



30th SCHELDEPRIJS

August 24

This war edition took place on Sunday August 24 in Schoten. The race was 159 km and went through Kalmthout, Wuustwezel, Hoogstraten, Turnhout, Oostmalle and Schilde before the final 3 laps in Schoten, Brasschaat and Schoten.

46 professional riders started at 1:45 pm. The first part of the race was moved and in the final part 20 years old Stan Ockers and Gorgon Hermans took a lead. The small rider from Borgerhout easily won the sprint.

ROADMAP

Schoten, Kapellen, Kalmthout, Wuustwezel, Brecht, St. Lenaarts, Rijkevorsel, Hoogstraten, Wortel, Merksplas, Turnhout, Gierle, Lille, Wechelderzande, Vlimmeren, Oostmalle, Westmalle, Schilde, 'sGravenwezel, Schoten and three local laps through Brasschaat, total 160 km.



The nice victory in the sprint from Stan Ockers
(Photo J. Meuris)

RESULT

46 participants

1. Stan Ockers, Champion of Antwerp, 159 km in 4h07m; 2. Gorgon Hermans at 2 lengths; 3. Jan Valkenborgh at 50 m; 4. Lode Janssens; 5. August Janssens; 6. Bernard Franken (Ned); 7. Edward Peeters; 8. Jan Van Put; 9. August Van Mirlo; 10. August Corthout; 11. Jozef Torfs; 12. Richard Blendeman; 13. Lode Busschops; 14. Eugeen Van Eycken; 15. René Van den Acker; 16. Frans Hotag; 17. Alfons Broos; 18. Victor Caluwé; 19. Jozef Jossart; 20. Henri De Beeck; 21. Roger Gyselink; 22. Alfons Boekaerts.

Stan Ockers

(°Borgerhout 03.02.1920-+Merksem 01.10.1956)



Little Stan, from a modest background, won on the occasion of this war-Scheldeprijs, his first big race. He was not 21 years old yet. Of course the war limited his progression but Stanneman was able thanks to hard working and being very intelligent in the races to reach cycling summit. Immediately after the war, in 1946, he won a second Scheldeprijs and from that moment on he started winning a lot of races. The rider from Borgerhout was mostly a tour rider (2nd in the Tour '50 and '52), before he, aged 33, won the Flèche Walloon in 1953. In '54 he won the green jersey in the Tour and one year later, when he was already 35, he won the Flèche Walloon again, Liège-Bastogne-Liège, and (mostly) the World Championship. His very best season was crowned with the first position in the Desgrange-Colombo Cup (a classification which awarded the best rider of the year). One year later, on September 29, 1959, fate awaited him. While he was racing an individual race in Antwerp

Sport Hall he was the victim of a crash. He died two days later in the hospital St.Bartholomeus in Merksem. An impressive amount of people attended the funerals of the immensely popular world champion. He is buried in the 'Silsburg' cemetery in Deurne-South. In the Sport Hall of Antwerp, where he was a real star his entire career through, it is possible to see his bust. There is also a very nice statue representing him in the Côte Les Forges, in Gomzée-Andoumont next to Liège, where he attacked in 1953 in order to win the Flèche Walloon.

René Vermeiren



31st SCHELDEPRIJS

July 26

It is really not easy to organize the Scheldeprijs during World War II. 37 professional riders are anyway present at the start in Schoten. Most of them come from Antwerp. Jef Somers and Richard Blendeman make part of the first breakers. After the big laps, 26 riders are still together when they reach Schoten. Lucien Acou gives up after he breaks his fork while Martin Van den Broeck and Eugeen Thyssen try to break in the final short lap. No way for them. Lode Busschops is the winner after being the faster in the sprint.

ROADMAP

Schoten, Ekeren, Kalmthout, Wuustwezel, Loenhout, Hoogstraten, Turnhout, Geel, Herentals, Oostmalle, 'sGravenwezel, Schoten (130 km) and two local laps (total 160 km).



