



947 Ride Joburg



The 947 Ride Joburg is an annual road race that takes place in Gauteng and the main event is a 94km route with 1488m elevation. As the team is already at the end of their racing season, we decided to take part to experience the new route and see what it is all about with no heavy expectations or pressure on the team.

“It was my first time doing the event, so it was cool doing something new”-Wessel Botha.

The racing started with a hard pace out of Steyn City with some steep climbs. A few guys tried to get away, but with no real moves made at first. A break got away at about 5kms into the race, and Wessel noticed that most of the main teams were represented in the breakaway, so he tried his best to get across with another group. They chased the breakaway group for about 5kms and caught them. Wessel found himself alone with riders from the TEG, Protouch, ACDC and Office Guru racing teams who are all Pro road teams. He worked with the break to try and extend their lead, but there were some guys in the break who didn't want to put in the work at the front and the pace slowed down a bit. A few guys within the break tried to attack and get away, but to no avail.

A few riders dropped also off on the climbs but managed to get back and there was a constant back and forth with riders dropping off and rejoining the group. Unfortunately, there was no real opportunity to ride away with a heavy headwind hitting the group. There was a long drag downhill towards the finish where Alex Worsdale from Office Guru sped past and Wessel rode hard in an aero position and closed the gap as best he could. The

group took a left-hand corner and a few guys passed Wessel, but Wessel passed them again. The whole group were all chasing Alex and eventually caught him just before the end. All the other riders went around Wessel in preparation for the sprint after sitting his wheel. He didn't have much left in the tank after chasing and tried his best to sprint, ending the race in 5th overall. Meanwhile, Nico Bell was in the chasing group and was covering attacks as best he could, ending the race with the peloton and had the top result in his age group. "It's good for the team to be represented and create a presence in the road racing scene and it's good preparation for the road racing we will do next year" - Nico Bell. The team will be going into rest mode for the rest of the season, but Matt and Nico will be joining forces with Team Active Bodies for the Coronation Double Century road race on 23 November in Swellendam.

