



MEDIA RELEASE

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Comeback kid Freiberg claims historic Goldfields Cyclassic

Michael Freiberg (26) has claimed the 2017 Goldfields Cyclassic in his first real tilt at a comeback to competitive cycling.

The 2011 world omnium champion traded track for road winning Stage one, the Chas Egan Memorial Menzies Classic, yesterday and the overall Cyclassic title today after finishing fifth in the final stage, the Leonora Golden Wheels.

“It was very difficult to catch the B graders, we didn’t actually catch the B graders for quite a long time, so they were absolutely flying as well,” he said.

“But we worked well as an A grade group, nobody skipped a turn, and we were able to get up there for the win.”

Freiberg, who recently signed with Isowhey Sports and will head to Korea on Sunday, said he was thrilled to win the historic Goldfields Cyclassic and his new team had made a big difference in his preparation.

“It’s absolutely fantastic to be signing with this new team Isowhey Sports, the equipment, the Cervelo, and all the stuff we’ve been given is absolutely fantastic,” he said.

Emerging talent Theodore Yates took out today’s Leonora Golden Wheels in a record time of 2.12: 56, smashing the previous best time of 2.16.52 by Stele Van Hoff in 2011.

After attacking 3km from Leonora Michael Freiberg had a short lead over the chasing group as they went into the town circuit, but was caught by the Yates and the chasers.

After the final turn Yates, riding for Drapac Pat’s Veg, seized the opportunity to sprint to the stage win.

“I’ve come to Kalgoorlie a couple of times and as a junior so I am super stoked to take out the win today in a very fast race,” he said.

“The first 50km were so fast, over 50km hr for the whole time.

“Even when we were catching grades there was no slowing down especially for the front markers it was just full gas.

“It’s a very prestigious event, so I am really stoked to get my name on that honour role with a lot of ex pros.”

Full results available online at <http://metarace.com.au>.

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About the Goldfields Cyclassic

The 2017 Goldfields Cyclassic is a two-stage handicap race (the Menzies Classic and the Leonora Golden Wheels) across the Goldfields from Kalgoorlie-Boulder to Menzies and on to Leonora.

Riders will race across the beautiful and historic West Australian Goldfields as they vie for line honours in one of eight grades.

Non-competitive riders can compete in the Kalgoorlie Miner Community Challenge where riders complete the 132 km between Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Menzies in a four-person relay.

Heading off from Kalgoorlie-Boulder before the Cyclassic participants and arriving in Menzies to cheer on the winners, the Community Challenge has opened up the day to a wider variety of riders and groups. Individual riders are also welcome.

The 2017 Goldfields Cyclassic gets under way on Saturday 3 June and finishes the following day.

Event History

Originally raced from Menzies to Kalgoorlie, the race has a magnificent history. It had its origins in 1928, following a discussion at a race club meeting where there was a concern at the lack of distance races on the Goldfields. Messrs J. Richards, JC Walsh, Chas Egan along with a small committee set about organising a long distance event.

Their choice of starting point was the small mining town of Menzies, 81 miles north of Kalgoorlie. Many business men of the Goldfields supported the venture and, on the King's birthday, June 1928 at 8.00am, the limit men were sent away for the first "Menzies". Twenty four riders started in this event.

From its inauguration in 1928 until 1932, the race was known as the Menzies-Kalgoorlie Road Race, but two days before the race of that year, Charlie Egan, the well liked and highly respected secretary of the club, tragically died, and all riders in the race that year wore black armbands as a token of respect. It was decided later that the race should, in future, be known as the "Chas Egan Memorial Race".

From that time on, the race grew in popularity, and its prize list increased until it finally became Western Australia's richest handicap road race.