

Melbourne to Warrnambool Cycling Classic 2015

OCTOBER 17



Sunday, October 11, 2015

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

BY ROD MORRIS

WITH a well earned rest and recuperation period as the base of his preparation for this week's Lakes Oil Melbourne to Warrnambool Cycling Classic, the next seven days promises to be one of the most exciting of Patrick Bevin's life.

The popular New Zealander is the current leader of the Subaru National Road Series aggregate standings, holding a commanding 35-point lead over German Michael Schweiser with only "The Warrny" next Saturday and the Grafton to Inverell the following weekend (October 24) remaining on the program.

Riding for the well oiled – pardon the pun – Avanti Racing Team, Bevin is on target to claim the national series, while his teammate Joseph Cooper is a chance to snatch second spot away from Schweiser as the gap is just 2-points.

He has been a dominant in the 2015 NRS, winning back-to-back multi stage events, the Lakes Oil Tour of the Great South Coast in mid-August and the Sam Miranda Tour of King Valley a week later.

Bevin is described his Avanti team boss as a "splimber" a combination of sprinter and climber.

Avantia team manager Andrew Christie-Johnson said of Bevin "This guy is a monster."

"He climbs, he sprints and can time trial."

"Paddy had a great 2014 season that saw him win the National Capital Tour and the Tour of Tasmania."

"We couldn't beat him so we signed him," Christie-Johnson laughed.

"It's proven to be a good decision for Avanti and one that could pay big dividends in Warrnambool next week.



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Christie-Johnson, who is also co-owner of the team, with business partner Steve Price have been around bikes for a long time and can be rightfully proud of what they have been able to piece together in terms of a respected cycling outfit.

Originating as the Praties Racing Team in 2000 and operating out of the Tasmanian capital, Hobart, Avanti, like GC leader, Patrick Bevin, will go into the Melbourne to Warrnambool on top of the NRS leaderboard.

Prior to the last stage of the Jayco Tour of Tasmania finishing on Sunday (October 11), Avanti held sway over the equally strong Charter Mason Giant Racing Team by just 2-points.

That suggests anything can happen in “The Warrny”and probably will.

And when Bevin is crowned the NRS champion for 2015 it will represent the sixth consecutive year one of Christie-Johnson and Price’s team members have been No. 1, following Patrick Shaw (2010), Nathan Haas (2011), Luke Davison (2012), Jack Haig (2013) and Joseph Cooper (2014).

Christie-Johnson and Price are expected to finalise their starting line-up for the Melbourne to Warrnambool by Monday afternoon.

Avanti Racing Team: Joseph Cooper, Patrick Bevin, Taylor Gunman, Anthony Giacoppo, Neil Van Der Ploeg, Ben Dyball, Mark O'Brien, Jason Christie, Regan Gough, Luke Mudgeway, Fraser Gough, Cameron Karwowski, Scott Law, Mitchell Lovelock-Fay, Patrick Shaw, Thomas Davison, Matthew Clark, Aaron Donnelly, Mark Tupalski, Luke Fetch and Chris Hamilton. Manager: Andrew Christie-Johnson.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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