

Cyclist killed in collision with lorry

Victim, 48, said to be safe and experienced rider

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All that was left of his bike was a mangled mess on the side of the road.

After cycling leisurely here and there, yet another death, yesterday, when a lorry collided with three riders on Leong Avenue in an early-morning crash.

According to the police, they received a call at 6.35am. A spokesman also said that Mr Freddy Khoo was the last among the three to be hit.

But, while the two other cyclists suffered abrasions and did not require hospitalisation, Mr Khoo suffered severe injuries and was sent to Chang General Hospital, where he later died.

The 48-year-old bank employee leaves behind his pregnant wife, Mrs Tiffany Khoo, and a six-year-old son.

His cycling mates were shaken when The New Paper on Sunday contacted them yesterday.

Mr Khoo was an avid triathlete who had taken part in several half-marathon triathlon races, said his friends.

Mr Tony Tan, who cycled regularly with Mr Khoo in a group called Team Cyclon, said his friend had been cycling for at least 20 years and was a safe and experienced rider.

"Our group has always been particular about keeping to the rules.

"He was one of the older riders, a good rider and never really felt the need to show off," said Mr Tan, a magazine editor.

The site of the accident was also on a stretch of road Mr Khoo was quite familiar with.

"He must have gone down that road hundreds of times," added Mr Tan.

This latest crash adds to a history of tragic deaths among cyclists here.

Last week alone, The New Paper reported two other accidents involving cyclists, one of which was fatal.

A 40-year-old cyclist was pro-

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Mr Tony Tan, a magazine editor who cycled regularly with Mr Freddy Khoo.

was killed on Friday after colliding with a car on his way towards Woodlands.

A Straits Times report in June noted that more than 10 cyclists have been killed in traffic accidents so far this year. Since 2005, about 18 riders die each year here.

Mr Stephen Choy, 61, and his wife were on the way to Chang Village for breakfast when they passed the accident site in their car.

He saw a lime-green helmet on the concrete.

"I thought since the helmet was intact, perhaps the guy had a chance at survival," he said.

An avid cyclist who also rides with Team Cyclon, Mr Choy was saddened but did not know at that time that one of his closest cycling mates was involved in the crash.

"Freddy's helmet was mostly red and white," he said sadly.

He was also a family man, said Mr Choy, who works in advertising.

"He used to start riding only at about 7 in the morning and did shorter rides so he wouldn't be too tired and could spend time with his son."

Mr William Lee, 37, who is in public relations, said that he met Mr Khoo was "always in for a good laugh" and had many friends.

According to the police, the 36-year-old lorry driver has been arrested and is awaiting to face charges.