

# Bendigo Advertiser

## German duo win Bendigo Madison

By Nathan Dole March 11, 2013, 1 a.m.



Christian Grassman and Leif Lampater.

GERMANY'S Christian Grassman and Leif Lampater last night outpointed a star-studded field to win the Bendigo International Madison track cycling classic.

Although they were not No. 1 in the sprint standings, Grassman and Lampater were the only riders to figure in taking a lap on two occasions.

In a race determined by laps taken and sprints, The Green Globe team shone brightest.

After the last of the high-paced 200 laps, the Germans were ecstatic about etching their names on the honour board.

Both had been trying to do so for several years and were among the international charge led by cyclists from Switzerland, The Netherlands, Belgium and New Zealand, and from many pockets across Australia.

“The last 10 laps were amazing,” Grassman said.

“We were here to win and to do so is an incredible feeling.”

The McCaig Airconditioning and Daikin-backed contest provided plenty of drama.

Bendigo’s Brendan Schultz and Melbourne’s Tyler Spurrell were feeling good early and their solo attack paid off when they lapped the field after 55 laps.

It then became a spirited battle for sprints before Grassman and Lampater made what was to be a decisive break and lapped all rivals just before the halfway mark.

Schultz and Spurrell still led on points, but then could not go with the next major break which included most of the top guns.

Try as they might, Schultz and Spurrell could not halt the charge of Grassman-Lampater and their posse to gaining a lap and the race lead.

The last 50 laps were to provide plenty of entertainment as Mandurang’s George Tansley and South Australian Sports Institute team-mate Miles Scotson fought for sprint points.

They had an enthralling battle with six-time world track champion Cameron Meyer and reigning world omnium champion, New Zealand’s Aaron Gate, who won the the Roy Bakes Memorial Sprint to complete the race.

But it was to be Grassman and Lampater who reigned supreme in this battle.

“From the very beginning we were waiting and waiting for the right time to attack,” Lampater said.

“There were so many strong teams in this madison, so it was important to work hard on every lap.

“We are very happy to have won tonight.”

The madison champions will head back to Germany today.

“It could be quite a party on the flight home,” Grassman said.

The hopes of SA’s Alex Edmonson and New South Wales rider Luke Davison were dashed when Edmonson crashed at 116 laps to go.