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PRESS RELEASE

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## SWEET REVENGE FOR COMMANDING MOHORIC

Merzig – August 25, 2018. The beautiful Saarland area of Germany offered all the ingredients for an eventful battle between the big guns of the Deutschland Tour. Second yesterday behind Schachmann, Matej Mohoric enjoyed a sweet revenge claiming a fine victory. After the final hilly part of the day, the Slovenian proved to be the fastest of the reduced bunch, beating Nils Politt and Pieter Vanspeybrouck to the line. Junior World champion, U23 World champion and recently winner of the Binck Bank Tour, Mohoric conquers the overall lead and takes an option on final victory before the final day tomorrow in Stuttgart.

### HILLY STAGE

After an extremely eventful stage 2 that saw the big guns of the race battle it out and Germany's Maximilian Schachmann conquer victory and the overall leader's red jersey, the day's menu would be just as demanding if not more between Trier and Merzig. The 125 riders (two non-starters: Steff Cras of Katusha-Alpecin and August Jensen of Israel Cycling Academy) took off just after noon for a 177-km stage mainly in Saarland on a very hilly course including 5 climbs in the final 60kms.

### FAST START

The pace was extremely fast straight from the start with team Quick Step leading the pack at first before Romain Bardet's AG2R took command of the race as the course got hillier. Despite quite a few attempts, the first real breakaway occurred at km 29 when 8 men took off: Zabel (KAT), Hansen (LTS), Riesebeek (RNL), Shalunov (GAZ), Carpenter (RLY), Hugger (LKH), Hodapp (SVL) and Hollman (HRN). On the first climb of the day in Saarholzbach, Hugger failed to keep up with his companions and was dropped. At the summit, Carpenter led the front group with a slim 35'' advantage over a reduced pack without struggling sprinters Ackerman (BOH) and Hodeg (QST). After covering the distance of 47kms during the first hour of racing, things calmed down and the gap grew to 1'25'' over the bunch at km 62 while Denz (ALM) tried his luck on a counter-attack before eventually stopping his vain effort.

### SEVEN IN LEAD

At the first intermediate sprint in Dillingen (km 74), won by Zabel ahead of Riesebeek and Carpenter, the gap reached 2'. At the feeding zone (km 82) the front group could enjoy a 3'20'' lead and even 3'55 at km 100. At the top of the second hill (km 119,5), claimed again by Carpenter, the back now led by team Sky had moved closer, at 2'10''. USA's Robin Carpenter again made it first at the top of the third climb (km 131,5) virtually capturing the best climber's jersey while the pack remained 1'20'' adrift. At the

#### About the Deutschland Tour

The new Deutschland Tour will take place for the first time on August 23-26, 2018 as a four-day stage race. Like the cycling classic Eschborn-Frankfurt, the Deutschland Tour is also organized by the Amaury Sport Organization (A.S.O.) and its German subsidiary Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Radsports GmbH. The A.S.O. has agreed with the German Cycling Federation (BDR) to organize at least ten events of the Deutschland Tour. In addition to racing for professional, junior and amateur cyclists, the bike will be featured in its full diversity at the Deutschland Tour. For the first time, fans can actively participate in creating a cycling event. More than 1,500 route suggestions and ideas have already been submitted, making the motto "Germany. Your Tour." come alive.



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second intermediate sprint (km 140), once again claimed by Rick Zabel, there were still the same seven men in the lead with an advantage that had slightly dropped (1'05'').

#### CARPENTER LAST SURVIVOR

In the penultimate climb, Hodapp was the first to be dropped from the front and is caught. Led by Carpenter, the six front men reached the top (km 149,5) with a 55'' advantage over the pack. It was then Hollman's turn to be dropped while the pack moves closer and then Zabel with under 15kms to go. While the five remained together at the top of the final climb, Carpenter and Riesebeek gave it one final push. Eventually Carpenter crossed the line with a 10'' lead but was finally caught in the final loop around Merzig.

#### BARGUIL ON THE ATTACK

Getting closer to the bonus sprint situated at the top of a hill, Warren Barguil (FST) decided to attack, attacking with him another former winner of a Tour de France stage, Pieter Weening (RNL). Barguil claimed the sprint and the race leaders could enjoy a 10'' advantage with 7kms to go. The Franco-Dutch pair still had an 8'' lead with 3kms to go but were eventually caught within the final kilometre.

#### MOHORIC IN RED

A reduced pack therefore showed up on the finish straight for what was to be a bunched sprint. Beaten by Schachmann on the previous day, Matej Mohoric (TBM) this time showed he was the strongest. The Slovenian narrowly beat Nils Politt (KAT) and Pieter Vanspeybroeck (WGG) to the line. The 23-year-old captures the overall leadership with a 6'' advantage on Schachmann and 10'' on Politt, and will be wearing the red jersey on the final stage to Stuttgart tomorrow with the clear ambition to conquer this Deutschland Tour. The former junior (in 2012) and U23 World champion (in 2013) also leads the points classification and best young rider's standings.

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