

## Lafayette Criterium A Crowd Pleaser

By Linda U. Foley



The Race

Photo Doug Kohen

Criteriums come in different shapes and forms, some are done by time others by laps, some have hairpin turns and some have climbs. . . but whatever the configuration, they are always great fun and exciting, especially for the spectators. All they are required to do is shout out their opinions and hang out in a shady spot with a cup of joe or a smoothie.

The established one-kilometer loop was to be circled and circled again for a solid, unrelenting 75 minutes for the Pro 1/2 event. At upwards of 30 miles an hour, even just watching from the sidelines in the shade, one can imagine the screaming quads and the sweat burning your eyes, exacerbated by the heat. But, that's the nature of the game, the adrenalin rush,

and the riders wouldn't have it any other way.

To me, one of the great organic aspects about this sport is the silence. The silence of the wheels, the absence of motors and exhaust. Instead, the excitement of personal strength, stamina, strategy and vigor ride on the air. All manner of lightweight Titanium steeds humming under spandex clad bodies.

Teams work together, they have strategies, they protect and support each other. It never ceases to amaze me how much unending information there is about riding, bikes, strategies, and training especially when I listen to Bob Rolle covering the Tour de France. And I used to think you just get in the melee, maintain some elbow room to

keep from entangling with other riders, keep the rubber side down and peddle like the Dickens.

As the "gun" went off at 12:05, a tarantella of collective cleats clicking lifted the group off the asphalt for a micro second, into the air and then forward, projectile-ing toward the first hay-baled corner of the loop.

"Wow! 75 minutes is a long time to spectate, much less go in circles," said my mother in German, or a facsimile thereof, as she sat perched in a beach chair. Some minutes later, she'd vacated her position to hang on the ropes yelling at her grandson whenever he whooshed by. Or at least we thought it was him, they all look alike especially in team uniforms. In addition, they

share same body builds—lean; same outfits—spandex; and same determination.

About twenty-five minutes into the constantly changing configuration of circling riders, seven riders pulled away. They swooped the corners in a fluid teardrop and the gap between the two factions lengthened. With plenty of time to go, plenty of time for another breakaway to close the gap—or not.

Following an unexpected interruption to neutralize the race, the event concluded not unlike it started—lots of camaraderie, back slapping, wide grins—and lots of sweat.

*Linda U. Foley is a contributing writer – her son Michael Foley is an author and cyclist who rides for the Wells Fargo Racing Team.*



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## 4th Annual Lafayette Criterium Results

(Complete results are available at  
<http://www.c4racing.org/www/events.htm>)

### Place Name Team, if applicable

#### Elite 5 Male

- 1 Dereck Dixon
- 2 Peter Armstrong Synergy-Taleo
- 3 Benjamin Joplin Bikes 4 Life

#### Elite 3 Female

- 1 Beverly Chaney Roaring Mouse
- 2 Andrea Monroe Velo Bello
- 3 Janette Kellman Dolce Vita

#### Elite 4 Female

- 1 Melissa Schultz Cycle Sports/Trumer Pils
- 2 Morgan Bonar Chico Corsa Cycle
- 3 Ann Stuart Sac Golden Wheel

#### Master 45+ Male

- 1 Kevin Metcalfe Specialized
- 2 Rich Juarez VOS
- 3 Lawrence Nolan Specialized

#### Master 55+ Male

- 1 Richard Shields Hammer Nutrition
- 2 Morgan Caldwell
- 3 David Stockwell SJBC/SugarCRM

#### Elite 4 Male

- 1 Joakim Vinberg Kovarus/ABTA
- 2 Scott Penzarella Bike-Rx
- 3 Sam Parker Roaring Mouse

#### Elite 3 Male

- 1 Brandon Correia Gospeed Courier
- 2 Patrick McLaughlin Wells Fargo
- 3 Angelo DiGiovine Active Athlete/Squadra Ovest

#### Pro Elite 1-2 Male

- 1 Patrick Briggs Cal Giant Berry/Specialized
- 2 Rand Miller Webcor/Alto Velo
- 3 Bob Newman Pacific State Bank

#### Pro Elite 1-2-3 Female

- 1 Mary-Ellen Ash Easton/SugarCRM/Specialized
- 2 Hanan Alves/Hyde Proman
- 3 Amanda Eaken Metromint

#### Master 1-2-3 35+ Male

- 1 Davis McCook Proman
- 2 Chris Wire SJBC/Sugar/CRM
- 3 Keith Defiebre Scott/Ritchey/Oakley

#### Master 4-5 35+ Male

- 1 John Hansen Wells Fargo
- 2 Matthew Smith East Bay Velo Club
- 3 Mac Heebner Dolce Vita