

CAT® Underground
Mining

Tour of Tasmania

October 2 – 7, 2012

Launceston to New Norfolk Classic - September 30

October 4



NORRIS NABS FIRST SCODY CUP STAGE WIN

LACHLAN Norris says he's still learning about cycling but that didn't stop him from handing his rivals a lesson today in the Caterpillar Underground Mining Tour of Tasmania.

The Drapac Professional Cycling member clinched the gut-busting 101.2km Hagley to Great Lake stage - his maiden victory in the SCODY Cup.

The 25-year-old, who has a mountain biking background, also claimed the leader's jersey, entering day four tomorrow with a nine-second advantage over Mark O'Brien (Team Budget Forklifts).

"I raced for the national (mountain bike) team for nearly eight years but the last few years I've been on the road with Drapac," Norris said.

"It's all learning for me.

"The road is a new challenge and I've really started to enjoy it."

While yesterday he played a key role in helping teammate Darren Laphorne to victory in the New Norfolk to Lake Pedder road race, today it was his turn to be the Drapac rider to cross the line solo after yet another taxing course.

He rated today's stage - which was raced in blustery conditions and featured two category one climbs - equally as difficult as yesterday.

Eventual Goodstone Group most aggressive winner Ben Grenda (Team Polygon) backed himself and attempted a lone breakaway, building a 50-second advantage at the second climb before he was caught at the 78km mark.



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A leading group of five was then established, which consisted of Norris, then-tour leader O'Brien, Genesys rider Nathan Earle, Jay Bourke (Team Down Under) and Kristian Juel (EDI Mining).

Ninety kilometres into the race, they had a handy lead of one minute and 17 seconds before Norris and O'Brien jumped ahead.

They were caught by a gallant Earle, with Norris going solo with about five kilometres remaining.

The Castlemaine-based rider clocked in 44 seconds ahead of Earle, who was closely followed by O'Brien.

Norris – who is the Norske Skog King of the Mountains leader - had faith that his team could take home the Caterpillar Underground Mining leader's jersey at the end of the six-day tour.

"There's a lot of hard racing to go and we're not going to discount the other teams," he said.

"But I think we've got a strong team and I'm pretty confident we can do it."

Honours in this morning's Shaw Contracting criterium in Westbury went to GPM Wilson's Josh Taylor after a determined performance.

The 21-year-old was involved in a breakaway with Pure Black Racing's James Williamson, who lost contact with Taylor with six laps remaining.

Taylor powered on, establishing a decisive 35-second lead to set-up the convincing victory in the 42km race.

In doing so, he picked up the Derrico Cycles criterium and Goodstone Group most aggressive jerseys.

"I definitely had the legs later in the race," he said.

Search2Retain's Neil Van Der Ploeg maintained the Sewell Sweepers sprint jersey during both of today's stages.

Tomorrow riders will complete an Ulverstone criterium before a 78.5km road race to Penguin.



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The tour is the final leg of the 2012 SCODY Cup. It is showcasing seven municipalities – Hobart City, Derwent Valley, Meander Valley, Central Highlands, Central Coast, Burnie City and Devonport City.

Devonport will host the finale, a waterfront road race, on Sunday.

The SCODY Cup started with the Lakes Oil Tour of Gippsland (August 1-5), followed by the Budget Forklifts Tour of the Great South Coast (August 15-19) and the Jayco Tour of the Murray River (September 2-9).

The SCODY Cup races, backed by Tourism Victoria and Events Tasmania, are part of Cycling Australia's Subaru National Road Series (NRS).

Daily video highlights from the Tour of Tasmania will be added to the Subaru NRS website. To see the action, visit <http://nationalroadseries.subaru.com.au/>

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