

## Stage 3 of the Tour de Pologne Women in Nałęczów honours Ellen van Dijk remarkable career

The organisation bids farewell to a world champion and enduring role model.

During the final stage of the third Tour de Pologne Women in Nałęczów, the organisation paid tribute to Ellen van Dijk (Lidl - Trek), who announced that she would be concluding her extraordinary 20-year career at the end of the season.

On behalf of the entire organisation, Agata Lang-Lelangue, Vice President of the Tour de Pologne, presented van Dijk with Maia, the Tour de Pologne mascot, and a bottle of wine to mark the occasion. An emotional Ellen smiled and said that her little baby would surely enjoy the bee mascot.

Reflecting on her career, Van Dijk said: "I've had 20 wonderful years in the peloton. Now, I want to spend as much time as possible with my baby and my family. I'll always ride my bike because I love the sport, but it's time to stop racing. I don't have a concrete plan yet, but I'd like to stay involved in cycling in some capacity."

Multiple world champion and one of the sport's most respected figures, regards her 2021 Time Trial World Title in Bruges as one of her most special achievements, coming eight years after her first gold medal. "It's definitely one of my best memories," she said. "I remember how hard I worked to get there and how focused I was before and during the event. I have many amazing memories from these last 20 years, but this is definitely my favourite."

Racing in Poland for the first time, Van Dijk praised the organisation of the Tour de Pologne Women's race, the enthusiastic crowds and the shared setup with the men's event. "It's very well organised, and the people are incredibly supportive. It's a great feeling to race here," she said.

The only missing piece in her glittering palmarès? An Olympic medal. "I had bad luck at the three Games I attended, but I'm happy with everything I've achieved," she concluded.