

Media Outlet	Sunday Herald Sun
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All-star team ready to hit the road

■ THERE will be no spinning of the wheels when the Honda Dream Team heads back to the Jaxco Bay Critterium Series vowing to defend their individual and team titles.

Team leader and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Rochelle Gilmore (pictured) said the team had been flying and that each member was capable of winning races.

"We have the flexibility to change our strategy from race to race and not always win from me in a bunch sprint, which gives us the element of surprise," Gilmore said.

The team has been strengthened by the inclusion of dual Delhi Commonwealth Games gold medallist Megan Dunn who joins Gilmore, Peta Mullens, Tiffany Cromwell and Mel Hoskins in the line-up.

To coincide with the Cita, which starts in Geelong next Sunday, a public ride will be held by the Amy Gillett Foundation.



Media Outlet	Sunday Age
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2011 JAYCO BAY CYCLING CLASSIC

TODAY STAGE 1

Geelong – Eastern Park, short circuit
 ■ Amy's Ride from 8.30am (charity event for Amy Gillett Foundation)
 ■ Support: 12.30pm ■ Elite women: 1.30pm ■ Elite men: 2.30pm

TOMORROW STAGE 2

Portarlington
 ■ Support: 12.30pm
 ■ Women: 1.30pm
 ■ Men: 2.30pm

TUESDAY STAGE 3

Geelong: Ritchie Blvd
 ■ Support: 4.30pm,
 ■ Women: 6pm,
 ■ Men: 7pm



WEDNESDAY STAGE 4

Williamstown
 ■ Support: 12.30pm,
 ■ Women: 1.30pm,
 ■ Men: 2.30pm
 ■ TV: Channel Ten and One HD (nationally)

TWITTER

Follow The Age's coverage with Samantha Lane on [twitter@theagesport](https://twitter.com/theagesport)

WHO'S IN

Men's competition: Twenty teams featuring Allan Davis, Robbie McEwen, Chris Sutton (defending champion), Mark Renshaw, Simon Gerrans, Richie Porte, Matt Goss, Graeme Brown, Baden Cooke, Greg Henderson (NZ), Michael Matthews and Leigh Howard.

Women's competition: Eight teams featuring Judith Arndt (Ger), Rochelle Gilmore (defending champion), Megan Dunn, Ashlee Ankudinoff, Josephine Tomic, Chloe Hosking, Kirsty Broun, Belinda Goss, Sarah Kent and Tiffany Cromwell.

JANUARY ROAD CYCLING CALENDAR

2-5 Jayco Bay Criterium Series
 6-11 Australian Open Road

Championships (time trial, criterium, road race, men, women and under-23), Ballarat
 16-23 Tour Down Under, Adelaide

RIDERS TO WATCH



Allan Davis, 30
 Considerably trimmer than he was 12 months ago, Davis returns to Geelong after an impressive 2010 where

he won the men's road race at the Commonwealth Games and, even more impressively, finished third in the road race at the world championships.

Professional team: Astana
Jayco Bay Classic team: BikeBug.com



Mark Renshaw, 28
 Won back-to-back Bay classic titles in 2007 and '08 and an emerging force on the world stage.

In the biggest events Renshaw leads out the world's best sprinter, Mark Cavendish, and is on the verge of scoring some big individual wins himself in such settings. Has been second in two stages at the past two Tours de France.

Professional team: HTC-Columbia
Jayco Bay Classic team: O2 Networks



Chris Sutton, 26

The men's defending champion who is an up-and-coming sprint specialist in the professional ranks, where

he rides for Team Sky alongside the likes of Bradley Wiggins. Backed up his early season win last year with a stage victory at the 2010 Tour Down Under.

ProTour team: Team Sky
Jayco Bay Classic team: Team Sky



Judith Arndt, 34

German superstar – in fact one of the best female road cyclists ever – who has made a habit of finishing off her

pre-season training in the warmer climes of Australia, riding at the Ballarat open road championships. The former world champion adds some serious class to the women's field.

Professional team: HTC-Highroad
Jayco Bay Classic team: SKCC/Giant



Rochelle Gilmore, 29

The road race gold medalist at the Delhi Commonwealth Games in October is the women's

defending champion at the Bay crits and dominated last year's competition, winning three of the four stages.

Professional team: Lotto Ladies Team
Jayco Bay Classic team: Honda Women's Cycling Team

Media Outlet	Adelaide Advertiser
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Gilmore gives her all for world crown

ROGER VAUGHAN
MELBOURNE

ROCHELLE Gilmore has no time for such trivialities as Christmas and New Year.

The Commonwealth Games gold medallist, 29, had no days off over the holiday period.

Gilmore is entering a year where she wants to be in a position to challenge for the world title.

A few days after winning the NSW grand prix series, Gilmore made the perfect start to 2011 by taking out race one of the Jayco Bay Classic Criterium series.

She is defending series champion and her strong Honda team again rode well, emphasising she is the rider to beat in this four-race series. After winning the Games gold in October in Delhi, Gilmore's two big goals in her career are the world road titles later this year in Denmark and the London Olympics in 2012.

Sprinters, such as Gilmore, are licking their lips about Denmark, which is said to have a much kinder course profile for them than last year's racing in Geelong.

"I'm at that time in my career where I want to give it absolutely everything, because I'm coming to

the end of it," she said.

"I'm definitely getting stronger still, so I just want to give Denmark and London 100 per cent.

"That means every day counts and you can't just afford to just have a day here or there off, because it's Christmas or New Year." That meant spending Christmas Day with her family only after training was done, while she was in bed by 9pm on New Year's Eve.

"Every year you think you've learnt more and can do better, so to come back on the first race ... in 2011, it's a fantastic feeling to win," Gilmore said.

After yesterday's race, Gilmore dismissed the obvious conclusion Honda will set up the series win for her again.

Honda is fielding probably the strongest team in the series and Gilmore was keen to emphasise it has many tactical options.

"We don't know if I will be racing for the series win, because any one of us is capable," she said.

"Today, the first thing we said when we finished was, OK, we're all ready for this, we're all in top form, we all felt fit, no-one said they struggled.

