



Australian Richie Porte, of BMC Racing Team, in the Tour de Suisse UCI ProTour. Picture: AP

RICHIE ENDS FROOME ROW

SAM EDMUND

RICHIE Porte has vaulted into the lead at the Tour de Suisse when his phone beeps.

It's a message from Chris Froome. "Congrats. Want to catch up?"

It is mid-June, less than a month out from the Tour de France. Porte hasn't seen the four-time Tour winner since leaving last year's edition in the back of an ambulance.

They haven't ridden together for longer than that, when Froome attempted to mend a relationship fractured by what Porte said was Froome's collusion with rivals to bury him on last year's Criterium du Dauphine final stage.

But suddenly, on the eve of another 21-day battle over 3351km, they are on a gentle ride like two boxers at a weigh-in. The superstar Brit in one corner and the Australian des-

perately hungry to take cycling's throne in the other.

Theirs is a complex relationship. Former teammates, roommates and close mates, once again about to wage war in one of the most gruelling tests in world sport.

Porte is a new father, while Froome has cycling's version of labour pains. The best stage racer in the world remains the subject of a drawn-out doping investigation after recording more than twice the permitted levels of asthma medication, salbutamol, in a test last year.

Quietly-spoken and uber-polite off the bike, on it Froome is hunting a fifth Tour crown as a ruthless, cold-blooded assassin. Porte indulges in the small talk, but the guard is up.

"I know where the boundary is now," Porte said.

"I enjoy riding with him, but that's the first time I've seen him since I crashed out of the

Tour. Quite a lot has gone down between then and now.

"There's probably a little bit of checking each other out and where we think we're at. But it doesn't mean that much; it's just nice to catch up with him as a mate. I've got a new baby and that was more what we talked about."

Porte's Tour de Suisse triumph was the timely reminder and he speaks with the sort of calm disposition of someone who knows they're on target.

"I don't mind it, to be honest," Porte said of the low-key preparation.

"At Suisse I wasn't as good as I was in last year's Dauphine and I think going into the Tour, the last 10 days of that are really where the race is going to get brutally hard. That's where you're going to need to be at your best.

"It has been a blessing in disguise, I think."

Cobbled stretches biggest risk

IT IS cycling's version of a minefield.

The high possibility of crosswinds, a team time trial and 21.7km of cobbles await this year's Tour de France combatants in a booby-trapped opening nine stages.

So tricky is the first half of this year's race that it is considered a certainty some title contenders will lose time before a climb has even been done.

Richie Porte is more aware than most of the potential for slip-ups given his run of misfortune at the world's biggest

bike race. The Australian is tucked away in a chalet in the French Alps to finetune his preparation, but it's the opening days in the Vendee and the north that have consumed as much of his planning.

"You look at the first nine days of the Tour and not one of them is straight forward," Porte said.

"You've got team time trial on Stage 3, Stage 5 (to Quimper), we did that race (Tour du Finistere) to look at the finish and it's going to be absolute carnage.

"Then Stage 6 is the Mur de

Bretagne, another tricky one, and then for me the biggest cloud really is Stage 9, the cobbled stage.

"We looked at that and it's not easy, cobbles, it's proper Paris-Roubaix.

"It's one of those stages where you go and do the reconnaissance and you instantly have more respect for these classics guys who just get off on doing cobbled races because it's so tough.

"I mean, it feels like the last few kilometres of a big mountain stage. It's that hard."

Australian Football

VFL Rd 13

FOOTSCRAY 3.3 7.5 7.6 10.11 (71) **NORTHERN** 2.2 5.3 8.4 10.5 (65) **Goals:** Footscray: Roberts 3 Roughhead Wallis Wales; William Monfries Mullenger-McHugh Greene. Northern: Kerr 2 Lynch Penrith Fisher Wilson McKay Williams Johnston Naylor.

Best: Footscray: Porter Collins William Dalgleish Roberts. Northern: Lobbe Fisher Penrith McKay Lynch Byrne. At IKON Park.

