

Buys again victorious in Epic's 4th stage

There must surely be something in the number '4' that inspires Philip Buys (Scott Factory Racing) to perform at his best. For the second consecutive year his team has today won the 4th stage of the Absa Cape Epic.

Buys and Matthys Beukes won the 111km stage that started and finished at the HTS Drostyd in Worcester. Their winning time was 4 hours 19 minutes and 19 seconds. Alban Lakata and Kristian Hynek (Topeak Ergo) did just enough to pip Christopher Sauser and Jaroslav Kulhavy (Investec-Songo –Specialized) for the second place. Both teams finished in 4:22:50.

After keeping under the radar during the first three stages, Buys and Beukes took the racing to their more distinguished international rivals today.

Beukes attacked after about 15km with Buys on his wheel. Beukes actually rode like a 'mad man', increasing their lead with each pedal stroke. The pace he set became so fast that, according to Buys himself, he had to plead with Beukes to slow down slightly.

"We then settled down into a more comfortable pace, but continued to increase our lead. I think at one stage we were leading with about six minutes," said Buys, one of the High Performance Centre (hpc) sponsored athletes.

Buys admits that he is to blame for the fact that they only started to make their presence felt in the 4th stage.

"I just did not have the legs during the first three days. My whole body was hurting. It is my own fault because I probably did not do enough long rides in the build-up to the Epic. My main focus is to be at my best when we start competing in cross-country races therefore my workouts

were shorter and more intense. Next year I will definitely make sure to put in a few long rides to be better prepared for the Epic.”

Buys is confident that Beukes and he can pull off another stage victory.

“Our strategy for the fifth stage (Worcester to Wellington: 117km) will be to ride conservatively initially and then, if we have the legs, over the last 20km we will try to make the racing. Who knows, perhaps we’ll get lucky. However, our main goal is to win both the 6th and 7th stages or, at the very least, one of them.”

Last year Buys teamed up with Nino Schurter from Switzerland and they won the 6th stage. They could have won the 7th stage as well, but sportingly gifted it to Beukes and Gert Heyns who were riding as their support team.

STAGE RESULTS

1. Scott Factory Racing 7-1 Philip Buys (South Africa) 7-2 Matthys Beukes (South Africa) 4:19.19,0
2. Topeak Ergon 1-1 Kristian Hynek (Czech Republic) 1-2 Alban Lakata (Austria) 4:22.50,5 +3.31,5
3. Investec-Songo-Specialized 2-1 Christoph Sauser (Switzerland) 2-2 Jaroslav Kulhavy (Czech Republic) 4:22.50,6 +3.31,6.

OVERALL RESULTS

1. Investec-Songo-Specialized 2-1 Christoph Sauser (Switzerland) 2-2 Jaroslav Kulhavy (Czech Republic) 19:05.20,4
2. Topeak Ergon 1-1 Kristian Hynek (Czech Republic) 1-2 Alban Lakata (Austria) 19:12.42,2 +7.21,8
3. Multivan Merida 6-1 Jose Hermida (Spain) 6-2 Rudi van Houts (Netherlands) 19:18.05,9 +12.45,5
4. Bulls 4-1 Karl Platt (Germany) 4-2 Urs Huber (Switzerland) 19:20.10,9 +14.50,5
5. Novus OMX Pro 23-1 Martin Gujan (Switzerland) 23-2 Fabian Giger (Switzerland) 19:49.31,3 +44.10,9
6. Meerendal Centurion Vaude 5-1 Jochen Kaess (Germany) 5-2 Daniel Geismayr (Austria) 19:52.48,0 +47.27,6
7. Scott Factory Racing 7-1 Philip Buys (South Africa) 7-2 Matthys Beukes (South Africa) 19:53.09,7 +47.49,3
8. RED-E Blend 36-1 Darren Lill (South Africa) 36-2 Waylon Woolcock (South Africa) 19:55.14,8 +49.54,4
9. USN #1 11-1 Rourke Croeser (South Africa) 11-2 Travis Walker (South Africa) 20:03.07,5 +57.47,1
10. EAI South Africa 33-1 Gawie Combrinck (South Africa) 33-2 Johann Rabie (South Africa) 20:08.08,6 +1:02.48,2

