

Six riders were crowned in the NATIONAL CRITERIUM CHAMPIONSHIPS in Canton and Akron, OH, June 30-July 1. A full schedule of events began in both cities at 9 a.m. under over-cast skies with cool temperatures.

The Senior Women competed at noon for the first jersey. Several of the competitors had just flown in from the Olympic road trials including Canton's own Debbie Stephan. She excited the hometown crowd by staying at or near the front and winning two primes.

On the last lap 7-Eleven's Betsy Davis came out of the Burger King corner with a narrow lead which she increased at the line. Carol Addy, also of Ohio, rode a smart race saving herself for that final lap and grabbing second. This gave Ohio riders the silver and bronze with Debbie just off Carol's wheel.

A relatively small field of 50 Juniors (others were at a Junior trials event in Colorado) contested the second jersey. Freddy Boos was one who stopped at Canton on his way to the trials and demonstrated why he is being considered for the world's team by grabbing the gold. Again riders, Chris Koenig and Tony Melbook, were the silver and bronze medal winners.

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The Veteran Men's event was one of the few unaffected by other large prize, National Classic, trials or stage events. The pace was fast from the gun and a break of 18 riders formed quickly. After he picked up a couple of primes the money was on Jim Montgomery, Mr. Everything in Veteran racing. But out of the final turn it was Jim's teammate, Rob Schneider, holding his edge all the way to the line for Fuji-Sun Tour. Dave Montgomery of the Gopher Wheelmen held off a strong breakaway group to capture the bronze.

In Akron on Sunday the grey skies contributed to smaller than expected spectator attendance. But several hundred perched on the grassy embankment overlooking the 0.9-mile loop while others gathered at the 180-degree Holiday Inn turn to watch the cornering action. A 0.3-mile downhill was followed by a sprint out of the 180 onto a bridge and then onto the 0.4-mile upgrade. Most of the action took place on the uphill as the stronger climbers made their move.

In the Senior Men 45-plus event there were no real breakaway attempts, just constant speed which dropped all but a handful of riders. Last year's champion, 69-year-old Phil Guarnaccia, was always near the front. Five men were still together on the last lap and Paul Didier of NCVC took the stars and stripes from Larry Dieren, Chesapeake Wheelmen, and Guarnaccia, Cal Vets. Dave Eaton still had enough left to edge out pre-race favorite Jerry Nugent for fourth.

The much anticipated main event, the Senior I-II championship, was further enhanced by several late registrants just in from the Olympic trials. The break that worked came after a prime on the downhill. Jeff Ensing and Gerry Fornes looked back, decided to try it, and time trialed away.

Only a few days before Fornes had been told that he missed registration and could not compete. A day later the U.S. Cycling Federation decided to open registration and this paid off for several of the riders, including Fornes.

The chase group never seemed very serious, probably due to some subtle blocking by teammates of Ensing and Fornes. Onto the finish straight it seemed Ensing already had too much speed for Fornes to overcome and they finished that way.

Almost a minute later the chase bunch, still 20 strong, came down the home straight six and seven abreast. But 50 yards from the line Tom Chew came out of the crowd with a classic sprint to grab the bronze. Fourth through fifteenth tested the camera but Herbert Meingast and Chris Gutowsky earned the two USCF belt buckles.

In the Senior Women 35-plus event Carol Boyajian, Northbrook Schwinn, was too strong for Pat Kenn and Emily Boone. They finished in that order to become the first Veteran Women medal holders in a National Criterium Championship.

SENIOR WOMEN NATIONAL CRITERIUM CHAMPIONSHIP: 1. Betsy Davis, G.S. Campionatti; 2. Carol Addy, Fuji-Sun Tour; 3. Debbie Stephan, Queen City Wheelmen; 4. Elizabeth Larson, G.S. Batavus; 5. Nancy Merlo, Fuji-Sun Tour; 6. Patti Cashman, Fuji-Sun Tour; 7. Kathleen Hartman, Wheel People; 8. Julie Haskell, G.S. Batavus; 9. Kim Wagher, Fuji-OVC; 10. Ellen Braun, Fuji-Sun Tour.

