

## Team's debut is dazzling

By Mark Brown

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Shepparton's newest cycling team has produced a string of impressive results at its debut race meet, claiming a stage win and an overall top-10 placing at the Tour of the Southern Grampians.

Team captain Leigh Egan marked the birth of his newest enterprise by winning stage one of the popular tour, a 39 km dash around the foothills of Coleraine on Saturday morning.

Teammates Rick Peoples and Brad Scott then continued the assault for team J Furphy and Sons/Leigh Egan Cycles, with the duo claiming a top-five finish in yesterday's fourth and final stage, a 25-lap criterium around the streets of Coleraine.

The team's fourth member, Scott Peoples, also rode powerfully to finish seventh overall.

Team J Furphy and Sons/Leigh Egan Cycles was officially launched last Thursday and comprises solely of Shepparton rides.

"We're exceptionally happy," an exhausted Egan said last night.

"For our first tour, it was a brilliant result.

"The tour was a lot harder than last year. The intensity was much higher and it was virtually on from the word go."

Egan was particularly proud of Rick Peoples and Scott, who latched on to a breakaway group during the 47.5 km criterium to push for line honours.

Peoples, 18, eventually finished third, with Scott fifth.

"That was a great effort by those two," he said.

This year's Tour of the Southern Grampians was won by Ballarat rider Jason Hegert.