RICHMOND 0.2 5.5 9.9 14.11 (95) **BOX HILL** 1.3 5.8 6.10 6.12 (48) **Goals:** Richmond: Naish 2 Moore 2 Stengle 2 Aarts 2 Silvestro Ballard Bolton Coleman-Jones McIntosh Wood. Box Hill: Worpel 2 Moore Cousins Doreian Schoenmakers.

Best: Richmond: Ellis Baker Bolton Menadue Coffield Aarts. Box Hill: Worpel Cousins Jones Schoenmakers Whitecross Mirra. At Swinburne Centre.

GEELONG 5.4 7.10 8.15 12.16 (88) **WERRIBEE** 4.3 5.7 7.10 10.12 (72) **Goals:** Geelong: Gardner 3 Buzzza 2 Atkins 2 Menzel 2 Abbott Kiel Smith. Werribee: Hooper 3 Porter 2 Buylx 2 Augerinis Moloney Bennett.

Best: Geelong: Atkins Simpson Henderson Keras Kiel Jones. Werribee: Collins Aylett Brett Henderson Hooper Brew. At GMHBA Stadium.

CASEY 3.2 6.3 7.3 8.6 (54) **ESSENDON** 0.2 3.3 5.5 6.10 (46) **Goals:** Casey: Stretch 2 Garlett Scott King Balic Smith Hutchins. Essendon: Boyse 2 Stewart Merrett Younan Houllahan.

Best: Casey: Keilty Wagner Stretch Vince Frost Lockhart. Essendon: Mutch Hind Merrett Draper Heppell Clarke. At RAMS Arena.

SANDHAM 4.2 9.3 15.6 21.8 (134) **PORT MELB** 3.2 6.8 8.9 11.13 (79) **Goals:** Sandringham: Bruce 3 Lamb 3 Secull 2 Wright 2 Haidon 2 Minchington 2 Lonie 2 Langlands Connellan Gilbert Phillips Marshall.

Port Melbourne: Hobbs 2 Templeton 2 Pearson Hooper Tynan Lange Rivett Conway Dickson. **Best:** Sandringham: Hickey Wright Lonie Gilbert Minchington Austin. Port Melbourne: Woodfindin Conway Beddison Tynan Lange Templeton. At North Port Oval.

VFL Women's, Rd 8

CASEY 0.1 2.6 4.6 6.11 (47) **ESSENDON** 0.1 1.2 3.3 3.3 (21) **Goals:** Casey: Hore 2 Sloane Bentvelzen Cordner Zanker. Essendon: Ponter 2 Moreau.

Best: Casey: Jakobsson Sloane Tatham Smith Bentvelzen Hore. Essendon: Collier Ponter Flack MacDonald MacKrell Ugle. At RAMS Arena.

MELB UNI 2.0 5.2 7.2 7.6 (48) **CARLTON** 5.2 5.2 6.4 6.6 (42) **Goals:** Carlton: Harrington 2 Downie Cox Gietzmann Hardeman. Melbourne Uni: Angelis 3 Price 2 Greiser Ashmore.

Best: Carlton: Li King Moody Harrington Downie Plane. Melbourne Uni: Tupper Hay Riddell Ahrens Angelis Gillespie-Jones. At IKON Park.

HAWTHORN 0.2 4.5 4.5 4.5 (29) **RICHMOND** 0.0 2.0 3.1 4.1 (25) **Goals:** Hawthorn: Gilder Kuys O'Donnell Hutchins. Richmond: Wakefield Dixon Gunn Louttit.

Best: Hawthorn: Van Dyk Hutchins Beeson Crockett-Grills Sibley Nixon. Richmond: Edmonds Lynch Monahan Dempsey Graham Wakefield. At Swinburne Centre.

