



PRESS RELEASE

Ackermann wins opening stage in Halberstadt

Halberstadt – 29 August 2019 - A day to shine for the sprinters. After 167 kilometers and start in Hannover Pascal Ackermann (Bora-hansgrohe) decided the first stage of the Deutschland Tour in Halberstadt. The sprinter took also the first red jersey as races overall leader. Alexander Kristoff (UAE Team Emirates) took second place on the slightly uphill finish ahead of his teammate Simone Consonni.

Winner Pascal Ackermann: "We didn't have an easy day, every team fought against us. But we kept cool and the team did an incredible job in the final. On the last kilometer we even played it a bit and dropped back a little. With the red jersey we now look from day to day. It's going to be very difficult, but we'll try everything to win another stage here."

"The finale was very tough and Consonni did a perfect lead-out, but with 400 meters to go I was pushed a bit into the wind and lost Consonni. But Ackermann was clearly the strongest today. And second and third is not a bad result for our team," said runner-up Kristoff.

"It was a relatively relaxed stage. Only before the bonus sprint the race got more hectic and some riders lost contact. In the final it was a lot of left and right and then it went up a bit on the final meters. Of course, the victory by Pascal is a great start for the Deutschland Tour," Nils Politt (Team Katusha Alpecin) congratulates his compatriot.

After the start in Hannover the route reached its first highlight with the intermediate sprint after 78.5 kilometers in Seesen. At this time a breakaway with Nikodemus Holler (Bike Aid), Igor Boev (Gazprom-RusVelo), Joshua Huppertz (Team Lotto - Kern Haus) and Julien Bernard (Trek-Segafredo) led the race and Huppertz won the five points for the intermediate sprints. The group formed immediately after the start of the stage.

Also, the only mountain classification up to the Sternplatz (498 meters high) was decided between the riders in the breakaway: The Frenchman Bernard secured the three points and the first blue jersey of the best climber of this Deutschland Tour. Afterwards the route led over the former inner-German border to Saxony-Anhalt and for the most part flat to Halberstadt. Accordingly, the sprinter teams took more and more control over the race: 50 kilometers before the finish, the gap went just under two minutes. The maximum lead had been more than four minutes.

Huppertz also won the second intermediate sprint in Osterwieck after 133 kilometers. A bit later Bernard was the last survivor of the breakaway and he reached the bonus classification in Huy to secure three bonus seconds for the overall classification. Shortly after his escape was also over. The sprinters decided



PRESS RELEASE

the stage - with the best result for Ackermann. Which is a pay-back for last year, when the German sprinter started the Deutschland Tour with a second place.

The Deutschland Tour will continue tomorrow over 202 kilometers from Marburg to Göttingen. It is the longest stage of this year's race.