

Tour de France gets rolling Saturday

The Associated Press

LEEDS, England
So your national team is out of the World Cup in Brazil, Wimbledon doesn't seem the same without Serena Williams or Rafael Nadal and your baseball team is slumping.

This weekend, fans of many stripes could join die-hard cycling buffs and tune in to the start of the 101st Tour de France for that much needed sports fix.

Cycling's big event gets going Saturday through bucolic countryside in northern England, where officials have paid for the right to host it, hoping to draw tourists, capture media attention and feed the recent cycling craze among Britons.

It could first require getting over a nagging belief that, after Lance Armstrong's doping exposure, the sport may still be dogged by drugs cheats. Cycling chiefs and experts generally agree that the era of widespread doping is over, but few would claim to know that today's pack is fully clean. Drugs testers will conduct hundreds of blood and urine checks during the race.

Bookmakers' odds foresee a victory either by defending champion Chris Froome, a 29-year-old Kenyan-born Briton who leads Team Sky, or two-time champ Alberto Contador — a 31-year-old Spaniard with Tinkoff-Saxo Bank — to take home the yellow jersey when the race finishes on Paris' Champs-Élysées on July 26.

Few of the 198 riders on the 22 teams stand a realistic chance of winning, based on recent performances, skill sets and team priorities. Most are "domestiques" who race above all to help their team leaders win. Vincenzo Nibali of Italy, plus Spaniards Alejandro Valverde and Joaquin Rodriguez, stand an outside chance.



AP PHOTO/LAURENT CIPRIANI

Britain's Christopher Froome, left, and Danny Pate of the U.S. ride during a training ahead of the Tour de France cycling race in Leeds, Britain, Friday. The Tour de France will start on Saturday July 5 in Leeds, and finishes in Paris on Sunday July 27.

Conceding home-road advantage, Contador said Friday that "local hero" Froome remains the favourite. The Briton, who succeeded Sky teammate and compatriot Bradley Wiggins as Tour winner, said: "I don't think many Tour champions get to come back as defending champions and can start in front of their home crowd."

Five of the 21 stages end in summit finishes, which usually promise drama as the cream of the climbers rises to the top first. In all, the riders will cover 3,664 kilometres (2,277 miles) of roads in England, France, Belgium and Spain.

Aside from cobblestone treachery in Stage 5, the mountains mostly matter this year. For the first time in 61 years, this Tour has only one long time trial — a race-against-the-clock, where racers set off one-by-one down a starter's ramp. It comes in Stage 20. Contador and Froome are among the best in both climbing and time-trialing.

This year marks the second time that the Tour de France is starting in Britain, after a successful time in London in 2007. Local officials use municipal funds to pay for the right to host the race in their cities, hoping for short-term tourism revenues plus a longer-term return from the international media spotlight.

The Tour's route changes every year. After three stages in England, this 101st edition enters France on Tuesday. The riders will cover many of the same roads their forebears covered since the race was first run in 1903. Among novelties this year: the first-ever Chinese rider in the race, Cheng Ji, and 11 climbs in the eastern Vosges mountains — though long, steep ascents await in the Alps and Pyrenees too.

If turnout on English roads during the 2007 Tour de France is any precedent — when millions lined up two- to three-people deep to watch the pack zip by — expect big crowds again this year.

Argos hoping revamped defence will stop Roughriders

The Canadian Press

TORONTO
Scott Milanovich doesn't want the Toronto Argonauts to completely forget their dismal start to the 2014 CFL season.

Toronto opened the campaign with a lopsided 45-21 road loss to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. On Saturday, the Argos host a Saskatchewan Roughriders squad that registered 10 sacks in a 31-10 dismantling of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in its season opener.

"Take nothing away from Winnipeg but I think we were embarrassed with the way we performed and should feel like we've got a lot to prove (Saturday)," the Argos head coach said Friday. "I know I'm looking forward to kickoff to see if we can get this bad taste out of our mouth."

"I don't know if you ever really let one like that go. Those happen from time to time but they need to stick with you a little bit."

