



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TEAM ASTANA'S LEVI LEIPHEIMER RETAINS THE AMGEN LEADER JERSEY  
AFTER STAGE THREE OF THE 2009 AMGEN TOUR OF CALIFORNIA**

*Cervelo Test Team's Thor Hushovd Takes Bunch Sprint to Win Stage 3*

**SAN JOSE, CALIF.** (February 17, 2009) – After completing one of the most defining stages of the **2009 Amgen Tour of California**, which began in Downtown San Jose with a special send off by Mayor Reed, and included the Sierra Road (Cat. 1) climb, a signature climb in the race, **Thor Hushovd** (NOR) of Cervelo Test Team held on to take the stage win. Santa Rosa resident **Levi Leipheimer** (USA) of Astana had another strong performance in front of thousands of enthused cycling fans to retain the overall lead.

The riders were hit hard early in Stage 3, just five miles into the race, when they took on the first King of the Mountains competition (KOM) Sierra Road (1,930 ft.). The racers then sped through flat sections that twisted and turned, including more than 40 switchbacks on Calaveras Road. After tackling the second KOM climb of the day, Patterson Pass (category 4), the stage concluded with a lap around a downtown circuit in Modesto.

Beginning with the difficult Sierra Road climb, the 101.4-mile stage from San Jose to Modesto started off with a warm welcome from a massive crowd. As the field started up the climb just outside of San Jose, a small breakaway group of four riders separated from the pack and was briefly joined by the previous day's KOM leader **Francisco Mancebo** (ESP) of Rock Racing.

After taking first place in the first KOM competition, **Mancebo** sat up, leaving four riders to fight off the front: **Bauke Mollema** (NED) of Rabobank, **Brian Vandborg** (DEN) of Liquigas, **Jeffrey Louder** (USA) of BMC Racing Team and **Bradley White** (USA) of Ouch Presented by Maxxis.

Back in the field, the combination of growing fatigue and inclimate weather conditions contributed to a string of mechanicals and accidents out on the road. **Omer Klem** (USA) of Bissell Pro Cycling Team and

**Ian MacGregor** (USA) of Team Type 1 both crashed out of the race early on and even overall race leader **Leipheimer** had an innocuous look at the pavement around the 35-mile mark after clipping a teammate's wheel. Only **Leipheimer** was able to remain in the race.

“That was my fault; I just looked down for one second and it was windy and everybody moved left and right and next thing I know there was a touch of a wheel,” commented **Leipheimer**. “It hurts but it happens. I didn’t break anything. I’ve done it before; it’s not big deal.”

The four riders in the breakaway built a maximum gap of five and a half minutes, but this was not quite enough to hold off the hard charge by the sprinters in the final hour of racing. A strong move by **Louder** before the finishing circuit only delayed the inevitable until the very end, where he was the last to be caught. An impressive team effort propelled **Hushovd** to a sprint victory in front of a roaring crowd at the Modesto finish. **Hushovd** confirmed that the team lead-out train was what set him up for the race's first mass finish.

“My teammates, including **Hayden Roulston** (NZL), started with 1 kilometer to go, and then **Dominique Rollin** (CAN) pulled to just the last corner,” said **Hushovd**. “Then, (**Brett**) **Lancaster** (AUS) (of Cervelo Test Team) and I started to pass with only 150 meters to go, so our team did a great job today.”

Rabobank's **Oscar Freire** (ESP) and Team Columbia-Highroad's **Mark Renshaw** (AUS) trailed in just behind for second and third, respectively. **Mark Cavendish** (GBR) of Team Columbia-Highroad, one of the most well-known sprinters in the world, took fifth in the stage. All of the riders that were in the top of the overall classification were in the group for the bunch sprint at the finish of the stage.

Three jerseys remained unchanged after Stage 3, including **Leipheimer** in the Amgen Leader Jersey, **Mancebo** in the Herbalife Sprint Jersey and **Gesink** in the Rabobank Best Young Rider Jersey. Amgen's Breakaway from Cancer™ Most Courageous Rider Jersey was awarded to **White**. **Mollema** took the California Travel & Tourism Commission King of the Mountain (KOM) Jersey.

“Like the level of competition, the crowds here at the **Amgen Tour of California** continue to increase and get better each day,” said Andrew Messick, president of AEG Sports. “With BMC's **Jeff Louder** holding onto the lead for quite some time, and four of the top-five general classification leaders also being American, U.S. cycling has put on an incredible showing which could certainly continue

throughout the remainder of the race. What's truly exciting is that with five days of competition still to come, no fewer than ten riders could win the race this Sunday in Escondido."

As part of Amgen's effort to honor and celebrate cancer survivors everywhere and to raise awareness about its *Breakaway from Cancer*<sup>™</sup> initiative, the Modesto finish featured a Breakaway Mile that inspired race spectators. Modesto tongue and neck cancer survivor Kenneth Chew participated in the one-mile honorary ride, and he was joined by the team of people who supported him during his battle, including his wife, daughter, mother, brother and friends, as well as Terry Rosen, Amgen vice president, Chemistry Research and Development, who plays a crucial role in developing innovative medicines to treat cancer and other serious illnesses.

