

MARCH 25, 2016

Stradalli – Bike Aid Big Success At Tour du Cameroun



The Tour du Cameroun is one of the more special races for the Stradalli – Bike Aid team. Not only do many of the young African riders get an opportunity to race on their home continent but this race is where the first overall victory for the team took place only 2 years ago when Dan Craven won the overall victory.

Stage 1: The heat of Africa is certainly a drastic change from the winters of Europe where the Stradalli – Bike Aid team had been training and racing on their Aversa full carbon road bikes for several months. The first stage was 128km of mostly flat terrain, not too bad of a warm-up for the rest of the race. Time spent in Africa was a clear advantage as Amanuel Mengis and Joschka Beck were in the promising lead group early on. As the day wore on and the heat became more brutal, Mengis was able to stay with the leaders and finished a solid 7th.



Stage 2: Stage 2 was a bit tougher as far as the terrain was concerned with more hills, climbing and of course brutal heat. The team worked well together to maintain their poise but racing in Africa is different than racing anywhere else in the world. It was an extremely successful day for the team as they managed to finish with 3 racers in the top ten. Amanuel Mengis (8th) got his 2nd straight top ten finish and teammates Daniel Bichlmann (9th) and Patrick Lechner (10th) were right there with him. It not only helped Mengis in the overall standings but also in the youth category as well.

Stage 3: Amanuel Mengis is getting used to top 10 finishes. For the 3rd time in the first few days of the Tour du Cameroun he manages to finish in the top ten placing 9th. A race filled with plenty of attacking throughout the day. A truly remarkable thing about this team is that they keep their spirits high. No matter what happens they keep things easy going. That's the most important advantage they have as they head into a brutal season of facing off against the top UCI giants of cycling.



Stage 4: While the team of Stradalli – Bike Aid is certainly battling and doing well at Tour of Cameroon, Amanuel Mengis is separating himself from the others. The young rider finishes 2nd overall, his first podium finish in a UCI race and a big moral victory for the team.

Stage 5: A banner day for Stradalli – Bike Aid as there's another top 10 finish for Mengis (8th) as well as teammates Daniel Bichlman (6th) and Patrick Lechner (9th) but the day belonged to Jean Bosco Nsengimana who grabbed the first UCI victory for the team in 2016. Bosco is another one of the exceptional African cyclists who has received high praise this season and the win is one of the biggest in his career as it puts him in site of the overall lead.



Stage 6: Success continues for Amanuel Mengis as he and his Stradalli Cycle Aversa full carbon road bike are starting to grab a lot of attention at the Tour du Cameroun. A 3rd place finish not only gets him closer to the overall lead but puts him in first for the youth classification. Known more for his climbing ability, Mengis is certainly impressing the crowd each and every day.



Stage 7: Wins, podiums and accolades continue to pile up for the team as Patrick Lechner finishes in 3rd for the day and Mengis a respectable 6th for yet another top 10 finish. While Mengis is showing impressive consistency, it is a compliment to the entire team that everyday sees a new racer battling for a top spot. Bosch, Bichlman and Lechner have all had strong showings and continue to prove the depth of the team is strong.

Stage 8: The final stage of the Tour du Cameroun saw Amanuel Mengis finish 4th in the stage as well as the general classification and 2nd in the youth classification. Teammates Joschka Beck (7th) and Patrick Lechner (8th) also finished in the top 10 as Stradalli – Bike Aid enjoyed their most successful race of the early season.