

Balance halfway Tour de Langkawi

Wednesday, 07 February 2007

After 5 out of 10 stage sin Langkawi, it is time to see what happened and what's still ahead of us.

So far the team did not get great results. Loosing Oggi and Sergey has hurt the team big time, especially in the flat stages.

Loh has showed himself to the Malaysian crowds well, by riding solo towards Cameron Highlands and being present in many attacks. Thijs and Pol have been racing on the flat aggressively; Thijs did a strong ride up Cameron, but had to come back, after missing the initial split. This cost him one minute and a half in the finale. Thijs is still close enough in GC to get a good result however, especially if he will succeed in being in the right break, one of these days, to catch some time back.

Yutong wasn't prepared well and got a good lesson out of that. He is training the parcours every day now, after missing the time cut in Cameron. Xing Yan Dong is the best news. Just in a few months, he adapted to the life of pro-cyclist. He rode Tour of Hainan, South China Sea, Tour of Malaysia, Tour of Siam and now Langkawi. His 'season' is over now for a while. He is totally comfortable in the field now and by catching a second in a bonus sprint, he was even top 10 GC for a while.

Today, stage 6, will be a day in the gutter, as there is a strong wind from the sea and we ride along the beaches... The Dutch should be OK. Especially Xing Yan Dong has never done this so should take care.

Stage 7 also looks like it will have some chances to break the race open, with a rolling parcours and some hills to climb.

In stage 8 we hope that Thijs will have his best climber's legs and will ride to the top with the top 10-15. Stage 9 is interesting just after that one, with some climbing as well. And stage 10 the criterium will probably not offer much chances.

We are looking for opportunities and will grab them as they come up!!