

10 MAR 1996

Le Tour de Langkawi

SWEET ENDING FOR THE GIANT AUSTRALIA

LANGKAWI, March 10 (Bernama) -- Le Tour de Langkawi which ended here this evening was a sweet ending for the Giant-AIS Australia team when they swept most of the major prizes offered in the tour.

Damian McDonald of the Giant-AIS Australia was the richest of them all when won the RM90,000 cash prize of the Le Tour de Langkawi which ended here this evening.

The 23-year-old cyclist was the overall winner for the yellow jersey of the ten-day tour after accumulating the lowest time -- 34:21:22, nine seconds ahead of his rival, Chris Newton of Great Britain.

On top of that, he was also richer by RM46,000 for winning the red polka-dot and yellow jersey in the tour.

He won eight out of ten yellow jerseys drawn up in the ten-stage race and won five red-polka-dot jerseys. In each stage of the race, the yellow jersey winner received a cash prize of RM2,000 while the red polka-dot jersey winner received RM6,000.

Teammate Jay Sweet was the overall winner for the green jersey scoring a total of 115 points from the short sprints drawn up in the tour. With the victory, he walked away with a cash prize of RM18,000.

Their splendid form played a major role in helping their team win the overall title in the tour which covered a distance of 1395.30km throughout Peninsular Malaysia.

The Giant accumulated a total time of 101:35:26s which enabled them to grab the cash prize of RM54,000.

The overall red polka-dot jersey winner was Chris Newton of Great Britain. He beat defending champion Damian, by six points. In today's race, he scored 6 points after winning the sprint at Lubok Semilang.

"The fight for the red polka-dot jersey is over. I had to win the hill sprint today to ensure I came out winner. I needed to score more points to beat Damian for the title which was hardly contested between us," said Newton.

"Damian had been in good form since he won the Genting Highlands stage but he was not in good health today and that gave me the advantage to score more points," he said.

The stage winner for today's round the island race which was the last stage of the tour went to Marc Jacobson of Denmark. He clocked 1:27:13s in the race which was followed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Jacobson won the stage prize of RM8,000 sponsored by the Berjaya group.

Unlike the previous stage, the race was hotly contested by the riders especially those vying for the title. Right after the first sprint, the riders went about 60km per hour which saw two crashes after the 1km and the 3km.

The Giant was the major leader of the race but things did not go right for them. Jay Sweet punctured his tyre at the last 20km from the finish.

After the last sprint, Jacobson led the bunch and he maintained the pace until the finishing point.

Giant team manager Heiko Salzwede said everybody in the team had done their job and with Damian and Jay, who were good at the sprint and mountain climbing, the team had an advantage.

"It was only after the Genting stage that I had the confidence to win the overall title and this was what I had been wanting for the past one

year", he said.

They were looking forward to the second Tour de Langkawi next year and hoped to be in the top gun again, he said.

Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Arof flagged off the race and later gave away the prizes to the winners.

Le Tour de Langkawi (Results)

Following are the results of the tour after today's stage -- stage 10:

STAGE 10 TOP TEN WINNERS (Round the Langkawi Island Race):

Marc Jacobson (Denmark) -- 1:27:13s; Ric Reid (New Zealand) -- 1:27:13s; Eddie Pasquino (Dextro Energy Holland) -- 1:27:13s; Rob Hayles (Great Britain) -- 1:27:13s; Andrei Korolev (Ukraine) -- 1:27:13s; Brett Dennis (Giant-AIS Australia) -- 1:27:13s; Josef Christian (Denmark) -- 1:27:13s; Dani Svend Pedersen (Denmark) -- 1:27:13s; Rico Schmidt (PSV Cologne Germany) -- 1:27:13s

TOP TEN YELLOW JERSEY OVERALL WINNERS:

Damian McDonald (Giant-AIS Australia) -- 34:21:22s; Chris Newton (Great Britain) -- 34:21:31s; Brett Dennis (Giant-AIS Australia) -- 34:21:34s; Matthew White (Australia) -- 34:22:15s; Douglas Ryder (South Africa) -- 34:22:24s; Marcel Gono (Australia) -- 34:22:25s; Jan Vallach (Slovakia) -- 34:22:33s; Brendon Hart (New Zealand) -- 34:22:38s; Kelvin Martin (Giant) -- 34:22:43s; Mark Rendall (New Zealand) -- 34:22:45s

TOP TEN GREEN JERSEY OVERALL WINNERS:

Jay Sweet (Giant-AIS Australia) -- 115 pts; Christian Anderson (Denmark) -- 95 pts; Ric Reid (New Zealand) -- 74 pts; Glen Mitchell (New Zealand) -- 52 pts; Patric Vetsch (Great Britain) -- 50 pts; Rob Hayles (Great Britain) -- 46 pts; M. Kumaresan (Malaysia A) -- 28 pts; Brett Dennis (Giant) -- 28 pts; Josef Christen (Switzerland) -- 28 pts; Morten Sonne (Denmark) -- 27 pts;

TOP TEN RED POLKA-DOT JERSEY OVERALL WINNERS (KING OF THE MOUNTAIN):

Chris Newton (Great Britain) -- 21 pts; Damian McDonald (Giant-AIS Australia) -- 15 pts; Roland Green (Canada) -- 14 pts; Matthew White (Australia) -- 12 pts; Josef Holzmann (Germany) -- 11 pts; Jan Valach (Slovakia) -- 10 pts; Brett Dennis (Giant) -- 7 pts; Oleg Ruban (Ukraine) -- 7 pts; Rob Hayles (Great Britain) -- 4 pts; Kelvin Martin (Giant) -- 3 pts;

TOP TEN TEAM OVERALL WINNERS (AFTER STAGE 8):

Giant-AIS Australia -- 101:35:30s; Australia -- 101:37:30s; South Africa -- 101:38:10s; New Zealand -- 101:38:50s; Canada -- 101:43:19s; Republic of Slovak -- 101:44:02s; Ukraine -- 101:46:42s; Germany -- 101:48:30s; Switzerland -- 101:48:39s; Dextro Energy Holland -- 101:51:19s

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