STAGE 4: HEYWOOD TO CASTERTON ROAD RACE – Friday July 28

**FOURTH NEW LEADER IN FOUR STAGES OF ENTHRALLING TOUR**

NEW ZEALANDER Brad Evans was drenched and disillusioned when he learned he had failed to claim the leader’s jersey on day two of the Port of Portland-Fulton Hogan Tour of the Great South Coast, but he made sure of it on Friday with a daring display on the 92.9km hilly ride between Heywood and Casterton.

Evans finished only 2 sec behind stage winner Scott Sunderland, gaining eight bonus points along the way, to give him a 1 sec lead in the five day event.

The 25-year-old from Dunedin on the south island of New Zealand said he was determined to maintain the coveted jersey and to help his Drapac team win the General Classification in the Subaru National Road Race series.

“This is a major event and as an all-rounder I feel this event suits me, especially in the cold conditions that I just love.

“Tomorrow at Cape Bridgewater is a tough course but I have previously won the stage 6 race at Portland, which this year is the final stage, so I feel confident we are right in this as a team and individually,” he said.

* 2 -

Evans yesterday sat back to allow teammate Liam White to win the stage at Port MacDonnell but was surprised to discover he was not the outright leader overnight. He stepped up himself during Friday’s stage which included four sprints and five hill climbs.

“It is nice to take the lead. I’ve only been back from Europe since Saturday and I’m riding stronger each day. The Cape Bridgewater stage will be tough because of all the (eight) hill climbs but we will be aggressive, for sure,” he said.

Sunderland covered the picturesque hinterland stage in 2:12.24, gathering 10 bonus points along the way. He jumped from 51 sec behind after a disappointing third stage in horrid conditions but cut back the deficit to just 45 sec. The bonus points available on the last two days should keep him in contention.

“We had to get some time back today after yesterday missing the final break. We are happy with the planning of today’s race. I just sat back while teammates closed any breakaways and then I had plenty left for the final sprint,” the gun rider for Isowhey Sports SwissWellness said.

“We just need to keep chipping away and you never know what can happen,” he said.

Sunderland, who now has won two of the four stages, defeated Malaysian brothers Harrif and Zamri Saleh, who are on tour preparing for the South-East Asian Games next month.

* 3 -

Overnight leader Jesse Coyle, who started the day with a 3 sec advantage, finished only 2 sec behind the stage winner but picked up only three bonus points to surrender the tour leadership by a meagre 1 sec.

In third, and only 7 sec adrift, is Ryan Thomas from Oliver’s Real Food Racing, while Liam White also is at the gap.

The gaps then begin with Rien Schuurhuis at 23s and Sunderland at 45 sec.

Toby Orchard, from Nero Racing Team Edition, enjoyed a super day. He won the Most Aggressive rider award for repeatedly initiating breakaways and picked up 15 bonus points to snare the Campolina Sprint Championship jersey.

The 21-year-old NSW cyclist has been riding for five years and said it was his best result on any day of a tour.

The CFMEU Rising Star leader is Ethan Berends from Mobius. He finished in the main group just 2 sec from the winner and now holds a 3 sec advantage over Callum Pearce from the Van D’am Racing team.

The Scody King of the Mountain championship award is led by Matt Ross from Drapac, four points clear of teammate Brad Evans.

* 4 -

Saturday’s stage 5 of the tour is a 121.4km road trip around Cape Bridgewater involving eight sprints and eight hill climbs.

Please see attached below links for photos and results….

[**http://my2.raceresult.com/g2468/?lang=en**](http://my2.raceresult.com/g2468/?lang=en)

**Stage 4**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/l11smr9ptibg1f6/AABUWSzONAY93ZVAlDR_eGpHa?dl=0>

Photos please credit Con Chronis

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

**Kipp Kaufmann** **Rod Nicholson** **John Craven**

Cycling Australia Media Officer – Caribou Publications Caribou Publications

0430 303 577 0417 134 673 0408 558 469