

Biniam Girmay, Eritrea's cycling sensation, has been named the 2024 African Cyclist of the Year, marking his fourth win of the coveted title after previous victories in 2020, 2021, and 2022.

The 24-year-old etched his name into the history books with a groundbreaking performance at the 2024 Tour de France, where he clinched three stage wins and the prestigious green jersey in the points classification – a first for any African cyclist. Girmay emerged victorious ahead of South Africa's Alan Hatherly, the continent's first mountain bike world champion and a Paris Olympic bronze medallist, and Algeria's Yacine Hamza, who has dominated African races throughout the season.

This recognition reinforces Eritrea's dominance in African cycling, with its riders securing the title nine times in the 13-year history of the award. The accolade has also been won twice by South Africa and once by Rwanda.

Girmay's achievement was determined by a distinguished jury chaired by Bernard Hinault, a five-time Tour de France champion, and comprised of 25 members, including riders, coaches, and representatives from African cycling federations. The jury's goal is to spotlight cyclists who elevate the continent's presence on the global stage.

Created to boost the development of cycling in Africa, the African Cyclist Trophy recognizes athletes whose performances inspire and promote the sport across the continent. Girmay's remarkable year is expected to further motivate young African cyclists aspiring to make their mark internationally.

The 2024 Rankings

Biniam Girmay (Eritrea – Intermarché-Wanty)

Alan Hatherly (South Africa – Cannondale Factory Racing)

Yacine Hamza (Algeria – Madar Pro Cycling Team)

Charles Kagimu (Uganda – Ride United)

Merhawi Kudus (Eritrea – Terengganu Cycling Team)

Dawit Yemane (Eritrea – Bike Aid)

Natnael Tesfatsion (Eritrea - Lidl-Trek)

Louis Meintjes (South Africa - Intermarché-Wanty)

Alexandre Mayer (Mauritius - Saint Piran)

Clovis Kamzong (Cameroon - SNH Vélo Club)