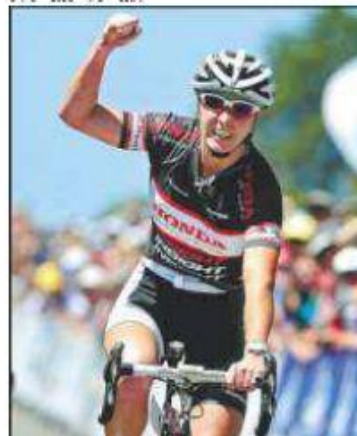
"That just means we have more cards to play."

Gilmore also rejected any suggestion that Honda would have the series to itself.

She said the depth of women's racing in this country was continuing to improve.

"We certainly don't have the attitude that we dominated today or we're going to dominate," Gilmore said.

"There were so many riders out there whom we didn't know, who were making the race hard for all of us."



GOING STRONG: Rochelle Gilmore claims victory yesterday.

Media Outlet	The Age
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Page	9
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Gilmore takes 'dream team' straight to top

By SAMANTHA LANE

IT WAS an unorthodox New Year's celebration, but just the kind Rochelle Gilmore was hoping for — the Delhi Commonwealth Games gold medallist was in bed at 9pm on New Year's Eve, then rose in the early hours of New Year's Day to train.

The preparation paid off on yesterday's second day of the year as she won the opening stage at the Jayco Bay Cycling Classic, to make an ideal start to her title defence.

Gilmore heads Honda's outstanding five-woman outfit in the field of 58 riders at the criterium event around the Bellarine Peninsula. They call themselves the "dream team", which is apt given that the unit competing in the four-day competition, which is a prelude to the national titles in Ballarat and Tour Down Under later this month, consists of Gilmore, Peta Mullins, Tiffany Cromwell, Melissa Hoskins and recent Commonwealth Games gold medallist Megan Dunn.

Yesterday's criterium around Geelong's Eastern Park was scheduled to be a 45-minute race, plus three final laps of the bayside course, but was shortened to 30 minutes after an ambulance was needed for a competitor who was knocked unconscious during the warm-up.

In windy conditions, 2009 champion Kirsty Broun (Virgin Blue) got into a break-away group of three riders late in the race, but the gap was closed by Honda and Gilmore's finely tuned sprinters' legs edged her ahead of Belinda Goss (Vetta Pasta).

This Honda team is likely to dominate, though Gilmore tried to be modest about the

team's expectations and rejected the suggestion she is planning a victory clean-sweep.

"No way. We don't even know if I'll be racing for the series win because any one of us are capable," she said ahead of today's tougher Portarlington course. "The first thing we said when we finished was 'we're all ready for this, we're all in top form', that just means that we've got more cards to play."

Dunn, who is also a former Bay Classic champion, disobeyed doctor's orders by racing. She fractured her wrist in the Oceania championships a month ago and was sporting a hot pink cast yesterday but was not deterred even when she crashed mid-race.



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Gilmore's girls storm the Jayco Bay

PETER KOGOY

ROCHELLE Gilmore shrugged off a severe hayfever attack on a windswept Eastern Gardens course in Geelong to stamp her authority on a world-class field in the Jayco Bay International criterium series yesterday.

For the past two years, Gilmore has battled an allergy to grass and pollen, which gets worse at this time of year.

"The doctors, and I've seen plenty over the last two years, tell me that I'm super-sensitive to grass and pollen," Gilmore said.

"Medication helps, but there are days like today, when you race in such a beautiful setting, that it is made much worse by the swirling wind. That's when I just try and block it out of my mind. There have been days when I just don't want to get on my bike."

Yesterday, thankfully, wasn't

one of these days, as Gilmore, who recently turned 29, rode a superbly judged race as captain of the newly formed Honda Dream Team to win the opening round of the four-race series.

"It's just a fantastic feeling to win the first (women's) race of the year after the success I had at the Commonwealth Games," she said.

"Since I've come home I've also taken out the Noosa criterium and won the inaugural NSW Grand Prix series.

"As you know, this is a team sport and I wouldn't have been able to do it without them, against a lot of strong teams."

Honda certainly has assembled a strong unit behind Gilmore. It includes Victorian Peta Mullens, Dubbo's Megan Dunn, Tiffany Cromwell from South Australia and Melissa Hoskins from Western Australia.

"As a team we certainly haven't got the attitude that we are going

to dominate today or going to dominate in the series, because there were so many riders out there that we didn't know about, that made the race hard.

"It made for an even harder race to control, because we didn't know which riders to chase or not to chase. What is clear is that there is a lot of new and exciting talent coming through in Australia.

"It was a really full-on, fast race. We tried to cover everything, but I thought we did miss a few breaks and that made all of us nervous."

The opening race of the women's series was shortened to three laps of the 1.8km course overlooking the eastern end of the Geelong waterfront after Brittany Landers crashed heavily in the warm-up, suffering a head injury.

Race commissaire Doug Livermore said Landers had touched wheels with another rider. "She was unconscious for quite a few minutes," he said.

Media Outlet	Geelong Advertiser
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FRONT AND CENTRE: Rochelle Gilmore (centre) heads around the Eastern Park circuit.

TODAY'S STAGE - PORTARLINGTON



Gilmore starts new year in style

BRADLEY GREEN

TEAM Honda reaffirmed its dominance over women's cycling in Australia as Rochelle Gilmore made a strong start to her quest for an historic third straight crown.

Gilmore took out yesterday's opening stage around Eastern Park in a sprint finish from Tasmanian Belinda Goss (Vetta Pasta) and Caulfield Carnegie's Nicole Whitburn.

The race start was delayed by almost 40 minutes - and shortened to a half-an-hour dash - after Gold Coast rider Brittany Lindores crashed heavily during the warm-up lap and was taken to Geelong hospital by ambulance.

However, the delay did not affect Gilmore and her Honda teammates, who virtually controlled the race in a similar pattern to last month's New South Wales grand prix series.

While the likes of Jayco AIS pair Amanda Spratt and Lauren Kitchen and Germany's Judith Arndt tried hard to break away from the chasing pack, they were always reeled by the end of the lap in by a Honda rider, whether that be Peta Mullins, Tiffany Cromwell or Megan Dunn.

"We certainly don't have the attitude that we dominated today



PODIUM: Rochelle Gilmore (centre).

or that we're going to dominate because there were so many riders out there that we didn't know who were making the race hard, so that makes it really hard to control the race," Gilmore said after he win.

"We don't know what riders to chase so it's clear there's a lot of new talent coming through in Australia and when we come back to race in Australia we no longer know all of our competition."

