo.
 ► Becomes French champion again in 2010. Wearing blue, white and red when he takes 15th stage of Tour de France, riding solo, after having left the breakaway group in Port de Balès. At end of season, wins Grand Prix cycliste de Québec, on Pro Tour. His race smarts and his instinct work wonders in this type of race.
 ► In 2011, wins first stage of the Tour méditerranéen then the overall on Tour du Haut-Var, two stages of Paris-Nice, the Cholet-Pays de Loire race, the Tour du Trentin and a stage and the overall on the Quatre Jours de Dunkerque. On the Dauphiné Libéré, takes advantage of his excellent shape to take 10th

place in the overall. In the Tour de France, he takes the yellow jersey in the Massif Central. 2011 Voeckler is not the same as 2004. Outdoes himself in the mountains. Continues to claim he cannot win the Tour, but France continues to dream. Under pressure from Contador and Andy Schleck, overdoes it on the Galibier and loses the jersey. In Paris, finishes 4th.
 ► In 2012, wins Flèche brabançonne with style and places nicely on the Classics: 8th on Tour des Flandres, 5th on Amstel Gold Race and 4th on Liège-Bastogne-Liège. Questionable a few days from the Tour start due to knee pain, he starts off quietly. But wins at Bellegarde ahead of Michele Scarponi and Jens Voigt and takes best climber jersey in the process, his objective all along. Raises his arms once more during first Pyrenees stage. Thus takes polka-dot jersey and brings it back to Paris. Thomas Voeckler concludes season with 7th place at World Championships.

FINISHES ON MAJOR TOURS:

- Tour de France : 10 races, 4th (2011), 18th (2004), 66th (2007), 67th (2009), 76th (2010), 89th (2006), 97th (2008), 119th (2003), 124th (2005), 26th (2012)
- Vuelta a España: 1 race, 101st (2005)
- Giro d'Italia: 4 races, 23rd (2010), 89th (2009), 135th (2011), withdrawal (2007)

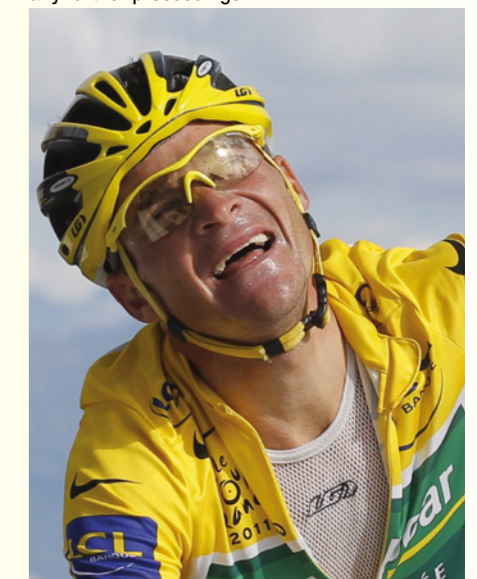
« The Real Story »

Thomas Voeckler

has never tested positive. In fact, in 2010, the UCI gave him a suspicious grade of 0/10. Young Thomas Voeckler never hesitated to speak up and condemn doping. In 2007, he is still actively engaged, participating in round tables against doping in cycling organized by the French Ministry of Health, Youth and Sports. His mentor, Jean-René Bernaudeau was nevertheless one of Dr. Mabuse's patients and once considered antidoping tests on criteriums to be "an infringement on the right to work". Thomas Voeckler also consulted Dr. Fabio Bartalucci, whose name showed up during the "Blitz" on the 2001 Giro d'Italia, during which more than 80 people were indicted. That same year, Noan Lelarge was banned from the Bonjour team and the Giro d'Italia after testing positive for corticosteroids. We clocked Voeckler at 426 watts during the 2011 Dauphiné, the year he broke out. He was then doing 11 % better than his best performances in 2004. On the Tour de France, that same year, he was a bit below at 6 % better than in 2004, hovering around 410 watts. In 2012, he climbed four straight cols at between 375 and 390 watts,

without weakening and while still being able to accelerate to leave his opponents behind. Surprising, if not suspicious. His faithfulness to the Europcar team, founding member of MPCC (Movement for Credible Cycling) in 2007, under the name Bouygues Telecom, is a guarantee of his integrity. Nevertheless, the team is still the target of rumors and condemnations of certain other riders such as during a union meeting at Saint-Amand-les-Eaux, on the eve of the 2012 French Championships. Some spoke out regarding their surprise at seeing the knees of the Europcar team's riders alternate between creaky and high-precision on the road to summits. Anthony Charreau stopped riding for eight days with collapsed levels of cortisol, a possible but not confirmed sign (and denied) use of corticosteroids. Jean-René Bernaudeau first suggested a knee injury as the reason... before retracting his statement. Thomas Voeckler was long questionable for the Tour de France before galloping like a stallion and winning the best climber jersey. That the Paris District Attorney's office opened a preliminary investigation regarding the team a few months earlier, did not do them any favors. Investigators suspected the use of IV's and cortico-

steroids. Even if such practices are banned by the WADA and the MPCC, they bear no legal weight. The investigation should soon be closed without any further proceedings.



