



60.
EDITION
SEIT 1962



20.
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D-1 Eschborn-Frankfurt 2021

A top-class anniversary is looming on the eve of the 60th edition of the German classic. For the first time, 13 teams from the WorldTour will start at Eschborn-Frankfurt. Exactly one week before the UCI Road World Championships, many top stars use the Taunus for a final test. For other riders, the WorldTour event is a milestone on the way to the upcoming classics like Paris-Roubaix.

187.4 kilometers with more than 3,200 meters of altitude are on the program tomorrow between Eschborn and the city center of Frankfurt. The start list has seldom promised such an open race as this year. Will the iconic Taunus circuit with the notorious Mammolshainer climb lead to a selection or will the peloton be able to neutralize all attacks for a sprint royal at the Frankfurt Opera house?

Besides the pros, amateur cyclists can expect an anniversary as well. 6,000 participants have announced their start in the 20th edition of the ŠKODA Velotour. They are turning the German classic into the biggest sportive event that will take place in Germany this year. On top, the youngsters will also ride the German classic, as there are six races for the talents happening on Sunday. From the youngest on their balance bikes to the U17, the future professionals will have their stage in Frankfurt.

Pascal Ackermann, John Degenkolb, Alexander Kristoff - the winning trio.

The complete podium of the last edition will be at the start in 2021, a reunion of the still active winners. Pascal Ackermann wants to repeat his 2019 victory: *"My big dream has always been to win the race once. I achieved that and now I have nothing to lose. Four times Mammolshainer was extremely hard last time, it won't be easier tomorrow. We'll work getting everything back together after the climb. I'm totally relaxed, had good legs recently and I'm confident for tomorrow."*

The four-time Frankfurt winner Alexander Kristoff recently demonstrated with two stage wins at the Deutschland Tour how much he loves races in Germany: *"Yes - I should race more here, I think. For tomorrow, I think it's difficult to predict. The course looks more or less the same as in previous years and that should suit me. But we are now in a different period of the year - some guys are preparing for the Worlds, some are almost done for the year. Looking at the start list, it won't be a walk in the park. But even with the Worlds in sight, I won't save any energy - it will be a good test."*

And for local hero John Degenkolb, winner of 2011, the home race is something very special every year: *"This is a day that I always look forward to. Almost two and a half years have now passed since the last Eschborn-Frankfurt. It's cool that the German Classic can take place again. It gives you extra energy when a race passes your home. There is a positive nervousness. I'm confident, in a good mood and looking forward to tomorrow."*

Simon Geschke - in autumn form.



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10 years ago, Simon Geschke achieved his best result at the German classic to date. At the end of the day, the 8th place was in the books. This year, another top ten result seems possible. The Tour de France stage winner returned from the compulsory break at the Olympics in impressive form and showed a strong race at the European Championships. *"With Christophe Laporte we have a sprinter who is in good shape. He is preparing for the Worlds, climbs very well and will be the leader tomorrow. I'll get him to the final as fresh as possible. The hard part of the race will be hard for everyone. My job will be to make sure that a large group doesn't break away. Even if the race is not tailor-made for me, I always enjoy riding in Germany"*, Geschke looks ahead to his eighth German classic.

Dylan Teuns - from Taunus to Flanders.

Dylan Teuns won the eighth stage of the Tour de France with a long solo. He also rode aggressively at the Deutschland Tour fighting with Nils Politt for victory. His Bahrain-Victorious team is prepared for many scenarios between Eschborn and Frankfurt, and Teuns seems to be the man for the Taunus attacks in his current form. A final test for the 29-year-old Belgian before the World Championships in the home country. *"I don't think I have to wait for the sprint. If I want to go for victory, I have to be in a small group. It's a different time of the year. Being one week before the Worlds make this race really special. As soon as I looked in the calendar, I wanted to come here to prepare for the Worlds. Because for me it's important to have a hilly and hard race before. I won't save any energy. It's almost only once in a career that the Worlds take place in your home country. So, Frankfurt is just perfect for building up to next Sunday"*, says Dylan Teuns.

Jasper Philipsen - premiere for the two-time Vuelta stage winner

He was close to victory six times in the sprints of the Tour de France, and he won twice in the Vuelta. Whoever wins the Scheldeprijs - the classic of the sprinters - is one of the big names among the fastest men. And that's what Jasper Philipsen does: at just 23 years of age, he confidently leads the sprinters ranking this season. He would like to expand his impressive winning streak with a success in Frankfurt. Will he win at his premiere right away? *"In general, we as a team should just be happy with the season. I won at the Vuelta, I won yesterday and that gave me motivation for the final part of the year. In every race, I look for new chances, new opportunities. We have some nice races left, like Eschborn-Frankfurt tomorrow. Let's see how this turns out."*, says the youngster before his German classic debut.