



---

PRESS RELEASE

---

## Pedersen gives no presents and beats birthday boy Johannessen in the sprint

**Team Lidl-Trek was also unbeatable on stage 2 of the Lidl Deutschland Tour 2024. Mads Pedersen replaced his teammate Jonathan Milan as both the day's winner and the new man in the blue jersey. After 174.6 kilometers in Schwäbisch Gmünd, the Dane won the sprint of a trio ahead of Tobias Halland Johannessen (Uno-X Mobility), who was celebrating his 25th birthday, and Archie Ryan (EF Education - EasyPost).**

Six seconds behind, Danny van Poppel (Red Bull - Bora - Hansgrohe) led the large chasing group to the finish, from which the leaders had broken away on the way to the bonus sprint one and a half kilometers before the finish. *"We knew that the finale would be tough today. Not super hard, but hard enough to make the difference,"* explained winner **Pedersen**, who took his first victory in the Deutschland Tour. *"We were prepared for both scenarios today - Johnny's card and mine. But the race was harder than expected and the attacks started earlier. That played into my hands. I had permission to go on the attacks because we still had Johnny at the back of the group."* Pedersen also made it clear with what ambitions Lidl-Trek has arrived. *"We are here to win all the stages. And with the overall lead behind us, we will also try to defend it. We have the means to do so."*

After three days, Pedersen now has a twelve-second lead over the new runner-up Johannessen. Ethan Hayter (Ineos Grenadiers) is third, 21 seconds behind, just ahead of the two EF pros Ryan and Stefan Bissegger. The best German in the overall classification is currently Florian Stork (Tudor Pro Cycling Team) in 13th place, 28 seconds behind. Jonas Rutsch (EF Education - EasyPost) took seventh place in the daily classification.

Right from the start, the third stage of the tour was ridden more aggressively than the day before. Immediately after the sharp start in Erlenbach, the first attacks were launched, with Miguel Heidemann (German National Team), Dawit Yemane (Bike Aid) and Dario Igor Belletta (Visma | Lease a Bike) eventually building up a lead of more than three minutes. Yemane secured the first mountain classification in Löwenstein and thus laid the foundation for taking the mountain jersey.

The escapees were caught on the steep climb to Lauterburg 45 kilometers before the finish. A new four-man group formed with Jørgen Nordhagen (Visma | Lease a Bike), Toms Skujins (Lidl-Trek), Kevin Vermaerke (Team dsm-firmenich PostNL) and Ryan. They were able to pull out just over half a minute. When the final circuit, on which 17,500 spectators cheered on the pros in the best summer weather, was reached 22 kilometers before the finish, more riders jumped to the front on the way to the first finish. When it came to the final lap, 25 riders made up the group.

Three kilometers before the finish, they were caught by the peloton again. But while the bunch was formed at the back, things were already moving again at the front. The trio around Pedersen had opened up a small gap at the bonus sprint, but due to the short remaining distance, this should be enough to decide the victory among themselves.



---

PRESS RELEASE

---

At 211.1 kilometers, the 3rd stage of the Lidl Deutschland Tour is the longest of the tour. From Schwäbisch Gmünd to Villingen-Schwenningen, it runs from north to south across the Swabian Alb. In the finale, the course connects the two original communities of the twin town before the final eight-kilometre lap through Villingen decides the winner.