



PRESS RELEASE

Deutschland Tour 2019

D-1: The Info with one day to go

Key points:

- Four demanding stages (717.5 kilometers) in the heart of Germany.
- Course as a tribute to the 30th anniversary of the opening of the inner German border.
- International top-class rider field: more than a dozen stage winners of the Tour de France, the two former Tour de France winners Geraint Thomas (Team Ineos) and Vincenzo Nibali (Bahrain-Merida) and the leader of the UCI World ranking Julian Alaphilippe (Deceuninck - Quick-Step).
- The German top stars: Emanuel Buchmann (Bora-hansgrohe), who sensationally finished the Tour de France in fourth place, last year's second-placed Nils Politt (Katusha-Alpecin) and sprinter Pascal Ackermann (Bora-hansgrohe).

Classic stages the key to success of the Deutschland Tour

Hannover – 29 August 2019 - In the previous year, the Deutschland Tour celebrated a highly successful premiere and promises an open and eventful race in 2019 on four varied stages. This year's route leads through the heart of Germany and commemorates the opening of the inner-German border on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. After starting in Hanover, a sprint decision is the most likely scenario in Halberstadt, but the following three stages to Göttingen, Eisenach and Erfurt are much more demanding in the final. "After our concept was so successful last year, we wanted to design four classic stages again, which both sprinters and puncheurs feel addressed. This variety keeps the Deutschland Tour open to the last meter open," says the sports director of the Deutschland Tour, ex pro Fabian Wegmann. Perfect conditions for an exciting fight for the overall victory of the Deutschland Tour 2019.

The German Stars

With Emanuel Buchmann, German cycling has finally again a rider for the top places in the Grand Tours. At the Tour de France in July, he sensationally achieved fourth place in the overall standings. Buchmann also has high goals for the Deutschland Tour. "It's great to ride in front of the German fans. The route is probably too easy for me, so I will support my team. We have strong riders here and want to win at least one stage with Pascal Ackermann. But I also think he can do something in the general classification. I'll use the Tour mainly for training."



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In addition to Buchmann Nils Politt aims for a top result in the overall standings - after all, the classics specialist finished the race last year in second place and celebrated his first professional victory. "It will be another beautiful Deutschland Tour and I hope for many people at the roadside. This year the starting field is very good and even better than last year. My favourite is Deceuninck-Quick-Step, they have a really strong team. I will watch from day to day, I did that last year and it worked out well. But I also have an eye on the overall classification."

Pascal Ackermann will focus on the sprinter-friendly start to Halberstadt. The sprinter made it into the world class with two victories at this year's Giro d'Italia. In the previous year, he just missed a stage win in the Deutschland Tour - this year it should run better.

The youngsters Kämna and Evenepoel

Two youngsters also want to make an impact on the Deutschland Tour. Last year, Remco Evenepoel (Deceuninck-Quick Step) was still one of the juniors, one year later the 19-year-old regularly impresses among the pros. Most recently, he won the Clásica San Sebastián and the European Championship title in the time trial and is already compared to the great Eddy Merckx. The cycling scene is amazed by the Belgian high-flyer and is looking forward to his performance at the Deutschland Tour. "For me it is the first race in Germany and I'm looking forward to the Tour. I feel fresh and motivated. At Deceuninck-Quick Step with Julian Alaphilippe and Yves Lampaert we also have other good cards to play. In my opinion the stages two and four will be decisive, on these days the overall standings will be decided."

Also very big for his age is Lennard Kämna (Team Sunweb). The 22-year-old made an impressive debut at the Tour de France in July, with good results especially in the mountains. He wants to build on that in the Deutschland Tour.

Grand Tour winner Vincenzo Nibali

Vincenzo Nibali is considered to be one of the most complete riders of his generation, winning the prestigious one-day classics such as Il Lombardia and Milan-Sanremo in addition to the Tour de France, the Giro d'Italia and the Vuelta a Espana. This also makes him a serious candidate for the overall victory in the classic stages of the Deutschland Tour. "The last time I was on the Deutschland Tour it was in 2005 and I can remember being very tired and stressed in the end. The starting field is very strong this year. The stages are exciting, but not mountainous enough for me. That's why I'll probably be working primarily for our sprinter Sonny Colbrelli."