

Regional Race Reports

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—BOUL MICH BIKE RALLY—

Enthusiastic and fiery, Chuck Schuster set the tone of the junior event by nabbing the first preme and splintering the peloton. In the excitement, a rider fell, and Phil Vanderburgh took off from the front group of Jeff Bradley (Kretschmer/Michael's), Jeff Rutter, Joe Stetina (Exxon/Cool Gear), Scott Steurer, Eric Baltes, and Steve Matheny. The lead group soon engulfed him and proceeded to contend for the ensuing 3rd preme. Bradley bagged that one, and only Stetina and Rutter were able to hold his wheel.

Bradley worked diligently to keep the lead trio ahead by 30 s. A disappointed crowd watched the three ease over the line for the preme sprints and then decided to turn their attention to an aggressive Mark Gorski-led chase group hounding the leaders.

The Gorski group was unable to match the lead trio's efficiency in the corners and their time-trialing as a unit. In fact, the lead group—by 4 laps to go—were approaching the field and ready to lap them. The leaders were unable to weave through the amalgamated field in time for the sprint finish, so all charged to the end. Seeing the possible dangers of that, Bradley shot through the last corner in front and roared down Michigan Blvd. for the line. With Bradley hovering by the curb, Stetina buzzed by his right with Rutter right behind. Bradley pushed to try to pass Stetina, but it never happened. This time Bradley had to settle for 3rd, as Rutter also pipped him at the line.

In the sr I & II event, the likes of Yarek and Andzey Bek (Pol), Ian Jackson (Austral), and several strong Canadian riders including Steve Bauer added an international spice to the race...and an international finish as Jackson came in an easy 20 m ahead of Tom Doughty (Kretschmer/Michael's) and Tom Officer (Shimano).

Officer had been the lead commando of a first lap break. Although there were many changes in the composition of that group, Officer, Tom Schuler (Schwinn/Wolv.) and Gary Doering (Monte of Italy) were loyal and kept it moving at 47 km/h to rack up a 25 s lead on the thundering peloton.

Schuler's efforts came to naught when he punctured. A none-too-hasty wheel change caused him to become engulfed by the pack, and a later crash thwarted his attempt to put himself back with the lead unit.

With only two riders—Officer and Doering—up front, the pack poured it on and shaved 5 s per lap from the desperate duo. Officer pushed the pace and lost Doering in the process. Two laps later, Officer was also absorbed.

For the next third of the race, numerous individual and small group attacks bombed out, thanks to the strength of the field. Officer, still feeling his oats took off again—this time with Dan Van Haute. A barage of solo chase attempts—especially those of Ron Skarin, Scott Holzrichter, and the Bek brothers—were nullified, as the pack wasn't ready to let go. With a determined drive by the peloton, the errant duo were soon retrieved.

The spectators were numerous around and on the course. One such lady left the race site with abrasions and a broken leg after being hit by A. Bek (Kretschmer/Michael's). Riding in the field, he was forced onto the sidewalk, bounced off a parking meter, and collided into the lady. Bek totalled his bike and chipped a bone in his elbow.

With 15 laps left, Roger Young (Schwinn-Wolv.) and Davis Phinney (Paris Sport)—both excellent track and road sprinters—jumped to a sizable lead, but could not sustain the move. They were reeled in 8 laps later. As most of the riders relaxed after the difficult chase, Doughty, Officer, and Jackson pushed off. Finally fatigue hit the pack as well as team blocking, and this trio increased their lead steadily.

On bell lap, Officer—not wanting to sprint against Jackson—attacked into the wind. Jackson and Doughty easily caught Officer, who was now too cooked for the final sprint. There was no finish line contest as Jackson came in an easy 20 m ahead of Doughty, who was trailed by a wiped-out Officer. David Ware (Shimano), now assured that teammate Officer was over the line, soloed away from the finishing field of 20 to capture 4th. □

—Bill Logan & CM



Ian Jackson [Australia] throttles Tom Doughty [Kretschmer/Michael's] for a \$1,200 1st place prize at the Boul Mich Bike Rally. [Photo by M. Chritton]