

Chiara Consonni dominates the 3rd Tour de Pologne Women!

The Italian triumphed. The Canyon//SRAM zondacrypto rider won the final stage, securing both the ORLEN General Classification and LOTTO Most Active Rider titles.

After three days of thrilling competition, the third Tour de Pologne Women came to an end. On the final day, the riders tackled an undulating route from the Spa Park in Nałęczów to Kraśnik. In total, the peloton covered 128 kilometres, passing two LOTTO Sprint Primes in Urzędów and Węgliska, as well as a zondacrypto Special Prime in Stróża, just 6 kilometres from the finish line. The finale in Kraśnik was slightly uphill, with riders also navigating a short cobbled section in the last kilometre.

Unfortunately, due to illness, Dominika Włodarczyk from UAE Team ADQ – who was the best-placed Pole on yesterday's stage – was unable to start today. From the outset, the peloton maintained a fast pace, and the group split due to strong winds and high speeds. Some riders managed to rejoin the main bunch, which was the first to reach the LOTTO Sprint Prime in Urzędów. Kathrin Schweinberger (Human Powered Health) was the fastest there, followed by Chiara Consonni, who leads both the LOTTO Most Active Rider Classification and the ORLEN General Classification.

Shortly afterwards, Kirk Schad (Denmark National Team) broke away from the peloton, but her lead was short-lived. Next to attack were Anne Knijenburg (VolkerWessels) and Marie-Louise Hartz Krogager (Denmark National Team). The pair built up a lead of over two minutes, with Nikol Płosaj (TKK Pacific Nestlé Fitness) and Romina Hinojosa (Lotto) in pursuit. At the LOTTO Sprint Prime in Węgliska, Knijenburg took the maximum points, ahead of Krogager and Płosaj, the latter of whom was caught by the peloton shortly afterwards. With just over 20 kilometres to go, Knijenburg launched a solo attack, dropping her breakaway companion. Marta Jaskulska (Poland National Team) countered from the peloton, but returned to the main group after a few kilometres. Meanwhile, the Dutch rider pushed on towards the finish, winning the Zondacrypto Special Prime in Stróża.

Five kilometres from the finish line in Kraśnik, she still had a 45-second lead over the reduced peloton. The Dutchwoman fought bravely for the win, but was caught by the group with just 300 metres to go.

Moments later, Chiara Consonni launched her sprint, securing both the ORLEN General Classification and the LOTTO Most Active Rider Classification with a decisive stage win.

'The team did an amazing job. They tried to stay as close as possible to the breakaways and then we went for the sprint. I hadn't won anything this year, so winning this race was my goal from the outset. After winning the first stage, I thought, 'Why not?' and everything went perfectly from then on. We kept the jersey at home. It's always difficult to stay focused and manage your energy, but being able to share this journey with so many experienced riders boosted morale. I believed in myself, and the whole team — the sport directors, the teammates — were just amazing. The work behind the scenes is incredible and just as important as what happens on the road. I really must thank everyone for their support. On the first day, we were still getting to know each other, so the lead-out wasn't quite perfect. Today, however, it made all the difference, and I was able to repay them. The team worked incredibly hard in tough, hot conditions, so cooling down was important. 'The finish was harder than yesterday, but we believed in it and made it,' said **Chiara Consonni.**

On today's stage podium alongside Consonni were **Linda Zanetti** (Uno-X Mobility) and **Emma Norsgaard Bjerg** (Lidl-Trek). In the ORLEN General Classification, **Zanetti and Kathrin Schweinberger** (Human Powered Health) joined Consonni on the final podium.

'It was a nice race, but we wanted to win. We missed out on the sprint prime, so we aimed for the stage victory. Unfortunately, I got boxed in at the finish and it didn't work out. We came here with a young team and improved each day, so we can be happy. I didn't know what to expect after the Tour de France Femmes because I was tired, but it turned out OK," said **Zanetti**.



'We came here with a team of four and gave 110% every day. Each stage was very exciting, and I'm happy we made it to the podium. It was my first time in Poland, but I will definitely come back," said **Kathrin Schweinberger,** who came third in the ORLEN General Classification.

Anne Knijenburg demonstrated her fighting spirit today, but was overtaken in the final stretch. However, as a consolation, she won the **ZondaCrypto Special Prime.** "I was riding with a Danish girl who was riding really well, but I dropped her on a climb and continued alone. The last 25 kilometres alone felt incredibly long and, at one point, I thought I would never make it. With five kilometres to go, I had a 40-second lead, so I gave it everything. But around 300 metres from the finish line, when I could already see it, I was caught. It's a pity, but I gave absolutely everything and truly believed I could make it. Ultimately, I just started too early," said Knijenburg.

The best-placed Pole in today's stage was Karolina Kumięga (TKK Pacific Nestlé Fitness), who finished fifth. Malwina Mul (MAT ATOM Deweloper Wrocław) rounded out the top ten. In the ORLEN General Classification, the top Polish finisher was Kaja Rysz, leader of the Poland National Team, who took seventh place.

"Today was definitely the hardest stage, but we expected that. The wind also made it tricky, with echelons forming right from the start. It got tense because everyone wanted to be at the front. We all felt the race could split at any moment. The final part had the most short climbs and, with the high pace, it was tough. This kind of weather and terrain suits me best. I'm happy to have made it into the top five. "The girls did a great job today, pulling me to the front in the final kilometres. I really owe my high placing to them," said **Karolina Kumięga**. "I'm very happy and proud that we have a race like this. It was a first-category event this year, but honestly, I haven't seen a helicopter or such a big organisational setup at any other first-category race. I'm proud that we have such a well-organised event in my country. It's a great promotion for us and I think many teams will want to come here in future." She concluded.

Liv-AlUla-Jayco was crowned the best team in the third Tour de Pologne Women.

The third Tour de Pologne Women has now entered the history books. From three days of racing on the roads of the Lubelskie Voivodeship, we will remember the intense emotions, the unpredictable nature of the competition, and the fight to the very end!