

38th SCHELDEPRIJS August 1

With world champion Rik Van Steenbergen and Belgian champion Albert Ramon, Gerrit Schulte, Valeer Ollivier, Georges Claes and Nest Sterckx at the head of the 116-strong field, organiser Stan De Deken and his team were extremely pleased. The celebratory mood was already there when 'big Rik' and the West Fleming Berten were honoured with flowers before the start. 33 riders sprinted for the win. Everyone expects Rik Van Steenbergen to win, but the world champion suffers a puncture 300 m from the finish and finishes... 33rd. Ultimately, it is West Fleming André Pieters who makes it by a few centimetres ahead of Lode Poels, who becomes champion of Antwerp.

ROADMAP

Schoten, 's-Gravenwezel, Schilde, Westmalle, Oostmalle, Beerse, Vosselaar, Turnhout, Kasterlee, Geel, Geel-Punt, Veerle, Diest, Scherpenheuvel, Rillaar, Aarschot, Begijnendijk, Booischot, Heist, Koningshooikt, Lier, Boechout, Borsbeek, Wijnegem, 's-Gravenwezel, Schoten (163 km) and 3 laps of 17 km in the municipality. Total 214 km.



117 participants

1. André Pieters, 214 km in 5h42m; 2. Lode Poels, *Champion of Antwerp*; 3. Ernest Sterckx; 4. Jos De Feyter; 5. Georges Claes; 6. Gerrit Schulte (Ned); 7. Roger De Corte; 8. René Mertens; 9th ex-aequo: Frans Loyaerts and Jos Van Staeyen; 11. Rik Bauwens; 12. Albert Ramon; 13. Alfons Boeckaerts; 14. Frans Knaepkens; 15. ex-aequo: Lode Van der Auwera, René Beyens, André De Clercq, Roger De Smet, Rik Evens, Alfons Gunst, Frans Van Hassel, Lucien Mathys, Valeer Mekeirel, Camiel Pauwels, Roger Van Remoortel, Hector Smet, Harm Smits (Ned), Jan (Hervé) Theuns (Ned), Robert Vercammen, André Verfaille, René Walschot, Staf Wuyckens; 33. Rik Van Steenbergen.



André Pieters (°Ingelmunster 10.09.1922-*Izegem 22.02.2001)

was a fast one-day rider, winning races exclusively in his own Flanders. He won 38 races including the Omloop Het Volk (1946), Kuurne-Brussels-Kuurne (1947) and the Scheldeprijs (1950). In 1941, he became Belgian junior champion.



82 professional riders took the start in Schoten, ready to go for 213 km (big lap through Oostmalle, Turnhout, Geel, Diest, Aarschot, Heist-op-den-Berg, Lier and three local laps). The race was a very fast one and big favorite Rik Van Steenbergen was once again the victim of bad luck. The race ended with a sprint.

ROADMAP

Schoten, 's-Gravenwezel, Schilde, Oostmalle, Turnhout, Geel, Diest, Scherpenheuvel, Aarschot, Houtvenne, Booischot, Heist-op-den-Berg, Lier, Boechout, Borsbeek, Wijnegem, 's-Gravenwezel, Schoten (162 km) and three local laps of 17 km, 213 km total.



82 participants

1.Nest Sterckx, *Champion of Antwerp*, 213 km in 5h30m; 2. Valeer Ollivier, at ½ wheel ; 3.Georges Claes; 4. Jos De Feyter; 5. René Mertens; 6. Karel De Baere; 7. Jef Mertens; 8. André De Clerck; 9. Marcel Driessen; 10. Maurice Blomme; 11. Jef Rombouts; 12. Ex-aequo: Rik Bauwens, Julien Janssens, Karel Terryn, Frans van de Zande (Ned);

16. Gérard Buyl; 17. Gaston de Wachter; 18 Ex-aequo: Eugeen Kiewit, Briek Schotte, Emile Goutier, Lode Wouters, Jan Storms; 23. Roger Van Remoortel; 24. Robert Vercammen; 25. Frans Viskens; 26. Maurice Mollin; 27. Frans Ryckers; 28. Jos De Beuckelaer; 29. André Pieters.



