



Podium and category winners after gruelling 100km RR, L to R: Rob Patrick, Saad Alabdullah, Carola von Skwarczinsky, Mohammed Alshehry, Thierry Mathy (Fathi-not in photo)

Saudi Squad Routs Opposition in Novartis-RW 100km Road Race

25 March 2011

With the disappointing withdrawal of sponsorship for the 100km "Milk Race", the Novartis Consumer Health-Riyadh Wheelers ran the event as a points counter in their season long competition instead. Considering the distance, a very encouraging 60 riders signed on, including some from the Saudi National Team who travelled up from Dhahran, plus a

strong team from Udhailiyah. The day dawned bright and calm after a week of poor weather, so the scene was set for another exciting race as the RW season winds down with only one race remaining. After a generous 10km neutral section, the action soon hotted-up when the young Saudi riders, riding under the watchful eye of the National coach, put in attack after attack until the bunch thinned down to around 20 riders. This soon became 2 groups of 10, as less experienced riders left gaps and were unable to close them down. A wearing down process ensued, with the lead group constantly attacking each other and the chase group trying to keep them within reach. As exhausted riders and puncture victims dropped out, the leaders finally merged with only 2km to go, giving the signal for three of the National Team to attack, while the rest of the team, riding to orders, did a good job of blocking. The furious sprint for the line was taken by Mohammed Alshehry from Saad Alabdullah and prolific winner Fathi Almoslim. Seconds later, Thierry Mathy held up RW honours, just edging out Nasser Al Mutrad and strongman Chad Albury with Kumil Alholily just tailed off. Next, Rob Patrick led in race revelation Steve Jenkins, ahead of an exhausted Todd Green who admitted to have done a lot of chasing and had nothing left. Riders continued to struggle in up to an hour after the winner, with all receiving warm applause from the sizable crowd of supporters. Carola von

Skwarczinsky had a great ride once again, wrapping up cat B without too much opposition

1st M.Alshehry, 2nd S.Alabdullah, 3rd F.Almoslim, 4th T.Mathy, 5th N.Almutrad, 6th C.Albury, 7th K.Alholily, 8th R.Patrick, 9th S.Jenkins, 10th T.Green, 11th G.Morete, 12th C.Ryan, 13th J.Kuba, 14th N.Shaiyah, 15th D.Wright, 16th A.Alshahrany, 17th G.Laurie, 18th J.Roetter, 19th J.Cordial, 20th C.von Skwarczinsky, 21st A.Collado, 22nd S.Alsalem, 23rd A.Fabular, 24th P.Soycon, 25th I.Davies, 26th G.Wilson, 27th B.Syfrig, 28th E.Seneres, 29th P.Foster, 30th J.Darnbrook, 31th J.Forrester, 32th F.Nevola, 33th E.Lando, 34rd E.Lando, 35th D.Nichols, 36th P.McParland, 37th J.Sunga, 38th R.Bitong, 39th T.Kiernan, 40th F.Requillo, 41st Jana Jaruskova. DNF E.Laughton, L.Duffy, L.Philips, R.Pedrosa, F.Gregorio, H.Rom, A.Cabal, R.Flores, A.Garcia, K.Moolman, P.Green, D.Aubrey, K.Ahlin, F.Alhamoud, R.Foster, S.Alketeri, H.Almoshaks, A.Alotaibi.

CATEGORIES OPEN Mohammed Alshehry, VETERAN Thierry Mathy, MASTER Rob Patrick, SENIOR Bruno Syfrig, CAT B Carola von Skwarczinsky