

## Phil Bauhaus opens the dances at the 78th Tour de Pologne

The German rider wins the opening stage and leads the overall ranking.

The first stage of the 2021 Tour de Pologne UCI WT started today at 13.10 with 151 riders lining up in Lublin ready to face a 216km long stage.

A breakaway consisting of Yevgeniy Fëdorov (Astana - Premier Tech), Michał Paluta (Poland) and Sean Bennet (Team Qhubeka NextHash) built up a lead of 3' 30" with just over an hour from the start of the race. Of the three fugitives Fedorov wins the two Intermediate sprints placed in Batorz and Godziszów and the Antolin 3rd cat KOM while Paluta gets the first and third KOM and the Lat Przeglądu Sportowego special prize placed at the km 116,5 from Lublin. Bahrain - Victorious and Deceuninck - Quick - Step led the pace in the peloton while controlling the breakaway. The three were reeled in by the peloton at 169km.

Kwiatkowski and Mohoric showed their GC ambitions fighting for the last intermediate sprint of the day where Kwiatkowski took 3" of bonification ahead of Mohoric (2") and Liepins (1").

The final part of the race saw several attacks including a three-man attempt by Jos van Emden, Antoine Duchesne and Tom Scully who opened up a gap of 41" but were caught with 15km to go. In the final circuit the race fired up and on the last 500 metres to Chełm, Alvaro Hodeg tried to anticipate the sprint but was caught a few metres before the finish line by Bauhaus setting a great action that resulted in a stage victory scored by the German rider. over Alvaro Hodeg (2nd) and Hugo Hofstetter (3rd). Bauhaus sprinted to the finish with an incredible performance that allowed him to take both the General and Points classification jerseys sponsored respectively by Carrefour and Lotos. Michał Paluta now leads the Climbers' classification by PZU and Yevgeniy Fëdorov was awarded the prize for most active rider by LOTTO. Michał Kwiatkowski was the best Polish rider today.

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Phil Bauhaus:

I'm very happy with how everything went. It was really a perfect day for riders with my characteristics. In the final part of the stage Hodeg went first, Gaviria made a gap to see how the others reacted and I decided to go. I took my time and went past him on the left with only a few meters to go. It's a great result for me because the course required strong legs to win with such a demanding finish on cobbles and I really liked it. It's my 6th win this season and an important result for me and my team. I will try again in the next sprint finishes but first of all tomorrow we have to work for our GC guys Dylan Teuns and Matej Mohoric. It's going to be a tough stage with an uphill 2km finish and we'll see what happens tomorrow.