

Another successful year for the Tour de Pologne: new challenges in store for 2023

Czesław Lang takes stock of the past edition and prepares for the 95th birthday of Poland's biggest sporting event.

"It was a successful year, but there are still more challenges ahead," says Czesław Lang, general director of the Tour de Pologne, who is taking stock of the achievements of the 2022 season and laying the foundations for the future, looking ahead to the year to come.

The last edition certainly set some interesting records, such as the first success of a Briton in the general classification in almost a hundred years. In fact, Ethan Hayter - Ineos Grenadiers, Michal Kwiatkowski's team-mate - had already secured the victory of the entire Tour in the individual time trial with the finish in Wierch Rusinski, and then made history within the race standing on the final podium in Krakow.

The Tour de Pologne number seventy-nine, held under the motto 'Race for Peace', was attended by around four million fans who welcomed the riders during the over-1,200-kilometre route between Kielce and Krakow.

"During each edition of our national race, we promote Poland," says Moscow Olympic runner-up Czesław Lang. *"We show how our country is constantly evolving: the roads, the connections, the infrastructure. The Tour de Pologne is our showcase to the world and in 2022, we wanted to use this international stage to show our full solidarity with the brave Ukraine. This is why we chose this slogan for the race. All teams were given wristbands in the colours of the Ukrainian flag, so that this message would also be visible on the podium."*

The 7 stages of the race reached over 100 countries around the world and were broadcast live in full on TVP and Polsat Sport for a total of 50 hours. A unique opportunity to show the territory to such a large audience that no other Polish sporting event offers.

There are many challenges awaiting the Lang Team in 2023, starting with the completely new route and other exciting projects such as the scheduling of no less than five stages of the UCI ORLEN Nations Cup Grand Prix - for riders of national teams - which also includes some stages abroad.

Although the 80th edition of the Tour de Pologne will be run in 2023, the main theme will be the 95th birthday of the race, which has witnessed many important events in Polish history. Next year's race will start in Poznań while, as per tradition, Krakow's Błonia will be the backdrop for the final stage. Karpacz will be back in the route after many years, ensuring many sporting thrills among fans.

"Despite 30 years of experience in organising this event, the creation of the route is never an easy task. But as a sportsman, I believe that the best time to attack is when the going gets tough," continues the general director.

Among other projects, Czesław Lang's team is working on the extension of the ORLEN Grand Prix of Nations to five stages, with the classic finale at the Arłamów hotel, while some fractions will take place outside Poland. Three events for amateurs have also been planned - two ORLEN Lang Team Races and ORLEN Tour de Pologne Amatorów - in Arłamów (27.05), Karpacz (30.07) and Bytów (16.09). Amateurs will get points for the general classification.

The young cyclists - the future of the sport - will compete in four stages of the Tour de Pologne Junior, which are also organised on sections of the Tour de Pologne. The TdP Junior Memorial of Marian Więckowski will again be an opportunity to have fun and learn within the framework of a sporting competition.

"It will be a very busy year, but we love cycling and are grateful to the fans who support the riders in such large numbers. It is for them that we organise these events: their passion is the driving force behind our ongoing commitment," Czesław Lang concludes.

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