

Jackson wins in Washington

by Barbara Stevens
and Peter Stevens

While it may no longer be true that the sun never sets on the British Empire, the National Pernod Classic on Washington, D.C.'s Ellipse once again upheld the axiom that the rain never falls on the National Capital Open. But it often threatens, as it did on April 25 when a field of 71 riders set out to establish a first national 50 kilometer record on the officially surveyed and certified course. The pace was fast from the start but heavy winds kept the time, 1:11:07.14, from being in the same class as the four minute mile.

Nonetheless, the race was exciting and held plenty of action. John Chapman (PBC-Hill Cycle) attempted an early break, taking Dave Garfield, also PBC, and one or two others along. The field promptly chased and the leaders were reeled in without difficulty.

In the 28th lap, with a fierce headwind on the backstretch, Ed Slaughter, (NCVC-Georgetown Cycle Sport) instigated what was to be the winning break. Going along with Ed were four NCVC teammates, Ian Jackson, Lionel Space, Joe Saunders and Paul Pearson, as well as Tom Margevecius (PBC-Hill) who was alert to the move and joined in. The group quickly managed to establish a 20 second lead and by lap 38 were 30 seconds up on a chase group of PBC teammates John Chapman and Dave Garfield, along with Nelson Saldana and Briaggio Lubriano of NJBC-Paris-Sport, Steve Lassahn (Chesapeake Wheelmen) and Charlie Fredericksen (NCVC). Both groups lapped the field, but the chasers were never able to surpass the leaders' 26 to 28 mph average speed. Unable to keep up the pace, the break's instigator, Ed Slaughter, dropped off and was eventually swallowed by the pack.

The 4,000 spectators were treated to a clean, exciting sprint which gave first place to Ian Jackson by a bike length, with Lionel Space and Joe Saunders earning 2nd and 3rd, respectively, followed by Tom Margevecius and Paul Pearson. Lap leader prize went to Joe Saunders who squeaked in one more lap than Jackson. Nelson Saldana won the chase group sprint for 6th

place while Charlie Fredericksen nipped John Chapman for 7th. Dave Garfield took 9th and Steve Lassahn was the last of the prize winners.

NATIONAL CAPITAL OPEN SENIOR - 50 km (1:11:07.14)

1. Ian Jackson, NCVC-Georgetown
2. Lionel Space, NCVC-Georgetown
3. Joe Saunders, NCVC-Georgetown
4. Tom Margevecius, PBC-Hill
5. Paul Pearson, NCVC-Georgetown
6. Nelson Saldana, NJBC-Paris Sport
7. Charlie Fredericksen, NCVC-Georgetown
8. John Chapman, PBC-Hill
9. David Garfield, PBC-Hill
10. Steve Lassahn, CW-Proteus

Junior race

The day's program started with the Junior National Pernod Classic. The pace was fast from the gun with constant individual attacks but there was no sustained effort by a number of riders working together to force a break. The character of the race was shown by the fact that 19 different riders led for at least one lap, and only 11 of 58 starters were dropped.

Jim Bradford (NCVC-Georgetown) was the most aggressive rider, winning all but one of the primes and the lap leader prize. Alan Kowal (Somerset-Schwinn), Paul Sery (Summit CC), Ed Slaughter (NCVC-Georgetown) and Bruce McFarland (NCVC-Georgetown) were seen frequently at the front, but at the finish Peter Strohmeier (GVBC/MADAC) and Mick Walter (Kissena-Zeus) came from out of the pack to take the top prizes.

NATIONAL CAPITAL OPEN JUNIOR - 30 km (40:36.77)

1. Peter Strohmeier, GVCC-Madac
2. Michael Walter, Kissena-Zeus
3. Ed Slaughter, NCVC-Georgetown
4. Jef Murdock, Century-Raleigh
5. Dave Hollander, Flushing
6. Jim Bradford, NCVC-Georgetown
7. Alan Kowal, Somerset-Schwinn
8. Bruce McFarland, NCVC-Georgetown
9. Ray Barbehenn, NCVC-Georgetown
10. Randy Moore, NVC