



PRESS RELEASE

Pascal Ackermann wins the Deutschland Tour opening

As in the Deutschland Tour 2019, Pascal Ackermann (Bora - hansgrohe) also won the opening stage of this year's race: After 191 kilometers from Stralsund to Schwerin, the 27-year-old relegated Phil Bauhaus and Marco Haller (both Bahrain Victorious) to places second and third. With his victory, Ackermann also takes on the first Red Jersey of the leader of the Deutschland Tour 2021.

A happy Pascal Ackermann at the finish: *"That was my most important win this season. Many people doubted that I could still sprint - I showed that it was still possible. It was an extremely long sprint, but I had a tailwind and quite a gear, so I just pulled it through. We tried again and again to reduce the field in the wind, but I guess there were just too many corn fields along the route, so that didn't really work. I'm really looking forward to the next stages - even if they will certainly be more difficult."*

Soon after the start in Stralsund, a group went clear. With Justin Wolf (Bike Aid), Robert Jägeler (P&S Metalltechnik), Henri Uhlig (German national team), Jon Knolle (SKS Sauerland) and Joshua Huppertz (Team Lotto - Kern Haus) five German continental team riders rode in front. Axel Colmann (Sport Vlaanderen - Baloise) completed the sextet. The leading group was able to extend their lead up to 3:50 minutes.

However, the field always remained in control. In particular, teams Bora - hansgrohe, Bahrain Victorious and Israel Start-Up Nation were very active at the front of the peloton. Emanuel Buchmann did a lot of work - with plenty of rain in between. Mark Cavendish fell about 50 kilometers from the finish but was able to continue. As the finale approached, crosswinds came up again and smaller echelons formed in the field. The sprint and classic specialists showed up in front and ensured that the gap melted.

In sight of the one-kilometer mark, Joshua Huppertz was caught as the last attacker and the sprinter teams opened a true sprint royale on the last kilometer, which Ackermann was able to win with half a bike-length.

About the Deutschland Tour

The Deutschland Tour is Germany's largest cycling festival. The four-day professional race and the hands-on offers in all host cities attract more than 500,000 visitors. In Germany alone, more than 5 million viewers watch the live broadcast on ARD and ZDF - worldwide, the images go to 190 countries. On the Deutschland Tour, fans experience the German top stars and the international Tour de France elite up close. The event is a true festival around the bicycle and puts a special focus on the audience. In addition to thousands of tips on route planning before the race, 5,000 participants use the Jedermann Tour, the Ride Tour and the "kinder Joy of Moving mini tour" to participate. The Deutschland Tour is organized by the Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Radsports mbH (GFR). The GFR is a joint venture between the Tour de France organizer Amaury Sport Organization (A.S.O.) and the Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG). In addition to the Deutschland Tour, the company is also organizing the cycling classic Eschborn-Frankfurt on May 1. The Deutschland Tour 2021 will run over four stages on August 26-29 from Stralsund in the north to Nuremberg in the south of Germany.