Ernest Sterckx

(°Heultje-Westerlo 01.12.1922-*Leuven 03.02.1975)

Nestje Sterckx was exactly the kind of rider made to win a race like the Scheldeprijs. And he did that immediately even if the gap with second classified, same kind of rider and same generation, Valeer Ollivier was a very small one.

It looked like young Sterckx was destined to work his entire life in diamond industry but he wanted to take his chance as a rider. It looked like he was talented. He was really skilful on the bike and also very fast but on the other hand he was also the typical quiet and nice guy from the Kempen. Because of that he surely lost races in his career ('43-'58), but sometimes it has

also been an advantage. In the youth category, Nest won 41 races and in the junior category, in the years '41 and '42 he was Dolf Verschueren's biggest rival. Only two years younger Rik Van Steenbergen was faster than he was.

Nest became a true national star. To become an international star he missed a stronger character.

Nestje' greatest wins are the Flèche Walloon ('47), Paris-Brussels ('47), Ghent-Wevelgem ('46), the Circuit Het Volk ('52, '53, and '56), the race of the Three Sister Cities ('48), the Circuit of the Flemish Regions ('50), the Scheldeprijs ('51), the Tour of Belgium ('49)... That means a total of 144 (!) professional wins, all of them except one in Belgium.

Nest was also a talented soccer player. After his career he managed a pub in Aarschot. Nice Nest Sterckx died when he was only 52 in the University Hospital St. Rafael in Leuven from a brain tumor.



It is raining hard at the start. 76 riders are ready to go and all the best Belgian riders are present, with Rik Van Steenbergen in the front row. Just before starting the last local lap, Van Staeyen, from Schoten, is alone in the lead. The gap with the bunch reaches 30". Unfortunately he is caught up. In the meantime, Briek Schotte and Rik Van Steenbergen were both the victims of a puncture. They are as a consequence not able to sprint for victory and Roger De Corte wins the event for the second time.

ROADMAP

Schoten, Schilde, Oostmalle, Turnhout, Geel, Veerle, Diest, Aarschot, Heist-op-den-Berg, Lier, Schoten and three local laps, total 213 km.



76 participants

1. Roger De Corte, 213 km in 5h36m; 2. Karel De Baere at 1 length; 3. Nest Sterckx, *Champion of Antwerp*; 4. Gaston De Wachter; 5. Louis Brusselmans; 6. Frans Sterckx; 7. Gerard Buyl; 8. Jos De Feyter; 9. Jef Schils; 10. Valeer Ollivier; 11. Marcel Ryckaert; 12. Lode Poels; 13. Frans Loyaerts; 14. Stan Verschueren; 15. Ex-aequo: Roger De Cock, Leon Delathouwer, Gilbert Desmet I, Marcel Dierckens (Lux), Louis Elaerts, Gustaaf Haxelmans, Rik Jochums, Willem Labaere, Lucien Mathys, René Meeuwis, Jozef Mertens, Léopold Schaeken, Rik Serin, Jef Van Staeyen, Jan (Hervé) Theuns (Ned) and Edward Desmedt; 31. Adrie Suykerbuyk (Ned); 32. Karel Leysen; 33. Lode Van der Auwera.



Roger De Corte

(°Waarschoot 08.08.1923-+Waarschoot 10.01.2010)

was one of the best riders on the road as well as on the track. He was a professional between 1944 and 1961 and won many races. Most of them in the sprint.

Those are some of the many races he won: 1946: Drie Zustersteden ('Three Sister Cities') 1947: Championship of Flanders Koolskamp 1949-52: Scheldeprijs 1950: stages in the Tour of Belgium and Germany 1954: 2nd in the Het Volk Circuit 1958: 3rd in the Het Volk Circuit On the track, he took part in many Six-Day events. After his career, Roger became the national coach and was also during many years a very popular deputy mayor in Waarschoot. Roger's father, Raymond (1898-1972), was also a professional rider (he won amongst other races two stages in the Tour 1927).



84 riders take the start and after the big loop the bunch is still packed together while entering in Schoten. The local laps will be decisive for the unfolding of that edition of the Scheldeprijs. Leo Buyst, Ludo Van der Elst and Jos Theuns attack on turn but no way for them as the bunch as no intention of letting them go. Fast and crafty Hans Dekkers attacks at 2 km from the line. He takes advantage of a moment of hesitation in the pack and a 50 m gap is enough for him to become the first Dutch rider to win the Scheldeprijs!

