

## **Tour de Pologne, where climbers and classics specialists meet**

*Two mountain stages and one dedicated to the finisseurs to put on a show at the Polish race.*

With less than a week to go before the start of the 79th edition of the Tour de Pologne UCI World Tour, climbers and classics specialists will be the highlights of the third, fourth and sixth stages of the Polish race, which gets underway on 30 th July from Kielce.

The two mountain fractions scheduled will favour contenders such as Pello Bilbao (Team Bahrain Victorious), Richard Carapaz (INEOS - Grenadiers) and Davide Formolo (UAE Team Emirates). From Kraśnik, Powiat Kraśnicki to Przemyśl, the third stage features three KOMs - the first two in category II and the last in category III - with an uphill finish with gradients of around 14-15%. The fifth, on the other hand, which runs through the voivodeship of Subcarpathia, includes two category III KOMs, the last one being a 19-kilometre circuit around Rzeszów.

Contenders such as Pello Bilbao (Team Bahrain Victorious), Richard Carapaz (INEOS - Grenadiers) and Davide Formolo (UAE Team Emirates) will certainly be favourites in the two mountain stages. The third stage, from Kraśnik, Powiat Kraśnicki to Przemyśl, features three KOMs - the first two category II and the last category III - and an uphill finish that reaches gradients of around 14 - 15%. The fifth, on the other hand, which runs through the voivodeship of Subcarpathia, includes two category III KOMs, the last of which is located just inside the last 19-kilometre circuit around Rzeszów.

*"The Tour of Poland is always a nice race, and of course I'm looking forward to the mountain stages." declares Sergio Higuita (BORA - hansgrohe) "They're often quite tough because the climbs are steep and can be ridden very explosively. So it's not going to be easy, that's for sure. But we're hoping to put in a good performance there, we'll see what we can do. I'm sure we're going to enjoy the racing in Poland, and we'll do our best" concludes the young Colombian.*

Classics specialists such as Tim Wellens (Lotto Soudal), Jan Tratnik (Team Bahrain Victorious), and Zdenek Stybar (Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl) will battle on the route of the fourth stage starting in Lesko. The route winds its way through the Sanocko-Turczańskie mountains, with numerous ups and downs. Three second-category KOM PZUs are positioned in Czarna, Leszczawa and 30 kilometres before the finish in Sanok.

*“The fights for the KOMs are always spectacular. Although we don’t have the highest mountains, we always try to find beautiful and challenging uphill, so it’s never easy to win the mountain prime.”* states Czeslaw Lang, Tour de Pologne General Director.

Three exciting fractions that promise a real spectacle, both for the riders aiming for the stage victory and for those aiming for the general classification, who will in any case have to pay attention to the various flying sprints - five in total - on the route over these three days.