



D-1: comeback anticipation on the eve of Eschborn-Frankfurt.

60 years after the first edition, Eschborn-Frankfurt is back on May 1. Tomorrow at 12:15 pm, 131 riders will start the German Classic. The first German pro race of the season will cover 183.9 kilometers. A demanding Taunus circuit characterizes the route into the city of Frankfurt. Sprint royale or arrival of a group - the outcome of the race is open, and the favorites are preparing for all options.

It's been ten years since a group decided the victory. Since then, a sprinter has always come out on top in the big showdown. Last year's winner Jasper Philipsen (Alpecin - Fenix) is in special focus. But the veterans around local hero John Degenkolb (Team DSM) and Alexander Kristoff (Intermarché - Wanty - Gobert Matériaux) want to steal the show from the youngster this time. Kristoff has already competed seven times in the cycling classic - six times he has been on the podium. Whether his team will rely on experience or youth, will be revealed tomorrow at around 4:30 pm. Eventually Biniam Girmay will also use his return to racing for the next WorldTour success.

A look at the start list promises an open race. Many teams are going for the double strategy with sprinters and classics riders both lining-up. Will the iconic Taunus circuit with the steep Mammolshainer climb cause a selection or will the peloton regroup for a sprint at the Alte Oper in the heart of Frankfurt?

Statements of the favorites

Jasper Philipsen: *"The number 1 on the jersey is something very special. Let's hope the form is good. It's another opportunity and a nice race that suits me really well. I'm just looking forward and try to give my best tomorrow. You must keep fighting to get over the climbs and when you have the legs in the final, everything can happen. We'll fight for the win."*

For **John Degenkolb**, the home race is always a highlight. The 2011 winner is reaching for the trophy again this year: *"Many sprinters that also go quite well over the climbs are racing here. If the sprinter teams are united and strong enough, we'll catch the attacks and see a sprint in Frankfurt. But that's the nice thing about this race: everybody has a chance to win, and the race outcome is quite open. 11 years ago, I won in Frankfurt and I'm still hungry for another victory."*

Alexander Kristoff: *"I expect the race to turn out a bit like normal. It will be a hard fight at the climbs, but usually it comes back, and we sprint from a reduced group. We have more cards to play, besides me it's also Biniam. That's a good constellation for the team. We are having a great season and the atmosphere is very good. Tomorrow, of course the goal is to win."*



Deutschland Tour winner **Nils Politt** (BORA - hansgrohe) is banking on an aggressive race in the Taunus: *"We are prepared for any scenario. For us as a German team, this race is key for us – for the first time this year we ride on German roads. With Sam and Danny, we have two fast guys. Plus, riders like me who will pay attention in the Taunus that no bigger group is going. Especially after climbing the Mammolshainer for the fourth time, the race is getting tough. We are optimistic for tomorrow."*

German Classic atmosphere without restrictions

Not only the traditional date, but also the typical atmosphere returns at the German Classic. Tomorrow, fans are again allowed everywhere along the route without restrictions. At the start in Eschborn, at the Taunus icons and in the finish area in Frankfurt's city center, visitors can expect the usual cycling festival after a two-year break.