"It was a really full on, fast race and we tried to cover everything but we did miss a few breaks and that makes us nervous about the next few days."

The Commonwealth Games women's road race gold medalist

Points standings

Rochelle Gilmore.....	12
Belinda Goss.....	10
Nicole Whitburn.....	8
Peta Mullins.....	7
Kirsty Broun.....	6
Judith Arndt.....	5

is leaving no stone unturned in her quest to ride for Australia at this year's world championships in Denmark and next year's London Olympics.

Apart from a 10-day holiday to Dubai after the Commonwealth Games, where she visited her mother, the 29-year-old has been building up the miles training virtually every day since.

"I didn't do Christmas, I didn't do New Year's eve, I've just been knuckling down and training all the way through," Gilmore said.

"I did socialise with my family on Christmas Day but that was after the hard work had been done and I was in bed at 8pm on New Year's Eve and got up early the next morning and went training."

"I'm in that time of my career where I really want to give it absolutely everything. I'm coming to the end of my career but I'm definitely getting stronger."

Media Outlet	Launceston Examiner
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Circulation	32,245

Goss outsprints top-class field

THE 22nd edition of the Bay Classic yesterday opened with impressive wins by two riders of whom different things are expected.

Commonwealth Games road race champion and defending Bay Classic title-holder Rochelle Gilmore, of the Honda Dream Team, captured the women's race in a hard fought affair with Tasmanian Belinda Goss, of Vetta, in a result that many had predicted before the start of the relatively flat two-kilometre circuit around Eastern Park in Geelong.

However, the men's race produced a less predictable result, if only due to the gilt-edged quality

of the field and perhaps the underrated qualities of Tasmanian Matt Goss, riding for E3/Pure Tasmania. Goss was largely overlooked in pre-race prognostications, despite his credentials as a stage winner of last year's Giro d'Italia.

However, the man who has been largely referred to in cycling circles as a lead-out man to the likes of HTC-Columbia teammates Andre Greipel and Mark Cavendish is rapidly building a winning record of his own opening his Bay Classic account with a fine win.

Yesterday's scalps included last year's series winner Chris Sutton, of Team Sky, world championship bronze medallist Allan Davis, of

Bikebug.com, Olympic gold medalist Graeme Brown, of Urban, Geelong's rising young tyro Leigh Howard, and world under-23 champion Michael Matthews, of Urban.

The top six are all world-class speedsters and were shaded by Goss on the long finishing straight.

The day began with the sixth annual Amy's Ride challenge in Geelong, which honours the late Amy Gillett who was killed during a training ride in Germany in 2005.

The Bay Classic continues tomorrow at the coastal town of Portarlington.

Media Outlet	West Australian
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Life's no holiday for golden girl Gilmore

MELBOURNE

Rochelle Gilmore has no time for trivialities such as Christmas and New Year.

There were no days off for the 29-year-old Commonwealth Games gold medallist over the holiday period as she prepares to challenge for the world title.

A few days after winning the NSW grand prix series, Gilmore made the perfect start to 2011 by taking out race one of the Jayco Bay Classic Criterium series yesterday.

Gilmore is defending champion and her strong Honda team again rode well, emphasising that she is the rider to beat over the four races.

After winning the Games gold in October, Gilmore's two big goals are the world road titles later this year in Denmark and the London Olympics.

Sprinters such as Gilmore are licking their lips about Denmark, which is said to have a much kinder

course profile than last year's event in Geelong.

"I'm at that time in my career where I want to give it absolutely everything because I'm coming to the end of it," she said.

"I'm definitely getting stronger still, so I want to give Denmark and London 100 per cent.

"That means every day counts and you can't afford to just have a day here or there off because it's Christmas or New Year."

That meant spending Christmas day with her family only after training was done, and she was in bed by 9pm on New Year's Eve.

"Every year you think you've learnt more and can do better, so to come back on the first race ... in 2011, it's a fantastic feeling to win," she said.

But Gilmore dismissed the obvious conclusion that Honda will set up the series win for her again.

Honda are fielding probably the strongest team in the series and Gilmore emphasised they have many tactical options.

"We don't know if I will be racing for the series win, because any one of us are capable," she said.

"Today, the first thing we said when we finished was, OK, we're all ready for this, we're all in top form, we all felt fit, no one said they had struggled. That just means we have more cards to play."

Gilmore rejected a suggestion that Honda would have the series to themselves, saying the depth of women's racing in Australia was improving.

"We certainly don't have the attitude that we dominated today or we're going to dominate, because there were so many riders out there who we didn't know who were making the race hard," she said.

Media Outlet	Ballarat Courier
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Matthews shines at Portarlington

THE tough Portarlington circuit took its predicted toll on the Bay Classic cycling series as two contenders crashed and two young stars shone again.

It was a great day for newly-crowned under-23 world champion Michael "Bling" Matthews, who took the overall lead yesterday by winning race two of the four-event series.

Tiffany Cromwell also emphasised the strength of the Honda team in the women's series when she staged a daring solo break to win her race.

Honda team captain Rochelle Gilmore, the defending Classic champion, retained the series lead.

But another leading Australian woman, Belinda Goss, was taken to hospital with a suspected broken left collarbone when she crashed on the notorious corner at the start of the finishing straight early in her race.

She is out of action for several weeks and her absence is a major blow for the women's series because Goss was one rider who could have challenged Honda.

Former series champion Graeme Brown also crashed on the back of the course, three laps from the finish of the men's event.

Brown, unlike Goss, will keep racing in the series, but his overall chances are over.

Brown, often a fiery character, would normally speak his mind freely after such an incident.

But he was biting his tongue so hard as he sat in an ambulance post-race, his left arm covered in cuts and scratches, that it almost looked like he was about to bleed from the mouth as well.

All he would say later was that he was "putting it down to a race incident".

This is Matthews' first Classic series and the Geelong area is becoming a happy hunting ground for the young star known as "Bling".

He and Tour de France stage winner Simon Gerrans managed to make their two-man break stick and Matthews outsprinted his better-credentialed rival for the race win.

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Cromwell overrules

BRADLEY GREEN

A NASTY crash on the opening lap of yesterday's elite women's race has ended the Jayco Bay Classic title hopes of Tasmanian cyclist Belinda Goss.

Goss, who turns 27 on Thursday, is out of the series after suffering a broken left collarbone when she fell on the notorious final corner of the tough Portarlington circuit.

