



PRESEMITTEILUNG

Van Wilder and de Kleijn celebrate in Bremen, organizers draw positive conclusions

He took over the red jersey on the 1st stage to Merzig and didn't let go until the end: Ilan Van Wilder (Soudal Quick-Step) won the Deutschland Tour 2023. On the final stage over 175.6 kilometers from Hanover to Bremen, the Belgian didn't take any risk and rolled safely with the peloton to the finish, which was lined with thousands of spectators. Arvid de Kleijn (Tudor Pro Cycling) won the stage in a bunch sprint ahead of Phil Bauhaus (Bahrain Victorious) and Marius Mayrhofer (Team dsm-firmenich).

The German continental teams with Silas Köch, Jan-Marc Temmen (both Saris Rouvy Sauerland), Tobias Nolde, Dominik Röber (both P&S Benotti) and Vinzent Dorn (Bike Aid) used the flat course of the last stage to present themselves once again. With 27 kilometers to go, all but Nolde were caught up. He held on a little longer but was swallowed at the arrival in Bremen. In the meantime, the peloton was split in two for a few kilometers by cross winds, but this had no effect on the finale outcome.

"It was a beautiful week of racing and full of emotions. You must be a complete rider to be able to win here", said overall winner **Van Wilder**, who was also awarded with the white jersey as best young rider. *"Eleven seconds ahead is not much, so it was still a bit stressful. I was so happy when I passed the three-kilometer mark. Then I was safe. My parents have been here all week, my girlfriend yesterday too. I'm glad I could share these great moments with them."* Nothing changed regarding the other classifications either, with Van Wilder's teammate Ethan Vernon winning the green jersey and Harm Vanhoucke claiming the blue mountains jersey on the final day.

The organizers of the Deutschland Tour have already drawn a positive conclusion. *"We can't influence the weather, but we did everything else quite well",* said **Matthias Pietsch, director of the organizers, Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Radsports (GFR).** *"We saw great cycling. We had a great peloton, big names, young riders, a strong podium. And yesterday and today an incredible number of spectators. This is positive for the development of cycling. If we see where we're coming from with the re-start of the Deutschland Tour 2018, then we're on the good way."*

Fabian Wegmann, sporting director of the Deutschland Tour, couldn't help but praise the special crowd response. *"It was partly a Tour de France feeling."* But it was also important for him to mention the largely accident-free course of the race. *"Everything went super well. We hardly had any crashes, not even when it was raining. That speaks for well-prepared roads. The teams were also satisfied and felt well."*