ROADMAP

Schoten, Schilde, Oostmalle, Turnhout, Geel, Diest, Scherpenheuvel, Aarschot, Lier, Boechout, Borsbeek, Wijnegem, Schoten (163 km) and 3 local laps of 17 km (total 214 km)



The winner Hans Deckers (left), Leo Buyst (right), second and Champion of Antwerp.

84 participants

1. Hans Dekkers (Ned), 214 km in 5h15m; 2. Leo Buyst, *Champion of Antwerp*, at 20meters; 3. Karel De Baere; 4. Maurice Mollin; 5. Gaston De Wachter; 6. Ludo Van der Elst; 7. Briek Schotte; 8. Jos De Feyter; 9. Frans Loyaerts; 10. Jozef Verhaert; 11. Rik Bauwens; 12. Louis Vonken; 13. Alfons Van den Branden; 14. Ex-aequo: Louis Brusselmans, Gilbert Desmet I, Roger Desmet; Marcel Hendrikx, Giel Hendrickx, Jos Hoefkens, Jos Mariën, Eugeen Van Roosbroeck, Frans Ryckers, Léopold Schaeken, Jef Schils, Jef Van Staeyen, Jos Theuns, Léopold Verschueren, Frans Viskens, Cor Witteveen (Ned), Jos Wouters.



Hans Dekkers (°Helmond 16.06.1928-⁺Eindhoven 30.08.1984)

Dekkers, a small and pugnacious rider, is the first Dutch rider who won the Scheldeprijs. He turned a professional in '51. He immediately won the national championship of his country and did the same again one year later. He won the 19th stage of the Tour de France in Bordeaux. He kept on winning races and in 1953 he was the best in the Scheldeprijs. But after that things changed and the two times Dutch champion's career finished already in 1955. He then joined the army to become a civil servant. He died when he was only 56 years old.



42nd SCHELDEPRIJS July 27

The weather is very sunny at the time the 80 participating riders take the start of the 42nd edition of the Scheldeprijs. The 20 years old Van Looy attacks and attacks again the entire day through. Nest Sterckx caught him but young Van Looy nevertheless attacks again. He is caught one more time and Roger De Cock and Marcel Janssens go in the counter-attack. In the sprint *Cockske* is definitely the fastest. Nest Sterckx beats Van Looy for the third place.

ROADMAP

Schoten, 's-Gravenwezel, Schilde, St. Antonius, Westmalle, Oostmalle, Beerse, Vosselaar, Turnhout, Kasterlee, Geel, Veerle, Diest, Scherpenheuvel, Rillaar, Aarschot, Ramsel, Houtvenne, Booischot, Heist-op-den-Berg, Koningshooikt, Lier, Boechout, Borsbeek, Wijnegem, 'sGravenwezel, Schoten and three local laps. Total 213 km.



80 participants

 Roger Decock, 213 km in 5h33m; 2. Marcel Janssens, Champion of Antwerp, at 15 meters;
Nest Sterckx; 4. Rik Van Looy; 5. Boudewijn Devos; 6. Rik Jochums; 7. Jos De Feyter; 8. Nest Heyvaert; 9. Jef Van Staeyen; 10. Isidoor De Rijck; 11. Jef Schils at 1'15"; 12. Louis Brusselmans; 13. Jos Theuns at 2'10"; 14. Marcel Ryckaert; 15. Martin Van Geneugden;
Edgard Bauwens; 17. Désiré Mariën; 18. Jan Zagers; 19. Jos Mariën; 20. Pierre Lowie; 21. Jos Verhaert;
Stan Verschueren; 23. Jos Wouters; 24. Briek Schotte.



Roger Decock (°lzegem 20.04.1927-†Aarsele 31.05.2020)

Cockske was a professional rider between 1949 and 1961. He achieved a brilliant career. Before he won this edition of the Scheldeprijs, he already conquered the Tour of Flanders (1952) and Paris-Nice (1951). That same year he finished at the second place of the 98 km long individual time trail of the Tour de France behind Hugo Koblet. He is also very famous for being the rider who alerted the emergency services when Wim van Est crashed in the descent of the Aubisque in the Tour 1951.



