

Giovanni Lonardi wins stage 5 Tour de Taiwan

After getting on podium twice, Giovanni Lonardi (NippoViniFantiniFaizanè) guaranteed his chance to sprint for the stage win ahead of Eric Young (Elevate - KHS Pro Cycling) and Hayato Yoshida (NippoViniFantiniFaizanè). Jonathan Clarke(Floyd's Pro Cycling) is the winner of 2019 Tour de Taiwan.

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Giovanni Lonardi, the stage winner: *"I am really happy, also my team is happy. It's the first victory of our team. Today is a hot day. In my country Italy, it's a little bit cold. We are happy because I did second, I did third, and today I win, very nice."*

Jonathan Clarke, the yellow jersey: *"I feel very good, very happy. I love Taiwan, I always ride well here. It's a beautiful country, it's very clean, friendly people. And I think the organizer has done a good job of the courses. It's not crazy mountains, but it's not dead flat. It makes for good dynamic racing. I always like coming here."*

Yasuharu Nakajima, the green jersey: *"I am so happy. This is my 4th Tour de Taiwan. I can't get on podium before, but this time it's coming, I get on the podium, so happy. I am normally assist for other teammates, but this time the team is working for me. Thanks for all my teammates and all the fans in Taiwan and their encouragement."*

Nariyuki Masuda, the blue jersey : *"I am very happy, I am not sprinter. If I get the one second, I can jump up on general classification and get the UCI points. So we have done very hard work. Today my teammates helped me a lot. Very very hard work, so I get one second. Thank you for all my teammates."*

Wilmar Paredes, the polka dot jersey: *"I feel so happy because I feel I am more prepared to go to Europe and race there. I am very happy to race here in this beautiful country."*

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It was attacks after attacks front km 0, the race was quite intense because we have 26 riders with their time difference within 16 seconds. No rider was able to go clear and finally there was a group of 8 made it in the front just before the first intermediate sprint(74.4km). However, marshal of the race went the wrong way so the race was once neutralized. As the first intermediate is just 200m away, commissaire made a quick decision and amended the first intermediate sprint to 86.2km, the second time we pass Checheng Elementary School.

After the short break, the race went on and Diego Antonio Ochoa (ManzanaPostobon), Guy Niv (Israel Cycling Academy), Edmund Bradbury (Memil - CCN Pro Cycling), MuhamadZawawiAzman (Team Sapura Cycling) and Sergio Tu (CCC Development Team) stayed in the front. The quintet were working together in the longest stage, while Neri - Selle Italia - KTM took the command of the peloton and the yellow jersey squad Floyd's Pro Cycling came to their assistance.

Compared with the first hour, the middle of the race was relatively stabilized, but the battle for GC was yet to finish, especially in the last 2 intermediate sprint and finish. The Italian and Canadian team brought back the leading 5 after 150km race. Riders were setting a 50km-up pace on the circuit, but Marcus Culey (Team Sapura Cycling) still managed to go clear alone. The Australian took most points and bonus seconds ahead of the bunch. Etienne van Empel (NeriSottoli - Selle Italia - KTM) got 2 seconds in the second intermediate sprint as a GC contender.

The third intermediate sprint was another hectic battle after Marcus. NariyukiMasuda(Japan National Team) made it to get the precious 1 second and took the blue jersey. Afterwards, the bunch kept pressing on and captured Marcus inside the final 6km. Teams had shown their speed in the very final. Elevate - KHS Pro Cycling and Floyd's Pro Cycling seemed to be the fastest until the final 500m, but Giovanni Lonardi (NippoViniFantiniFaizanè) timed it perfectly and delivered the first victory of his squad in 2019.

The stage winner: **Giovanni Lonardi (NippoViniFantiniFaizanè)**

Individual General Classification by Time (Yellow Jersey): **Jonathan Clarke(Floyd's Pro Cycling)**

General Individual Classification on Points (Green Jersey): **Yasuharu Nakajima (Kinan Cycling Team)**

The Mountain General Classification (Polka-dot Jersey): **Wilmar Paredes (ManzanaPostobon)**

Best Asian Rider Classification (Blue Jersey): **NariyukiMasuda(Japan National Team)**