Lode Busschops beats Gust Janssens, Tor Bruneel and the whole bunch.
Photo J. Meuris

RESULT

37 participants

1. Lode Busschops, *Champion of Antwerp*, 160 km in 4h35m;
2. Lode Janssens at ½ wheel;
3. Hector Bruneel;
4. Felix De Raes;
5. Eugeen Jacobs;
6. Jaak Geus;
7. Ward Vissers;
8. Stan Ockers;
9. Frans Van Hassel;
10. Ernest Thyssen;
11. Jan Van Steen;
12. Richard Blendeman;
13. Ex-aequo: Frans Rijckers, August Janssens, Theo Desmedt, Eugeen Kiewiet, Martin Van den Broeck (Antwerp);
18. Julien Douws;
19. Frans De Donder;
20. René Adriaenssens;
21. Frans Rijmenants;
22. Jef Somers;
23. Jozef Van Kerckhoven.

Lode Busschops

(°Lier 16.03.1920-+Lier 03.09.2000)

'Things could have been completely different', explained Lode Busschops, after he became the coach of football club SK Lierse. Lode Busschops won the then famous first race of the season Antwerp-Ghent-Antwerp in 1941. He then just turned a professional. In '42 he was the best in the Scheldeprijs. In 1943 fate changed his life. Lode was sent to Germany and forced to work in that country. War broke his cycling career...

René Vermeiren





32nd SCHELDEPRIJS

July 25

Many riders – 79 – take the start of the event. The pace is fast from the very beginning and it goes on like that till the end. Jef Somers is for sure the most aggressive rider that day and he makes part of almost every break even if the bunch catches them every time. Martin Van den Broeck (Lebbeke) is the last one to try and go but no way for him also. Eloi Meulenberg, 1937 World Champion, wins easily the race thanks to an impressive sprint finish.

ROADMAP

Schoten, Kapellen, Kalmthout, Wuustwezel, Hoogstraten, Turnhout, Mol, Geel, Herentals, Oostmalle, Schilde, 's-Gravenwezel, Schoten and one local lap, total 175 km.



Eloi Meulenberg is clearly the fastest. The finist is situated on the Etabl. Eug. Herbosch, Th. Van Cauwenberghslei 2.

UITSLAG

79 participants

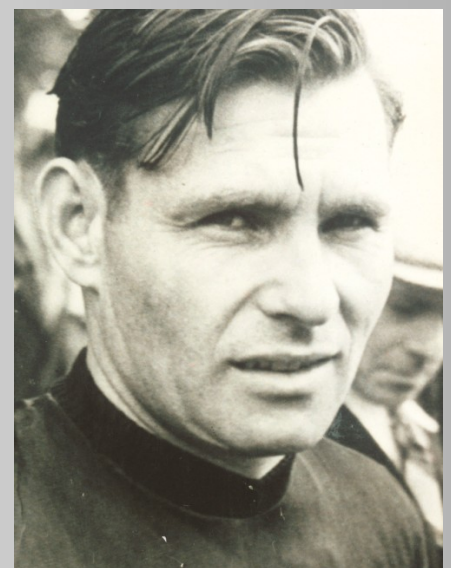
1. Eloi Meulenberg, 175 km in 4h28m;
2. Roger Van Melkebeke at 5 meters;
3. Robert Van Eenaeme;
4. Hector Bruneel, *Champion of Antwerp*;
5. Martin Van den Broeck (Lebbeke);
6. Albert Decin;
7. Ernest Sterckx;
8. André Maelbrancke;
9. Armand Putzeys;
10. Albert Sercu;
11. Jaak Geus;
12. Frans Verboven;
13. Lode Busschops;
14. Jules Douws;
15. Lode Janssens;
16. Frans Van Hellemont;
17. Michel Hermie;
18. Edgard De Clauwé;
19. Frans Sterckx;
20. Felix De Raes;
21. Petrus Van Verre;
22. Thijs Verveer (Ned);
23. André Defoort;
24. Ex-aequo: Jules Bury, Jan Claessens, Jef Somers, Raymond Careme, Michel Remue, Lode Poels, René Janssens (Kemper), Désiré Keteleer;
32. Jozef Van Kerckhoven;
33. Frans Deroover;
34. Jan Valckenborghs;
35. Kamiel Muls;
36. Jan Verveer (Ned);
37. Eugeen Jacobs;
38. August Janssens;
39. Frans Hotag;
40. Gorgon Hermans;
41. Albert Anciaux;
42. Jan Van Steen;
43. Frans Van Hassel.