SHLECK'S RIGHT, the poison is still at work

by Antoine Vayer



Shleck, the banned doper, is right: the Tour is still poisoned. It has been for a long time, and the venom is still in full effect. To see how, just compare riders' power in watts. We focused on four in particular this year. The first one's the killer. It belongs to the darling, Voeckler, who, like his clone, the Festina-era Virenque, made off with the polka-dotted best climber jersey and stole the hearts of the French. "Saint" Thomas, can, at will, and unbeknownst to his barely-discernible-from-his-shins calf muscles, like the Richard of yore, mount a mountain attack at a nearly constant 375-390 watts over four cols without ever tiring, and all while accelerating at will. He was first at Aubisque, Tourmalet, Aspin, Peyresourde and finished in 5 hours 32 minutes 2 seconds. After winning the stage, he was still fresh as a daisy, even after 197 km at an average speed of 35.59 km/h. The Pau-Bagnères-de-Luchon stage is a Tour classic (1980, 1983 and 1998). In 1998 – in the midst of the Festina scandal – Marco Pantani had let Massi win in 5 hours 49 minutes 40 seconds for 196.5 km at 33.72 km/h: that's almost 2km/h slower! The next day, Thomas beat another benchmark, at the col de Menté, 9.3 km at 9.1 %. In 28 minutes 20 seconds, with 442 watts of mutant power, he entered his name in the record books, finishing on a 300 m plateau after an 8 % grade. In that instance, he more closely resembled Rasmussen-Contador in their prime. On to the second notable comparison, the knock-out. With 430 average watts, the Tour favorites climbed the col de Peyresourde in 26 minutes 45 seconds, just like back in the day. From Saint-Aventin on, they were a mere 34 seconds behind Contador and Rasmussen's unreal time from

2007 (23 minutes 26 seconds) who had kept at it with a series of sprints like so many injections. Froome and Wiggins then accelerated in the final climb to Peyragudes. They generated 470 watts for 7 minutes 33 seconds (2.95 km at 7.93 %). Froome waited for Wiggins, but he could easily have reached 500 watts. If he ever stops holding back to wait for his leader, he could join the ranks of the all-time greats: Pantani, Armstrong, and Contador. The third comparison is the laughter. It belongs to a banned and "better than before" rider (with credit going to Virenque for the moniker, pilfered from his book title). Valverde won at Peyragudes with a performance identical to Vinokourov's in 2007. Five years apart, the two riders climbed Bales and Peyresourde with the same power, first with 385 watts then 405 watts for the two cols. Vinokourov, who broke out along with the morning attack, like Valverde, won solo at Loudenvielle. The Kazakh was then banned for a blood transfusion. The final comparison is a thriller. In 2011, after a sixteen year scramble powered by junk, we finally have reason to celebrate. At long last, a Tour with no riders over 410 average watts in the last cols of mountain stages, in other words, above the poison detection level. Or not. Four of them actually broke the barrier: Wiggins, Froome, Nibali and Van den Broeck, with 415 watts. In other words, the top three, with 410 watts for the 4th. We can't wait for 2013 and the Contador Comeback after his infamous tainted meat scandal! Not so sure we'll have found the antidote by then.

Libération, 24/07/2012.



- 2005 "Regarding doping, I have my opinion but I'm not going to openly state a position. It doesn't necessarily help change things. There are many riders who are clean, and they tell themselves that the guys who got caught really hurt our legs in the past, and that's maddening. But if we focus too much on doping, we stop moving forward. I keep thinking that you can stay clean and still have an honorable career." (cyclismag.com, 03/11/2005)
- 2007 When asked why the French didn't support Filippo Simeone versus Lance Armstrong: "Out of fear of reprisals. (...) Lots of riders didn't want to jeopardize their future by making Discovery angry." (L'Equipe, 30/09/2007, quoted by La Grande Imposture, Jean-Pierre de Mondenard, page 98)
- Regarding the biological passport: "This passport is indispensable. We've already given blood. It won't be a problem, just more complete. We need sanctions against the cheaters." (latribune.fr, 23/10/2007)
- "You can't just be afraid of the watchdog, you have to believe in it and to love the sport above all." (DNA, 24/10/2007)
- 2009 "I'm lucid. I didn't add 100 watts in each leg. But I'm reaching 30 and my best years. I want to take advantage of it." (Ouest France, 03/2009, quoted by cyclismag.com, 08/03/2009)
- 2011 Regarding Lance Armstrong: "I have enormous respect for what he did on the athletic level, winning seven Tours de France." (lequipe.fr, 18/07/2011)
- Regarding Jeannie Longo's missed tests: "Where those three missed tests are concerned, Jeannie Longo is unforgivable. In my own case, in

