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# COMPETITIVE CYCLING

Vol. 2 No. 2

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Wayne Stetina (center) throws his Teledyne Titan into high gear in the University of Cincinnati Criterium, on his way to another victory. Alongside are his Ray Sport teammate Bill Shook (left) and Bill Gallagher of Queen City in the early stages of the race. (Ben Post photo)

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Time Trialling Technique- Sentimental Words in Defense of the American Bikie- History of Drugs in Cycling- Raleigh Tour de Louisiana- '64 Tour de France, Part II- Anaerobic Metabolism- Streakers in B.C.-Ladies' Column

Sneaks away from Howard/Neel in Louisiana

# Officer's big upset in Raleigh-La. Tour

By GREG GULOTTA

While Howard and Neel stared at each other near the back of the peloton, Thomas Officer and sixteen year old Ed Schaefer snuck off the front, gaining two minutes in the road stage, and clinching overall victory for Officer in the 1974 Raleigh Tour de Louisiana.

Howard, fresh off three early season victories, was heavily favored to take his third straight Tour win. With Neel and Ochowicz shadowing his every move, Howard didn't learn of the 35 mile two up break until it was too late.

The Raleigh Tour De Louisiana, a two day - three stage event in it's third year, doubled its last year's attendance to 150. The race has gained a degree of fame in the Midwest and designation as an Olympic Development event has helped to make this year's Tour the biggest cycling event in the South. Once again Raleigh's generous sponsorship, \$2000 in prizes including a professional Raleigh Mark Four for Senior first prize, was the deciding factor in the race's extremely successful promotion.

A 4.2 mile time trial and a rolling eighty mile road race made up the first day's schedule. Sunday's senior event was a 37 mile criterium on a 0.7 mile course, eight turns per lap. The time bonus (15-10-5' seconds in the junior road and criterium stages; 7-5-3 seconds in the junior road and criterium stages) offset the pure time trialist's ad-



Thomas Officer (left) of the Witcomb-Ct. Yankee Team is congratulated by John Temple, Raleigh District Manager, with Florida's Ed Schaefer on the right. This was moments after the duo broke it open in the road stage in which their 2-minute winning margin clinched the overall Tour victory for Officer. (Bob Perrin photo)

vantage in the first stage, and make the tactical implications much more complex.

For the past two years Howard has been able to win the time trial and road race stages

with little trouble. This year, though Howard repeated his domination of the time trial, Officer's valiant break in the road and fine defensive riding in the criterium clinched the victory.

## STAGE ONE: 4.2 MILE TIME TRIAL, NEW ORLEANS LAKEFRONT

The Lakefront Drive is an almost treeless winding course where the wind seems to hit the rider from all sides. On April 6 the wind was gustier than usual and the constant changes in direction made gear selection a prime concern.

Using a 54-14 and 54-15, Howard blasted away a 9:17, breaking his own course record and winning the stage for the third straight year. By the time Neel started, almost two hours after Howard's leadoff, the early morning wind had died down considerably and the National pursuit champion seemed destined to crack Howard's time. 9:25 was the best Neel could manage, taking second.

Blundell took third with a fine 9:27. Few took notice of Tom Officer's strong 9:43, but by that evening he would have the leader's jersey with room to spare.

Duke Bennet won the Junior Time Trial with a 9:31, fast enough to take fourth in the senior stage. Richard Ainsley was the second best junior with a 10:03 and Tom Finklea, eventual overall Junior winner, rode a 10:04.

Eileen Brennan, Women's National Road Champ, won the Women's stage in 11:00.

## STAGE II

### 80 MILE ROAD RACE, COVINGTON

The 20 mile road race course is situated in

(continued on page 14)

## Some sentimental words:

# In defense of the American Biekie

'Who has acquired a bad reputation but not for what you may think'

I've known bicycle racers now for more than two years.

arms. The racer is an exciting composition of extremes: the man and the machine; delicacy setting off raw force; the

Even their self-touted masochism is just the hedonism of the masochist: doing it because it feels so good when you stop.

## Tour de Louisiana

(continued from page 1)

one of Louisiana's most beautiful areas, among rolling dairy farms and the famous Dorignac race horse farm and stables. Though the course has no major climbs, it has few flat sections. The weather couldn't have been better, 80 degrees and a cloudless sky.

