

## Julius Van Den Berg close on a high note the Tour de Pologne 2021

The Dutchman was one of the breakers and won his first pro victory in Kraków. Almeida secured his first stage race.

The last stage of the 2021 Tour de Pologne started with an early breakaway including Julius Van Den Berg (EF Education-Nippo), Gianni Moscon (INEOS Grenadier), Pieter Vanspeybroeck (Intermarché-Wanty-Gobert Matériaux), Alexis Renard (Israel Start-Up Nation), and Matteo Jorgenson (Movistar Team). The 5-man group reached a maximum gap of 2'00", while the GC leader team was controlling the race. With 36 km to go Vanspeybroeck was dropped, but the four escapees continued their ride up to the finish line. Lukas Pöstlberger counter-attacked, trying to bridge the gap in the final four kilometers, but he didn't manage to neutralize the breakaway which entered the -500m mark with still a good lead for a close sprint. Julius Van Den Berg was the strongest today and conquered his first pro victory after a long day at the front in the last iconic stage of the Tour de Pologne. The podium was rounded up by his chasing companions Alexis Renard (Israel Start-Up Nation), 2nd, and Matteo Jorgenson (Movistar team), 3rd.

"I am really happy with how it went today. We managed to keep a good gap from the peloton during the whole day and eventually we made it, though I had no idea that the peloton was so close; I thought they would come back in the last lap, as it wasn't really technical," commented a happy Julius Van Den Berg after claiming his first victory as a Pro.

The 78th edition of Tour de Pologne is won by João Almeida, who put in his palmares the first stage race victory. The Portuguese conquered the yellow jersey in the second stage in Przemyśl with a successful sprint and wore it until the finish.

"It was not an easy race, it was always hard. We've been lucky with the weather: always good weather. Our goal was to win some stages, but in the end it turned into grabbing the yellow jersey and keeping it," said the 78th Tour de Pologne GC leader. "The sprint jersey was a bonus with the victories I had in the stages. It was a really good week for us, I had my first WT win and the overall. I'm happy. We had a really strong team and actually we won the team classification. We're really happy."

The Deceuninck Quick-Step brings home even the sprinter jersey by LOTOS - also conquered by Almeida - and the best team classification.

Michał Kwiatkowski was awarded as the best Polish rider and said: "As I've already said, Almeida was stronger than me, and I've accepted that. It was wonderful to race here. We started in Lublin and went through an unprecedented area of the country that was really enjoyable and, of course, it was a very beautiful race."

The prize of most active rider by Lotto goes to Taco Van Der Hoorn. Lukasz Owsian won the PZU classification dedicated to the best climber of the race, and the special prize in memory of Bjorg Lambrecht was assigned to Ben Tullet.

“I’m very satisfied with this result, it’s my first top ten CG in a WorldTour stage race, so of course I’m very happy with this and also I had a bonus as I did it before my twentieth birthday, so I’m really proud with this result. You see, the level of the riders here... there are some of the best riders in the world I was up against, so of course I am really satisfied with this result. I’m super happy with it. There was a really good team environment here, and I think that from that side we all really benefited from it. It’s super special to win the Bjorn Lambrecht trophy, and it’s an honor to take this trophy home with me.”