



Tobias Svarre triumphs in Arłamów; Mateusz Gajdulewicz takes third place

Marco Schrettl from Austria is the new overall leader of the ORLEN general classification.

The young riders competing in the ORLEN Nations Grand Prix delivered another spectacular cycling show to fans. On the challenging route from Ustrzyki Dolne to Arłamów, Danish cyclist Tobias Svarre claimed victory, Erazem Valjavec from Slovenia finished second and Polish rider Mateusz Gajdulewicz took third place.

Crowds of fans welcomed the young cyclists to the picturesque town of Ustrzyki Dolne, where they took part in the ORLEN Nations Grand Prix — one of three rounds of the UCI Nations' Cup for under-23 riders. Today's weather was vastly different from that of the second stage, much to the relief of most riders. The demanding course, which finished at the Hotel Arłamów, featured steep climbs that encouraged risk-taking and attacks. From the outset, many riders attempted to break away. A nine-man group escaped from the peloton, including Poland's Dawid Lewandowski. Dozens of kilometres from the finish line, the pack began to reshuffle as repeated accelerations occurred during the climbs. Markus Mägis from Estonia won the special sprint in Lesko, Lesko County. Following a series of attacks, four cyclists emerged at the front: Poland's Mateusz Gajdulewicz, Denmark's Tobias Svarre, Slovenia's Erazem Valjavec and Austria's Marco Schrettl, who finished third yesterday. They battled for victory at the Hotel Arłamów, with Svarre ultimately taking the win. The Slovenian and the Pole completed the podium.

*'On the climb to Kalwaria Paclawska, I rode at my own pace. I was maybe five seconds behind the leaders at the top and caught up with them on the descent. I wanted to attack there, but the road was too twisty. I remembered that a steep kicker was coming up, so I managed to get onto Filip's wheel just in time. I seized the opportunity and the Slovenian joined me. We know each other from Calpe this year, so we worked well together. We caught up with the leading pair and we all wanted to make it to Arłamów. "I'm happy I secured a podium," said **Mateusz Gajdulewicz**.*

*"I'm very, very happy. It's been a tough season for me, so this comeback is a dream come true. That's exactly what we planned. We wanted to put pressure on the Italians and I was supposed to attack on the penultimate climb, which I did. It worked perfectly! Now I know how to win stages here, so I'll try again tomorrow," said today's winner, **Tobias Svarre**.*

There were many changes in the general classification of the ORLEN Nations Grand Prix, sponsored by Title Sponsor ORLEN. Marco Schrettl took the leader's jersey and now holds a 40-second lead over Italy's Ludovico Maria Mellano ahead of the final stage, making him the favourite to win overall.

*'It was a very hard stage from the start, especially after giving everything yesterday. That makes me even happier to be wearing the leader's jersey tomorrow. It will be tough to defend, but together with my team, we'll do everything we can to hold onto the lead," said the **Austrian**.*

After struggling in yesterday's wintry conditions the Polish team bounced back with an impressive performance. Mateusz Gajdulewicz's third-place finish moved him up to sixth place overall, and his teammates Filip Gruszczyński and Patryk Goszczurny also made the top 20. Poland topped today's team classification. *"Tactically, everything went perfectly," said **Patryk Goszczurny**. "Dawid Lewandowski made it into the break, helped us on the key climb, and Mateusz finished it off with a strong attack."*

*"The team worked well together from the start," added national coach **Tomasz Brożyna**. "This led to Mateusz's move and podium finish."*

ORLEN Nations Grand Prix Director Czesław Lang praised the team's efforts, describing them as "an early birthday gift" ahead of his 70th birthday tomorrow. *"Mateusz rode beautifully. He lost a bit at the end, but the podium is a fantastic result."*



Tomorrow's decisive stage, which will take riders from Lesko to Hotel Arłamów, will bring the 7th edition of the race to a close. With the overall title still up for grabs, fans can expect an exciting showdown. The day will also feature the ORLEN Lang Team Race, with hundreds of amateur riders and cycling legends taking part, including birthday celebrant Czesław Lang.

Follow the race with 25-minute highlights each evening on TVP Sport (tonight at 22:35), and keep up to date with the latest news on TVP 2, TVN, Polish Radio ("Jedynka" and "Trójka"), and Onet.