



PRESS RELEASE

Pedersen gives Lidl-Trek the perfect tour / Organizers draw an all-round positive conclusion

Five out of five plus two: Lidl-Trek completely swept the board at the Deutschland Tour 2024, winning all five stages as well as the overall classification and the best sprinter's jersey. Mads Pedersen set the final record for the perfect tour, winning the sprint of a small group in Saarbrücken after 182.7 kilometers. It was his second stage win in this tour.

Jonathan Milan took the other three stage wins for the team, securing the green jersey. The mountain jersey was defended by **Jørgen Nordhagen** (Visma | Lease a Bike), one of the youngest riders in the field. The 19-year-old is actually still riding for Visma's Continental team, but will only turn professional next year. *"It was our goal to ride for the mountains jersey here, because we knew that we couldn't keep up with Lidl-Trek for everything else. Today I tried again with the stage. Because my sprint is not particularly good, I attacked again in the last kilometer. I'm satisfied,"* said the Norwegian, who moved up to seventh place in the overall standings by being part of the leading group.

Meanwhile, **Tobias Halland Johannessen** (Uno-X Mobility) defended the white jersey of the best young pro, although he had to let Danny van Poppel (Red Bull - BORA - hansgrohe) pass him in the overall standings and thus finished third in the final standings. At the press conference after the race, he promised to return to the Lidl Deutschland Tour next year. *"For the overall victory here, we would have had to win the stage today, and that's what we tried to do. In the end, we didn't stand a chance, but I think we put on a good show. It fits well here because we had a great week as riders. Everything was perfectly organized. As drivers, we always felt safe. And then there were all the people at the track. And we were lucky with the weather."*

Johannessen only had bad luck with his opponent. He was no match for **Mads Pedersen** at his best. *"We overperformed here. It will be a long time before a team wins all the stages of a tour again. Of course, it's all the better that it works out for us in our home race. I think we have done Lidl proud."* It was also fitting that the Instagram followers of the Deutschland Tour had the last community jersey of the tour ready for a Lidl rider. The search was on for the best helper. And Amanuel Ghebreigzabhier was found. *"Many people don't see what riders like Amanuel or Daan (Hoole) achieve, even though they ride at the front of the peloton all day. That's why it's nice that he has now been honored in this way. He didn't like it because he doesn't like being in the limelight, but we were still very happy for him,"* said Pedersen about his helper.

The stage was dominated by the breakaway group with Max Walscheid (German national team), Oliver Mattheis (Bike Aid), Joshua Huppertz (Lotto Kern-Haus PSD Bank), Alberto Bruttomesso (Bahrain Victorious) and Javier Romo (Movistar). The latter joined the group after the mountain classification on the Kalmit, the other four had already broken away shortly after the start. Their maximum lead was just under five minutes.



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The last remaining breakaway riders were Romo and Mattheis, who were only caught on the final lap six kilometers before the finish. After that, Archie Ryan (EF Education - EasyPost) and Johannessen tried again to shake off Pedersen in order to move further ahead in the overall standings. Although they were unable to get rid of the eventual overall winner, their initiative on the final climb resulted in a nine-man lead group, which ultimately decided the victory among themselves. This group included Florian Stork (Tudor Pro Cycling Team), who was able to move up to sixth place in the overall standings, making him the best German.

Lidl Deutschland Tour "on the right track"

After five days of cycling, **Matthias Pietsch**, Managing Director of the organizing company Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Radsports (GFR), drew *"a thoroughly positive conclusion. The consistently strong spectator response on all days at the start and finish locations, as well as along the route, deserves special mention. It was a Tour de France feeling at times. I think we were able to follow on well from the special summer of sport with the European Football Championships in our own country and the Olympic Games. The Deutschland Tour has once again shown that it is more than just an elite race, but that it also inspires people of all ages. We have continued to grow with our event and have found a strong main sponsor in Lidl, who supports us in our ambitions. We are on the right track."*

And the Tour was also convincing from a sporting point of view. *"Our plan worked out perfectly,"* said **Fabian Wegmann**, Sports Director of the Lidl Deutschland Tour. *"We saw animated races every day, there was always a lot of speed. Maybe the average speed wasn't always that high, but that was due to the headwind or actually the difficult course. The finals were always close, always exciting. That's exactly what we wanted to achieve with the route. We were also very pleased that there were no crashes due to the poor condition of the course."* He also did not see the dominance of Lidl-Trek as a problem. *"Lidl-Trek simply had the strongest riders here. Mads Pedersen is a former world champion, Jonathan Milan is an Olympic champion on the track. No other team brings two such strong sprinters to a race. The way they rode for each other made them stand out. Pedersen in the blue jersey takes the sprint for Milan in green. There's no match for that, and it's well deserved,"* Wegmann concluded.