

SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

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.

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

Send sports stories and ideas to:
sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
 or
 call 925-377-0977



Photo Doug Kohen

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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 The Lamorinda Weekly is looking for a Contributing Editor to coordinate sports coverage, write and edit stories. We are also looking for versatile sports reporters to cover Lamorinda sporting events. Hours are flexible but most events are in the afternoon/evening and weekends. Some experience is required of the editor and preferred for reporters, although we will consider all qualified entry-level candidates. Wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

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