



POWERING UP . . . Anriette Schoeman (right) fights for the lead with Lindi Erasmus on the Groot River Pass.

Breakaway up pass earns title for Schoeman in Tour de Plet

Alex Cooper

ANRIETTE Schoeman (Nashua Toyota) took the first MTN Tour de Plet at the weekend when she and Chris Rossouw managed to break away from the bunch up the notorious Groot River Pass in Nature's Valley. Petrus Loto (MTN Qhubeka) took the men's race.

The women started this 110km race with the Elite and Vets men. Schoeman benefited by this as the only Nashua Toyota team member in the race facing the women's Bizhub Team. From the start, it was clear the race would be dominated by a strong contingent from the

MTN Qhubeka Professional Team. As expected, the bunch was broken up into smaller groups against the 5km Keurbooms climb outside Plettenberg Bay when the MTN Qhubeka Team launched a serious attack, sending riders away.

Schoeman, Lindi Erasmus and Candice Neethling (Bizhub) managed to hang on to the summit of the climb, but a sudden surge in the pace left them behind with several men.

At the 50km turning point, MTN Qhubeka took control over the race, sending riders away.

Schoeman made her move up the 5km Groot River Pass with

30km to go. Erasmus was left behind with some men while Neethling tried to close the gap on Schoeman, who was joined by Rossouw (Cycle Lab). The two slowly but surely managed to open the gap on the chasing group which contained Erasmus and Neethling. The two managed to stay away until the finish. Schoeman took the women's race in 03hr 4min 43sec, with Erasmus second in 03:07:07 and Neethling third in the same time.

Loto took the men's race in 02:41:25 with team-mates Bradley Potgieter second and Jacques Janse van Rensburg third.