

Great bicycle chase sets national stage

By ANITA CRONE
The Great Birmingham Bicycle Chase proved to be more of a chase than its sponsors had hoped for.

The race results set the stage for this weekend's 1974 national championship road races in Pontiac.

Dale Stetina of Indianapolis, Ind., amassed the largest total points in the Amateur Cycling League of America (ABLA) senior division, while Birmingham's Tom Schuler paced the junior division. The two will be among the competitors in the national junior division race this weekend.

The ABLA-sponsored races in Birmingham were criterium point races, where endurance is as important as speed.

Certain laps are designated as sprints, and points are awarded on the basis of the rider's finish in the sprint laps.

Double points were awarded for the final sprint, and that last sprint can determine the winner of the race.

Junior champion Tom Schuler won the final sprint in his division to tie Steven Dolezalek's 20-point finish. But because Schuler won the last sprint, the judges awarded him the race.

Schuler will participate in his third national competition this weekend. He has previously taken a fourth and 8th place in the national event.

THE BIRMINGHAM youth rode a Masi racing bike in Sunday's 25-mile course. Although he had criticism for the bumps in the road, Schuler had nothing but praise for the competition.

"The racers in the event were all national championship potential," Schuler said.

Stetina also had praise for the

competition, although the national junior champion came close to lapping the pack at the end of the race.

The 17-year-old had broken away from the main race pack, and almost overtook the pack on the final laps.

Eventually hoping to turn professional, Stetina will remain an amateur racer long enough to participate in the 1976 Olympics.

HE RECENTLY returned from Poland where he placed 32nd in international bicycle racing competition.

In addition to the ABLA-sponsored races, the Great Birmingham Bicycle Chase also featured two novice categories.

Jim Lewis of Southfield won a set of tires by winning the five-mile, one-sprint first race, while Ty Octon won the second five-mile novice race.

Greg Bernhardt and Susan Ogen combined to pace the couples novice race. Event winners and point totals were:

ABLA Intermediate Boys
(10 miles, 12 laps, 4 sprints)
1. Bob Fidler (Kokomo, Ind.); 2. Chris Bodysombe (Ann Arbor); 3. Tim Dull (Columbus, Ohio).

ABLA Veterans
(10 miles, 12 laps, 4 sprints)
Brian Chappel (Battle Creek), 19 points;
2. Dale Soder (Rockton), 17 points; 3. Richard Stein (Laguna Beach, Calif.), 13 points.

ABLA Senior Women
(25 miles, 31 laps, 5 sprints)
1. Susan Gurney (Royal Oak), 42 points;
2. Ellen Brennan (Berkley, 18); 3. Barbara Hintzen (Grosse Pointe) 16.

ABLA Junior Men
(25 miles, 31 laps, 5 sprints)
1. Tom Schuler (Birmingham), 20; 2. Steven Dolezalek (Alexandria, Va.), 20; 3. Paul Durdahler (Jamaica, N.Y.), 16.

ABLA Senior Men
(50 miles, 62 laps, 6 sprints)
1. Dale Stetina (Indianapolis, Ind.), 43; 2. Jeffrey Conley (Santa Cruz, Calif.), 19; 3. Tim Outhank (Holland), 17.

Clincher Novice
(5 miles, 6 laps, 1 sprint)
1. Jim Lewis (Southfield); 2. Aaron Denene (Birmingham); 3. Bob Miller (Birmingham).

Tubular Novice
(5 miles, 6 laps, 1 sprint)
1. Ty Octon; 2. Paul Muzin; 3. Rocky Milanoir.



Tom Schuler relaxes after winning the junior division contest in the Great Birmingham Bicycle Chase Sunday.



by Bill Miller

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Stickmen split position games

Birmingham-Troy's team in the Detroit Suburban Amateur Baseball Federation split a double-header last Saturday, beating Utica and then losing to Rochester in the position day series.

Pitcher Dave Jones went the distance on the mound against Utica, picking up his first win against five losses, in the 12-5 victory.

Jones whiffed six batters while riving up four walks.

Lance Dunn led the Birmingham-Troy offense, going three-for-five at the plate, including two doubles.

Jones was also three-for-five with a double.

IN THE SECOND game, the team found itself on the short end of a 4-3 decision.

Sabin Papp was on the mound for Birmingham-Troy, giving up nine hits. Papp's record is now 3-2.

Jones led the offense, this time as a designated hitter, with a two-for-three showing.

Don Henderson was the long ball hitter, checking in with a double in the position day series.

Birmingham-Troy is 7-4 in its federation games and 5-13 in the American Legion Michigan Division's 18th District, having a bye in its legion competition last Sunday.

BIRMINGHAM-TROY will play Berkley at 12:45 p.m. Saturday in the federation championship round at Oakland University. The winner of that game will play immediately afterward against the morning's Rochester-Utica winner.

The lone survivor in Saturday's games qualifies for the National Amateur Baseball Federation championships Aug. 15-19 in Cincinnati.

Southfield hosts AAU swim meet

More than 600 swimmers will participate in the Michigan Amateur Athletic Union Long Course state championships July 26-28 at Southfield's Civic Center pool. AAU teams from across the state have entered the meet.

Events will begin at noon on Friday (June 26) and conclude Sunday evening. The meet is sponsored by the Southfield Parks and Recreation Department, the Michigan AAU and the Royal Oak Penguins swimming team. Southfield's entry, the Southfield Swim Club, is coached by Bob Harding.

There is no admission charge. The Civic Center pool is located at 26000 Evergreen Road.



ELECT William A.

"Bill" Ortman

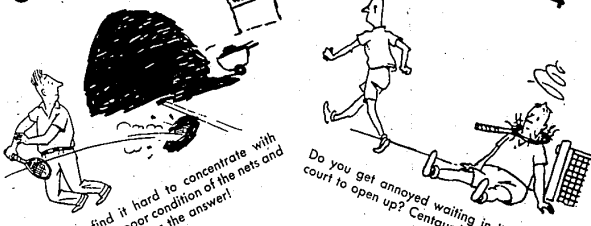


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