Her serious injury put a dampener on another day of dominance by Team Honda with South Australian Tiffany Cromwell smashing the field on her way to an easy victory while Rochelle Gilmore retained her yellow leader's jersey after finishing sixth.

With Goss now out of the race, Gilmore's next main challenger for the title is likely to be Virgin Blue's Kirsty Broun. Broun, the 2008 winner, trails Gilmore by seven points.

Gilmore was also involved in the crash that brought down Goss along with yesterday's third placegetter Alex



Standings

1. Tiffany Cromwell (above)
2. Lauren Kitchen
3. Alex Carle
4. Emma Mackie
5. Katherine O'Shea

OVERALL

1. Gilmore (17)
2. Cromwell (12)
3. Kitchen (10)

Carle (Jayco AIS).

Gilmore said she could foresee the accident as the field headed down towards the corner and was lucky to dodge injury herself.

"There's a lot of nervous people out there on

the first lap and, coming down the hill into that corner I predicted it was way too fast," Gilmore said.

"I left myself that safety zone, but I could see the riders in front of me fell very hard and I was trying to dodge bikes and riders.

"Everybody gets scared at Portarlington because it's such a tough course up one side and down the other but I really love the course."

Carle and her Jayco AIS teammate Luran Kitchen made the first big move of the day after 30 minutes of racing.

But they couldn't shake clear of Cromwell, who then took the lead with 15 minutes to go and never relinquished it.

"The girls were expecting a breakaway because of the course and I got a little bit worried when the two Jayco girls got together," Cromwell said.

"I knew I was stronger than Alex because she was struggling a bit but when Luran came across, I know she can sprint and that's not my strength.

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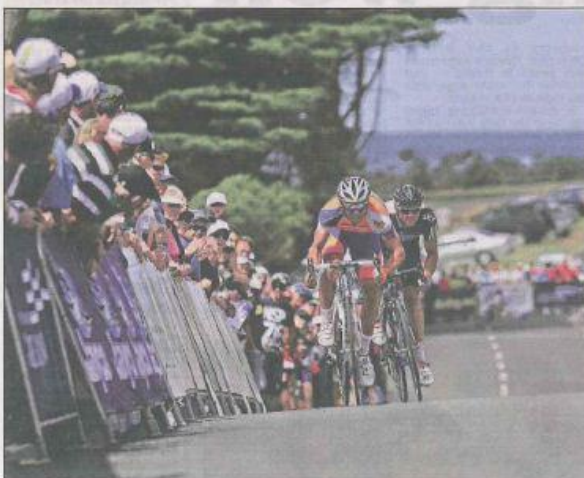
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SPORT

Matthews rises to top



Pushed to limit: Michael Matthews wins stage two of the Jayco Bay Classic from Simon Gerrans in Portarlington yesterday. Picture: STEPHEN HARMAN

Matt Windley

MICHAEL Matthews displayed maturity beyond his years to win stage two of the Jayco Bay Classic in Portarlington yesterday.

The 20-year-old is one of Australia's most promising riders, winning gold in the under-23 world road race championship in Geelong in October.

Riding for Urban, the Canberra showed every bit of that class to edge out the experienced Simon Gerrans in a final sprint for the line.

In the women's event, Team Honda demonstrated its depth when Tiffany Cromwell saluted for a commanding victory, while Rochelle Gilmore strengthened her grip on the leader's yellow jersey.

In leading for the majority of the race, Cromwell also took possession of the sprinter's green jersey.

After forming a two-man breakaway about 20 minutes into the hour-long men's race, Matthews and Gerrans were left to fight it out for the stage win. The pair shared the last two intermediate sprints after Gerrans had won the first in a bunch sprint, enough to give

JAYCO BAY CYCLING CLASSIC

STAGE 2 GEELONG, TODAY

6pm: Elite women • 7pm: Elite men



him the green jersey on a countback from Graeme Brown.

Matthews got a small break on his 30-year-old opponent at the base of the climb to the finish line.

"When we got off the front a bit we made a 30-second gap or so. So it was coming down to just me and Gerro in the finish," Matthews said. "I know how good a climber he is, so I was just trying to hold him off until the sprint. I came in pretty confident into the final sprint and it worked out well."

Matthews leads the men's overall classification by one point from stage one winner Matthew Goss, with defending

champion Chris Sutton a further five points back.

Cromwell, too, was superb. The 22-year-old was joined by Lauren Kitchen and Alex Carle, both on the Jayco AIS team, in a three-rider breakaway for the middle stages, but dropped the pair with a devastating burst of speed on the second intermediate sprint, winning by 30 seconds.

Gilmore's main challenger for overall honours, Belinda Goss, crashed out on the second lap and has a suspected broken collarbone.

Gilmore leads the women's standings by five points from Cromwell, with Kitchen a further two points behind.

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Goss out of Classic

CYCLING

Leading Australian cyclist Belinda Goss has crashed out of the Jayco Bay Classic Series with a suspected broken collar bone.

Series leader Rochelle Gilmore was also involved in the same crash early in race two at Portarlinton, but was able to finish sixth and retain the overall lead.

Gilmore's Honda teammate Tiffany Cromwell won the race with a well executed solo breakaway.

The Portarlinton circuit is notorious for its corner at the start of the finishing straight and this was where the crash happened.

Goss was second behind Gilmore in race one, but she now faces several weeks on the sidelines with this latest injury.

She is one of Australia's top women cyclists and rode on the track last October at the Commonwealth Games. Her injury is a blow to the Classic Series because she was one of the main rivals to the strong Honda team.

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Gilmore says Honda team ready to take on world

By SAMANTHA LANE

NAILING her title defence with another stage win, assisted by another flawless performance from her Honda team in Geelong, Rochelle Gilmore announced her plans for the unit that is dominating domestic competition to become an international force and Australia's first professional female outfit.

Gilmore, the recent Commonwealth Games road race champion, cannot be surpassed in the overall standings of the Jayco Bay Cycling Classic even if she fails to score points in today's final stage.

On the tight, difficult course on the Geelong foreshore last night, which saw a starting field of 44 cut down by more than half, Gilmore was delivered perfectly to the finish line at the end of the third criterium of this year's

series. She beat Chloe Hosking, her national teammate in New Delhi who is riding for TDD/Race/Bikeforce here.

