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Kiwi cyclist holds advantage

By WALTER ALIBEY Sunday, September 28 2008

NEW Zealand's Heath Blackgrove yesterday remained in the overall lead of the Tobago International Cycle Classic, although finishing a disappointing 10th in the fourth stage.

Blackgrove who won the third stage on Friday, struggled in the 121- kilometre circuit race, which was won by German Alexander Gut in a time of two hours, 27 minutes and 00.9 seconds in the Open Category.

However Blackgrove still remains in the overall lead with a total time of eight hours, 01 minutes and 45.8 seconds. He clocked two hours, 27 minutes and 04.2 seconds yesterday and finished in a tightly-bunched pack.

German Timo Scholz also finished a distant sixth in yesterday's stage and is in second position overall in eight hours, 02 minutes and 30.2 seconds with only the final day to go today.

His sixth place finish in the stage, was completed in two hours, 27 minutes and 02.8 seconds.

Scholz's countryman Jonas Schmeiser was fifth in the stage in two hours, 27 minutes and 02.7 seconds. But he however secured the third position overall with a time of eight hours, 03 minutes and 16.5 seconds.

Emile Abraham's promise to claim the top position in the stage never materialised and he instead finished 20th in the bunch in a time of two hours, 27 minutes and 10.2 seconds.

However the Tobago-born will have it all to do in the final stage today which will take place from Colours Restaurant on Milford Road and will head around the entire island, through Speyside and Roxborough and back to the starting point for the finish.

Abraham who is still attempting to find his best form on the bike since finishing fourth in last Sunday's Newsday Cycle Classic around George V Park, is in fourth position overall in eight hours, 04 minutes and 04.1 seconds.

In yesterday's stage three Jamaican riders secured the top positions but were unlucky not to received significant points, as the finish was close.

O'Neil Sinclair who rides for Rafmon Mecalfab was second in the bunch in a time of two hours, 27 minutes and 01.0 seconds while his countryman Jassette Bromfield was third in 2:27.02.1 seconds.

Linford Blackwood, another Team Trek cyclist fourth in two hours, 27 minutes and 02.6 seconds.

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