

Dutch dominance in Kazimierz Dolny

The picturesque town of Kazimierz Dolny hosted the finale of the 2nd edition of the Tour de Pologne Women. The Dutch dominated the hilly course and took it all today. While Scarlett Souren won the stage and the LOTTO active classification, Laura Molenaar defended her yellow jersey leading the ORLEN general classification and the VolkerWessels Team was also crowned the best team of the race.

The competition came to a close on Sunday with the stage from the Arche Hotel in Nałęczów to Kazimierz Dolny. After a neutral start through the charming streets of the spa town, the riders made their way to Kazimierz Dolny, where a 15 kilometre circuit, to be repeated five times, awaited the peloton. The course included a cobbled climb in the historic centre of the town and a number of other steep sections.

Immediately after the official start, a Lotto Dstny rider attempted a breakaway, but the peloton would not let her go. Norwegian Sigrid Haugset broke away and won the LOTTO sprint in Skowieszyn. Scarlett Souren finished third and virtually took the lead in the active riders' classification after MAT ATOM Developer Wroclaw's Nikola Bajgerova crashed out.

The lone breakaway was soon caught. The next few kilometres saw attacks by Stine Dale (Team Coop - Repsol) and Jarmila Machacova (Team Dukla Praha), building up a lead of over a minute. Race leader Laura Molenaar's team, Volker Wessels, controlled the race.

Eventually the breakaway was neutralised and the sprinters battled it out in the fast sprint finish in Kazimierz Dolny, where VolkerWessels rider Souren came out on top. Dutch rider Anna van Wersch (Lotto Dstny Ladies) was second. Kaja Rysz (Poland) completed the podium in third, followed by Katarzyna Wilkos (MAT ATOM Developer Wroclaw) in fourth.

"I knew that the Volker Wessels girls would be very strong and fast. I've raced against them abroad, so I knew I needed to watch them. Today I finished third and I'm happy with that," said Kaja Rysz, third in today's stage. Molenaar finished safely in the peloton. She defended her lead and won the overall ORLEN classification. The podium was completed by today's winner Souren and Wilkos.

"At the beginning of the stage I was involved in a crash with Nikola Bajgerova. I was lucky to get away with just some road rash. Nikola probably has a broken collar bone. It was a bit of a tough day for us. Towards the end my team set me up perfectly. Unfortunately, I chose the left side instead of the right and I got blocked and lost speed. But I'm happy to have held on to third place overall. It's my first podium finish at such an event and I'm really happy," said Wilkos.

Scarlett Souren also won the LOTTO active classification and her team, which dominated the race, won the team classification.

This was the end of the 2nd edition of the Tour de Pologne Women, which after 8 years was relaunched by Czeslaw Lang and the Lang Team. The race took place on the roads of the Lublin Voivodeship, visiting towns such as Lublin, Krasnystaw, Kraśnik, Nałęczów and Kazimierz Dolny. *"A beautiful race, three stages full of excitement and dynamism, held in stunning locations. We started in Lublin, then from Krasnystaw to Kraśnik and today's stage from Arche Nałęczów to Kazimierz Dolny. Every stage was really interesting and the level of competition was high. We have achieved what we set out to do - to develop women's cycling in Poland. We have excellent riders like Kasia Niewiadoma, but we lack world-class events. We want to bring the Tour de Pologne Women to the same level as the men's race."* said Czeslaw Lang, General Director of the Tour de Pologne Women.

Full results of the 2nd Tour de Pologne Women:
<https://domtel-sport.pl/wyniki,zawody,5856>

More information about the race
www.tourdepolognewomen.pl