

Danish double victory at U23 edition of Eschborn-Frankfurt

The Danish youngsters dominated the first U23 race of Eschborn-Frankfurt after a three-hiatus. In a bunch sprint after 108 kilometers, Joshua Gudnitz (Team Coloquick) won ahead of his compatriot Gustav Wang (Restaurant Suri - Carl Ras) and Eritrean Aklilu Arefayne (Circus - ReUz - Technord). Best German in front of the Alte Oper in Frankfurt was Tobias Müller (Rad-Net Osswald) in sixth place.

For **Gudnitz** it was the fourth victory this season. The 21-year-old commented on his success: *"I already felt very good on the Feldberg and went into a breakaway group. There were seven of us, but we didn't work well together because the others knew I was fast. So, we were caught up again. Then we said in the team: Take it easy until the sprint. Even then I was still doing well, which I could prove in the end."*

For third-place finisher **Arefayne**, it was a special day. Not only were several fans from his home country waiting for him in the finish area with flags and cheering him like the winner: for the 18-year-old it was only the second race ever in Europe, the first at UCI level. *"I immediately sprinted to the podium, which is an incredible result."* Yet the young African wasn't even intended for the role in the final. *"Unfortunately, our captain was boxed-in, and I had to take over his role. Maybe even something more than third place would have been possible. Still, the podium makes me really happy."*

The U23 edition, which was won by former World Champion Mads Pedersen in 2014 and current European Champion Fabio Jakobsen in 2017, among others, picked up pace relatively quickly after a Cycling Vlaanderen rider attacked after just three kilometers. He saved himself until the climb of the Feldberg before everything came together again. The other attacks in the last 40 kilometers were all neutralized as well, so a bunch sprint decided the race.