

Thibau Nys doubles up

The Belgian surprises everyone once again with an explosive finale. Jonas Vingegaard continues to lead.

One of the most demanding stages of the 81st Tour de Pologne ended with a section between the Old Mine of Wałbrzych and the climb of COS Jamrozowa Polana to Duszniki-Zdrój. Despite a number of attacks, the battle for the win turned out to be a matter between the favourites. The fastest proved to be **Thibau Nys** (Lidl-Trek), who secured his second stage victory. **Jonas Vingegaard** (Team Visma - Lease a Bike) retained the yellow jersey and the GC lead.

*"I'm enjoying these stage finishes, which are quite similar to the Classics. I don't know if I'm going to be a Classic rider but for now I'm just living every moment and trying to give it my all wherever I can." said **Thibau Nys**. "I knew this was a route that suited my characteristics and the type of rider I am. I knew I could get close. Today I found the legs to try again and it went well. Before coming to the Tour de Pologne, I focused on my strengths and worked very hard. I try to do my own thing, although I am inspired by everyone who has character and does their job, but I do not look at others very much. I go my own way and create my own legend, I think it's much nicer that way. I have to thank my team for believing in me and putting me in the right position. It was a bit difficult for me after losing Ryan in the crash, it made me lose focus for a few moments. It's never nice to know that one of your team mates has crashed and I hope he's ok now. This win is for him."*

The stage, which featured several climbs, provided plenty of excitement. Immediately after the start, a three-man break formed, including the leader of the mountains classification, Michał Paluta (Polish National Team), Jan Maas (Team Jayco AlUla) and Nicolas Debeaumarche (Cofidis).

The riders gained several minutes on the peloton and battled for points in the intermediate sprints and KOMs on the Walimska Pass, Jugowska Pass and Mount St Anna. On each of these climbs, Paluta, wearing the polka dot jersey, was the best, motivated by the cheers of the Polish fans along the route. Nicolas Debeaumarche won the intermediate sprint in Pieszyce.

The peloton accelerated on the final climb and the breakaway grew by several riders. Over the Stołowe Mountains, the riders headed towards Karłów, the final first-category KOM. Once again Michał Paluta was the first to cross the line.

*"We rode away quite easily," said **Michał Paluta**, "We set a high tempo right away to get at least a one-minute advantage and it worked. Halfway through the stage another group of riders joined us and the pace increased significantly. I concentrated on the points for the polka dot jersey, which was my goal from the start".*

However, the breakaway failed to finish ahead of the main group in Duszniki-Zdrój. Diego Ulissi (UAE Team Emirates) was the first to attack, but the finish at Jamrozowa Polana in Duszniki-Zdrój rewarded Thibau Nys, who took his second stage win in the 81st edition of the Tour de Pologne.

Diego Ulissi and Wilco Kelderman (Team Visma | Lease a Bike) - second in the general classification - completed the podium. The race leader remained his team-mate Jonas Vingegaard, who finished with the lead group..

"It was a very demanding stage, with lots of downhill and uphill sections," said Czeslaw Lang, Director of the Tour de Pologne. *"We had some dangerous moments, but the finish was very nice. Thibau Nys showed that he is a rider who can handle this kind of finish, but all the GC contenders were in the front and finished brilliantly."*

Tomorrow's stage from Kudowa-Zdrój to Prudnik will see the sprinters battle for victory.