

Eschborn-Frankfurt offers more than professional cycling at the highest level.

May 1 is Labor Day and so the pros will have to do a lot this year to finish Eschborn-Frankfurt at the top. For everyone else around Eschborn, the Main metropolis and in the Taunus region, it is the day to celebrate, because the cycling classic also has plenty to offer amateur athletes, youngsters, and anyone else interested - even the day before.

Elite race longer and tougher

A few more than 200 kilometers and a course that is significantly more profiled than last year, due to a second Feldberg crossing, give the WorldTour race more classic character again. Whereas in previous years the race always ended in a bunch sprint in front of the Alte Oper in Frankfurt, this is no longer a matter of course on Monday.

Nevertheless, with Sam Bennett (Bora - hansgrohe), Jasper Philipsen (Alpecin - Deceuninck), Pascal Ackermann (UAE Team Emirates), Alexander Kristoff (Uno-X Pro Cycling Team) and local hero John Degenkolb (Team DSM) all former winners are back. From a German perspective, however, Nils Politt (Bora - hansgrohe), Jonas Rutsch (EF Education - EasyPost) or Georg Zimmermann (Intermarché - Circus - Wanty) could also make a splash. Phil Bauhaus (Bahrain Victorious), fourth last year, and Maximilian Walscheid (Cofidis), on the other hand, would prefer the sprint finish.

With Arnaud de Lie (Lotto Dstny), Michael Matthews (Team Jayco Alula) or Hugo Hofstetter (Team Arkea - Samsic), international classics specialists have also registered on the provisional start list. Two winners of previous U23 editions are also on the list: Niklas Larsen (2018) will stand alongside series winner Kristoff and Sven Erik Bystrom (2012) will ride in Georg Zimmermann's team.

Junior races as a springboard: U23 races back again

The series of junior races is led by the U23 edition of Eschborn-Frankfurt. After a break of three years due to the pandemic, 108 kilometers are on the program again for more than 160 youngsters. They will also start in Eschborn and, after crossing the Feldberg, fight for victory in front of the Opera House in Frankfurt. Whoever wins here will join the ranks of illustrious names around Mads Pedersen and Fabio Jakobsen.

On the other hand, the races of the Süwag Energie Junior Cup for all age groups between U11 and U17 are on a circuit in Frankfurt's city center. The four races use the closed-off finishing circuit of the pros to determine their best. New this year is a separate classification for the female participants in the U15 and U17 races.

Škoda Velotour fully booked

8,000 registrations - and there would have been many more. But due to the capacity limit of the Škoda Velotour, the event was already fully booked two weeks before the races.