

Cycling: Eritrea's Mekseb Debesay wins first stage of Tour of Rwanda

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Eritrea's Mekseb Debesay won the first stage of the sixth edition of the Tour of Rwanda on the 96.4 km course from Kigali to Ngoma.

Rwanda's Janvier Hadi grabbed the yellow jersey after winning yesterday's prologue race and will keep it – as he finished a few seconds behind Eritrean Mekseb Debesay in today's race.

This year's Tour of Rwanda includes fourteen teams and more than 60 cyclists competing over a period of eight days in the heart of Africa.

Eritrean cyclists have been among the favorites from the beginning – quoting the Rwandan press it read, “*Rwandan Cyclists will face stiff challenge from Africa's top cyclists like Mouhssine Lahsaini from Morocco and Eritrea's Mekseb Debesay and Eyob Metkel among others.*”

The Tour of Rwanda, which is organized by Rwanda Cycling Federation, was first held in 1988 before it became part of the UCI Africa Tour category 2.2 five years ago.

Last year's edition was won by South Africa after Dylan Girdlestone while Rwanda's Valens Ndayisenga won the most promising rider accolade following his 11th place finish.

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