

Unbeatable Rémi Cavagna flies on the roads of the Katowice ITT

The Frenchman won the sixth stage, Almeida strengthened the leadership of GC.

The sixth and penultimate stage of the 2021 Tour de Pologne confirmed the supremacy of the Deceuninck - Quick-Step team at the Polish race. Rémi Cavagna rode the 19km Individual Time Trial of Katowice at an average speed of 51.6 kph, claiming the win with a time of 22'11". The Frenchman beat his teammate and GC leader Joao Almeida by just 13" while Maciej Bodnar took the third place 16".behind stage winner. Almeida kept the overall lead after an impressive time trial, distancing his direct rival Matej Mohoric by 20" while Michal Kwiatkowski is third with 27" after passing Diego Ulissi in the general classification.

The time trial started this afternoon in the fascinating city of Katowice with a technical route entirely designed for the specialists including a large number of straight sectors through the city center, in addition to a short cobblestone sector.

The first to kick-off was Marcel Sieberg (Lotto Soudal) who set a time of 24'21", The hot seat passed from Max Walscheid (Team Qhubeka NextHash) and his 22'31" to Mikkel Bjerg (UAE Team Emirates) who beat the German by just 3 seconds. It was then Maciej Bodnar who set his best time but he would soon give up the chair to Cavagna who clocked a stunning time of 22'10" which enabled him to win the stage.

"I am super happy about this win, as victories are super important and this one is even more special as it's my specialty and I worked really hard at home," says Remi Cavagna right after the stage. "There's still some work to do. My ITT wasn't perfect and I have to keep working to improve and be the best. The European Championships are my next goal, and I still have some training to do. Today, I have to be honest, I actually thought Joao could pass me, as he's really fast and strong. Luckily it didn't happen and I am super happy we shared the podium and he still wears the yellow jersey"

Joao Almeida gets a second place, which gives him the confidence to tackle the last stage tomorrow wearing the yellow jersey.

"I'm happy for both myself and Remi. He rode at another level. We kept the jersey, we increased the gap further. The course was a bit technical, I didn't want to take risks, of course. There were maybe one or two corners where I could have done better but, to be honest, I was a little nervous. I knew I had good legs and I thought: 'if I have good legs, I can even deliver a good time. After the finish line Remi told me he was afraid that I beat him but, as I said, he just rode at another level, congrats to him.

The 78th edition of Tour de Pologne will come to an end tomorrow in Krakow, with a 145-kilometre route suited to sprinters.

OTHER QUOTES

Maciej Bodnar (BOH) “It was nice to race in Poland. It’s a bit different for me compared to other races, as I am surrounded by the Polish crowd. Maybe my legs were not super, but I put everything I had in my heart for my fellow countrymen. So this third place is still a really good result. All my congratulations to Remi (Cavagna). See you tomorrow in Krakow.”

Michał Kwiatkowski (IGD) “I started with the right mentality, as always in the time trial. I wanted to win, but it’s hard to beat guys like Remi Cavagna, he was incredible today. Congrats to him. I have to say I really liked the course here in Katowice, it was so enjoyable and kind of flat but with lots of technical corners to really focus on and get through it. I went pretty much all in, I was hoping for more, but to be honest Almeida just proved that he was the best and he deserves the yellow jersey. I’m happy I could beat Mohoric, so at the moment I am on the podium as we worked hard to get there. Tomorrow it’s a sprint stage, there won’t be much to gain but I should get a safe third place.”