Peta Mullens' third placing meant that the green jersey for best sprinter was passed on between Honda riders. The extent to which the team has dominated this week's four-stage event is clear in the overall standings — Honda riders hold first, second and fifth position in the general classification and are first and second in the sprint classification after the penultimate stage.

National criterium champion Kirsty Broun (Virgin Blue), third overall, is the best placed competitor outside of the Honda quintet, while German world champion Judith Arndt is fourth.

"My biggest aspiration is to turn the Honda dream

team into an Australian UCI women's professional team," said Gilmore, who rides for professional European team Lotto/Honda, but has a personal and professional interest in her Australian outfit.

Gilmore said she would begin talks with Australia's cycling hierarchy — including key financial backer Gerry Ryan — about her plans in coming weeks.

"I'm going to start talking with them after our next race, which is Tour Down Under."

Germany's Arndt animated last night's race from the outset, leading a group of eight breakaway riders, which surprisingly did not include any Honda riders.

The gap got out to 17 seconds before the chase group, driven by Cromwell, caught up halfway through the 45-minute street race.

By the bell lap, Cromwell led the peloton and Gilmore was sitting in sixth. The most accomplished sprinter in the field, Gilmore timed her dash perfectly.

"It's just a great feeling to be able to sit back in the peloton and have a relaxed mind and know that it's not going to be up to me to finish the job off because one of the other girls will do it," she said.

BAY CLASSIC — STAGE 3

WOMEN

1. Rochelle Gilmore	12pts
2. Chloe Hosking	10
3. Peta Mullens	8

General classification

1. Rochelle Gilmore	29
2. Peta Mullens	17
3. Kirsty Broun	16

Sprint

1. Peta Mullens	9
2. Tiffany Cromwell	8
3. Lauren Kitchen	7

Media Outlet	The Australian
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Victory by half a tyre width

PETER KOGGY
CYCLING

IN the end it came down to half the width of a tyre, with race officials calling for a photograph to decide the winner.

Not even race commentator Phil Liggett could pick the winner.

After deliberating for some time, the judges ruled in favour of Bernie Sulzberger, 27, from the E3-Pure Tasmania squad, unemployed and with little prospects of finding a new professional team in Europe this year following the collapse of the Pegasus Pro-continental project.

The race judges gave the Corio Bay leg of the Jayco International criterium series in Geelong to Sulzberger last night by just 30mm, relegating former New Zealand track world champion Greg Henderson to second in one of the closest finishes recorded in the 22-year history of the series.

The pair, along with Sulzberger's younger brother Wes, who rides for the French FdJ squad, along with Baden Cooke, a green jersey winner at the Tour de France, had waged a dogged duel from about the halfway mark of the one hour plus five-lap closed circuit race.

The brothers chased down a solo breakaway by Henderson and when Cooke bridged across, the four worked solidly to enjoy a 33-second lead at one point from the chasers.

Just when it seemed Cooke was ready to launch his own counter-attack, luck deserted him. A broken chain two laps from the end when pushing hard out of the bottom corner at the northern end of the 605m hot-dog course ended his night's

racing. Such was the pace set by the breakaway, more than half the field failed to finish, while the race commissaires also disqualified Queensland's Aaron Kemps and Victorian Chris Timms for not heeding the rules following a mechanical mishap.

A rider who falls or has a mechanical failure in a criterium is allowed one lap out. But commissaire Doug Armstrong caught both Kemps and Timms sitting out an extra lap before trying to re-enter the race.

Canberra's Michael Matthews (Team Urban) still clings to the yellow jersey going into today's final stage at Williamstown, two points clear of Matt Goss (E3-Pure Tasmania), followed by Bernie Sulzberger.

"The plan heading into Williamstown is for my team to hold the field together for an all-up bunch sprint finish," Matthews said.

"The race tonight was very hard. I guess when the breakaway four got away and started working, it took a bit of pressure of all of us back in the main bunch."

With 12 points up for grabs, any one of seven riders can still claim the golden fleece in the men's, with 10 points separating Matthews from seventh-placed Wes Sulzberger.

In the women's division, Honda Dream Team captain Rochelle Gilmore, and the squad as a unit, again showed their class in dominating last night's race.

It was Gilmore's second win in the series and no matter what happens in today's final race, she can't lose the yellow jersey, as she holds a 12-point margin over teammate Peta Mullen, with Virgin Blue's Kirsty Brown third on 16 points.

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Gilmore treble

GEELONG - Cycling star Rochelle Gilmore has continued her domination of the Jayco Bay Classic series, despite a basic mistake at the finish.

Gilmore, the defending champion, won last night at Geelong and cannot be beaten for the overall honours with one race left.

This will be the third time she has won the classic.

But racing out of the final corner in last night's race, Gilmore realised she was in too small a gear for the final sprint.

Honda teammate Peta Mullens from Bendigo gave her the perfect lead-out and Gilmore was able to click into the big chain ring and outspurt Chloe Hosking.

Gilmore won the road race last October at the Commonwealth Games and Hosking was also second there.

Gilmore also won race one on Monday and now has 29 points, 12 clear of Mullens, who was third in the latest race.

With 12 points on offer for each race win, Gilmore has an insurmountable



ROLLING ON: Commonwealth Games champion Rochelle Gilmore

lead because she has two wins and Mullens has none.

But that will not bother the Honda Dream Team teammates as their team continues its iron grip on the women's series.

Team-mate Tiffany Cromwell won race two and they will go for the clean sweep in race four at Williamstown.

Gilmore's long-term

aim is to turn the Honda Dream Team into a fully-fledged professional team.

In the men's race, Tasmanian cyclist Bernard Sulzberger scored a badly-needed win as the men's Jayco Bay Classic series standings received a major shake-up.

Sulzberger, his younger brother Wes. Baden

Cooke and New Zealander Greg Henderson were in a four-man break that dominated race three.

Standings, Matthews 23, Goss 21, B. Sulzberger 19, Henderson 16, Davis 14, Sutton 14, W. Sulzberger 13, Gerrans 10, Cooke 9, Howard 9.

Today's final round starts at noon at Williamstown.

- AAP

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Page	54
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Team Gilmore dominate

ROGER VAUGHAN

CYCLING star Rochelle Gilmore has continued her domination of the Jayco Bay Classic series, despite a basic mistake at the finish.

Gilmore, the defending champion, won on Tuesday night at Geelong and cannot be beaten for the overall honours with one race left.

