

Opinion: Enough with the podium girls



The Amgen bike race that rolls through South Lake Tahoe has podium girls. Photo/LTN file

By Latria Graham, Outside

If you've ever seen a pro men's cycling race, you know the image: a lycra-clad athlete clambers onto the stage flanked by two beautiful women—so-called “podium girls”—in slinky dresses and heels. As he accepts his flowers and a signature colored jersey, he receives a kiss on both cheeks from his female escorts.

On March 1, organizers of the Tour de France announced to The Times their intention to end this antiquated practice in the 2018 race. This decision makes the Tour the second Grand Tour event to stop hiring podium girls—Vuelta a España was the first, in 2017.

That leaves just the Giro d'Italia, where presumably we'll still see scantily clad, well-heeled women kiss the male

athlete du jour this summer.

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