



The Japanese Hayato Okamoto got first again in Taipei City

The former Asian Cycling Championship winner Hayato Okamoto (Aisan Racing Team) won the circuit race in Taipei City with a time of 1:44:46, bringing home his second Taipei stage win after four years. Okamoto also finished top at general classification, point, and best Asian riders in UCI2.1 race. Most combative was presented to Chun Kai Feng (Chinese Taipei) for his fighting in the leading group, the only world tour rider in the tour.

The Tour de Taiwan is taking place in October for the first time since 2000 due to Covid-19, normally it starts in March, which is cold and rainy. In total, 59 riders finished the race and it was relatively hot and sunny, the circuit was 10.4KM for 8 laps and 83.2KM in total. It started in front of Taipei City Hall, there are three intermediate sprint, and the route is flat but teeming with technical corners. At the last kilometer mark, it ended in a bunch sprint with Okamoto taking the win. The stage average speed of blistering 47.65km/h.

"There's perfect weather today, I got the Taipei stage win in 2018, and I know this circuit course suits my sprinting. In preparation for the tour, I've been strengthening my maximum power. In the next stage, I would like to maintain the leader's jersey, but there will be a lot of uphill, which Okamoto admits this is not his forte."

There was a minor attack right after the start, and it was Chun Kai Feng and Sam Culverwell (Trinity Racing) with a gap of two minutes. With the peloton increasing speed from the 5th lap and shortening the gap with leading group, the peloton chased the leading two men on the last lap. Feng won most combativity award for doing most of effort in the front and now he is the third in individual general classification.

"I didn't come in for the Combativity award, but I just knew that if I had the chance, I would try to sprint with the best", Feng said. The Chinese Taipei team has trained in central Taiwan where the terrain is hilly will start tomorrow.

On tomorrow (Oct/3) Taoyuan City race, the peloton will cover 120.59km in total, with one intermediate sprint and three KOM points. The race will conclude on Oct 6.