

Melbourne to Warrnambool Cycling Classic 2015

OCTOBER 17



Friday, October 16, 2015

THE RACE TO NRS GLORY

BY ROD MORRIS

WITH the individual championship in the 2015 National Road Series in the bank, the Avanti Racing Team now has the challenge of capturing the team's championship.

Avanti enter this Saturday's 100th running of the Lakes Oil Melbourne to Warrnambool Classic, trailing the equally strong Charter Mason Racing Team by a solitary point with only two races remaining.

To make things a little more interesting, the respective team managers, Damian Harris (CMR) and Andrew Christie-Johnson (ART) have entered seven riders for "The Warrny."

Avanti is the defending NRS team champion and when Patrick Bevin is officially crowned the 2015 after the Grafton to Inverell race on Saturday week, they will also have produced the last six NRS individual winners.

Bevin will be missing from the Melbourne to Warrnambool, but after winning three of the NRS major tours this season, he's entitled to a rest.

Avanti also won both the Battle on the Border and National Capital Tour, courtesy of some strong riding from Joseph Cooper and his teammates.

Cooper will be the logical "General Classification" rider this Saturday, while Christie-Johnson has opted for Matthew Clark, Mark O'Brien, Anthony Giacoppo, Taylor Gunman, Thomas Davison and Jason Christie as his "starting seven."

Harris has selected Nicholas Katsonis, Benjamin Hill, Sam Crome, David Edwards, Joshua Taylor, Tom Robinson and Jake Magee.



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Robinson may be Harris' wildcard as he won the sprint championship in the 2013 Melbourne to Warrnambool and was third outright behind Rhys Pollock (NSW) and Mark O'Brien (Vic) in the 2010 edition.

The closeness of the NRS team's leaderboard adds a little more intrigue to what already promises to be a great race.

The NRS points allocation affords every starter one point.....so on that basis, Charter Mason Giant will still be a point ahead of Avanti when the fields sets on from Werribee at 7.30am on Saturday.

Only the first six riders crossing the finish line in Warrnambool will earn further points for themselves and their team, so expect the leaderboard to still be close when the NRS tour heads to Grafton next weekend.

Bold predictions –

1st – 2nd – 3rd??????



Joseph Cooper (ART) – Benjamin Hill (CMF) – Michael Schweizer (AWS)



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2015 NRS tour champions –

Woodside Tour de Perth:	Guy Kalma (OTOC Vault Racing)
Jayco Adelaide Tour:	Patrick Bevin (Avanti Racing Team)
FKG Tour of Toowoomba:	Michael Schweizer (African Wildlife Safaris Cycling Team)
Battle on the Border:	Joseph Cooper (Avanti Racing Team)
Tour of the Great South Coast:	Patrick Bevin (Avanti Racing Team)
Tour of the King Valley:	Patrick Bevin (Avanti Racing Team)
National Capital Tour:	Joseph Cooper (Avanti Racing Team)
Jayco Tour of Tasmania:	Brad Evans (Pat's Veg Cycling)

To come –

Lakes Oil Melbourne to Warrnambool:	October 17
Grafton to Inverell:	October 24

National Road Series leaderboard –

Pos.	Points	Rider (Team)	Lakes Oil Melbourne to Warrnambool race
number			
1	82	Patrick Bevin (ART)	not racing
2	50	Michael Schweizer (AWS)	#22
3	43	Joseph Cooper (ART)	#8
4	39	Brad Evans (PVG)	not racing
5	38	Raphael Freienstein (CMR)	not racing
6	36	Benjamin Hill (CMR)	#16
7	36	Patrick Shaw (ART)	not racing
8	27	Sam Crome (CMR)	#17
9	26	Daniel Fitter (CMR)	not racing
10	25	Scott Sunderland (BFL)	#29
11	24	Matthew Clark (ART)	#9
12	23	Sean Lake (AWS)	#23
13	22	Keagan Girdlestone (CMR)	not racing
14	18	Jack Bobridge (BFL)	#30
15	16	Guy Kalma (OVR)	not racing



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16	15	Neil Van Der Ploeg (ART)	not racing
17	12	Patrick Lane (AWS)	#24
18	11	Callum Scotson (SAS)	not racing
19	11	Dylan Sunderland (AMR)	#54
20	10	Lucas Hamilton (VIS)	#119

NRS Team's Championship

1	177	Charter Mason Giant Racing Team
2	176	Avanti Racing Team
3	80	African Wildlife Safaris Cycling Team
4	58	Team Budget Forklifts
5	53	Pat's Veg Cycling
6	49	Navitas Satalyst Racing Team
7	31	search2retain-health.com.au Cycling Team
8	28	Mobius Future Racing
9	25	OTOC Vault Racing
10	24	AMR Renault Racing Team

Updated weather forecast –

In Werribee Saturday: Clearing showers, maximum 20 degrees celsius; 11km/h winds SW; 30% chance of rain.

In Warrnambool Saturday: Mostly sunny, maximum 17 degrees celsius; 26km/h winds SW; 30% chance of rain.

NB: courtesy Elders Weather

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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