



Interview with Kim Kirchen on the individual time trial of the Škoda Tour de Luxembourg

Kim Kirchen is a native of the commune of Niederanven. The former wearer of the yellow and green jersey in the Tour de France now works for the Ministry of Sport and also comments on major cycling races for RTL Télé Lëtzebuerg. As a former stage winner of the Tour de Luxembourg, he is proud that the individual time trial will take place on 20 September in “his” commune.

Now 47 years old, Kim Kirchen explains why it’s worth being there live on 20 September:

“What’s interesting about the individual time trial is that you can go to the team buses and ask for autographs or take photos. It’s not as hectic as at a start or finish line. For children, it’s always great – they can ask for a cap or a bidon, and they’re more likely to get one. And then there are the special time trial bikes – that’s fascinating for any cycling enthusiast. Everything has evolved enormously: the kits, the helmets, the disc wheels... It’s incredibly spectacular. But people should be careful not to disturb the riders who are high up in the general classification. They’re extremely focused on their race that day. A tip: it’s better to approach a rider after they’ve finished their race than before.”

As a father of two, he’s also pleased that his commune regularly offers a platform for cycling and sport in general:

“As far as I know, the commune of Niederanven is very active in these areas – including now, by organising an individual time trial of the Škoda Tour de Luxembourg. That’s always been the case, even when we had championships in which I personally took part. We’ve already had the ‘Critérium européen pour jeunes’ several times, so we’re very committed to youth development. That’s rare nowadays, because you have to close roads, etc. And now we’re getting something with this time trial that’s truly unique. This race has developed enormously. When I see that, for example, Mathieu van



Left to right : Kim Kirchen & Christophe Junker
(Coordinateur sportif)



der Poel was at the start last year. Also Mads Pedersen... And if you can bring two such riders to Niederanven, that’s brilliant – you can’t get any closer to them. More and more top riders are willing to come, because the organisation is better, because people are putting thought into the route – people who have raced themselves. And thanks to the broadcast in around 100 countries, the name of the commune of Niederanven will stick with TV viewers.”



Kim Kirchen himself was also very successful in the Tour de Luxembourg. He fondly remembers those times:

“I have great memories of my active days in the Tour de Luxembourg. One year I had a fantastic team, Fassa Bortolo, and I even won a stage ahead of Oscar Freire, and also the stage at the ‘Huelen Zant’. And of course with my supporters back then – my fan club, my family, etc.”

And if you want to meet Kim Kirchen in Niederaanven on 20 September, you’re in luck:

“With RTL, we’ll be on site for the live broadcast – unlike at the Tour de France. That’s great – you’re much closer to the action, the Luxembourg cycling scene comes together, from the old to the new generation.”

And finally, Kim Kirchen makes a public appeal:

“Cycling takes place on the roads, but I encourage everyone to come and watch – especially with children. Maybe they’ll become passionate about cycling too. I certainly hope for understanding from the public.”