



MTN Cycling

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JANSE VAN RENSBURG WINS MTN OFM CLASSIC

Reinardt Janse van Rensburg continued his winning streak by finishing first at the MTN OFM Classic in Bloemfontein in the Free State on 6 November 2011. The young Team MTN-Qhubeka rider and his teammates have impressed locally and internationally in 2011, and this race once again demonstrated their ability to work together and maximise the opportunities afforded to them.

The MTN OFM Classic is the biggest race in the central South Africa region and an official seeding event for the Cape Argus Pick n Pay Cycle Tour 2012. Janse van Rensburg, who finished third at the race last year, was happy with his win, commenting that it was almost a “hometown win” for him as he was born in the Free State. Just a few hours after finishing the race, he jetted off to Eritrea to take part in the African Continental Championships.

The windy conditions, combined with the climb near the end of the race, made the event challenging for the riders, especially the last 5km riding into a headwind. Nevertheless, Janse van Rensburg managed to win the sprint to the line in the last 100m and finished first with a time of 2:13:03.

Teammate Martin Wesemann came in sixth, while team captain Arran Brown, who won last year’s event, finished seventh, winning the bunch sprint from behind.

In the women’s race, the MTN-Qhubeka team had a tough day. The team’s top finisher was Jaun-Mari Breytenbach in sixth place. The race was won by Nashua Toyota’s Ashley Moolman-Pasio followed by USN’s Cherise Taylor with FJR’s Isabel Moolman in third.

“This year’s race followed a modified 97km course around Bloemfontein,” said Team Manager Kevin Campbell. “This year the few short, steeper climbs were tackled in the last 25km instead of at the start as in previous years.”

He noted that the more experienced Nashua Toyota team dictated the terms of the race, but that the young MTN-Qhubeka women rose to the challenge. “Despite the fact that Lise Olivier, Charlotte van der Merwe, An-Li Pretorius, Sarah Chemaly and Jaun-Mari Breytenbach were successfully able to cover and neutralise all that the Nashua Toyota women could throw at them, they never the less found themselves just short of strength when it came down to the dash for the finish line,” he said.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

VISIT WWW.QHUBEKA.ORG FOR MORE ON THE TEAM

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