

A second helping

The STAR - 1/31/2017 (ps. 46)

Mareczko makes it two with victory in Stage Seven

PETALING JAYA: Italian rider Jakub Mareczko has become the first rider to claim two stage wins while South African Ryan Gibbons continues to hold on to the yellow jersey as the Le Tour de Langkawi (LTdL) enters its final day today.

In a bunched sprint to the finish line, Mareczko won Stage Seven for Team Wilier Triestina at the end of the 148.1km ride from Malacca to Dataran Rembau in Negri Sembilan under rainy conditions yesterday.

Mareczko had also won Stage Three - from Serdang to Pantai Remis - on Friday.

Amerivan rider Travis McCabe of UnitedHealthCare Pro Cycling Team came in second, followed by another Italian rider Andrea Palini of Androni Giocattoli.

All the top 10 finishers in the penultimate stage clocked the same time of 3'23:45.

Mareczko snatched the Teal jersey (King of Sprint) from Team Dimension Data rider Gibbons after collecting 54 points.

Gibbons is second with 53 points.

Terengganu Cycling Team rider Mohd Shahrul Mat Amin retained the lead as the best Malaysian cyclist with an accumulated time



The top riders: Yellow jersey holder Ryan Gibbons (second from left) of Dimension Data posing for a photograph with (from left) Stage Seven winner Jakub Mareczko, King of the Mountains John Kronborg and Best Asian Rider Hideto Nakane after yesterday's race in Rembau. — Bernama

STAGE SEVEN RESULTS

Malacca to Rembau (148.1km): 1. Jakub Mareczko (Ita) Team Wilier Triestina 3'23:45; 2. Travis McCabe (US) UnitedHealthCare Pro Cycling Team; 3. Andrea Palini (Ita) Androni Giocattoli; 4. Seo Joonyong (Kor) Asia Pro Cycling; 5. Ryan Gibbons (Rsa) Team Dimension Data; 6. Mekseb Debesay (Eri) Team Dimension Data; 7. Enrico Barbin (Ita) Bardiani CSF; 8. Paolo Simion (Ita) Bardiani CSF; 9. Riccardo Stacchiotti (Ita) Nippo-Vini Fahtini; 10. Alberto Cecchin (Ita) Team Wilier Triestina all same time.
Leading overall standings: 1. Ryan Gibbons (Rsa) Team Dimension Data 26'26:06; 2. Cameron Bayly (Rsa) Isowhey Sports Swisswellness 26'26:30; 3. Alberto Cecchin (Ita) Team Wilier Triestina 26'34:28; 4. Mekseb Debesay (Eri) Team Dimension Data 26'26:39; 5. Chris Harper (Aus) Isowhey Sports Swisswellness 26'26:40; 6. Daniel Jaramillo Diez (Col) UnitedHealthCare Pro Cycling Team; 7. Egan

of 26'33:59.

"I put my team in front in the final kilometres, with (Filippo) Pozzato, (Alberto) Cecchin and (Rafael) Andriato leading me out," said Mareczko, who also won in Rembau last year.

Bernal Gomez (Col) Androni Giocattoli; 8. Ben O'Connor (Aus) Team Dimension Data; 9. Timothy Roe (Aus) Isowhey Sports Swisswellness; 10. Fernando Orjuela (Col) Manzana Postobon Team all same time.

Teal jersey (King of Sprint): 1. Jakub Mareczko (Ita) Team Wilier Triestina 54pts; 2. Ryan Gibbons (Rsa) Dimension Data 53; 3. Travis McCabe (US) UnitedHealthCare 47.

Polka dot jersey (King of the Mountains): 1. John Kronborg Ebsen (Den) Infinite AIS 32pts; 2. Mekseb Debesay (Eri) Team Dimension Data 25; 3. Perez Munoz Wilmar Jahir (Col) TSC 24.

White jersey (Best Asian Rider): 1. Hideto Nakane (Jpn) Nippo-Vini Fantini 26'27:13; 2. Tomohiro Hayakawa (Jpn) AIS 51 seconds behind; 3. Dmitriy Lukyanov (Kaz) VAM same time.

"There was a curve with 400m to go, but after Andriato's last pull, I opened my sprint.

"It feels very good to get a second stage win. I'm very happy today.

"After winning a stage, my goal

this year was to get the points jersey.

"Now I have it and I hope to defend it tomorrow by trying to get another first place.

"I'm hoping for a sunny day to conclude the Le Tour de Langkawi after today's rainy weather."

Gibbons said his priority was to retain the yellow jersey (individual leader).

"It was nice to have the teal as well, but Mareczko is a top quality rider. He is fast ... so I'm not too disappointed.

"I'm happy for him, but I hope I'll get it back tomorrow. I was cautious on the wet. It was easy to go down. Just stay upright and out of trouble, that was my concern," said Gibbons.

Today's final race will be a 121km ride from Setiawangsa to Putrajaya.