C'WOOD 1.3 1.5 5.6 6.8 (44) **NT** 2.1 2.1 2.2 4.4 (28) **Details unavailable.**

Baseball

MLB

American League (home team in CAPS)

SEATTLE MARINERS 4 Kansas City Royals 1; TAMPA BAY RAYS 3 Houston Astros 2; TORONTO BLUE JAYS 3 Detroit Tigers 2; LOS ANGELES ANGELS 7 BALTIMORE ORIOLES 1; NEW YORK YANKEES 8 Boston Red Sox 1; TEXAS RANGERS 11 Chicago White Sox 3; OAKLAND ATHLETICS 3 Cleveland Indians 1

Eastern Division

Team	Won	Lost	PCT	GB
New York Yankees	53	26	.671	-
Boston Red Sox	55	28	.663	0.0
Tampa Bay Rays	40	41	.494	14.0
Toronto Blue Jays	38	43	.469	16.0
Baltimore Orioles	23	58	.284	31.0

Central Division

Team	Won	Lost	PCT	GB
Cleveland Indians	44	36	.550	-
Minnesota Twins	35	43	.449	8.0
Detroit Tigers	36	47	.434	9.5
Chicago White Sox	28	53	.346	16.5
Kansas City Royals	25	56	.309	19.5

Western Division

Team	Won	Lost	PCT	GB
Houston Astros	55	29	.655	-
Seattle Mariners	52	31	.627	2.5
Oakland Athletics	45	38	.542	9.5
Los Angeles Angels	42	41	.506	12.5
Texas Rangers	37	46	.446	17.5

National League

Atlanta Braves 5 ST. LOUIS CARDINALS 1; Colorado Rockies 3 LOS ANGELES DODGERS 1; Pittsburgh Pirates 6 SAN DIEGO PADRES 3; Milwaukee Brewers 8 CINCINNATI REDS 2; MIAMI MARLINS 8 New York Mets 2; Washington Nationals 17 PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES 7; San Francisco Giants 2 ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS 1; CHICAGO CUBS 10 Minnesota Twins 6

Eastern Division

Team	Won	Lost	PCT	GB
Atlanta Braves	46	34	.575	-
Philadelphia Phillies	43	37	.538	3.0
Washington Nationals	42	38	.525	4.0
New York Mets	32	47	.405	13.5
Miami Marlins	33	50	.398	14.5

Central Division

Team	Won	Lost	PCT	GB
Milwaukee Brewers	48	33	.593	-
Chicago Cubs	45	35	.563	2.5
St. Louis Cardinals	42	38	.525	5.5
Pittsburgh Pirates	39	42	.481	9.0
Cincinnati Reds	34	48	.415	14.5

Western Division

Team	Won	Lost	PCT	GB
Arizona Diamondbacks	47	35	.573	-
Los Angeles Dodgers	43	38	.531	3.5
San Francisco Giants	43	40	.518	4.5
Colorado Rockies	40	42	.488	7.0
San Diego Padres	36	48	.429	12.0

Basketball

FIBA World Cup Qualifying

at Chiba, Japan

JAPAN 79 (N Fazeka 25 R Hachimura 24 Y Baba 8) d AUSTRIA 78 (C Goulding 22 T Maker 13 N Kay 12)

Golf

US PGA Quicken Loans National

Second round at Potomac, MD (par 70)

131: Ryan Armour (USA) 66 65, Brian Gay (USA) 67 64, Beau Hossler (USA) 65 66

132: Billy Horschel (USA) 64 68, Francesco Molinari (ITA) 67 65

133: Zachary Blair (USA) 67 66

134: Marc Leishman (AUS) 67 67, John Huh (USA) 70 64, Kevin Streelman (USA) 72 62, Pan Cheng Tsung (TPE) 67 67

135: Andrew Putnam (USA) 64 71, Joaquin Niemann (CHI) 68 67, Johnson Wagner (USA) 70 65, Sam Ryder (USA) 67 68, Chesson Hadley (USA) 71 64, Tiger Woods (USA) 70 65, Joel Dahmen (USA) 66 69, Abraham Ancer (MEX) 65 70, Andrew Landry (USA) 63 72

Netball

Super Netball, Rd 9

MELBOURNE VIXENS 65 (Mwai Kumwenda 37 Tegan Philip 28) d NSW SWIFTS 58 (Sam Wallace 48 Helen Housby 10) at Quay Centre.

