

3.Tour de Pologne women

12-14.08.2025

Linda Zanetti rules the Chełm cobbles!

Chiara Consonni remains in the lead.

The second stage of the 3rd Tour de Pologne Women came to a close with an exhausting uphill finish in Chełm. On the cobbled climb, Linda Zanetti from Uno-X Mobility was the fastest. Chiara Consonni retained the ORLEN General Classification lead.

On day two of the Tour de Pologne Women, the peloton arrived in Chełm, where both the start and finish of the stage of the race took place. The riders faced just under 100 kilometres of flat and rolling roads in the Lubelskie Voivodeship. The route featured one LOTTO Sprint Prime in Gmina Chełm, with the finish line set on a historic cobbled road in the old town. The racing was dynamic from the outset, with Cleo Kiekens (DD Group Pro Cycling Team) the first to break away from the main group. The Belgian quickly built up a lead of over a minute, but was soon caught up with. Attacks continued throughout the race, with riders such as Sabrina Stultiens (VolkerWessels) and Babette van der Wolf (EF Education-EasyPost) making moves. However, the sprint teams ensured the bunch stayed together for the LOTTO Sprint Prime in Gmina Chełm. Clara Consonni (Canyon//SRAM zondacrypto) was the fastest there, and is now leading both the LOTTO Active Rider Classification and the ORLEN General Classification.

After the sprint, the attacks resumed, with UAE Team ADQ being particularly active. Numerous accelerations led to a breakaway group of around a dozen riders who, at one point, had a 20-second lead over the peloton. With around 15 kilometres remaining, Francesca Pellegrini (UAE Team ADQ) made a solo breakaway. The rest of the group was caught by the bunch. The Italian rider gave it her all, building a lead of 40 seconds, but the peloton caught her up in the final kilometres.

On the final climb in Chełm, the favourites battled it out for the win. **Linda Zanetti** (Uno-X Mobility) proved the strongest in the gruelling uphill finish, crossing the line ahead of French champion **Marie Le Net** (FDJ-SUEZ) and **Sofia Bertizzolo** (UAE Team ADQ).

"Yesterday, we lacked something in the finale, so I'm really happy to have won today. The finish was very hard for sprinters, but we had checked the route before the race and had a plan, which worked out. We'll do everything we can to win again tomorrow, but we'll see how it plays out," said a delighted **Zanetti**.

"I'm so proud of my teammates — they did an amazing job today. Yesterday we had a few minor issues, but today we really raced as a team. They all took turns pulling at the front, one after another, and it was fantastic to see and feel that cohesion. When I saw the 500 metres to go sign, I knew I had to reward their incredible effort, so I gave it my all to cross the line as far up as possible. I didn't win, but I'm very happy with second place. It was a great race with a tough finish. I'm really pleased," said **Marie Le Net**.

"I think the Tour de Pologne will be decided by bonus seconds in the sprints. Since we don't have a pure sprinter who can be almost certain of a win in the finale, we decided to take our chances by attacking — and that's exactly what we did. We have three riders from the development team who are eager to prove themselves in these races, and I think they did so smartly right until the end. We had planned to anticipate the finale with Dominika, which was harder today, but the bunch was trying to catch Francesca, the breakaway rider, and then we went for the sprint. It was an unusual one, and I'm glad the organisers included a finish like this in the route because it creates gaps and makes the general classification more interesting. Uno-X were really strong, and we gave it our all in the sprint. Dominika has had amazing legs since the Tour and is really giving it her all. Tomorrow could be her chance, but I have to say the field here is really strong and it's difficult to stand out without any real climbs. "But we're not here to hide," explained **Sofia Bertizzolo**, who finished third on today's stage.

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Dominika Włodarczyk (UAE Team ADQ) took sixth place, while Kaja Rysz finished 10th. *“The second stage was fast and sunny with lots of fans along the route. Their support really gave me energy, even though the heat made racing harder. We planned to increase the pace as a team after the intermediate sprint, and we managed to do that. Francesca Pellegrini was caught shortly before the finish, which changed our tactics slightly, but I still attacked where I had planned. The finish was very chaotic, and I felt fatigued in the last few metres, but I’m satisfied – Sofia Bertizzolo took third place. Tomorrow is the toughest stage of the race. I hope I can keep up, because after the Tour de France, my legs feel really strong,”* said **Dominika Włodarczyk**.

Chiara Consonni maintained her lead in both the ORLEN General Classification and the LOTTO Active Rider Classification, and now has a 5-second advantage over the Swiss rider Zanetti. *“I won the sprint prime, then a breakaway formed, so I used that time to recover in the peloton. The riders in the breakaway were determined to seize their opportunity, but my teammates and I knew we had to catch them. We showed that we’re a very strong team and can fight for the win tomorrow. Finishes like today’s are tough and it’s easy to lose position. The final stretch was really hard, but I’m happy with my result. The whole team believes in me, and we’re determined to win the Tour de Pologne Women. We will fight tomorrow,”* said **Chiara Consonni**.

The final stage of the third Tour de Pologne Women will start in Nałęczów and finish in Kraśnik. Tomorrow’s 128.2 km stage features a hectic finale with a slight uphill finish. The race will be broadcast on TVP and Eurosport, as well as on the streaming platform HBO Max, bringing live coverage from the course to fans in 65 countries.