



Friday 15 April – Stage 4 – Bordeaux / Pau

## The competition regains the upper hand!

Friday 15 April, the Tour Auto Optic 2000 started its last by one day in the direction of Pau. A short stage dotted with two special stages on closed roads at the "Coteaux Macariens" and "Prayssas" as well as a stopover on the Nogaro circuit.

After a wait in the beautiful surroundings of the Pian sur Garonne, the cars set off on the Coteaux Macariens for nearly 8 km of competition. The competitors needed to be rigorous and concentrate hard on this surprising and delicate layout, marked by very sharp hairpin bends.

Just the time to get their breaths back and the Gentlemen Drivers were ready for the morning's very fast and intuitive second special stage. Ludovic Caron with his AC Cobra

imposes himself as one of the pretenders to the title by making the best time. Jan Rotenberger behind the wheel of his Alfa Roméo 1900TI Super didn't have such luck and had to abandon just after the stage.



On the Paul Armagnac circuit, the crews threw themselves into battles worthy of the greatest champions in front of the delighted local public. Hugo Payen with his E Type Jaguar led the pack until the last lap against José Manuel Albuquerque's powerful Ford GT 40.

A decisive day in the competition. On the day before the final arrival, José Manuel Albuquerque, Ludovic Caron and Jean-Pierre Lajournade are in a pocket-handkerchief. Only one more day for the competitors to make the difference and win the much coveted trophy of this 20th edition. Saturday 16 April, the whole grid will leave the Parc Tissier in Pau and head for Biarritz – Anglet and the Chambre d'Amour for the last stage of the Tour Auto Optic 2000. The last day will include two special timed stages: one on the Pau Arnos circuit and the other in the Bois du Bager.

All the Tour Auto Optic 2000 results at:

[www.tourauto.com](http://www.tourauto.com)

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