

The Polish national team will participate in the Tour de Pologne in its anniversary year

The awarding of the 5<sup>th</sup> wild card rewards the spirit of unity of a nation always looking to the future.

In its 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the Tour de Pologne celebrates the country's history once again by awarding a special wild card. After receiving the green light from the UCI, Czesław Lang decided to award the wild card to the Polish national team to participate in the race, starting in Poznań on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

This decision was taken by the organizers in recognition of the team's consistent achievements and its valuable contribution to the development of the sport. The participation of national riders will also be an important opportunity to promote cycling and inspire young Polish talents, showing them the opportunities this discipline offers on an international level.

"For us organizers, but especially for the fans, it is important that our national team is attending the race," commented Czesław Lang\*, Race Director of the Tour de Pologne. "Moreover, this is a special edition and we certainly could not have our riders missing from the start line. It is a great opportunity and honor for them to participate in a UCI World Tour race and compete with the best teams in the world."

In 2022, the home riders proved, beyond any doubt, that they can compete with the World Tour champions. In particular, one of the protagonists was Patryk Stosz (Voster ATS Team), who did win the LOTTO Most Active Rider classification showing consistent effort in every single stage.

Tomasz Brożyna, national coach of the Polish Team, confirmed "On one hand, we'll have the opportunity to show off in a world-class race, such as the Tour de Pologne and, on the other, it is also a chance to raise our riders' level by competing with the best."

For the Polish national team to take part in an event of the highest level, in front of their own public, is certainly a source of pride, but also a challenge for the riders, who will get a lot of media exposure during the race. It will also be an important opportunity to demonstrate once again how cycling has the ability to unite the entire country in the name of a great goal.

We keep our fingers crossed for the red and white riders and wish them a successful start in the 80<sup>th</sup> Tour de Pologne UCI World Tour.