

Mathy dominates Novartis 80km Road Race

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RIYADH: The Novartis Consumer Health 80km Road Race was the latest event on the Riyadh Wheelers calendar and it turned out to be one of the best races in recent times when 18 riders contested the sprint for second place behind breakaway winner Thierry Mathy.

The weather had warmed up somewhat and this must have had an effect on the membership, with 60 riders signing on, unfortunately only 51 finished due in part to the relentless wearing down process the course and distance provided.

The race started steadily, with

only Bruno Syfrig, Rob Patrick and Charlie Ryan making a half-hearted attack before opening the door for Gaetan Contrino to slip away; but this move didn't last long as a puncture saw his dreams of victory disappear. The lead pack then settled into a now familiar rhythm, with most of the work being done by Liam Bek, Ian Davies, Syfrig, Ryan and Alex Carinan as the group got whittled down to a manageable 20 riders. That included back to form Bob Eastwood, resplendent in Belgium kit similar to Mathy, which caused some confusion. When interviewed later, Eastwood from Western Australia,

admitted to be more at home in Speedo's as he prepares for an upcoming international triathlon.

Riding quietly in the pack and biding his time was young Saudi, Saad Al Marzuk, who surprised everyone and took his chance with a kilometer to go and forced the group into a long thin line traveling at over 50kph. By this time Mathy had already crossed the line in magnificent style, and had time in hand to watch Marzuk hold out all the way to the line, centimeters ahead of Gordon Lawrie, who made up for his mistake in the previous road race and big gear exponent Jiri Kuba, Rob Patrick,

Charlie Ryan, George Morete with the rest of the pack separated by seconds. Just tailed off in the closing kilometers was Carola Skwarczinsky who came off worst in an unfortunate accident involving several riders.

Results

1 T. Mathy, 2 S. Marzuk, 3 G. Laurie, 4 J. Kuba, 5 R. Patrick, 6 C. Ryan, 7 G. Morete, 8 R. Gocian, 9 K. Ahlin, 10 A. Carinan, 11 J. Cordial, 12 S. Waight, 13 P. Soycon, 14 B. Syfrig, 15 B. Eastwood, 16 S. Jenkins, 17 I. Davies, 18 L. Bek, 19 E. Seneres, 20 C. Skwarczinsky, 21 H. Rom, 22 K. Bowers, 23 V. Engel, 24 L. Philips, 25 Y. Ibrahim, 26 P.

Green, 27 P. Foster, 28 D. Wright, 29 P. McParland, 30 A. Maniago, 31 F. Requillo, 32 E. Lando, 33 P. Wadell, 34 D. Nichols, 35 E. Lando, 36 C. Laoagan, 37 L. Fisher, 38 C. Morelos, 39 M. Hesketh, 40 R. Myers, 41 V. Lasperes, 42 D. Respecki, 43 A. Garcia, 44 R. Bitong, 45 A. Respecki, 46 C. Marx, 47 C. Rillera, 48 M. Schultz, 49 J. Jaruskova, 50 F. Alhamoud, 51 G. Contrino. DNF R. Pedrosa, E. Donnellan, D. Aubrey, JP. Lagadec, A. Collado, S. Tomlison, F. Gocian, F. Nichol, R. Flores

Categories

Open S. Marzuk, Veteran T. Mathy, Master G. Laurie, Senior B. Syfrig



Winner Thierry Mathy is flanked by Saad Al Marzuk, left, and Gordon Laurie. (AN photo)