P W L D For Agt BP Pts

West Coast 8 6 2 0 521 484 19 43
Melbourne 9 6 3 0 560 525 18 42
Queensland 8 5 3 0 477 441 19 39
Giants 8 5 2 1 467 432 16 38
Sunshine Coast 8 3 4 1 443 434 20 34
NSW 9 5 4 0 513 517 14 30
Magpies 8 2 6 0 473 483 18 26
Adelaide 8 0 8 0 402 540 2 2

Rugby League

NRL, Rd 16

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 20 (M Duffy 2 E Aitken tries G Widdop 4 goals) d PARRAMATTA 18 (N Brown B French J Hayne tries C Gutherson 3 goals); CRONULLA 18 (E Lee 2 J Ramien tries C Townsend 3 goals) d NZ WARRIORS 15 (A Gelling 5 Kata tries S Johnson 3 goals 5 Johnson field goal); MELBOURNE 9 (N Asofa-Solomona try C Smith 2 goals C Smith field goal) d SYDNEY ROOSTERS 8 (M Ikuvalu try J Mitchell 2 goals); MANLY 18 (T Hodgkinson J Thompson M Wright tries T Hodgkinson 2 D Cherry-Evans goals) d PENRITH 10 (D Watene-Zeleznik try J Maloney 3 goals); CANTERBURY 36 (K Holland 2 F Brown J Jackson J Marshall-King R Smith tries R Martin 6 goals) d NEWCASTLE 16 (C Watson 2 H Esee tries K Sio 2 goals)

Sports update

more at antnews.com.au

136: Kang Sunghoon (KOR) 72 64, Seamus Power (IRL) 66 70, Troy Merritt (USA) 68 68, J.J. Spaun (USA) 63 73, Rickie Fowler (USA) 70 66, Adam Schenk (USA) 69 67, Roberto Diaz (MEX) 68 68, Ollie Schniederjans (USA) 68 68

137: Ryan Palmer (USA) 70 67, Dylan Meyer (USA) 70 67, Jonas Blixt (SWE) 71 66, Fabian Gomez (ARG) 68 69, Cameron Percy (AUS) 69 68, Derek Fathauer (USA) 69 68, Stewart Cink (USA) 68 69, Charles Howell III (USA) 70 67

138: Kyle Stanley (USA) 71 67, Ben Crane (USA) 70 68, Ethan Tracy (USA) 69 69, Tyler Duncan (USA) 69 69, Harold Varner III (USA) 73 65, Ted Potter Jr. (USA) 72 66, Gary Woodland (USA) 69 69, Jamie Lovemark (USA) 68 70, Bronson Burgoon (USA) 68 70

139: Doc Redman (USA) 70 69, Patrick Rodgers (USA) 68 71, Kiradech Aphibarnrat (THA) 70 69, An Byeong Hun (KOR) 69 70, James Hahn (USA) 69 70, Alex Cejka (GER) 71 68, Tom Lovatley (USA) 71 68, Ryan Blaum (USA) 67 72, David Lingmerth (SWE) 68 71, J.P. Jonston (USA) 71 68, Corey Conners (CAN) 69 70, Robert Garrigus (USA) 70 69

140: Chris Stroud (USA) 71 69, Dominic Bozzelli (USA) 70 70, David Hearn (CAN) 71 69, Kevin Na (USA) 70 70, Stephan Jaeger (GER) 67 73, Martin Flores (USA) 72 68, Scott Brown (USA) 70 70, Blayne Barber (USA) 70 70, Lanto Griffin (USA) 68 72

141: Anirban Lahiri (IND) 67 74, Adam Hadwin (CAN) 69 72, Bill Haas (USA) 72 69, Doug Gim (USA) 73 68, Zhang Xinjun (CHN) 71 70, Kevin Tway (USA) 70 71, Brandon Harkins (USA) 73 68, Jimmy Walker (USA) 74 67, Nick Watney (USA) 69 72

Missed The Cut: 142: Scott Stallings (USA) 67 75, Brian Stuard (USA) 72 70, Ben Silverman (CAN) 69 73, Kim Meen-Whae (KOR) 71 71, Nicholas Lindheim (USA) 72 70, Matt Every (USA) 71 71, Kelly Kraft (USA) 71 71, Michael Thompson (USA) 70 72, Keith Mitchell (USA) 71 71, Aaron Baddeley (AUS) 70 72, Martin Laird (SCO) 70 72, Geoff Ogilvy (AUS) 67 75