The upstart Bombers, who posted a league-worst 3-15 record in 2013, dominated the Argos. Quarterback Drew Willy threw for 308 yards and four TDs while running back Nic Grigsby rushed for 122 yards. Winnipeg also recovered two fumbles, with Demond Washington returning one for a TD.

Toronto was also flagged 22 times.

The defending Grey Cup champion Riders were very impressive in their opener.

Former Toronto defensive end Ricky Foley had three sacks as the defence held Hamilton to just 114 net offensive yards. Newcomer Anthony Allen — replacing departed Grey Cup MVP Kory Sheets — rushed for 158 yards and a TD and also had a touchdown catch. So effective was the run game that Saskatchewan quarterback Darian Durant only threw 22 passes, completing 15-for-136 yards and two TDs.



Toronto's revamped defence — it has just four returning starters — will have four new faces against Saskatchewan.

Cornerback Vincent Agnew, safety Jermaine Gabriel, linebacker Antwaun Molden and defensive tackle Marcus Thomas all get the nod as cornerback Matt Ware, linebacker Jamie Robinson and safety Matt Black go on the injured list while defensive lineman Greg Romeus is placed on the practice roster.

Running back Jeremia Johnson goes to the injured list, with Anthony Woodson (practice roster) replacing him. That means sophomore Curtis Steele and rookie Anthony Coombs — Toronto's '14 first-round pick from the University of Manitoba — will share tailback duties.

"It's a great opportunity for us to see how much we've improved in one week playing the champs in our building," Milanovich said. "They (Riders) are going to get some plays but the other thing you look for is how are we going to react to adversity?"

Medicine Hat
The Gas City

PUBLIC NOTICES

8AM - 4PM
SPECIAL SERVICES

Electric Outages 403.529.8260
Gas Emergency 403.529.8191
Water & Sewer Emergency 403.502.8042
After Hours Special Services 403.526.2828

Stay informed go to www.medicinehat.ca

City of Medicine Hat

Notice of Call for Funding Proposals

Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) Eligible Projects

The City of Medicine Hat invites organizations to submit proposals for FCSS funding. Program proposals will reflect a continuum of prevention and early intervention services for residents of the City of Medicine Hat for the funding contract period of January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2016.

Applicants must be not-for-profit agencies.

Organizations can obtain application forms and information about qualifying projects online at the City of Medicine Hat website (www.medicinehat.ca/socialdevelopment) or pick up an application form from the Community Development department, Third Floor, City Hall.

An information session will be held on **Thursday, July 17, 2014 at 1 p.m.** in the Family Leisure Centre Boardroom. All questions will be answered at that time.

To confirm your attendance or for more information, call **403.529.8316** or e-mail bonvar@medicinehat.ca.

Proposal Deadline
September 5, 2014, at 4:30 pm

FIRE HYDRANT & WATER MAIN FLUSHING

The Environmental Utilities Department will test and flush fire hydrants plus water mains until October 2014. This is an annual maintenance activity that maintains water quality and system infrastructure. Residents may notice some discoloring of water, which is not harmful and will disappear when flushing is complete. Fluctuating pressure may also be noticed. Should discoloration persist beyond three hours, you may wish to flush the water from your home for a few minutes by watering your lawn or running your tap. Please note that the flushing in your home will not correct private plumbing/corrosion problems. Thank you for your understanding.

The City of Medicine Hat and you partners in safe drinking water.

GAS, ELECTRIC, WIND ENERGY RATES SET FOR JULY

Medicine Hat, AB – The City of Medicine Hat has set its July energy commodity rates.

Natural Gas
The July natural gas commodity rate of \$4.71 per gigajoule (GJ), up from \$3.36 in June, for all customers is based on the average of the monthly gas charges set by Alberta gas distribution (pipes) owners and Gas Alberta Inc. as established and posted on the Alberta Consumers Advocate and the Gas Alberta Inc. websites.