JUNIOR MEN NATIONAL CRITERIUM CHAMPIONSHIP: 1. Freddy Boos, DBC-Vigorelli-Zullo; 2. Chris Koenig, SHCC-Velo; 3. Tony Melbook, Cleveland Wheelmen; 4. Bobby Bowen, Tidewater B.A.; 5. Dwight Howard, Towners; 6. Chris Kaiser, Central Jersey C.C.; 7. Ray Reinders, Bikeland-Pepsi; 8. Tom Freus, Bikeland-Pepsi; 9. David Bonser, NJBC; 10. Brian Simpson, Northstar-Colnago.

SENIOR MEN 35 NATIONAL CRITERIUM CHAMPIONSHIP: 1. Robert Schneider, Fuji-Sun Tour; 2. James Montgomery, Fuji-Sun Tour; 3. Dave Montgomery, Gopher Wheelmen; 4. Tom Lobdell, Speedway Wheelmen; 5. R.W. Laramee, BWBC-Mikes Cyclery; 6. Frank Weston, Chesapeake Wheelmen; 7. James Huff; 8. Charles Fleming, Oakland Velo Club; 9. Michael DeEstrada, Great Lakes C.C. 10. Dave Mercer, Speedway Wheelmen.

SENIOR MEN 45 (not a championship): 1. Chuck Winkelman, Dayton-Huffy C.C.; 2. Tom Watts, Berks County B.C.; 3. Jerry Nugent, Fuji-Sun Tour; 4. Alan Ashmore; 5. Kurt Eickelmann, Century Road C.A.; 6. Ron Curati, Cleveland Wheelmen; 7. Gary Meeker, Louisville Wheelmen; 8. Dominic Vadini, Cleveland Wheelmen; 9. Gene Rundell; 10. Frederick Mause, Queen City Wh.

SENIOR IV MEN (not a championship): 1. Leo Foster, Oakland Velo Club; 2. Doug Shackie, Cleveland Wheelmen; 3. Phil Kennedy, Vandalia Velo Club; 4. George Stephens, FBCCI; 5. Dave Garriott, Queen City Wheelmen; 6. Brett Radecki; 7. Chris Johnson, Wolverine Sports Club; 8. Dave G. Smith, TBA; 9. Dennis Payne, Vandalia Velo Club; 10. Mark Ellis, Speedway Wheelmen.

SENIOR I-III MEN (not a championship): 1. Paul Case, Brown & Sallaz; 2. Dean Carson, Ohio Velo; 3. Douglas Grauel, 3-Rivers B.C.; 4. Jeff Ensing, Rapid Wheelmen; 5. Angelo Chinni, Great Lakes C.C.; 6. Dave Kostansek, Cleveland Wheelmen; 7. Alan Marcossen, Cleveland Wheelmen; 8. Kirk Buchwald, Ohio Velo C.C.; 9. Randy Dull, FBCCI; 10. Brian Piazza, Vandalia Velo Club.

SENIOR WOMEN 35: 1. Emily C. Boone, Louisville Wheelmen.

JUNIOR WOMEN (9-15): 1. Tricia Asaro, East Amherst C.C.

AKRON-PEPSI CLASSIC, SENIOR MEN I-II NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: 1. Jeff Ensing, Rapid Wheelmen; 2. Gerry Fornes; 3. Tom Chew, Philadelphia C.C.; 4. Herbert Meingast, Turin; 5. Chris Gutowsky; 6. Dean Carson, Ohio Velo Club; 7. Mac Martin; 8. Mark Rathz, Spirits of St. Louis; 9. Tim Tyler, Ohio Velo Club; 10. Jay Wolkoff, North Jersey, B.C.

SENIOR MEN 45 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: 1. Paul Didier, NCVC; 2. Larry Dieren, Chesapeake Wheelmen; 3. Phil Guarnaccia, Cal Vets; 4. Dave Eaton, Allegheny Cycling Assoc.; 5. Jerry Nugent, Fuji-Sun Tour.

SENIOR WOMEN 35 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: 1. Carol Boyajian, Northbrook Schwinn; 2. Pat Kennedy, Berks County C.C.; 3. Emily Boone, Louisville Wheelmen.