

Abner Gonzalez: the first Puertorican to race the Tour de Pologne

"Music inspires my way of racing" #Rideforpeace

Abner Gonzalez, donning the Puerto Rican champion's jersey, shines in the peloton these days at the Tour de Pologne. The 21 year old, Abner, is the first professional rider in the history of Puerto Rico.

"I started racing, following in my brother's footsteps. My country has a great tradition of playing sports like baseball, basketball and volleyball, which we all play and watch on television from a young age. I have always been attracted to cycling. My brother took me to a race near our home and I won straight away. From then on I fell in love with cycling."

How did you get on the European circuit?

"I managed to get to Europe thanks to a Puertorican 'ausiliar' (masseur) who worked with a team in Spain. My career started from there. I've been on many teams, until I was called up by the Movistar Team. Now I am very happy to be able to race with such a strong team."

You always look happy and smiling.

"I'm doing the job I love. Puerto Rico lives for music, we all grow up listening to music, it's part of our culture. My life is full of music. I ride to the beat of music, especially Reggaeton, which was born in my country, and Salsa. But I like all kinds of music."

What do you think of the Tour de Pologne so far?

"It's my first time riding in the Tour de Pologne. It's a good race with important riders. For me it has been a great experience. Also, it was incredible of them to organize a race in support of peace at such a difficult time. I appreciate it very much."

With your national champion jersey you are also an ambassador of your country.

"It is a pleasure to race with the national champion's jersey. I am happy to represent my country. Also, I am the first Puertorican in the professional peloton. It's fantastic."

What are your goals?

"I am still young and have a lot to learn. One day I'd like to be a three-week race rider, but we'll see. This is my dream."