

Wiggins leads Sky to time trial glory on stage two ... but Italian team-mate Puccio claims Giro pink jersey (and the kisses)

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Sir Bradley Wiggins struck an early punch at the Giro d'Italia as he led Team Sky to victory on Sunday's team time trial and in the process moved up to second in the standings.

The British squad's success on stage two saw Wiggins claim vital time on his rivals for overall success. More immediately, it put his young Italian team-mate and Giro debutant, Salvatore Puccio, into the overall lead.

The 23-year-old Sicilian, making his first appearance in his national tour, will wear the pink jersey of race leader on Monday, after sleeping with the prized garment under his pillow on Sunday night.



Celebrations: Team Sky claimed victory in stage two of the Giro d'Italia on Sunday

Sky's win maintained a 100 per cent British record on the opening weekend, after Mark Cavendish's victory in Naples on Saturday, with a brilliantly improvised sprint at the end of stage one.

But Cavendish's hopes of prolonging his spell in pink were dashed on island of Ischia, just off the coast from Naples, where the tight, testing and highly technical 17.4km team time trial was held.

Usually a strong performer in the team event, on this occasion Cavendish could not cajole his Omega Pharma Quick-Step team and admitted afterwards to being 'a little disappointed in myself'.

Cavendish's Belgian squad were 17th on the stage, and were among several despondent teams, particularly among the later starters who endured a strengthening wind.



Shower time: Wiggins claimed vital time on his rivals thanks to Sky's team time trial win



Perk of the job: Team Sky's Italian rider Salvatore Puccio will wear the pink jersey on Monday