



PRESEMITTEILUNG

Deutschland Tour – Voices of top riders

The Deutschland Tour 2023 leads over five days of racing from the Saarland to Bremen. The 2.3-kilometre prologue in St. Wendel will immediately sort out the classification for the fight for the overall leader's red jersey, which could be shaken up again on the three following stages with classic character. In the finale in Bremen, after 732 kilometers, the sprinters will fight for the last victory. 20 teams with six riders each, will start. Ten teams have WorldTour status.

Mads Pedersen (Lidl-Trek) has emerged as the top favorite after his recent performances, winning the Tour of Denmark and the Cycclassics in Hamburg last week. *"I am looking forward to ride the Deutschland Tour,"* said the 27-year-old Dane. *"I decided to do this race because the stages are an interesting mix. They fit me well and should result in some good racing. I managed to preserve my good form from the Tour de France. Now I'm very excited to see what we can do in Germany."* Pedersen has been there before in 2019 - shortly afterwards he became world champion.

After his premiere last year, which **Pello Bilbao (Bahrain Victorious)** finished directly second overall, the Spaniard returns to the Deutschland Tour *"with a lot of good memories"*, says the 33-year-old. *"I think a few seconds gap will decide the GC ranking, and it will be an exciting race where small details will count in the end. I don't know if I will back to 100% after the rest period following the Tour de France and easy training before the return to races, but I feel fresh and would like to do well. Even if I'm not 100%, I can be helpful to the team. We will also have a couple of German riders, like Nikias Arndt, who can be good in GC and Phil Bauhaus for the sprinters stages."*

"It's always nice to race in front of a home crowd. The stage destination Essen is also not that far away from my hometown Bocholt. I hope that maybe I can win a stage this time," says **Phil Bauhaus (Bahrain Victorious)**. At his premiere in 2021, he finished second twice. *"Now the preparation was not perfect, it was up and down regarding my health after the Tour de France. But I'm top motivated."*

Alexander Kristoff (Uno-X) is at the start of the Deutschland Tour for the fourth time. The Norwegian has won at least one stage in every edition so far. *"I am happy to be part of the Deutschland Tour again this year. I love racing in Germany, and I have many good memories and results. Hopefully there will be a stage win again this time."*

Last year, **Pascal Ackermann (UAE Team Emirates)** missed the Deutschland Tour due to his start at the La Vuelta. *"After a one-year break, I am now back at one of the most beautiful races of the year. The start is not far from home this time. It won't be easy, but two years ago I showed that I can do it."* A stage, the green jersey and 2nd place in the overall standings went to Ackermann's palmarès. *"I would like to take home a stage win again. In the Deutschland Tour, the form has always been right."*

"I think we can go into the Deutschland Tour with confidence", says **Nils Politt (Bora - hansgrohe)** after a good performance at the Cycclassics last Sunday, speaking for the whole team. *"It went well in Hamburg. And we have also nominated a strong team for Deutschland Tour. Danny van Poppel has proven his good form. And we also have Maximilian Schachmann with us. The profile should suit us."*