(per gigajoule)	July 2014)
AltaGas Utilities	\$3.001
Direct Energy Regulated Services North	\$5.781
Direct Energy Regulated Services South	\$5.138
Gas Alberta Inc.	\$4.90
City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)	\$4.71

Electricity
The July electricity rate of \$0.0765 per kilowatt hour, up from \$0.0541 per kilowatt hour in June, for Residential, Farm, Small and Medium Commercial, Unmetered Services and Rental Lighting is based on the average of the monthly electric energy charges set by Alberta electric distribution (wires) owners as established in accordance with the provisions of the Alberta Regulated Rate Option (RRO) Regulation (AR 262/2005) and published on the Alberta Consumers Advocate website with the following exceptions:

- RRO electric energy charges set by Rural Electrification Associations (REAs) that own electric distribution systems in rural Alberta; and
- RRO electric energy charges set for customer classes described as anything other than "Residential" or "Commercial"

July 2014 (per kilowatt hour)	Residential	Commercial (Small /Medium)
Direct Energy Regulated – Atco Electric Area	\$0.07828	\$0.07911
Enmax – Calgary	\$0.07704	\$0.07704
Enmax – Red Deer	\$0.07917	\$0.07917
Enmax – Cardston	\$0.07790	\$0.07790
Enmax – Fort MacLeod	\$0.07790	\$0.07790
Enmax – Crownsnest Pass	\$0.07790	\$0.07790
Enmax – Ponoka	\$0.07867	\$0.07867
Epcor – Edmonton	\$0.07198	\$0.07198
Epcor – FortisAlberta	\$0.07032	\$0.07131
City of Lethbridge	\$0.07484	\$0.07484
City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)	\$0.0765	

The July default electricity rate for Large Commercial, Industrial and Street Lighting customers is based on the monthly average Alberta Power Pool price as established and published by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) plus \$0.02 per kilowatt hour. The rate for June was \$0.622 per kilowatt hour.

The Electric Utility also offers a fixed rate for Residential, Farm, Small and Medium Commercial customers. The fixed rate for 2014 is \$0.0968 per kilowatt hour.

NEW Going Green Charge
Customers also have a "Going Green" surcharge on their bill. This surcharge is for renewable energy purchased for residential, farm, small and medium commercial customers. The Going Green surcharge is calculated monthly to recover costs incurred to purchase renewable energy. The Going Green surcharge for July is \$0.0025 per kilowatt hour.

Media inquiries:
Gerry Labas, Chief Operating Officer, Energy Services
City of Medicine Hat • 403-502-8756

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED JUNE 26 TO JULY 2, 2014 PLANNING, BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL

130 Northlands Crescent NE (Lot 40, Block 24, Plan 0512311) Permit No. DP11839. With Conditions. Detached Garage.

COMMERCIAL

104 – 1276 Strachan Road SE (Lot 29, Block 27, Plan 9411002) Permit No. DP11805. With Conditions. One LED Fascia Sign.

2500 Box Springs Boulevard NW (Lot -, Block 1, Plan 1311217) Permit No. DP11823. With Conditions. Five Fascia Signs.

HOME OCCUPATION

569 Vista Drive SE (Lot 2, Block 5, Plan 1111036) Permit No. DP11826. Office Use Only. With Conditions. Catering.

48 Storrs Crescent SE (Lot 39, Block 22, Plan 9611395) Permit No. DP11836. Customers to Attend Site. With Conditions. Dog Grooming – Three Year Renewal.

306 – 22 Park Meadows Drive SE (Lot 11, Block 48, CDE. 9411754, Plan 9410488, 9411754) Permit No. DP11837. Office Use Only. With Conditions. Aesthetics – Three Year Renewal.

20 Somerset Lane SE (Lot -, Block 52, Plan 0714706) Permit No. DP11841. Office Use Only. With Conditions. Petro/Well/Oil Field Services.

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Officer or the Municipal Planning Commission may appeal to the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by completing and submitting to the City Clerk Department, the required Notice of Appeal form within fourteen (14) days of this publication. Notice of Appeal forms are available from the City Clerk Department, Second Floor, City Hall or on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca

Further information on any Development Permit may be obtained from the Planning, Building & Development Services Department, Second Floor, City Hall during normal business hours (Telephone 529-8374).