This will be the third time she has won the classic.

But coming out of the final corner on Tuesday, Gilmore realised with horror that she was in too small a gear for the final sprint.

Honda team-mate Peta Mullens gave her the perfect lead-out and Gilmore was able to click into the big chain ring and out-sprint Chloe Hosking for the win.

Gilmore won the road race last October at the Commonwealth Games and Hosking



Rochelle Gilmore

was also second there.

"I was a little bit panicky at the finish there because I looked down after the corner, only 200m from the finish, and I was in the little chain ring," Gilmore said.

"I knew once we were up to speed that wouldn't be enough gear, so I had to take the pressure off the pedals for a couple of seconds to get into the big chain ring.

"I was a bit nervous, but I

thought I'd give it 100 per cent, I had Peta in front of me and it played out again."

Gilmore also won race one two days ago and now has 29 points, 12 clear of Mullens, who was third on Tuesday night.

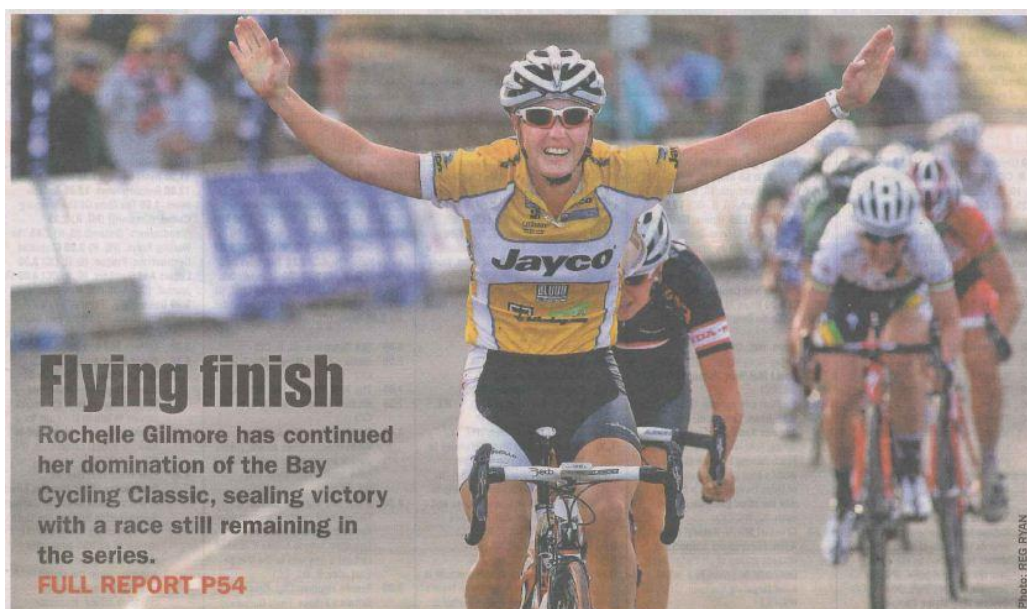
With 12 points on offer for each race win, Gilmore has an insurmountable lead because she has two wins and Mullens has none.

But that will not bother the Honda Dream Team team-mates as their team continues its iron grip on the women's series.

Team-mate Tiffany Cromwell won race two and they will go for the clean sweep in race four.

"It's just a great feeling to be able to sit back in the peloton and have a relaxed mind, knowing that it's not going to be up to me," Gilmore said.

— AAP



Flying finish

Rochelle Gilmore has continued her domination of the Bay Cycling Classic, sealing victory with a race still remaining in the series.

FULL REPORT P54

Photo: REG RYAN

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Defending champ looking good in yellow Hungry Gilmore

Matt Windley

ROCHELLE Gilmore all but assured herself of consecutive Jayco Bay Classic victories with another stage win in Geelong last night.

Gilmore proved why she is one of Australia's most formidable sprint cyclists in a bunch finish to the line on Richie Boulevard.

The 2010 Commonwealth Games road race gold medallist barely rose out of first gear in leading Chloe Hoskins and teammate Peta Mullins across the line for her second stage win.

Gilmore leads Mullins by 12 points in the overall standings with only today's stage in Williamstown

remaining.

And with 12 points awarded for a stage win, Gilmore is all but certain to take overall honours for the third time, equalling Anna Wilson's record.

"The Jayco Bay Classic is the most prestigious race I could possibly want to win in Australia in the summer," Gilmore said.

"To win it last year was fantastic because I'd won it years ago as a very young rider and then struggled through another eight years trying to win it again.

"I'm used to that feeling from last year of winning the Jayco Bay Classic and what it means to actually win that series because all

of the best riders in Australia come to fight it out here like it's a world title."

Gilmore, 29, leads a Team Honda outfit that is fast becoming one of the most dominant Australian cycling teams in history.

And she has ambitions to take the team overseas.

"My biggest aspiration is to turn the Honda Dream Team into a Australian UCI women's professional team."

"And my goal is to do that as soon as possible."

In wearing the sprinter's green jersey, Mullins will try to make it a Honda clean sweep in today's final stage. The top three in the women's sprint — Mullins,

teammate Tiffany Cromwell and Jayco AIS's Luran Kitchen — were tied on six points heading into the last intermediate sprint, before Mullins beat Cromwell and then Kitchen to the line. Mullins said getting as many Team Honda riders on to the final podium would be the major focus today.

"Our aim is the yellow jersey and we just want to prove to the other teams how dominant we really are and take them all home." Kirsty Broun, winner of the 2009 Bay Classic, is third with 16 points, a point behind Mullins.

JAYCO BAY CYCLING CLASSIC

STAGE 4 WILLIAMSTOWN, TODAY

1.30pm: Elite women • 2.30pm: Elite men



Big wheels: leader Rochelle Gilmore contests the third stage of the Jayco Bay Classic in Geelong yesterday. Picture: STEPHEN HARMAN

Media Outlet	West Australian
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CYCLING

Gilmore clinches crown

Cycling star Rochelle Gilmore has continued her domination of the Jayco Bay Classic series, despite a basic mistake at the finish.

Gilmore, the defending champion, won last night at Geelong and cannot be beaten overall with one race left. It will be her third win in the event.

Coming out of the final corner yesterday, Gilmore realised that she was in too small a gear for the final sprint.

Honda teammate Peta Mullens gave her the perfect lead-out and Gilmore was able to click into the big chain ring and out-sprint Chloe Hosking.