43rd SCHELDEPRIJS August 2

The organisers drew a completely new course, along the region of Rupel and Aalst. Rik Van Looy, Marcel Janssens, Jan Zagers and Juul Mertens were the early breakers. The bunch caught them in the third and last local lap. Van Looy then went again in the break. But Briek Schotte attacked at two kilometers from the finish. He was just irresistible and won easily the race.

ROADMAP

Schoten, Wijnegem, Borsbeek, Mortsel, Wilrijk, Hoboken, Hemiksem, Schelle, Niel, Boom, Willebroek, Breendonk, Londerzeel, Steenhuffel, Merchtem, Droeshout, Baardegem, Moorsel, Aalst, Erpe, Lede, Wichelen, Schoonaarde, Appels, Dendermonde, Baasrode, St. Amands, Oppuurs, Puurs, Kalfort, Ruisbroek, Boom, Aartselaar, Kontich, Edegem, Borsbeek, Deurne, Wijnegem, 'sGravenwezel, Schoten (158 km) and three local laps of 17 km. Total 209 km.



102 participants

1. Briek Schotte, 209 km in 5h50m; 2. Marcel Janssens, Champion of Antwerp, at 10"; 3. Jos De Feyter; 4. Petrus Lowie; 5. Maurice Blomme; 6. Rik Luyten; 7. Jan Callaerts; 8. Jan Van Gompel; 9. Armand De Laet at 55"; 10. Eddy De Waal (Ned) at 2'04"; 11. Pierre Machiels; 12. Désiré Mariën; 13. Rik Jochums; 14. Jos Bosmans; 15. Valeer Ollivier;

16. Julien Van den Branden; 17. Louis Vonken; 18. Gilbert Van de Wiele; 19. Jos Mariën; 20. Lode Anthonis; 21. Karel De Baere; 22. André Pieters; 23. Maurice Mollin; 24. Frans Loyaerts; 25. Ludo Van der Elst; 26. Georges Decraeye; 27. Marcel Driessen; 28. Alfons Smets; 29. Juul Mertens; 30. Rik Van Looy at 4'10"; 31. Léopold Schaeken; 32. Emiel Severeyns; 33. Roger Callewaert.



Alberic Schotte (°Kanegem 07.09.1919-+Kortrijk 04.04.2004)

Briek, "the last of the Flandriens" as he was called, achieved in 1955 when he was already 36 years old a magnificent season. He won Ghent-Wevelgem, the Scheldeprijs and was selected to take part at the World Championships in Frascati. Schotte is one of the ever greatest Belgian champions. He won twice the World Champion title (1950-52) and also races like Paris-Brussels, Paris-Tours and the Tour of Flanders, certainly the race that suited him best. In 1948 he took the second place of the final overall classification of the Tour behind Bartali. Once he finished his rider's career, he became a team manager for many years.



122 riders took the start of the event. Like usually, several breakaways took place on the big loop. Back in Schoten, Lucien Huybrechts was 1'10" ahead of the bunch. He nevertheless was caught up a little later and while entering the last lap, Danish rider Olsen surprised the other riders and broke alone. Rik Van Looy, who was definitely the strongest rider, bridged the gap followed by Rik Luyten. Van Looy, then only 22 years old, won easily the sprint.

ROADMAP

Schoten, Wijnegem, Mortsel, Hoboken, Niel, Boom, Willebroek, Breendonk, Merchtem, Opwijk, Dendermonde, Baasrode, Buggenhout, Puurs, Boom, Aartselaar, Mortsel, Deurne, Wijnegem, Schilde, St. Antonius, Westmalle, St. Lenaarts, Brecht, St. Job, Schoten.



122 participants

1. Rik Van Looy, Champion of Antwerp, 213 km in 5h43m; 2. Rik Luyten, on 2 lengths; 3. Kaj-Allan Olsen (Den); 4. Jan Storms at 10"; 5. Ludo Van der Elst; 6. Karel Clerckx; 7. Jos Mariën at 25"; 8. Frans Van Looveren; 9. Frans Schoubben; 10. Jef Van Bael; 11. Lode Anthonis; 12. Gerard Buyl; 13. René Mertens; 14. Gilbert Van de Wiele; 15. Fons Van den Brande; 16. Jan Zagers; 17. René Van Meenen; 18. Nest Heyvaert; 19. Jos Bosmans; 20. Armand Desmet; 21. Exaequo: Jean Derboven, Marcel Hendrikx, Lucien Huybrechts, Willy Jacobs, Marcel Janssens, Kjeld Leveau

(Den), Ivo Molenaers, André Pieters, Jos Sneyers, Nest Sterckx, Jos Verachtert, Roger Verplaetse; 33. Rik Van de Walle; 34. Karel Van Dormael; 35. André Huybrechts.



