

BEMER Cyclassics 2024 - the voices of the favorites

After almost 200 kilometers of cycling through Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein on Sunday, it is clear who will win the BEMER Cyclassics 2024. Once again, the sprinters are the favorites, hoping for a bunch sprint on Mönckebergstraße in the heart of the Hanseatic city. But there are also a number of challengers who are hoping for a different outcome. This is what the protagonists have to say.

After his recent successes, **Jonathan Milan** (Lidl-Trek) is one of the first contenders for victory: *"We are tackling the BEMER Cyclassics after an important and successful phase of the season. After the Olympic Games, I worked hard to bring my condition up to a high level. And then came the results, first at the Lidl Deutschland Tour, then at the Renewi Tour,"* said the 23-year-old, who already has eleven victories to his name this season. *"I'm now expecting a good level of competitiveness again in Hamburg. The team will be a key component in controlling the course of the race. In this respect, I am very happy to have a strong team at my side. We will do everything we can to continue our winning streak."*

One rider who would like to prevent that, is this year's three-time Tour de France stage winner **Jasper Philipsen** (Alpecin-Deceuninck). *"I'm really looking forward to the BEMER Cyclassics. I hope to compete against many other strong sprinters in a nice bunch sprint. Riding over the Waseberg three times won't be easy, but my form is good. It will also be a good test for the European Championships."*

Alongside Milan and Philipsen, **Olav Kooij** (Visma | Lease a Bike) is also one of the most successful sprinters of the season. However, the 22-year-old, who celebrated two victories at the Tour of Poland in August, comes to Hamburg with a small handicap. *"I'm happy to be able to race again after my crash at the Renewi Tour last week. Of course that was a step backwards. Fortunately, I didn't suffer any major injuries, but I still had to take a short break to recover. Now I hope to be back at a good level. In any case, training went well,"* said Kooij in the run-up to the race. *"My goal is to do well. Especially if there is a sprint. But that's never certain in Hamburg. But we have a strong team, including Christophe Laporte, who can also win a race like this in other ways."*

Biniam Girmay (Intermarché-Wanty) also feels that he is not quite at full strength: *"After the Tour de France, where I was in the best shape of my life, I am not yet back to my maximum and am still looking for my rhythm. I need a few more race kilometers for that. I'll have to see*

how I feel on the road and then decide whether I can take part in the decision or not," explained the Tour green jersey winner. "But with Mike Teunissen and Madis Mihkels, we also have two other fast guys with us who I can help if things don't go my way. And we also have Georg Zimmermann in the team, for whom we can perhaps prepare something."

And **Phil Bauhaus** (Bahrain-Victorious) would also like to do well in front of his home crowd: *"Finally racing in Germany again. It's my first this year. I hope that my form has improved by a few percentage points. I was a bit ill after the Tour of Poland and not everything went perfectly at the Renewi Tour either. But I'm very motivated and hope to achieve a result as good as the last time I competed here,"* says Bauhaus. He came seventh then. *"But that will be difficult, as always the Waseberg is an obstacle for us sprinters. Let's see how the race develops."*

Nils Politt (UAE Team Emirates) is one of the pros who would love to prevent a bunch sprint. In 2023, the Cologne native was only a few meters short. *"I'm very happy to be back at the start in Hamburg. It's always something special to ride in front of this backdrop. Last year, I was close to success but was only caught up on the finish line. Of course, I'm hoping for a similarly good performance and good legs after the Renewi Tour. We are sending a strong team to the start line, which can definitely achieve something."*