*Breakaway from Cancer* nonprofit partners play leading roles in every aspect of cancer care to help people affected by the disease. The Modesto Breakaway Mile featured Prevent Cancer Foundation, whose mission is cancer prevention and early detection through research, education and community outreach to all populations, including children and the underserved.

"The Prevent Cancer Foundation applauds all of the inspirational men and women who have joined *Breakaway from Cancer* this week, to share their stories of strength and hope," said Carolyn R. Aldige, president and founder, Prevent Cancer Foundation. "In particular, we thank Kenny for his efforts to raise awareness about cancer. We hope that what he and others have shared will empower both men and women to talk to their health care providers about what they can do to reduce their risk for developing cancer through screening and making healthy lifestyle choices."

Amgen created the national *Breakaway from Cancer*<sup>™</sup> initiative in 2005 as a complementary component to its sponsorship of the inaugural ***Amgen Tour of California***. The *Breakaway from Cancer* initiative is designed to empower patients by connecting them to education, resources and hope.

For access to resources and details about *Breakaway from Cancer* activities during the race, visit [www.breakawayfromcancer.com](http://www.breakawayfromcancer.com).

#### **STAGE 4:**

**Wednesday, Feb. 18 – Merced to Clovis (115.4 mi/185.7 km)**

*Start Time: Noon PT*

*Estimated Finish Time: 3:50-4:30 p.m. PT*

*Satellite Feed Time: 5-5:15 p.m. PT (8-8:15 p.m. ET)*

*(Coordinates can be found at <http://www.amgentourofcalifornia.com/news/media-info.html>)*

Stage 4 will introduce two new host cities and the Sierra Mountains to the ***Amgen Tour of California***. With four KOM competitions and several sprints, Stage 4 will be a test for the riders with consistently hilly and technical terrain. From the start in Merced to the finish in Clovis, this stage will be characterized by consistent climbing surrounded by the beautiful mountain scenery. Fans can watch the climbs, always a spectator favorite, at any of the four locations - Hwy 140, twice on Hwy 49 and Crane Valley Road. Coming to a finish in Old Town Clovis, this stage will introduce the beauty of Central California to the ***Amgen Tour of California***.

For full results, archived footage, GPS data, course information, race play-by-play and more, please visit the official race Web site at [www.amgentourofcalifornia.com](http://www.amgentourofcalifornia.com).

In addition to the Web site, fans can view the race on the daily VERSUS broadcasts. Stage 4 will air live on VERSUS tomorrow at 1 p.m. PT/4 p.m. ET.

### **About the Amgen Tour of California**

The largest cycling event in America, the ***Amgen Tour of California*** is a Tour de France-style cycling road race, presented by AEG, that challenges the world's top professional cycling teams to compete along a demanding course. Building on last year's third-annual stage race, which attracted 1.6 million spectators, the ***2009 Amgen Tour of California*** will be expanded to cover more than 750 miles over nine days from February 14-22, 2009.

### **About Amgen**

Amgen discovers, develops, manufactures and delivers innovative human therapeutics. A biotechnology pioneer since 1980, Amgen was one of the first companies to realize the new science's promise by bringing safe and effective medicines from lab, to manufacturing plant, to patient. Amgen therapeutics have changed the practice of medicine, helping millions of people around the world in the fight against cancer, kidney disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and other serious illnesses. With a broad and deep pipeline of potential new medicines, Amgen remains committed to advancing science to dramatically improve people's lives. To learn more about Amgen's pioneering science and vital

medicines, visit [www.amgen.com](http://www.amgen.com). To learn more about Amgen’s Breakaway from Cancer initiative, visit [www.breakawayfromcancer.com](http://www.breakawayfromcancer.com).

### **About AEG**

AEG is one of the leading sports and entertainment presenters in the world. AEG, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Anschutz Company, owns or controls a collection of companies including facilities such as STAPLES Center, The Home Depot Center, Sprint Center, The O2, Nokia Theatre L.A. LIVE and NOKIA Theatre Times Square; sports franchises including the Los Angeles Kings (NHL), two Major League Soccer franchises, a Women’s Professional Soccer league team, the Los Angeles Sol, two hockey franchises operated in Europe, management of privately held shares of the Los Angeles Lakers, the ING Bay to Breakers foot race and the *Amgen Tour of California* cycling road race; AEG Live, the organization’s live-entertainment division, is a collection of companies dedicated to all aspects of live contemporary music performance, touring and a variety of programming and multi-media production. For more information, visit AEG today at [www.aegworldwide.com](http://www.aegworldwide.com).

### **About the City of San Jose**

From its founding in 1777 as California's first city, San Jose has been a leader, driven by its spirit of innovation. Today, San Jose stands as the third largest city California, behind Los Angeles and San Diego, and the Capital of Silicon Valley—the world's leading center of innovation. The city, the 10th largest in the U.S., is committed to remaining a top-ranked place to work, live, learn and play, and, with more than 150 miles of bike lanes and paths, aggressively supports cycling as a viable alternative form of green transportation. San Jose’s commitment to cycling earned the city a National Bicycle Friendly Community Award from the League of American Bicyclists. As an epicenter of cycling in the San Francisco Bay area, San Jose is part of one of the world’s largest great cycling communities in North America.

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