



Presidential Tour of Turkey, stage 6

CALEB EWAN DOUBLES UP, FELIX GROßSCHARTNER ENTERS HISTORY BOOK

Australia's Caleb Ewan of Lotto-Soudal managed to prevent Sam Bennett from repeating the action from far out that made him a winner at Istanbul last year to clinch his second stage victory while Felix Großschartner claimed the first stage race victory of his career at the 55th Presidential Tour of Turkey.

Six riders in the lead

110 riders took the start of the conclusive stage of the 55th Presidential Tour of Turkey at Sakarya in the Bike Valley centre that will host the UCI Mountain Bike Marathon world championship in 2020. Two non-starters: Yuri Natarov (Astana) and Scott Davies (Dimension Data). 6 riders quickly went clear off the peloton: Mauricio Moreira (Caja Rural), Lorenzo Fortunato (Neri-KTM), Hayato Yoshida (Nippo), Emerson Oronte (Rally), Thimo Willems (Vlaanderen-Baloise) and Ahmet Akdilek (Turkey). The breakaway group was one rider down when Moreira sat up and awaited the peloton passed km 20. At km 24, the maximum time difference was reached with 5'10".

Willems wins the King of the Mountain price

The main sporting stake of the escape was for Willems to be crowned the King of the Mountains. Being two points down on Großschartner, he had to be first at the only KOM of the day at km 57.9 and he made it, beating Fortunato and Akdilek. Deceuninck-Quick Step and Lotto-Soudal set the pace of the peloton all the way to Istanbul. Akdilek lost contact with his four breakaway companions 15km before the end on Sultanahmet Square. Willems also won the last Beauties of Turkey sprint at km 158.9 but Turkish national team rider Feritcan Şamlı who proposed his girlfriend on the sign in podium prior to the last stage won this competition overall.

Ewan responds to Bennett

It was all together with 5.5km to go as Deceuninck-Quick Step looked like the most compact team ahead of the tricky finale leading up to the Blue Mosque. Just like in 2018, Bennett started sprinting from more than 1km to go but Ewan was attentive. The Australian capitalized on the confidence of his first stage victory to close on the Irishman and pass him before the last curve. He had time to enjoy his performance before crossing the line with his hands up in the air while Großschartner made it safely home to win the first stage race of his career at the age of 25. He's the first Austrian winner in 55 editions of the Presidential Tour of Turkey.