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## Ganna, Pedersen, Milan: Stars want to make their mark on Lidl Deutschland Tour

**When the Lidl Deutschland Tour 2024 begins in two weeks on August 21, numerous top stars of the scene will be among the 120 riders competing in Schweinfurt. Lidl-Trek and Ineos Grenadiers in particular have put big names on their provisional start lists. In addition to the top international athletes, the German line-up will also be impressive and set the tone in the battle for stage wins.**

Except perhaps not in the opening time trial. Because victory in the 2.9-kilometer prologue only runs via **Filippo Ganna** (Ineos Grenadiers). The recent silver medal winner of the Olympic time trial in Paris is returning to the Deutschland Tour after a one-year break. He already won the prologue in Weimar in 2022. He will face stiff competition from his own ranks. **Ethan Hayter** is also about to take part again and is waiting to present the British Champion's jersey he won in June for the first time. Former Tour de France winner **Geraint Thomas**, who finished third in the Giro d'Italia again this year, is also part of the renowned Ineos line-up.

The Giro was also a complete success for **Jonathan Milan** from Lidl-Trek. With three stage victories, he confirmed his points classification win from the previous year. In 2022, he finished second in Meiningen, narrowly missing out on his maiden victory in the Deutschland Tour. In 2024, the 23-year-old has five chances. The Italian is not only a strong sprinter. As a man of the track, short time trials also suit him. He also achieved top 10 results in the Belgian classics in the spring, proving that short, crisp climbs like those in the Lidl Deutschland Tour also suit him. The same applies to his team-mate **Mads Pedersen**. Last year, the former world champion was just one second short of victory in the prologue in St. Wendel. The Dane's strength in classics and sprints is well known.

**Anthony Turgis** (TotalEnergies) will also be fighting for stage wins. The Frenchman won the gravel stage of this year's Tour de France. Two third places were enough for **Alexander Kristoff** (Uno-X Mobility), who is experiencing his umpteenth spring and, in addition to his strong Tour performance, has just won two stages in his home country at the Arctic Race of Norway. **Santiago Buitrago**, who wants to successfully complete the Lidl Deutschland Tour for Bahrain Victorious, made it into the top 10 of the Tour. EF Education - EasyPost will be competing for stage wins with **Ben Healy**, who finished tenth in the Olympic road race, and **Stefan Bissegger**, who came sixth in the Paris time trial. **Marco Haller** (Red Bull - Bora - hansgrohe) also impressed at the Games, finishing sixth on the road, while his Austrian compatriot **Gregor Mühlberger** (Movistar) won in Winterberg last year and is therefore the only stage winner who will be taking part again.

**Georg Steinhauser** (EF Education - EasyPost) is the only German winner of a Grand Tour stage so far this season. The 22-year-old won one of the toughest mountain stages ahead of Tadej Pogacar and wants



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to present himself strongly in front of his home crowd. Similar to **Georg Zimmermann** (Intermarché - Wanty), the new German champion **Marco Brenner** and **Marius Mayrhofer** (both Tudor Pro Cycling) also feel at home on undulating terrain. For **Ben Zwiehoff** (Red Bull - Bora - hansgrohe), the climbs should be a little longer and steeper, while **Max Kanter** (Astana Qazaqstan Team) is the man for sprint decisions. German talent will also be on show in the two Continental teams Lotto Kern-Haus PSD Bank and Bike Aid. The German national team, on the other hand, is a mixture of young riders, seasoned athletes - and a professional on his farewell tour. **Simon Geschke** will end his career at the end of the season, but wants to impress once again at the Lidl Deutschland Tour beforehand.

The list of 120 starters is provisional. All teams can still make changes to their squad. **The final start list will be confirmed on August 21.**

### **Selected riders of the Lid Deutschland Tour 2024:**

#### UCI WorldTeams

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|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Alpecin – Deceuninck        | Henri Uhlig, Jimmy Janssens        |
| • Astana Qazaqstan Team       | Max Kanter, Rüdiger Selig          |
| • Bahrain Victorious          | Santiago Buitrago, Wout Poels      |
| • Red Bull – BORA – hansgrohe | Ben Zwiehoff, Marco Haller         |
| • EF Education – EasyPost     | Ben Healy, Georg Steinhauser       |
| • Ineos Grenadiers            | Filippo Ganna, Geraint Thomas      |
| • Intermarché – Wanty         | Georg Zimmermann, Lilian Calmejane |
| • Lidl – Trek                 | Mads Pedersen, Jonathan Milan      |
| • Movistar Team               | Gregor Mühlberger, Ivan Sosa       |
| • Soudal Quick-Step           | Luke Lamperti, Pieter Serry        |
| • Team dsm – firmenich        | Niklas Märkl, Kevin Vermaerke      |
| • Team Visma   Lease a Bike   | Wilco Kelderman, Thomas Gloag      |

#### UCI ProTeams

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|----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| • Caja Rural – Seguros RGA | Orluis Aular, Jefferson Cepeda         |
| • Q36.5 Pro Cycling Team   | Jannik Steimle, David de la Cruz       |
| • TotalEnergies            | Anthony Turgis, Steff Cras             |
| • Tudor Pro Cycling Team   | Marco Brenner, Marius Mayrhofer        |
| • Uno-X Mobility           | Alexander Kristoff, Tobias Johannessen |

#### UCI Continental Teams

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|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Bike Aid                 | Vinzent Dorn, Anton Schiffer |
| • Lotto Kern-Haus PSD Bank | Joshua Huppertz, Leon Arenz  |



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National Teams

- Deutsche Nationalmannschaft

Simon Geschke, Max Walscheid