



PRESS RELEASE

Milan and Pedersen celebrate double victory at the start of the Lidl Deutschland Tour 2024

Second and third place went to the same pros as a year ago in the prologue, Mads Pedersen (Lidl-Trek) and Maikel Zijlaard (Tudor Pro Cycling Team). However, the first winner of the Lidl Deutschland Tour 2024 is someone else. Jonathan Milan was seven tenths faster than his teammate Pedersen on the 2.9-kilometre course through Schweinfurt, sweetening the start for his team.

The 23-year-old northern Italian, who completed the course at an average speed of more than 53 km/h, also took the overall lead and thus the blue jersey with his first stage win in Germany. The white junior jersey also goes to him, but will be worn by Zijlaard tomorrow. Green, which also belongs to Milan, sits on Pedersen's shoulders for stage 1. The community jersey awarded by fans via the Lidl Deutschland Tour Instagram account goes to Max Walscheid (German national team). He will receive his jersey during the registration for stage 1.

Milan benefited from his long preparation for the Olympic Games in his stage win. In Paris, he was part of the track foursome alongside Filippo Ganna (Ineos Grenadiers), who won bronze in the team pursuit over a distance of 4000 meters. *"It was three kilometers now, so I had very good preparation,"* said Milan in the press conference after the race. *"I'm very happy with the result. We can be too as a team. With Mads, we are in a good starting position. We are both in great shape and want to try to maintain or improve the situation over the next few days. The Lidl Deutschland Tour is an important race for us."*

Mauro Brenner (Lotto Kern-Haus PSD Bank) was the first to start the race in the best weather and in front of thousands of spectators on Schweinfurt's market square and along the route through the city center, but his target time hardly held up. Marco Haller (Red Bull - Bora - Hansgrohe) was the first to settle into the hotseat for a little longer with a time of 3:21 minutes. He was replaced by Jannik Steimle (Q36.5 Pro Cycling Team) by a wafer-thin six hundredths, who was ultimately also the best German in seventh place. It took a time trial specialist like Stefan Bissegger (EF Education - EasyPost) to oust Steimle. Then things went in quick succession. First Ethan Hayter (Ineos Grenadiers) pressed the time again before Milan put the lid on it.

Stage 1 will take the peloton from Schweinfurt to Heilbronn tomorrow, and thus from Bavaria to Baden-Württemberg. There are 176.3 kilometers to complete. The first two mountain classifications and intermediate sprints of the tour are also in the profile on the generally undulating section.