Media Outlet	The Age
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CYCLING

Goss finds his form with perfect timing

By SAMANTHA LANE

IN THE final 150 metres of the Bay Classic, Matt Goss distinguished himself as the in-form sprinter from Australia's deep-roll-call and snatched his first crown at the annual warm-up criterium series that typically proves a reliable formguide before the Tour Down Under.

By narrowly beating Allan Davis, bronze medalist in the road-race world championships last year, and out-pointing junior world road-race champion Michael Matthews, who was third in Williamstown yesterday, Goss topped the leaders' board and travels to the national titles and the first ProTour event of his fifth season brimming with confidence.

At the event entered by two European professional outfits for the first time, Team Sky and Garmin-Cervelo, an exclusively Tasmanian team walked away top dog. It was Goss's idea to join forces with the Sulzberger brothers, Bernie and Wes, Luke Ockerby and Joel Searnes to form E3/Pure Tasmania for the 22nd edition of the race and it reaped three stage victories, best team and the individual title.

"I've put in some hard yards over the last couple of months and really tried to be in better form here than in other years and it has shown

BAY CLASSIC RESULTS

MEN

YESTERDAY'S STAGE

1. Matt Goss (E3/Pure Tas)
2. Allan Davis (Bikebug.com)
3. Michael Matthews (Urban)

OVERALL RESULT

1. Goss 33 points
2. Matthews 31
3. Bernie Sulzberger 25

WOMEN

YESTERDAY'S STAGE

1. Judith Arndt (Ger)
2. Rochelle Gilmore (Honda)
3. Chloe Hosking (TDI/Race)

OVERALL RESULT

1. Gilmore 39
2. Arndt 27
3. Kirsty Brown (Virgin Blue) 23

I think," Goss, who rides professionally for HTC-High Road, said after his victory.

"It's a great start to the year, I couldn't ask for a better one ... the next goal is the nationals and Tour Down Under. Hopefully this is just a little step to bigger things there."

Seven men remained in contention to win the overall title before yesterday's race. Defending champion Chris Sutton (Team Sky) was one and midway through the hour-long criterium he attempted to make a meaningful break from the peloton with Mark Renshaw and David Pell.

Tour de France green jersey winner Baden Cooke also made a late charge, but it was



Matt Goss (right) wins at Williamstown from Allan Davis yesterday.

PICTURE: VINCE CALIGIURI

Goss, Davis (Bikebug.com) and Matthews (Urban Hotels) who fought out the line honours that decided the overall winner. Goss won by half a wheel.

"It sucks but it's racing," Matthews said after relinquishing the jersey. "I knew I had to be in front at the last corner but I just couldn't quite get there in all the mess ... I wasn't feeling as good

this morning as I was yesterday so coming into the sprint I wasn't as confident."

Rochelle Gilmore and her Honda team won everything in the women's event except yesterday's final stage, which a former world champion and Olympic silver medalist, Germany's Judith Arndt, claimed by a whisker.

Three other women have won the series back-to-back

before her, Kathy Watt (1994-95), Anna Wilson (1998-99) and Oenone Wood (2004-05).

"It has been a fantastic week. Obviously it's a new feeling today to run second ... I went out after it late and it was just a couple of centimetres too late I guess. But to be beaten by Judith Arndt is nothing to be disappointed about."

Support for sprint series

By SAMANTHA LANE

A FOUR-DAY event around the Bellarine Peninsula should determine the national criterium champions rather than the one-off races taking place in Ballarat tonight, according to Australia's best female road rider.

Rochelle Gilmore, who won her second consecutive Bay Cycling Classic crown yesterday by a healthy margin, said tonight's events would not necessarily be won by Australia's best criterium racers.

"It was a classic case last year of not the strongest rider, or the most predictable rider, winning the race," Gilmore said, referring to the victory by row-turned cyclist Carly Light after an early solo break. "I think the chance of the Honda Dream Team pulling off the win [this year] is probably greater than saying I will pull off the win because ... the strongest person doesn't always win, it's a very tactical race."

Gilmore said she backed her Honda teammates to beat last year's silver medalist, Chloe Hosking, fifth overall in the Bay Classic.

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Arndt steals a Jayco stage from Gilmore

PETER KOGGY

IT TOOK a former world champion and Olympic silver medallist in Judith Arndt to finally lower Rochelle Gilmore's colours this summer, but it wasn't enough to deny the rising star of Australian women's cycling a third Jayco crown in Williamstown yesterday.

Gilmore joins the legendary Anna Wilson as a three-time winner of the international criterium series.

Arndt showed a surprising turn of foot in edging out Gilmore in the final sprint.

"I was a little bit surprised, because I'm not a strong sprinter," said Arndt, who escaped the cold European winter to prepare for another season on the world tour.

"I was first into the last corner and luckily it wasn't too far to the finish," she said.

But it wasn't enough to deny Gilmore, five years Arndt's junior, with the 29-year-old from Helensburgh, south of Sydney, taking the yellow jersey.

Fellow Honda Dream Team riders, Tiffany Cromwell and Peta Mullens, quelled the green points jersey in addition to taking out the team's prize.

Gilmore, who returned to Australia three months ago with a

Delhi Commonwealth Games gold medal, has swept all before her of late, winning the opening race of the season in Noosa, the NSW Grand Prix, and now the Jayco International.

Today she hopes to add the Australian criterium crown in Buninyong, near Ballarat in central Victoria.

"I guess I came up a few centimetres short," Gilmore said.

"There's nothing to be disappointed about, being beaten by Judith Arndt."

With Gilmore having won two legs of the Jayco and having finished runner-up in a third, she is the obvious favourite for today's Australian criterium title.

"I'd say everyone who enters the event wants to win it, but it is a totally different dynamic to what we've had this week. We're going into a one-day race and it is the national championship."

"It will be a different type of race, I obviously love criterium racing and I'll want to go out there to do my best. I see it more a tactical race than the strongest rider winning — not like today's finish which came down to a bit of cat-and-mouse tactics. . . . The championship will be an unpredictable race. I want the race tomorrow as badly as I've wanted to win each and every stage of the Jayco."

Media Outlet	Herald Sun
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Page	70
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Goss finishing burst claims title

Matt Windley

JUST 0.1sec was all Tasmanian Matt Goss needed to claim his first Jayco Bay Classic yesterday.

