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PRESSEMITTEILUNG

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## Caleb Ewan wins first stage of the Deutschland Tour – Ganna defends red jersey

Maybe the 500-metre-long finish line in Meiningen was a bit too long for Alexander Kristoff (Intermarche - Wanty - Gobert Materiaux). The Norwegian, who became the day's favorite after European Champion Fabio Jakobsen (Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl) was distanced on the last climb, had to see not only the new white jersey winner Jonathan Milan (Bahrain Victorious) pass but also the two young Germans Max Kanter (Movistar) and Felix Groß (UAE Emirates) as well as the French champion Florian Senechal (Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl).

**Stage winner Ewan** knew another reason for this: *"Downhill finishes are hard to time. But my team put me in a really good position. It was a very sweet victory after the last average months. But my team never lost faith in me and now I could pay something back for that."*

Meanwhile, **Filippo Ganna** (Ineos Grenadiers) stays the GC leader and defended the Deutschland Tour's red jersey in addition to the green jersey. *"I didn't expect us to do this. But especially Egan (Bernal) worked hard to keep us in the top position in the overall classification."* After the last climb, Ganna even impressed with an attack: *"When Nils Politt attacked, I thought why not follow him. Then I did a bit more. But maybe that wasn't a great idea."*

Until the last climb, the 171.7 kilometers between Weimar and Meiningen were dominated by an four-riders breakaway. Roman Duckert (Dauner - Akkon), Jakob Geßner, Joshua Huppertz (both Lotto - Kern Haus) and Michiel Stockman (Saris Rouvy Sauerland) got a maximum of four and a half minutes. While Huppertz dropped in the middle of the race, the remaining trio made it to the bonification sprint 20 kilometers before the end. But the peloton moved closer and swallowed the escapees in the following descent. For Geßner, however, the effort was worth it: the 22-year-old from Thuringia won all three KOMs and wears the blue jersey of the best climber tomorrow.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> stage leads the peloton over 200.7 kilometers from Meiningen to Marburg on Friday. It's the longest stage of this year's Tour. The profile is quite similar to that of the previous day and comes with four second-category climbs, which are, however, closer to the finish. The last one is the bonification point only five kilometers before the finish line.