August, I twice said to myself: f***, I forgot to do the paperwork on my location. When they call you back to order, you have to pay a little more attention." (AFP, 25/09/2011)

- 2012 "I figured out very early on that cycling was not a place where you could express your convictions 100 %. I can't just say everything I think. So I don't end up all by myself, I learned to deal with a form of hypocrisy." (L'Equipe, 28/02/2012)
- "I'm at a level I never reached before. I don't know how to explain it... I've discovered a high altitude ability even though I always used to say, if it's over 6 %, then it's too much climb for me." (L'Equipe, 28/02/2012)
- "When I was younger, I would stand up and cry out against injustice, without having any effect whatsoever, except attracting problems and making enemies. It wasn't helping any and I talk a lot less about it [doping] because a rider who speaks up has everything to lose, and right away comes across as a cry-baby. In the last few years, cycling has changed. On the Tour, on cols, it's not the same. (...) You just have to look at guys' faces at the finish line on mountain stages and compare it with 2004, 2005, 2006, etc. It's not the same thing. (...) When you look at the Tour de France's standings, there isn't a single one that's valid since 1999 except maybe Sastre's... You have to roll with it, that's what I always say. Since the last few years we're on the right track. (...) You always talk more about the few doped riders instead of the majority of clean riders. Today it's better, but is that a good thing? I don't know. It's getting better and better. There was a lot of room for improvement ... " (ouestfrance.fr, 25/01/2013)

...What they said »

- 2009 Jérôme Pineau: "A guy like [Thomas] Voeckler is media friendly, he puts on a good show. But he's pretty far behind Sylvain [Chavanel]." (lejdd.fr, 20/07/2009)
- 2011 Pat McQuaid: "Saturday, in Luz-Ardiden, I was happy to see that no one was capable of leaving him behind, happy to see that his teammate, Pierre Rolland, was at his side and that the favorites were all at the same level. A change may be happening, we may be gaining in credibility. You know, I never thought it was necessary to dope. The problem is convincing some managers that it's in fact possible, because you have to believe in the winners." (L'Equipe, 20/07/2011)
- Dr. Armand Mégrét: "I've known him since he turned pro, and I've never had any problems with him. He has above average mental and physiological capacities. That he's still so effective at age 32 doesn't shock me, as long as

the progression is consistent. On the contrary, we know that as riders age, their physical capacities tend more to an effort more suitable for mountains than for sprinting." (leparisien.fr, 24/07/2011)

- 2012 Philippe Gaumont: "That sounds like Madiot or Bernaudeau or Voeckler." "We have nothing to do with any of that." "Hope nothing bad happens to you guys." (lavoixdunord.fr, 29/10/2012)
- Sébastien Turgot: "What he's been doing for the last two-three years is just incredible." (velochrono.fr, 14/12/2012)

THE MEDIA

- "Thomas Voeckler strikes the Tour's fancy." – Le Monde, 19.07.2011
- "The Tour announces the rebirth of French cycling." – Le Monde, 25.07.2011
- "Indomitable Voeckler." – Le Sport vélo, 2012, n° 16, June
- "The peloton is going in the right direction" (statements recorded by David Opoczynski). – Le Parisien, 05.07.2008

« My opinion on my performance »

This is not the first time people wonder about my performances and I can conceive it, even if it hurts, because I sometimes doubt myself about those of some riders. However, I am quite surprised that this questioning is built, as often, on uphill cycling timings or power "calculations", because it seems logical that the actual power developed by a runner can not be exactly known unless the bicycle is equipped with a device aimed to measure power. An external calculation of timing or power is too subject to non-measurable

factors : rider's actual weight at the relevant time (for info, my ideal weight is 67kg), weather (particularly wind direction...), presence of other riders allowing to benefit from slipstreaming, rider's aerodynamic, etc... My goal is not to try to convince all the people who are asking questions about me of my integrity. My goal is and always has been to achieve the best possible results according to my ethical beliefs, who do not tolerate doping, and if this state of mind has allowed

me sometimes to beat cheaters, many times it is the latter which deprive honest runners victories, or at least distort the race. As I can not prevent questioning from certain people, I wish to thank you nonetheless to have let me express myself, even though I am well aware that in the current context, it is difficult to believe the word of a sportsman, inasmuch as one could be fooled or bluffed by cheaters.

Thomas Voeckler