Goss won the final stage around Williamstown, his second stage victory, to overhaul overnight leader Michael Matthews who finished third in a bunch sprint to the finish.

The pair was separated on the line by Queenslander Allan Davis.

Goss's victory left him two points ahead of Matthews in the final standings.

Going into the last stage with an unbeatable lead in the women's overall standings, Rochelle Gilmore's second-place finish behind



Video exclusive: Rochelle Gilmore on life as our top female road cyclist
www.heraldsun.com.au/ipad

German Judith Arndt capped her third bay criterium series win.

Goss's win continued a rich vein of form after last week's Launceston Classic victory and his stage win in the Tour of Italy last year.

"I'm very happy," Goss said. "It's a great start to the year. I couldn't ask for a better one, I've had two wins here."

"I've put in some hard yards over the last couple of months and really tried to be in better form than the last couple of years and it's

shown I think. The next goal is the nationals and then the Tour Down Under, so hopefully it's just a little step on the way to a big year."

Gilmore became only the second woman, after Anna Wilson, to win three bay criterium series.

"When I come back to Australia for the summer this is the one I think about, this is the Jayco Bay Classic and it's like the world championships at home — everyone wants to win it," Gilmore said.

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Mullens in super form

TANYA PAOLUCCI

BENDIGO cyclist Peta Mullens has started the new year in great form, finishing in fourth place at the Jayco Bay Classic criterium series.

Mullens was part of the winning Honda Dream Team at the Bay Classic and Commonwealth Games champion and Honda teammate Rochelle Gilmore won the title.

Mullens, who also finished in second place in the sprint jersey behind teammate Tiffany Cromwell, said she was thrilled with her team's performance in all four races.

"Our team member Rochelle Gilmore won the event, so that was a great result for our team," she said.

"We race under the jersey of the Honda Dream Team, so our main focus is to do well as a team rather than individually.

"I was pretty happy with my results at the Jayco Bay Classic. I managed to get a podium finish behind Rochelle in the sprint, so that was a good result for me."

Mullens and the Honda Dream Team competed in last night's Australian criterium championship at Ballarat.

Mullens said the race was her team's goal for the cycling season and she was confident the team could help Gilmore to another criterium win.

"This criterium is the one we really want to win. The Jayco Bay Classic is a prestigious event, but the Australian Road National Championship Criterium will always be the one we want to win the most.

"Whoever wins this one gets to wear the jersey for the next season.

"Our team tactic is to bring it back to a sprint finish for Rochelle, so it's really a team effort.

"After four days of racing our team is quite fit and we've got the strongest sprinter in the race in Rochelle, so we're feeling good heading into it."

The criterium will bring to a close the Honda Dream Team's cycling series, with the group racing only in the summer criterium events.

Mullens, who has had great success as part of the Honda team, said the sponsor is keen to start a full time professional cycling team by 2012.

"Honda has aspirations to have a professional women's team in Australia and they are aiming for that in 2012.

"Right now they've just got a summer based criterium team, which is what I'm racing in now.

"I'd love to get involved in the domestic side of racing in 2012 if Honda form a professional team."

The in-form cyclist will also compete individually in tomorrow's Australian Championships road race at Buninyong in the colours of her sponsor, Apollo.

Mullens has had success in the road race, taking out the event in 2009 while training with the Australian Institute of Sport.

"I won the event two years ago in 2009, but I haven't had the same lead-up as I did back then.

"In 2009 I was with the AIS, so it was my job to race at the top level, whereas now I work at Myer Bendigo and am more of a normal person who still loves to get out there and race."

Tomorrow's women's elite road race (102km) starts at 1.30pm at Buninyong near Ballarat.

The day's action begins at 9.30am when the men's under-23 road race is contested.



Peta Mullens

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Commonwealth gold medallist unwinds after hectic few weeks

Champ home to recharge

Ben Walker

ben.walker@dailyliberal.com

Commonwealth cycling champion Megan Dunn is recharging her batteries at home ahead of a hectic few weeks of racing which could culminate in the World Track Championships in Holland.

Dunn is playing catch-up with her fellow riders currently after breaking her wrist at the Oceania

Championships in late November but that couldn't stop her from competing in the recent Bay Classic at Geelong and the National Road Championships.

She raced at both events with the aide of a plaster cast but says she is confident it will be removed in the next fortnight.

"When I broke it I asked the doctor if there was any-

thing that could speed up the recovery but they just said 'a fracture is a fracture' and it will heal in its own time," she said.

"I'm definitely playing catch up at the moment but I raced last week with the cast on and I am off to the Tour Down Under in Adelaide on Saturday.

"After that will be the National Track

Championships before the World Track Championships in Holland in March."

At the Bay Classic, Dunn played the domestique role for the Honda Dream Team.

Despite falling on the first day, the 19-year-old was able to play a role that

continued page 34

Dunn takes her foot off the pedal ... for now

from back page

helped her team claim the yellow jersey, the sprint title as well as line honours on two of the three days of competition.

"Rochele Gilmore won the overall title and Tiffany Cromwell won the sprint jersey so it was a very successful event for us," she said.

"I did a lot of the donkey work, which I actually enjoyed.

"That's the thing about team road racing is that everyone has a role in the team and regardless of who

gets the jersey, it's a team effort.

"You get noticed if you do your role well and at the moment, it is about putting as many eggs in the basket ahead of selection for the Olympics in London next year."

Late last year, Dunn's Dubbo coach 'Gus' Dawson was rewarded for almost 50 years involvement in the sport when he was named Cycling Australia's coach of the year.

It was an award Dunn said she was very proud to be a

part of.

"I was so proud of 'Gussy' because he's been so important in my life and my career," she said.

"I was stoked. It was unfortunate that I couldn't be there for the awards but I was just so happy when I heard that he won because it is an award he really deserved."



Megan Dunn

Factfile

WHAT IS A DOMESTIQUE?

In the story Megan Dunn refers to playing the domestique role at the Bay Classic cycle event at Geelong.

For non-cycling people, a domestique is a rider on a cycle racing team whose role is to assist the team's designated leaders even if its at the expense of his/her own individual performance. It is derived from the

French word for "domestic servant, maid".



Megan Dunn winning gold at the Commonwealth Games in October. The Dubbo cyclist is recovering from a broken wrist but will compete at the Tour Down Under, starting in Adelaide on Sunday.