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## Álvaro Pino: 'Xacobeo Galicia performed wonderfully in the Vuelta, and we can be satisfied with our job'

Xacobeo Galicia have been one of the best teams of the latest edition of the Vuelta Ciclista a España. The team sponsored by BH got Ezequiel Mosquera, who fought for the leader's jersey till the end, on the second place on the podium. The team managed by Álvaro Pino were the third best team, whereas Serafín Martínez was second and Mosquera third in the final mountains classification. In addition, Mosquera was second in the all-around or "combinada" classification.

These facts reflect the good job done by the Galicia-based team in the Spanish tour. "The Vuelta is the most important race for us; it's our main goal in the season. And we did great. Every year we try to do better than the year before, and we've always managed to do so. We can be satisfied," Álvaro Pino says. The Xacobeo Galicia general manager adds, "We believe we've achieved our aim. Mosquera only missed the leader's jersey by the skin of his teeth, as he was only 41 seconds behind the winner. At the start in Seville, we were sure we'd do better than third place, we thought we could win the race. In the end, it wasn't third nor first, it was the second step on the podium that went to Mosquera, after his winning the nicest stage of the Vuelta. Being the third best team was great too, as was getting the second and third places in the final mountains classification. All in all, the team's performance was very good, and we can be really satisfied with our job."

### Mountain stages, the key to success

Of all the stages, Pino considers the one leading to Bola del Mundo as that in which Xacobeo Galicia were able to show all they could do. "There's no doubt about it. The team set out to do what we'd planned. It was one of those days in which the riders followed the clear tactics flawlessly. Anyway, we are really satisfied and proud of all our riders' attitude and performance in all the stages."

Mosquera gave all he had and was enthusiastically cheered on throughout the Vuelta a España. His work attracted the spectators right from the starting line. The team's general manager reveals the strategy to back Mosquera in the fight for the red jersey. "I knew he had to climb onto the podium. Three-week competitions like the Vuelta require being focused and identifying your rivals' weaknesses in all the stages. The whole team were there to support Ezequiel. Our achievements were extraordinary in terms of concentration and attitude. We knew the key to success was in those stages that we considered not be so good to us, especially those which went into about 1km mountaintop finishes. They are quite explosive, and Ezequiel, with his 'diesel engine,' tends to lose a few seconds there. We had to bet on the mountain stages, which suit him better. And everything just panned out," Pino explains.

### The G5, the best ally

A great Vuelta for a team that was using the best ally they could have, courtesy of BH. The G5 proved to be a stunning race item. According to Pino, the team just loved the

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bike: "We didn't have a single incident. Even in the pre-season the riders used to say that the G5 was trustworthy and almost as light as the UCI bike weight minimum, that is, 6.8kg. As to stability and stiffness, this is an extraordinary bicycle. We're really happy with BH's materials."

This great Spanish tour crowns Álvaro Pino's career as Xacobeo Galicia's sports manager. The man from Fontenla shares his plans for the future: "Now I want to spend some time with my family, and then I'll see what I want to do next. Of course, I won't leave the world of cycling, but I think I won't be managing a team. The time has come for me to have a break and relax."



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