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New Zealander retains lead in Tobago Classic

Sunday, September 28th 2008



seven-time winner: Emile Abraham

Despite finishing tenth in yesterday's fourth stage, New Zealander Heath Blackgrove kept the leader's jersey in the 2008 Tobago International Cycling Classic.

With one stage and one day left in the Classic today, the 27-year-old Blackgrove's overall timing is eight hours one minute 45.6 seconds.

Blackgrove is on Team Gremlin, along with Trinidad and Tobago's Pan Am Games Road Race silver medallist Emile Abraham.

Abraham, seven-time winner of the event who last claimed the Tobago Classic title back in 2003, is fourth overall to date

(8:04.01.1)

Second and third spots are occupied by German riders, Timo Scholz (8:02.30.2) and Jonas Schmeiser (8:03.16.5), respectively.

Rounding out the top five is T&T rider Joshua Alexander (8:06.33.6).

In yesterday's 100km Stage Four, which featured a flattish course with minor rolling inclines, German Alexander Gut won in a sprint finish in a phase where the top 23 cyclists were separated by less than ten seconds.

Gut outpaced Jamaica O'Neil Sinclair (2:27.00.9 to 2:27.01.1), while his countrymen Jasette Bromfield (2:27.02.1) and Linford Blackwood (2:27.02.6) were third and fourth.

Schmeiser (2:27.02.7) and Scholz (2:27.02.8) followed to round out the top six.

On Friday evening, early leader Stefan Steinweg, who is said to be in the final race of his career, crashed out of the Classic shortly after the first lap of the five-lap 100km Stage Three circuit race.

The Classic concludes today with the Tour of Tobago 120 km Stage Five event that will include mountainous terrain and some steep climbs on a course that should be completed in about four hours.