

Young talents meet at the 2021 Tour de Pologne

Promising international athletes will participate in the Polish race

The Tour de Pologne once again proves to be a prestigious springboard for tomorrow's great champions. Once again this year, the starting list is filled with young talents who are showing great character and competitive spirit - traits needed to win the #forbjorg prize as the best ranked U23 in the overall classification.

At the start of the race, August 9th, there will be one of the best young Italians of this season, **Stefano Oldani** (Lotto Soudal) that Philippe Gilbert has strongly wanted at his side as a trusted teammate in 2021. Oldani is twenty-three years old and has been a professional for only two seasons but has already shown to be a versatile and constantly evolving rider. *"I'm in good form," he said. "and I'd like to get more good results, as well as a win. I know it's not easy because the Tour de Pologne is a race where the level is always high. But I think it's a good race for my characteristics. I like it and I hope to finish with a stage victory. I've been very close to it lately, and this week in Poland can give me a great opportunity."*

Another promise of cycling that will be at the start of the race is the climber **Giovanni Aleotti** (BORA - hansgrohe), class 1999, who officially turned pro this year after excellent results in the U23 category. *"I'm looking forward to racing in Poland," he commented. "There are not many real mountain stages but the second from Zamość to Przemyśl, the fourth in Bukovina and the fifth finishing in Bielsko-Biała may be within my reach, with short climbs and uphill finishes. These stages, along with the time trial, will undoubtedly be decisive for the overall classification. The Tour de Pologne is a World Tour race and the level is very high but we have a great team and we will try to get good results."*

Denmark's **Mikkel Bjerg** (UAE Team Emirates), meanwhile, is eagerly awaited in the time trial on stage six. Bjerg's three U23 time trial titles mean that the Katowice circuit is likely to be a spectacular one.

Among the youngest in the race will be 18-year-old German-Italian **Marco Brenner** (Team DSM), who in his last two years as a junior has won 20 victories, presenting himself on the international scene as a real phenomenon to be discovered, and **Olav Kooij** (Team Jumbo-Visma) a 19-year-old talent who switched from ice skating to cycling with the aim of becoming a successful sprinter. *"I'm looking forward to racing at the Tour de Pologne, it will be my first World Tour stage race and that's something to be excited for," he said. "If I look at the course, it looks good and there are some stages where I hope to get a satisfying result. I always like to compete in Poland. I have some fond memories from the youth categories. Last year, for example, we raced the ORLEN Nations Grand Prix and, in the finishing town of stage three, we won the team time trial with our national team. I was also able to win the final stage. That was definitely a great moment, and I'd like to get more good memories with my team in the coming days!"*