

## Veteran Women Road

Old bike champions don't die — they just move up a class and become stars all over again.

Leslie Moore-Nitz and Mary Jane Reoch, both born in May 1946, became eligible for Veteran's competition this season after years of success in the Senior ranks. Along with second-year competitor Judy Layton, they were the youth and spark of the Veteran Women's road race on Oct. 2.

The trio escaped early and by the end had nearly four minutes on the chase group. It was a battle of strength (Layton) against speed (Nitz) against international road experience (Reoch).

Speed won.

Knowing Nitz's sprinting prowess, Reoch tried a solo with a few laps to go but was reeled back. Layton used a lot of energy throughout the 22 miles, first in setting the pace and then in trying to maintain contact after nearly blowing up from doing so much work.

Halfway through the final circuit, Reoch gave Layton some advice: be the first to the final corner. The Californian accelerated into the last bend, but Nitz was still quick enough to come around.

Layton had been doing intervals to improve her speed. "Maybe not enough," she quipped later. "I loved the road course, but I didn't ride my own race. I guess I was intimidated by their (Reoch's and Nitz's) experience."

Nitz has enjoyed a fine year. She won the omnium at the Veteran track nationals for her first U.S. title. Then at the end of August she won her division in a sprint finish at the Veteran's World Cup in St. Anton, Austria.

## Master Road: Nugent

Jerry Nugent of Bowie, MD, had it in his mind to get away alone in the 37.4-mile Master Men's road race, Oct. 3. Although he has worked on his sprinting this season with National Capital Velo Club teammate Jim Montgomery, finishing speed still isn't the strongest element in his riding.

At the starting line, Montgomery noticed Nugent didn't have a 15-tooth cog on his freewheel. The national criterium champion told his friend that a 52x15 was exactly the gear Nugent would need if the race came down to a sprint.

It did. Nugent and '81 Master TT champion Dick Poor came into the last mile together. Nugent blasted through the final corner in 52x13, hit the shift into his 14 perfectly, and was able to turn that gear fast enough to take Poor by half a length.

"If the race had been about 20 feet longer, he probably would have beaten me," said Nugent, who has studied a videotape of the finish taken by his wife Geneva.

The important move came at the end of the first (of 11) lap. Nugent tried an experimental attack on the rise to the finish line to see how the 14 felt. James Weeks of Stone Mountain, GA, took him seriously, as did Poor, and suddenly the three had a bit of a gap. Nugent said it wasn't his intention to leave the field so early, but after a quick discussion the trio decided to give it a go.

The race seemed to fly by, Nugent said, and suddenly there were just two laps remaining. Still hopeful of avoiding a sprint finish, he attacked hard. Poor and Weeks matched him. Then, in the final turn of the last lap, Nugent blasted off the front. But when he peeked back under his arm, Poor was right on him. Perhaps the sprint training with Montgomery was the difference as Nugent held on to win his first national road title.

"Yes, it's been my best season ever," said Nugent, who won the individual pursuit at the Veteran track nationals. He also was successful at the Penn Mutual Masters Cup. Now 48, he rode the fastest time trial at that event to beat his younger NCVB teammates Montgomery, Rob Lea and Bob Schneider.

## 32 pros in '82

Through Sept. 3, these 32 riders had purchased licenses from the Professional Racing Organization: Jacques Boyer, Mac Canon, Gavin Chilcott, Gary Doering, Hans Eckert, John Eustice, Daniel Girard, Michel Guillet, Lon Haldeman, Gibby Hatton, Ron Hayman, Eric Heiden, John Howard, Ian Jackson, Greg LeMond, David Mayer-Oakes, George Mount, Mike Neel, Paul Pearson, Jeff Rutter, Dag Selander, Robert Shannon, Michael Shermer, Graeme Smith, David Steed, Peter Strohmeier, Wally Summers, Brian Tilley, John Vande Velde, Hugh Walton, David Watkins and Roger Young.

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