

Torn apart and put into different teams, the Dans Ta Gueule do not weaken. But their golden moment is in Philadelphia; last September, for the world championships, the team treat themselves to a couple of weeks in Milwaukee, where they rented a van, loaded with Guthrie, some mates, a few players and lots of gear, and happily cross America's bosom until joining the East Coast and Philadelphia's guest-houses, where renamed "In Your Face" or "No Brake No Life", they easily qualify and come in 12th place.

Time goes by; the team plays, trains, progresses, evolves, and gets closer. Films, photos, meet-ups and featurings; their history writes itself in favour of all its happy collaborations. Team-mates, they become real friends. Today, they are "family". But nothing is ever established, and Dans Ta Gueule is each week at the Polo-Ghetto meet-up - the new Parisian spot, beneath the Stalingrad metro (RIP) - where they work on their strengths and their weaknesses, bluffs and tactics, passes and shoots, never to be unworthy. Between the train traffic of the Gare de l'Est station and the agitation on the Chapelle Boulevard, knees exfoliated with asphalt, lost balls and busted eyebrows, the sport is at its most urban. And even with the qualification for the European Cup coming up, the atmosphere remains chill; the three boys have pleasure as a rule; their manner of playing is enthusiastic, light-hearted, close and courteous - well, as much as you can be.

Small ratios, big shots, their determination bears its fruit. With their performances come sponsors; a first in the history of bike-polo. For the Dans Ta Gueule, Puceau! It's also the beginnings of research work, as well as tests and advice in order to improve the game, its tools, and its visibility. Gorilla, led by Thomas Schreier, is the first to look into the team's cradle. For the Swiss frame maker, it's all about family and style. Established in Zurich since the summer of 2007, surrounded a small but effective team, Thomas spends his time searching Italy for magic fingered artisans, whose skills, mixed with the urban influences of street, made possible the conception and creation of a few of the gems on the market, from Ed Wonka's Kilroy to the Lama, a piece made specially by and for Pierre; curved tube, aggressive shape, 50 cm frame, it stood the 1200 kilometres of the Australian Flat Out. But Pierre, Hugo, and Guthrie now ride and represent red, white, and blue Gorilla Hattara bikes. At the Bicycle Film Festival, tire manufacturer Hutchinson discovers Gorilla. Locally built, sharing a passion for urban mobility, and the desire to mix aestheticism with technicality; this sub company of Total sees in this artisan of steel the ideal partner on the quality market, and the best way to integrate a niche area. Last January, Thomas Schreier told Fixé Mag a little more about the mystery that shrouded their street collaboration:

"bigger is better". Sounds good. About the "Dans Ta Gueule, Puceau" - "We prefer to call them DTGP: it's a lot more simple during meetings, in front of industrial bosses and aeronautical experts", says Arnaud Zumaglia, head of marketing and communications at Hutchinson - so with DTGP, Hutchinson is working on a multi-faceted product, for a daily use: a tire that weighs less than 200g, 25 millimetres wide, fun to use both on roads and on the court. They were tried out for the first time last summer. Be it for technical problems or marketing strategies, DTGP accompanies Hutchinson (who also invented the tubeless tire) every step of the way, onto making optimised gear: "the goal here is to develop the sport, make gear that is even better onto the market, technically and ideologically, so that it can become a sport in itself", Pierre sums up. Together, they working towards a more ergonomic tire: hard rubber in the centre for a better yield, soft on the side "in order to get a solid grip, and avoid skidding on the court and on the road", and all this conceived in three layers (of red, white, and blue, French-American touch obliged) so the degree of wear and tear can be clearly visible. The marketing is planned for early 2011. In the mean time, Dans Ta Gueule is also supported by Cyl'air, who print their electric blue tee shirts - on the court, the cheerleaders are never mistaken. For Juan, who is the associate head of this new bike-racing firm, it's also a way to make a connection between polo and the messengers' scene. Last but not least, TSG decided to give them helmets, a necessary evil, after Pierre had once again cut his eyebrow on a mallet last month. But the Dans Ta Gueule, Puceau! wouldn't be where they are now without Corinne Stoll's talent. This photographer, who has been following the team right since their beginnings, has regularly immortalised their style, revealing in her refined work their hidden taste for staging. In volume 7 of Piczine, Viva USA, a homage to the Philadelphia trip was included, and what survives after a match, apart from the score and six sticks: a few beautiful pictures, the pleasure of meeting people, and the rest.

With their Dantesque appetite, their wild productions, Dans Ta Gueule, Puceau! is inhabited with a real desire to exist, and live life to its fullest. There's the thrill of the game, of course, but there is also the pleasure of being with people, the vertiginous trips, the passion of progress, the magic of exchange. "If you want to avoid frustration, you mustn't look to the side, and you must always be producing new things," explains Pierre, whose ingenuity is always present. Pseudo-egotistic stickers, booklets, well-licked videos, crazy leit-motifs in broken English, Dans Ta Gueule, Puceau! is behind quite a few awesome ideas. Enough to make any Parisian tight-arse gossip, so definitely enough to make the sport evolve.

