



Engadin Bike Giro vom 10. bis 12. Juli 2020 //
Press release 11. Juli 2020

Engadin Bike Giro
2nd stage 71,2 Kilometer / 2.543 vertical meters
Start & Finsih: Silvaplana/Sportzentrum Mulets

Photos and results: <https://engadin-bike-giro.ch/live-2020/>

Vitzthum and Keller defend overall lead

On the second stage Sascha Weber takes the stage victory in the sprint - Keller wins again with a clear lead

Weather change in the Engadine: there was no sign of yesterday's sunshine at the start of the second stage of 71.4 kilometres and 2,545 metres of altitude difference this morning. Shortly before the start, heavy rain set in, which should remain largely faithful to the barely athletic riders on their way from Silvaplana over the Corviglia.

But for last year's winner Sascha Weber (Maloja - Rocky Mountain) it also meant a change of mood. After a completely mixed start for him with a nine minute gap to the leader Simon Vitzthum (jb Brunex Felt) yesterday, the 32-year-old German rejoined the top of the field today: After 3:22:38 hours in the sprint, he won narrowly against Vitzthum and Lukas Flückiger (Infinity), who will start tomorrow's final stage through the Engadine as almost simultaneous favourites.

Today a group of six had formed right from the start with Simon Vitzthum, Lukas Flückiger, Julian Schelb (Stop&Go Marten Defence), Thomas Litscher (KMC Orbea) and Filippo Colombo (Absolute Absalon-BMC). "We said from the start that we didn't want to let anyone else get close," Weber said after the race. That's probably why there were repeated attacks and rhythm changes, which made it difficult for the chasing pack. On the climb to Alp Muntatsch Weber was able to break away together with Simon Vitzthum and Lukas Flückiger. The trio then drove together to the finish in Silvaplana, where Weber finally won the sprint from the front. "This is my fifth time here, so I know how to drive," said the Saarlander, who lives in Freiburg. However, he admits that the day's victory today was already a tough job, as the pace was repeatedly tightened.

The Swiss drivers Flückiger and Vitzthum, who had been leading together for large parts of the first stage as well, remained level in the overall standings. "I worked together with Lukas yesterday already super," said Vitzthum after the race at the finish on the Silvaplana sports grounds. Tomorrow both have good chances for victory in the overall standings. The two are only separated by one second.

Fourth and fifth place went to Julian Schelb and Thomas Litscher, 1:58 minutes behind Weber. Schelb, who had finished sixth the day before, was happy about the cooperation with Litscher at the finish. "He's going downhill technically well," said the man from Baden, who also has hope for the overall standings. Litscher had to cope with a crash in the downhill. "I was too optimistic with my choice of tyres." The riders had to struggle with pouring rain and cool temperatures - after it had been hot and sunny the day before.



The Team Bulls with Simon Schneller, Simon Stiebjahn and Martin Frey finished sixth to eighth, "We are all equally strong at the moment," said Stiebjahn. "But apparently it's not enough for the front runners. We've been hoping to pick up a few more on the long climb." The trio could only leave Filippo Colombo (fourth yesterday) behind, who dropped back to 16th place.

Daniel Geismayr from Team Centurion-Vaude, who had finished third the day before and as a marathon specialist had ambitions for overall victory, had to struggle with technical problems from the beginning and finally finished in 38th place, 30:34 minutes behind. This means that the Austrian national champion's chances for the overall ranking are gone.

The previous day's winner Alessandra Keller (Thömus RN) was able to extend her lead in the overall classification. Her winning time was 4:09:08 h. In the first downhill she was able to distance herself from her pursuer Elisabeth Brandau (EB-Racing). "I found a mega fast men's group, in which my team mate Ursin Spescha was also", said Keller. "That was perfect for me." Behind her Linda Indergand (Maloja Pushbikers) and Elisabeth Brandau formed a chasing duo. Indergand drove ahead downhill, uphill Brandau was the strongest. When the team approached the highest point at 2,549 metres above sea level, Brandau had to be torn off. Indergand crossed the finish line 6:42 min behind Keller: "I am very satisfied with the race," she said, "Downhill I was able to make up time, and the weather might have played into my cards. Brandau finished third, 12:41 min behind Keller and shortly before Adelheid Morath (KS Trek Team) in 4th place: "It went ten times better than yesterday and I really enjoyed the downhills in the wet", Morath could gain something positive from the uncomfortable weather conditions.

The Namibian Vera Looser came fifth, ahead of Ariane Lüthi (Andermatt Swiss Alps) and Esther Süss (RC Gränichen/Team). Steffi Häberlin, surprisingly third the day before, finished eighth, while Stephanie Dohrn from Team Centurion-Vaude, who had finished second the day before, retired.

The last stage leads the field again of over 64 kilometers and 2,318 meters of altitude difference. With the ascent to the Pass Suvretta 1,000 meters of altitude difference have to be conquered in one go back to Silvaplana, where shortly after noon the overall winners of the 2020 edition of the Engadin Bike Giro will be announced.

Further information about the event at www.engadin-bike-giro.ch !