



**World Wide Sport Agency
Media Release
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Bettin One Step Closer to Ultimate Prize Champion Italian Wins Dramatic Stage 3

Italy's Mauro Bettin today conquered his demons on Far North Queensland's famed powerline track, to claim a second stage victory and place himself in serious contention to win the Crocodile Trophy of 2007.

Racing on the same section of the course, where two years ago his dream of winning evaporated due to mechanical failure, Bettin had a trouble free run through the technical mountainous trail.

"I'm very happy to be the winner today but the Crocodile is long," Bettin said.

"My team is strong, very long stages ahead, so we will see."

Bettin had Allan Carlsen to keep him company for most of today's stage, before the Dane suffered a flat tyre.

"Ten k's before the third depot I had a puncture and Mauro couldn't wait up for me," Carlsen said.

Fellow Dane Michael Borup suffered the same fate, after looking strong and going with the leaders in the early part of today's stage.

"I think that the powerline track is all about dramas in this race," Borup said.

"It was a hard day for me out there today with two punctures, but in the end it worked out pretty well."

Borup found himself working with a group of riders, including Austrian Stefan Rucker and Australia's Tim Bennett, who together managed to limit the damage inflicted by Bettin on the G.C.

Rucker finished the stage in second place, while Tim Bennett picked up the first-ever placing for Australia's Flight Centre Team.

"For some reason I just happened to be with the right people at the right time we all worked really well together," Bennett said.

Stefan only attacked with maybe three kilometres to go and I managed to jump on his wheel."

Today's 122 kilometre stage served up no shortage of variety for the Crocodile Trophy protagonists.

The technical mountainous journey along the powerline track , followed by a sixty kilometre flat, hot dusty ride through an outback cattle station.

As second place getter Stefan Rucker pointed out it was a "real Crocodile Trophy stage" and what he ranked as the most important stage so far in the 2007 race.

Provisional Result Stage 3

1. Mauro Bettin (Felt Dream Team - Italy)
2. Stefan Rucker (Elk Haus - Austria)
3. Tim Bennett (Flight Centre - Australia)
4. Michael Borup (Ghost - Denmark)
5. Allan Carlsen (Denmark)
6. Ondrej Fojtik (Czech Republic)

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2007 Stage Plan (Updated)

Mareeba – Irvinebank	80km	23/10
Irvinebank – Koombooloomba	107km	24/10
Koombooloomba – Gunnawarra	122km	25/10
Gunnawarra – Chillagoe	140km	26/10
Chillagoe – Chillagoe	140km	27/10
Chillagoe – Mount Mulgrave	120km	28/10
Mount Mulgrave – Laura	148km	29/10
Laura - Cooktown	142km	30/10
Cooktown – Daintree	106km	31/10
Daintree – Cape Tribulation	32km	01/11

