

2018



TOUR OF THE GREAT SOUTH COAST

August 15 - 19

WONDER CYCLIST SAM WELSFORD WINS IN WHIRLWIND FINISH

AUSTRALIAN cycling superstar Sam Welsford has produced one of his best road performances with victory in Stage 3 of the Campolina-Visit Victoria Tour of the Great South Coast.

The eight-time world champion and dual Gold Coast Commonwealth Games gold medallist is successfully mixing track and road racing but declared the victory around Port MacDonnell's 128.5km circuit was something to cherish.

"This was one of the best National Road Series stages I have ever done, given the difficulty of the course and the constantly changing cross-winds," said the 22-year-old.

Welsford sat in the lead bunch throughout the stage before using his powerful sprint to typically defy all rivals, similar to his performance when saluting in the 15km scratch race at the Commonwealth Games.

"I kicked early in the sprint and held on. It was a really hard day because of the constantly changing cross-winds so to counter all that and still have good legs at the end was really pleasing," he said.

Welsford, representing the Australian Cycling Academy, crossed the line ahead of Nicholas White (Oliver's Real Food Racing) with general classification leader Ayden Toovey from Bennelong Swiss Wellness Cycling Team taking third.

Welsford said "it will be hard to move up the leaderboard" and heaped praise on Toovey and his team.



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"He is the strongest in the bunch. Hats off to him and the Bennelong group because they were in everything throughout the day and just kept putting on the pressure at every stage," he said.

Toovey began the stage with a 34s advantage and despite Welsford's success, he shaved only 2s off that margin to move into fifth spot. The winner of the recent Battle Recharge, Toovey is looking to make it two Cycling Australia National Road Series wins in a row.

Toovey maintained the 34s lead in the Campolina-Visit Victoria general classification over German international Raphael Freienstein, who is 1s ahead of Michael Freiberg with Nicholas White at 41s in arrears of the leader.

"It is not over yet. We'll just keep chipping away. All our riders (7) were there from the outset; we are a pretty strong team," he said. However, he conceded trying to ride down Welsford in a tough sprint home was "almost impossible."

"Once you start behind him, well, you just don't get past him!"

Freienstein, who now resides in Melbourne, holds a 9-point lead in the Carlin & Gazzard-Logans Cycles-Gordon Hotel Sprint Championship with 26 points ahead of Freiberg. Toovey sits third on 13 points.

Nicholas White leads the Scody King of the Mountain Championship lead with 8 points one ahead of Toovey and three clear of Jarrad Drizners from the South Australian Sports Institute. Drizners kept his lead in the CFMEU Rising Star award with a 2s advantage over Cameron Scott in a hard-fought battle.



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New Zealander Michael Vink, back in Australia for the first time in four years, was awarded the stage's Fulton Most Aggressive Rider Award.

He and young Victorian Carter Turnbull made a bold break on the fourth of the five laps but were caught on the final lap. The lead group of 21 of the 104 riders shaped for the final sprint with Welsford showing his class to score.

PHOTO LINK (Stage 3) <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1wbhms6tjf4jdc2/AAAYapcz6vzBhNdc68ZcRdYea?dl=0>
Pictures: Con Chronis

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