



PRESEMITTEILUNG

Van Wilder defends overall lead while Mühlberger wins in Winterberg

Exhausted but happy, Gregor Mühlberger (Movistar) celebrated his third win of the season in the drizzle of Winterberg on the 3rd stage of the Deutschland Tour 2023. Ten seconds behind, team mate Alex Aranburu had to give full throttle until the finish line and sprinted for second place. He prevailed over Kevin Vermaerke (dsm-firmenich). Overall leader Ilan Van Wilder (Soudal Quick-Step) finished fifth and defended the red jersey.

After a stage win at the Tour of the Alps and a successful Austrian Championship, **Mühlberger** was not sure about another win until shortly before the finish line in Winterberg. *"At the 300-metre mark I saw that the field was relatively far back, and it shouldn't be a problem anymore. But the 300 meters were endless, the lactate was coming out of my ears. I can't remember a race where I ever went that deep,"* said the 29-year-old.

Van Wilder, who extended his lead in the overall standings by winning the bonus sprint is now eleven seconds ahead of Felix Großschartner (UAE Team Emirates). He also was satisfied and optimistic, especially as he also took over the green jersey of the points leader. *"It was hard today because it rained all day. But I have a very strong team that made it a bit easier for me. The hardest stages are behind us, even if it could be dangerous again tomorrow."*

After ten kilometers, Julian Borresch (Saris Rouvy Sauerland) and Oscar Riesebeek (Alpecin - Deceuninck) set off and quickly gained a lead of more than eight minutes. With 56 kilometers to go, Borresch could no longer follow the pace of his Dutch companion. While it was still dry at the start in Kassel, the riders had to cope with rain there for a long time. Shortly before the bonus sprint in Altastenberg, Riesebeek was also hit by the rain. At the highest point of the tour, the main group was thinned out, about 30 riders still had a chance to win.

16 kilometers from the finish line Mühlberger and Florian Stork (dsm-firmenich) broke away from the rest of the peloton. At first, nobody followed, which allowed the duo to gain a lead of up to 20 seconds. However, while Stork's legs became heavy three kilometers before Winterberg, Mühlberger was happy to cross the finish line.

The 3rd stage leads the riders from Arnsberg over 173.8 kilometers to Essen. The first two thirds are constantly up and down. After that the profile flattens out. The last 35 kilometers lead through Essen. In the finale, two 7-kilometre laps are ridden. The race ends on a slightly ascending finishing straight.