Israel-Premier Tech’s Itamar Einhorn claimed a dominant victory in a thrilling sprint finish on the opening stage of the Tour du Rwanda on Monday, conquering the 129.4-kilometer route from Muhanga to Kibeho.

Despite early attacks from a three-man breakaway featuring Rwandan riders Didier Munyaneza and Shemu Nsengiyumva alongside Mauritian Alexandre Mayer, the peloton ultimately reeled them in with 15 kilometers remaining.

The stage then came down to a breathtaking sprint, where Einhorn showcased his power to outmuscle young Belgian talent William Junior Lecerf, a pre-race favorite for the overall classification.

This victory propels Einhorn into the coveted yellow jersey and positions him as a strong contender for the overall title. “It was a super ride,” said Einhorn, expressing his delight. “I’m really motivated for the race.”

Meanwhile, Chris Froome, Einhorn’s teammate, finished safely within the main group, indicating he remains in contention for the GC battle.

Looking ahead, stage two promises another exciting challenge. Tomorrow, the riders will tackle a 140.3-kilometer journey from Huye to Rusizi, potentially offering opportunities for breakaways and further shake-ups in the general classification.