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PRESS RELEASE

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## Prominent start list for the Deutschland Tour

**German cycling fans had to be patient: it took almost 700 days before international men's pro cycling returns to Germany's streets. A prominent provisional start list for the Deutschland Tour is the reward for the long waiting time. From August 26, 132 riders will fight for stage wins and the overall victory of the Deutschland Tour 2021 on the way from Stralsund to Nuremberg.**

**Ackermann, Bauhaus, Degenkolb, Greipel, Zabel** – the names of the riders who line-up in Stralsund reads like the who's who of the German sprint. Even if the motivation in their home race is particularly high, the German stars do not stay among themselves. They face the likes of Mark Cavendish and Alexander Kristoff, among others. With his four stage wins at this year's Tour de France, Cavendish has achieved a true masterpiece. During the last Deutschland Tour, Kristoff once again showed how much he loves winning in Germany.

### **Two Germans among the top favorites**

**Politt vs. Degenkolb** - from a German perspective that could be the showdown for the red jersey. Nils Politt returns to racing after the Tour de France. Three years ago, he celebrated the long-awaited first pro win at the final stage of the Deutschland Tour in Stuttgart - but the overall victory was short of 3 seconds. This year, his stage win at the Tour de France might give the tailwind to secure the red jersey.

The route profile also suits John Degenkolb, who rides for the German national team. For the 32-year-old, the Deutschland Tour 2021 is a very personal matter: the GC is made on the classic stages in Thuringia and Franconia – the two regions in which the Monument winner grew up. Above all, the grand finale in Nuremberg is full of souvenirs for Degenkolb: He won here in 2015 and made history as the last stage winner of the Tour of Bavaria.

### **Tour de France names in Germany**

In addition to sprinters and classic specialists, the Deutschland Tour will also be a meeting of prominent stage race riders. Emanuel **Buchmann** is coming back to the only German stage race this year. With **Ben O'Connor** and **Pelle Bilbao**, the fourth and ninth places in the Tour de France are just as much in the line-up as João **Almeida**, who has just won the Tour de Pologne with an impressive performance. The Deutschland Tour will also be a racing comeback for the four-time winner of the Tour de France, Chris **Froome**. And it's a very special kind of comeback: for the first time since the Grand Depart of the Tour de France 2017 in Düsseldorf, the Briton is back in Germany.

### **German offspring among big names**

The Deutschland Tour is also a springboard for local talent. The entire current Bundesliga podium with Jon Knolle, Dominik Bauer and U23 champion Kim Heiduk is announced. In addition, Felix Gross celebrates the career leap into the WorldTour on the Deutschland Tour and ride the first race for his new team.

#### 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.