

19 U.S. records set at National Capital

Miji Reoch rewrites book

By BARBARA STEVENS

WASHINGTON, DC — It was a day for setting records. The Ellipse south of the White House is an ideal course for a record attempt, and at the National Capital Open on April 17, a record number of records were established.

The Women's BAR race set a record before the first turn of the cranks. Thirty-eight women, the largest field to start any race other than the Nationals, lined up at the starting line. Early laps of the race, in fact, looked very much like a replay of a National Championship race with Mary Jane Reoch (PBC/Hill Cycle) setting the pace for the first three laps and everyone else sitting in, watching Miji and each other.

A prime sprint on lap three was extremely hard fought with Elizabeth Davis (NJBC) edging out Reoch for the prize, but the race-savvy Reoch took advantage of her momentum to keep on going and earn a 10 second lead on the field. The pack was unable to organize an effective chase and the former world's silver medalist rode the rest of the race in her best pursuit style.

By lap eight Reoch had increased her lead to 26 seconds. On each of the final 10 laps she gained another 2 seconds a lap to win the 25 km. event by a 1 minute margin. On her way to setting the first official women's record for 25 km., (39:04.41), Mary Jane also established records for 7 intermediate distances.

Meanwhile, back in the pack after that very hard-fought prime sprint on lap three we all know what happened, right? Wrong! The field did not disintegrate into strung-out groups of two and three riders time trialing around the course. It stayed together throughout the race, contesting sprints and serving notice that women's racing has definitely come of age!

For the majority of the riders, this was the first chance to ride that close and in so large a pack. Reactions were varied. Ellen Dorsey (NCVC-Georgetown) admitted that she tended to hang off to the side a bit, but teammate Karen Miller, who was riding in her first major race, said, "It didn't bother me. I felt pretty safe."

On the final lap, Carole Moore (GBSC) tried to make a move, but everyone else



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.)
4. Renee Walls (SW)
5. Karen Strohmeier (GVCC)
6. Ellen Dorsey (NCVC)
7. Carole Moore (GBSC)
8. Marie Morris (NCVC)
9. Laurie Bolard (CW)
10. Karen Miller (NCVC)

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 prime 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,

