



Great performance for Joaquim Rodriguez in "Tirreno - Adriatico" last but one stage: 'Purito' was able to obtain his first victory in this 2012, thanks to a brilliant attack in the last kilometre before the finishing line. The stage was characterized, in his second part by a 16,2 kilometres long circuit in Offida that the group had to run six times: quite a demanding course, with no plain parts. The daily breakaway, an early 7-man escape, was able to reach a highest gap over the group of 5'.

The ahead riders were able to resist the group's chase until Katusha Team imposed his pace, with 15 kilometres to go. The main group neutralized the breakaway with 6 kilometres to the finishing line: then the lock step group started to lose some elements, due to several attacks. But the crucial blitz was made by Rodriguez: Katusha Team's Spanish rider took advantage of the huge work of his teammates and anticipated his rush with 1 kilometre to go. The other rider answered to his progression too late: 'Purito' resisted and took a solo win, defeating Vincenzo Nibali (Liquigas-Cannondale) and Danilo Di Luca (Acqua&Sapone), respectively second and third. In general classification, the Katusha Team's leader is 7th, 50'' far from the first place; Chris Horner holds the leadership before tomorrow's last stage, a 9,3-kilometre long ITT in San Benedetto del Tronto. Moreover, Katusha Team confirmed his leadership in the special Team's Ranking.