Eloi Meulenberg

(°Jumet 22.09.1912-+Jumet 26.02.1989)

Eloi is the first Walloon rider ever to win the Scheldeprijs. His career was naturally interrupted by World War II. Just before the War he was indeed one of our best riders and he even became worldchampion in 1937 in Copenhagen! He won nine stages in the Tour de France, Paris-Brussels in 1936 and Liège-Bastogne-Liège in 1937. Eloi turned a professional in 1934 and did not end his career before 1950.

René Vermeiren





33rd SCHELDEPRIJS

July 30

After many discussions it is finally decided to organize the Scheldeprijs in Kapellen. It was indeed not possible to organize it in Schoten due to some circumstances caused by the war. Thirty professional riders -of them from Antwerp- took the start of the race. The riders had to complete thirteen local laps of 10 km each. Knaepkens, Bonvarlez, Joris and Van Peer went in the break in the final part of the race and Frans Knaepkens was the fastest.

PARCOURS

Thirteen local laps of 10 km in Kapellen, total 132 km.



RESULT

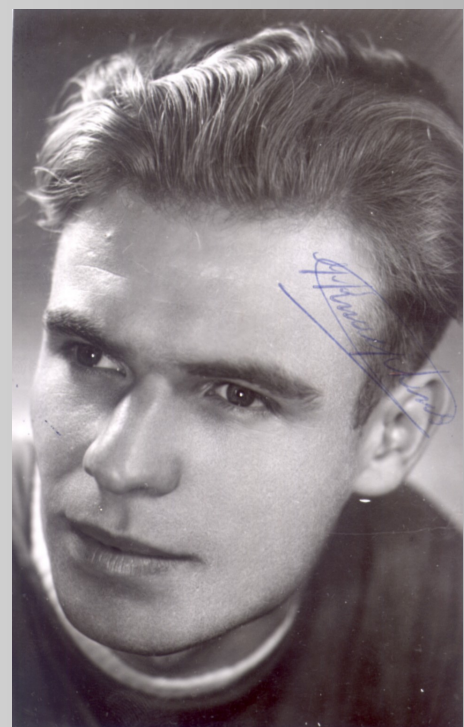
30 participants

1. Frans Knaepkens, 132 km in 3h28m; 2. Staf Bonvarlez at 8"; 3. Louis Joris; 4. Adolf Van Peer at 55"; 5. Stan Verschueren at 3'40"; 6. Albert Van Laer at 4'08"; 7. Rik Clarys; 8. Karel Van den Wijngaert; 9. Staf Demeersman at 4'17"; 10. Gaston Puttemans; 11. Michel De Beuckelaer; 12. Rik Bauwens; 13. Karel Janssens; 14. Corneel Leemans; 15. Karel Bertels; 16. Alfons Buyens; 17. Miel Casteleyn; 18. Maurice Mollin; 19. Rik Lauwers; 20. Jef Van Hoof; 21. Albert Van Eynde.

Frans Knaepkens

(°Viersel 13.08.1922-+Broechem 17.02.2001)

Even if fighting against stars like Stan Ockers, Nest Sterckx and Rik Van Steenberghe, Frans Knaepkens was also able to get excellent results. The war unfortunately slowed his career down. In 1944 he won the Scheldeprijs, in 1945 the famous criterium of the city of Antwerp. Two years later he was the best in Paris -Valenciennes. He also won Tielt-Antwerp-Tielt. In 1948 he took the second place in the Scheldeprijs, behind Achiel Buysse. His career came to an end in 1951.



René Vermeiren