

# Records set at National Capital Open

## Jocelyn Lovell owns 50 km mark

By BARBARA STEVENS

WASHINGTON, DC — To the sprinters went the spoils and the victory at the National Capital Open on April 17 as Canada's Jocelyn Lovell beat Bobby Phillips (CRCA/Raleigh) at his own game while setting a new national 50 km record in the bargain.

Exactly 100 riders, the maximum allowed by the promoters, lined up for the start of the National Classic. A record for the 50 km distance had been established in 1976 by Ian Jackson (NCVC-Georgetown) but a strong head wind and chilly temperatures that year combined to make sure the record would not be long lived. The U.S. national 50 km record has now passed from an Aussie to a Canadian as Lovell sprinted to win in 1:08:57.37.

Along the way, official record times were also established for 7 intermediate distances, most of which either had no precedent or were so old as to be meaningless. However, the record for 25 miles, set last year at Hartford, was bettered by 6 seconds. Tim Reilly (New Hampshire Wheelmen) now holds the new mark of 54:36.53.

As the race got underway, early attempts at breaks were tried and caught until Reilly and Tom Shuler (Wolverine-Schwinn) wheeled off the front with 13 laps to go. Getting organized, the pair built up a 12-second lead and managed to stay away for 10 laps. When the pack began to stage an effective chase, a \$20 prize was announced for the first rider to make contact with the break. Money not only talks, it apparently buys extra adrenalin and the chase was on in earnest.

Each lap the break's lead decreased and with each decrease the excitement of the crowd intensified until, with three laps left in the race, John Grice (Chesapeake Wheelmen) and Ian Jones (Citius-Austro Daimler) made contact,

conveniently in front of the finish area, to a roar of approval from the 6,000 spectators lining the Ellipse. Even though they could not hold onto their advantage to the end, Reilly and Shuler didn't go home empty handed. As lap leader, Shuler was awarded the prize for most aggressive rider and Reilly put his name on the new 25 mile record.

By bell lap everyone was back together. It was mass sprint time with Bob Phillips doing his usual number, bursting from somewhere in the pack, only to take second to Lovell, who also burst from somewhere in the pack to take the victory by half a bike length. Jim Bradford (NCVC-Georgetown) was an easy third with Nelson Saldana (NJBC) edging his wheel in front of the wall of 30 riders contesting the remaining places. With the aid of NCVC's sequence camera, the places were sorted out without dispute.

The day's perfect weather brought out thousands of tourists, many of whom received their first introduction to bike racing as they made their way between the White House and the Washington monument. Media coverage of the Open was the best it has ever been. Two local TV stations were on the spot filming for their evening news, and reporters from local radio stations did live interviews with Mike Walters, winner of the junior race, and Barbara Miles, who was promoting the event for the first time. Virginia District Rep Gerald Teeuwen made a great announcer. He may find a new career if he ever gets tired of bicycles or growing little green things.

### NATIONAL CAPITAL OPEN

April 17, 50 km, 1:08:57

1. Jocelyn Lovell (Canada)
2. Bob Phillips (CRC-Raleigh)
3. Jim Bradford (NCVC-Georgetown)
4. Nelson Saldana (NJBC-PS)
5. John Simonson (ICA)
6. Hugh Walton (Canada)
7. Mark Hetzer (Unatt.)
8. Joe Saunders (Kat Eye)
9. Tom Schuler (WSC-Schwinn)
10. Earl Nisja (Chev. Wh.)



The holder of the U.S. record for 50 km is no longer an Australian, it's a Canadian. Jocelyn Lovell nosed Bobby Phillips for the new mark and this trophy at the National Capital Open. (Photo by Alan Rashid)

was awake and went right with her. In an exciting 20-up sprint, Canadian Karen Strong edged Eileen Brennan for second place and shared the victory lap with Mary Jane Reoch.

### NATIONAL CAPITAL OPEN WOBAR

April 17, 25 km, 39:04.41

1. Mary Jane Reoch (PBC)
2. Karen Strong (Canada)
3. Eileen Brennan (Unatt.)