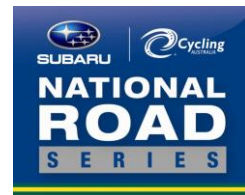


2016 TOUR OF THE GREAT SOUTH COAST

August 10 – 14



August 12, 2016

Words: Shane Goss / @licoricegallery

CROME CRASHES BUT RECOVERS TO RETAIN TOUR LEAD

Tour leader, Bendigo's Sam Crome (Avanti Isowhey Sport) has avoided serious injury after a multiple rider pile-up in today's afternoon fifth stage of the 2016 Lake Oil-Fulton Hogan Tour of the Great South Coast from Penola to Casterton. Crome (23) was trying to avoid fallen rider and second placed on the General Classification, State of the Matter/MAAP's, Ryan Cavanagh (21), who subsequently crashed out of the tour and was taken to Mount Gambier hospital.

The stage was won by Melbourne's Jake Klanjblat, riding for the Henk Vogels managed JML racing. Twenty-two year-old Klanjblat holds a dual citizenship with his parents hailing from Poland and now resides in Melbourne where he works part-time in a bike shop. He had the added incentive for victory with a teammate's grandmother living in Casterton and cheering on at the finish.

He held off SASI/Callidus's Liam Nolan, 17, from South Australia, with Oliver Real Food Racing's, Nicholas Reddish (20) from New Zealand, six seconds back in third place in a race time of one hour 19:13 minutes and an average speed of 48.6 km/h. Tour leader, Crome, recovered from his fall to finish in the peloton and retain his overall lead on the general classification.

The short road stage, just 60 kilometres on flat roads, was always going to be fast and tricky with a technical finish, mostly downhill in the final five kilometres leading into Casterton. "It was a tailwind all the way to the finish and the peloton were doing fifty to sixty km/hr, it was just flat stick", Klanjblat said following his win.

The win is the first for Klanjblat in a Subaru National Road Series event after spending the past three years in Europe riding for amateur teams. "It's our biggest win as a team, a first year NRS team and we are over the moon with this one", a smiling Klanjblat explained.

Tour leader, Crome, was a relieved man after managing to avoid any injury in the fall. "It was just hectic and just a fast start", explained Crome. "I just heard guys going down right in front of me and then i saw Ryan Cavanagh on the ground and I tried to avoid him but kind of ran into him". "I nearly held it upright but just lost it and a few other guys hit into me". "There were guys trying to get across to the leaders and it was lucky my team car was there", added Crome. "I had to get on my spare bike, it's not ideal and i was nervous from then on as well".



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Crome knows there is still some hard work ahead of him if he is to hold onto his tour leader's jersey when the tour concludes in Portland on Sunday. "I think tomorrow is going to be the real decisive day", he said. "It's going to be quite hard, a new course, and a few climbs."

He holds an 18 second lead over former Charter Mason teammate, Benjamin Hill (Lakes Oil) with his Avanti teammate, Ballarat's Patrick Shaw, a further three seconds back in third place.

The Tour left the Limestone Coast earlier in the day bound for the Coonawarra wine region of Penola where the stage four criterium was held over 39 kilometres. Twenty-three –year-old South Australian, SASI/Callidus's Harry Carpenter nailed the opposition winning from 18-year-old New Zealander, Mobius Future Racing's James Fouche, with 28-year-old Western Australian and triple Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist, Scott Sunderland (Inform Racing) leading the peloton home in third place.

Pat's Veg Cycling's Cyrus Monk (20) from Warragul, is the new leader of the Campolina Sprint Points competition holding a ten point lead over Carpenter while Sunderland holds onto a slender two point lead from Shaw in the Campolina Criterium Championship.

The tour heads to the Glenelg Shire tomorrow for stage six in Cape Bridgewater, with four laps of a 29km circuit taking in the townships of Bridgewater Lakes and Cashmore, starting and finishing at the Portland Surf Lifesaving Club. The 2016 Lakes Oil-Fulton Hogan Tour of the Great South Coast is part of the Subaru National Road Series.

Stg 4 TOGSC Media Release Images-Credit Con Chronis

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7vxzd445rhgxnnq/AACuWmADovR4N2ZCacqD1Stua?dl=0>

Stage four video: <https://we.tl/H5MP8ZxbGz>

Stg 5 TOGSC Media Release Images-Credit Con Chronis

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7I9jdjxw3oxocuw/AAB6AP9vjExO8jrPY0Jqwqiaa?dl=0>

Stage five video: <https://we.tl/5rujl1NB0z>

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