

Tour de Pologne Women, Bugno: high level and guaranteed show

A passionate analysis of the Tour de Pologne Women and the future of women's cycling.

Gianni Bugno, one of the most iconic cyclists of the 90s, also president of the International Association of Professional Cyclists (CPA) from 2010 to 2022, was a guest at the Tour de Pologne Women for a few days. We caught up with him at the end of the second stage in Chełm.

Is this your first time at the Tour de Pologne Women?

'It's my first time at the women's Tour de Pologne Women, but I've attended the men's race, the Tour de Pologne UCI World Tour, in the past. I also raced on these roads as an amateur, but everything has changed compared to the Poland I knew as a rider. The country is continuously developing, much like Polish cycling. There is a great passion for this sport on the roads, thanks to the commitment of Lang, his team and the race itself."

What impression has the Tour de Pologne Women made on you in these first two days?

'The race is beautiful and well organised, with high-quality athletes and excellent roads. During the first two stages, I had the opportunity to drive the route, and I must say it's not as flat as it seems. The first stage was ideal for pure sprinters, while the second stage was much more demanding, with a finish atop a 500-metre cobbled climb that showcased powerful and fast riders such as Linda Zanetti. The quality of the riders is also elevated thanks to the presence of seven World Tour teams, which raises the level of the race and makes for spectacular finishes."

What is your opinion on women's cycling?

The movement is constantly growing and has a great future. This is evident from the numbers, media interest and the standard of the races we are seeing. Teams are growing more professional all the time, as are the events. By creating competitions where riders can demonstrate their abilities, the sport is set to develop even further."

Who do you think will win the Tour de Pologne Women overall?

"The third stage is the most demanding of the three, with a rolling finish and a slightly uphill arrival. It's very difficult to make predictions as many riders are separated by only a few seconds, so anything could happen, and the overall victory could be decided by time bonuses. In Poland, they would like to see Dominika Włodarczyk on the top step of the podium after her fourth-place finish at the Tour de France Femmes. As an Italian, I am hoping for a victory with our national flag."