

SPORTING LEGENDS: SANTIAGO BOTERO

SPORT: CYCLING

COMPETITIVE ERA: 1996 - PRESENT

Santiago Botero Echeverry (born October 27, 1972 in Medellín, Colombia) is a Colombian professional road bicycle racer.

He has been a pro since 1996, during which time he has raced in three editions of the Tour de France and four editions of Vuelta a España (the Tour of Spain).



He has been, for the greater part of his career, a member of the Kelme team, but in 2003 joined T-Mobile Team (then named Team Telekom).

His often brilliant performance as part of the Kelme team turned lacklustre in Team Telekom, with the team management blaming his lack of discipline in training but he claimed because of health problems.

In October 2004 he joined Phonak, together with Miguel Ángel Martín Perdiguero from Saunier Duval, and Victor Hugo Peña and Floyd Landis from Discovery Channel-Berry Floor. He currently lives in both Colombia and Madrid, Spain with his wife.

He was the World Champion in individual time trial in 2002. His career highlights include a stage win in Ruta del Sol in 1999, a stage win in the Paris-Nice in 1999, a stage win in the 2000 Tour de France, a polka dot jersey as "King of the Mountains" in the 2000 Tour de France, two stage wins in the Vuelta 2001, third place in the World Championships in the individual time trial in 2001, and two stage wins and fourth place overall in the 2002 Tour de France.

SPORTING LEGENDS: SANTIAGO BOTERO



Botero's ability to excel in the mountain stages of a tour race is legendary!

Other victories include a stage win in the Clasica Bogota in 1997, a prologue win in the Vuelta a Chile in 1997, a stage win in GP Mitsubishi in 1998. After joining T-Mobile his accomplishments in the Tour diminished sharply.

In May 1, 2005 he won the Tour de Romandie in Switzerland, 33 seconds ahead of rising Italian star and favorite for the Giro d'Italia Damiano Cunego. Romandie is often used as a preparation race for the Giro d'Italia.

On February 28, 2007, Botero was presented with his new team UNE Orbitel in Bogota, Colombia. He outlined that his ambitions for the year would be to win the Vuelta a Colombia, to be the Colombian national champion and a podium place in the UCI World championships individual time trial event.

In August, Botero won the Vuelta a Colombia for the first time in his career. He dominated the event by winning the prologue and two stages along the way as well as wearing the leaders jersey for most of the race.

SPORTING LEGENDS: SANTIAGO BOTERO



Talent, Intensity & Controversy – that's what Santiago Botero is all about!

SPORTING LEGENDS: SANTIAGO BOTERO



Scott Burton's Final Thought

Santiago Botero is something of a mercurial sporting athlete. Utterly brilliant on some days and yet totally frustrating on others.

The last few years have not been kind to Santiago Botero but in 2008 he recaptured the sort of form that used to rile Lance Armstrong in the Tour.

His time trial successes are well-known, but it is his ability as a climber that will cement his future legacy in the sport of tour cycling.

Botero has been one of the few riders to regularly defeat Armstrong against the clock, but could never sustain the required consistency to achieve a Tour De France title.

His influence to young sporting hopefuls in his native Colombia should not be underestimated. He is an idol to many, and in their eyes, a true sporting legend.



On his day, Santiago Botero can deliver the most brilliant cycling performances,