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Cycling-Tour de Langkawi

FAVOURITE SCINTO CLAIMS OVERALL INDIVIDUAL TITLE

By: Razman Yaacob

LANGKAWI, March 2 (Bernama) -- Italian Luca Scinto of the professional team MG Technogym lived up to his favourite billing to earn the final yellow jersey enroute to winning the overall individual title after 12 stages of the 1997 Le Tour de Langkawi cycling event which ended today.

The 29-year-old rider, who won his sixth consecutive yellow jersey yesterday, crossed the finishing line with a final burst to claim the coveted title from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad amid applause from the approving crowd.

Scinto, who hails from Galleno, Italy, received RM92,000 in prize money from the Prime Minister.

The 60.5km race, the last stage of the gruelling competition which began on Feb 19 in Kota Kinabalu, was won by Scinto's teammate and 11th stage winner, Fabiano Fontanelli, with a time of 1hr 13min 50sec.

Dutchman Gerardus Kemper of Team Tegel Toko finished a close second behind Fontanelli while Finland's Andrus Aug of Team Tuul Tunturi was third.

Kazakhstan's Serguei Lavrenenko, who won the orange jersey for the sixth consecutive time yesterday, grabbed RM26,000 for being the best Asian rider.

The "king of mountain" title went to Heinrich Trumheller of Germany's Schauff Oschelbronn team, earning him RM32,000. He won the red jersey again in stage 12.

Nicola Loda of MG Technogym from Italy was crowned "king of sprint", picking the green jersey and RM55,000 as prize money.

1995 Chiang Mai Sea Games gold medallist Tsen Seong Hoong was announced as the best local rider among the Malaysian finishers.

Tsen, who finished in the 29th place in Stage 12 today, will fly to Switzerland for a training stint in July and August. He will also take part in two major tournaments there, the Rominger Classics and A Travers Laussane.

Others national riders who took part in the final stage were M.Kumaresan (18th placing), Nor Effandi Rosli (59th), Wong Ah Tiam (62nd), Azizan Manaf (66th) and Muhamad Suhaimi Keton (92nd).

Some 150 participants from 25 teams took part in the 12 stage cycling showcase which covered 1608.5km nationwide before ending today in this picturesque island resort.

TOP TEN FINISHERS IN STAGE 12 :

1. Fabiano Fontanelli (MG Technogym,Italy), 2. Gerardus Kemper (Tegel Toko,Netherlands), 3. Andrus Aug (Tuul Tunturi,Finland), 4. Davide Bramati (Mapei GB,Italy), 5. Nicola Loda (MG Technogym,Italy), 6. Andrea Tafi (Mapei GB,Italy), 7. Martin Weichert (Schauff Oschelbronn,Germany), 8. Pascal Defourni (Cedico,Belgium), 9. Jay Sweet (Giant AIS,Australia), 10. Andres Lauk (Tuul Tunturi,Finland).

TOP TEN YELLOW JERSEY :

1.Luca Scinto (MG Technogym,Italy) -- 35:44:25, 2. Jens Voigt (Giant AIS,Australia) -- 35:46:49, 3. Alberto Elli (Casino,France) -- 35:46:54, 4. Angelo Lecchi (MG Technogym,Italy) -- 35:46:56, 5. Nicola Loda (MG Technogym,Italy) -- 35:47:10, 6. Andrew McLean (South

Africa) -- 35:47:11, 7. Serguei Lavrenenko (Kazakhstan) -- 35:47:20, 8. Paolo Bettini (MG Technogym,Italy) -- 35:47:36, 9. Philippe Bordenave (Casino,France) -- 35:48:10, 10. Volker Ordowski (Schauff Oschelbronn,Germany) -- 35:48:19.

TOP TEN TEAMS :

1. MG Technogym,Italy -- 107:14:47, 2. Kazakhstan -- 107:20:59, 3. Casino,France -- 107:23:50, 4. Schauff Oschelbronn,Germany -- 107:30:56, 5. South Africa -- 107:31:22, 6. Canada -- 107:35:53, 7. Denmark -- 107:39:23, 8. New Zealand -- 107:44:43, 9. Saturn,United States -- 107:46:59, 10. Japan -- 107:48:34.

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