Rik Van Looy (°Grobbendonk 20.12.1933 - †Herentals 18.12.2024)

In that edition of the Scheldeprijs, nothing could be done to prevent Rik from Herentals from winning the race. He won later again in Schoten in 1957. During his incomparable career (professional from 1953 to 1970), Rik II won all the classics. He moreover became twice World Champion (1960 and 1961) and twice Belgian Champion (1958 and 1963). He won a total of 371 professional races. He is rightly considered one of the greatest riders in the history of cycling!



This time 119 riders started. During the big tour, nothing worthwhile mentioning happened, other than world champion Rik van Steenbergen who abandons the race after a flat tire. Nine cyclists take the lead during the penultimate local round: Van Looy, Lauwers, Janssens, Heyvaert, Van der Elst, Hoevenaars and Van Gompel. In the sprint Van Looy is invincible and wins his second Scheldeprijs.

ROADMAP

Schoten, Brecht, Rijkevorsel, Hoogstraten, Merksplas, Gierle, Lichtaart, Kasterlee, Retie, Dessel, Mol, Meerhout, Vorst, Tessenderlo, Westerlo, Tongerlo, Olen, Herentals, Grobbendonk, Nijlen, Viersel, Massenhoven, Borsbeek, Fort 1, Wijnegem, 's-Gravenwezel, Schoten (154 km) and 3 local laps. Total 210 km.



119 participants

Rik Van Looy, *Champion of Antwerp*, 222 km in 5h25m; 2. Willy Lauwers, at one length; 3. Jan Van Gompel; 4. Ludo Van der Elst; 5. Nest Heyvaert; 6. Jos Hoevenaers; 7. Marcel Janssens; 8. Jan Zagers at 55"; 9. Karel de Baere; 10. Jos Mertens (Battel); 11. Jos Mariën; 12. René Van Meenen; 13. Juul Mertens; 14. Lucien Huybrechts; 15. Frans Van Looveren; 16. Gerard Deborre; 17. Karel Clerckx; 18. Jos De Feyter; 19. Rik Bauwens; 20. Raymond Desmedt; 21. Jean Delin; 22. Frans Daems; 23. Jos Janssens, Champion of Antwerp independants, at 2'16"; 24. Mies Stolker (Ned) at 4'25"; 25. Leo van de Brand (Ned); 26. Theo Van Geel; 27. Jos Dillen; 28. Emiel Severeyns; 29. Karel Borgmans; 30. Pierre Machiels; 31. Jef Van Bael; 32. Fons Voordekkers; 33. Karel Alen (independant).



(°Grobbendonk 20.12.1933 - †Herentals 18.12.2024)

The second consecutive victory of the emperor of Herentals! In his splendid career (professional from 1953 until 1970) Rik II won all classics, became world champion (1960, 1961) as well as Belgian champion (1958, 1963) twice and won over his entire career an impressive 371 professional races. He is rightfully regarded as one of the greatest in cycling history.



Many Antwerp cycling fans are disappointed to hear that Van Looy, Van Steenbergen and Miel Severeyns, won't participate in this year race. Seventy-nine riders start and in the local laps Juul Mertens, Swa Van Looveren, Ray Vrancken and Jef Van Bael take the lead. Vrancken beats Van Looveren in the sprint by a few cm.

ROADMAP

Schoten, Brecht, Hoogstraten, Beerse, Tielen, Kasterlee, Mol, Tessenderlo, Westerlo, Herentals, Nijlen, Massenhoven, Broechem, Ranst, Wommelgem, Wijnegem, 's-Gravenwezel, Schoten (160 km) and three local laps. Total 211 km.