143: Tim Herron (USA) 73 70, J.B. Holmes (USA) 73 70, J.J. Henry (USA) 71 72, Andrew Yun (USA) 71 72, D.A. Points (USA) 73 70, Jason Kokrak (USA) 69 74, Jonathan Randolph (USA) 72 71, Kristoffer Ventura (NOR) 73 70, Chad Campbell (USA) 71 72, Tom Hoge (USA) 68 75, Kim Si Woo (KOR) 70 73, Peter Malnati (USA) 73 70, Billy Hurley III (USA) 69 74

144: Talor Gooch (USA) 74 70, Rob Oppenheim (USA) 71 73, Cody Gribble (USA) 71 73, Denny McCarthy (USA) 69 75, Michael Kim (USA) 72 72, Tyrone Van Aswegen (RSA) 71 73

145: RIchy Werenski (USA) 71 74, Rory Sabbatini (RSA) 72 73, Jason Gore (USA) 74 71, Harris English (USA) 72 73, Danny Lee (NZL) 73 72, Trey Mullinax (USA) 74 71

146: Rod Pampling (AUS) 74 72, Ricky Barnes (USA) 74 72, Sam Saunders (USA) 75 71, Matt Jones (AUS) 72 74, Daniel Summerhays (AUS) 75 71

147: Nick Taylor (CAN) 72 75, Shawn Stefani (USA) 73 74

149: Robert Streb (USA) 71 78

154: Martin Piller (USA) 78 76

European PGA French Open

Second round at Paris (par 71)

136: Marcus Kinhult (SWE) 71 65

138: Chris Wood (ENG) 70 68

139: Bradley Dredge (WAL) 67 72, Jon Rahm (ESP) 70 69

140: Matthew Fitzpatrick (ENG) 71 69, Julian Suri (USA) 70 70, Gregory Havret (FRA) 70 70, Justin Thomas (USA) 70 70

141: Alvaro Quiros (ESP) 74 67, Russell Knox (SCO) 71 70, Tyrrell Hatton (ENG) 74 67, Paul Dunne (IRL) 74 67, Pedro Oriol (ESP) 71 70, Mikko Ilonen (FIN) 72 69

142: Sergio Garcia (ESP) 72 70, Dylan Frittelli (USA) 71 71, Alexander Bjork (SWE) 73 69, Ignacio Elvira (ESP) 74 68, Thomas Pieters (BEL) 69 73, Lucas Bjerregaard (DEN) 76 66

Australians: 144: Scott Hend 75 69, Wade Ormsby 73 71; 145: Sam Brazel 73 72; 146: Brett Rumford 71 75. Missed The Cut: 147: Jason Norris 77 70; 148: Marcus Fraser 73 75; 149: Jason Scrivener 80 72; 161: Adam Bland 84 77; 165: Andrew Dodd 81 84

Women's PGA Championship

Second round at Kildeer, Illinois (par 72)

138: Ryu So Yeon (KOR) 69 69, Brooke Henderson (CAN) 67 71, Park Sung Hyun (KOR) 66 72

139: Carlota Ciganda (ESP) 70 69

140: Annie Park (USA) 71 69, Moriya Jutanugarn (THA) 68 72, Lydia Ko (NZL) 74 66

141: Wichanee Meechai (THA) 71 70, Nasa Hataoka (JPN) 69 72, Daniela Holmquist (SWE) 70 71, Jaye Marie Green (USA) 67 74

142: Kim Sei Young (KOR) 71 71, Jessica Korda (USA) 67 75, Bronte Law (ENG) 72 70, Danielle Kang (USA) 73 69, Kim Hyo Joo (KOR) 70 72, Brittany Altomare (USA) 67 75, Angel Yin (USA) 73 69, Ashleigh Buhai (RSA) 72 70, Park Hee Young (KOR) 71 71

Australians: 145: Minjee Lee 69 76, Sarah Jane Smith 73 72; 146: Karrie Webb 70 76. Missed The Cut: 150: Su Oh 73 77; 152: Hannah Green 76 76; 154: Rebecca Artis 74 80; 159: Katherine Kirk 76 83; 163: Wendy Doolan 82 81

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