The successful escape: Juul Mertens, Raymond Vrancken, Jef Van Bael and Frans Van Looveren

79 participants

 Raymond Vrancken, 211 km in 5h30m; 2. Frans Van Looveren, *Champion of Antwerp*, on 1 wheel; 3. Jef Van Bael; 4. Juul Mertens; 5. Jef Schils at 20"; 6. Jos Mariën; 7. Marcel Ryckaert; 8. Victor Wartel; 9. Roger Molenaers; 10. Piet Maas (Ned); 11. Toni Bergmans (Ned); 12. Jan Huyskens; 13. Jan Zagers; 14. André Vlayen; 15. Petrus Oellibrandt; 16. Gentiel Saelens; 17. Ex-aequo: Roger Baens, Karel Borghmans, Jos De Feyter, Norbert Kerckhove, Louis Maes, Jos Mertens, Ivo Molenaers, Léopold Schaeken, Briek Schotte, Jan Storms, Hein van Breenen (Ned), Leo van de Brand (Ned), Ludo Van der Elst, René Van Meenen, Alfons Voordekkers, Lode Wouters; 35. Frans Daems at 40"; 36. Klaus Bugdahl (Dui).



Winner Raymond Vrancken (on the left), Frans Van Looveren, 2nd and Champion of Antwerp (on the right).



Raymond Vrancken (°Tongeren 04.08.1932-+Tongeren 02.04.2011)

Raymond came from a family of fifteen. The humble Limburger won 14 races, mainly in his region. His two victories in the Scheldeprijs are the highlights of his career. In 1965 and 1966 he broke twice his wrist and ended his career.



82 pros turn up at Café Derby for the 47th Scheldeprijs. Shortly after the start, Jan Zagers and Jos Theuns had to drop out after a fall. In the finale, it is 1958 winner Raymond Vrancken who attacks. Schoten rider Emiel Severeyns replicates but has to let go quite quickly. It is Wim van Est, Jos Sels and Jos Mariën who join Raymond Vrancken at the front. The foursome build up to a one-minute lead. Spurred on by Rik Van Looy, the peloton comes back. On the last lap, Willy Butzen attacks. He holds on and wins by a small margin.

ROADMAP

Schoten, Brecht, Rijkevorsel, Hoogstraten, Beerse, Lichtaart, Kasterlee, Geel, Mol, Tessenderlo, Olen, Herentals, Nijlen, Massenhoven, Broechem, Ranst, Wommelgem, Borsbeek, Wijnegem, Schoten (160 km) and three local laps of 17 km. Total 211 km.



82 participants

1. Willy Butzen, *Champion of Antwerp*, 211 km in 5h37m; 2. Lucien Demunster at 100 meter; 3. Jef Van Bael; 4. Jan van Vliet (Ned); 5. Rik Van Looy at 20"; 6. Paul Borremans; 7. Gerrit Voorting (Ned); 8. Gentiel Saelens; 9. Rik Luyten; 10. Eduard Deboitselier; 11. Juul Mertens; 12. André Vlayen; 13. Marcel Hendrikx; 14. Jan Van Gompel; 15. Raymond Vrancken;

16. Alfons Vandenbrande; 17. Lode Anthonis; 18. ex-aequo: Jos Mariën, Jan Callaerts, Frans Van Looveren; Marcel Buys, Karel Clerckx, Frans Daems, Willi Franssen (Dui), Jos Hendrickx, Nest Heyvaert, Jan Huyskens, Jean Laroy, Clement Leemans, Jos Mertens, Yvo Molenaers, Jos Sels, Emiel Severeyns, Frans Siroyt, Jan Storms, Willy Truye, Gilbert Van de Wiele, Fons Van den Brande, Wim Van Est (Ned), Willy Vannitsen en Alfons Voordekkers.



Willy Butzen (°Edegem 27.02.1933-*Antwerpen 24.03.1997)

was a talented youth rider who, as a professional, never quite lived up to expectations. He rode professionally between 1959 until 1964 and in 1959 rode for Flandria-Mann and Dr.Mann. His biggest achievements: 1959: winner Scheldeprijs, Drielandentrofee, O.L.V.Tielt

1960: winner third stage Driedaagse van Antwerpen, 3rd Schaal Sels, 8th Tour of Belgium

1961: winner Sint-Niklaas and Boom

1962: winner in Houtem, 4th Ronde van Limburg, 6th Scheldeprijs