The Senior Road Race started slow with the huge pack tightly bunched and little circulation at the front. Don Bir soon got things rolling, jumping five miles from the start with Marcossion and an unidentified third rider glued to his wheel. This three up group quickly gained a minute on the disorganized pack and remained there for thirty miles.

As the race neared the end of the second lap, Howard began working to close the gap. As soon as the breakaway was reeled in, Howard counter-attacked to drop Bir and Marcossion.

When Howard swept by, riders flowed into the on-coming traffic lane on a fast downhill to prevent being dropped. The squeeze to get back in caused the race's major high-speed crash, with six riders landing in a heap.

The inevitable jumping and separation caused the first real splintering of the huge pack. Of interest is the fact that Tom Officer was one of the crash victims, chasing alone and catching soon after.

Directly after the crash the Seniors caught the slow moving Junior pack, which had started 20 minutes earlier. Taking advantage of the confusion caused by the juniors, Officer and Schaefer slowly rolled off the front with no one taking notice except some of their Florida teammates who began blocking. Though Howard claims he thought the pair were juniors, the senior lead car with Bill Mayer-Oakes (Olympic Official) should have tipped him off.

If there was a prize for most aggressive rider in the Tour, Don Bir would have won hands down. Just returning from a 30 mile adventure, Bir jumped taking McFadden, Humphreys, and Kryznoski with him. The peloton seemed to think this four man group was the breakaway, not realizing that the real fliers had already gained over 3 minutes. The four man group worked well until Schneider and Waterbury bridged the gap.

As the peloton rounded the 4 mile out turn Howard and Neel began to work furiously to close the 30 seconds between them and what they believed to be the lead break. The main bulk of the peloton actually didn't know that Officer and Schaefer had promenaded across the line a full two minutes earlier, plus the generous time bonus.

Bir's group was caught no more than 200 meters from the finish by the flying peloton. Obviously a bitter disappointment to the weak-sprinting Bir who had persevered 60 of 80 miles off the front. Neel won a picture book sprint with Howard and Blundell close behind him.

After the sprint the fecal matter hit the fan. There was a lot of screaming by people who didn't know the twosome had gone off. Some of the loudest screaming was done by Bill Humphreys, who couldn't stomach the idea of his Raleigh CRC of A buddy Howard (Humphreys selflessly domestiqued for Howard in the Tour of Ireland) chasing down his breakaway.



The peloton rounds the corner in the road stage of the Raleigh Tour de Louisiana. John Howard and Perry

had their work cut out for them. Last year Howard, Pototschnik, and Bir were able to lap the field twice on a simpler course, so Officer's position wasn't as safe as it might seem.

From the gun, Howard, Neel, Blundell, and Ochowicz opened an unclosable gap with a broken field struggling to produce some semblance of a chase group. Once again Don Bir was smote by the fates, as a lesser rider opened a gap between him and the flying breakaway going into the turns on the first lap. It's a credit to Bir that he was able to keep within twenty seconds of the breakaway, by himself, for twenty five miles.

The race soon boiled down to two main groups with Bir alone in between. Officer was the strong man in the chase group comprised of Ware, Waterbury, Klenk, Harlan, and McFadden. Ochowicz soon dropped out and the break became a smooth three man machine.

Even with the criterium prowess of Howard, Neel, and Blundell combined Officer wasn't lapped until it was too late, five laps from the end. Blundell won the sprint with Howard second and Neel third by a tire's width.

Blundell's victory in the criterium affirms his reputation as one of the South's finest criterium men, stemming from his finishes in the La Boucherie Grand Prix (2nd 1972, 1st 1973). The real star of the criterium, however, was Officer, who held those precious two minutes out of reach by a fine performance under intense pressure.

The junior event (21 miles) was somewhat like the senior's, the frontrunners quickly opened a large gap and stayed away. Finklea, Colomb, Norfleet, and Ainsley lapped the field numerous times until Blain Norfleet jumped with seven laps left. Norfleet quickly gained thirty seconds and kept it to the line. Finklea, developing one of the finest sprints in the South (junior or senior) gobbled up another one, with Colomb taking third.

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Raleigh Industries is one of the few bicycle firms which puts as much energy into helping bicycling itself as into selling bicycles. John Temple, district manager of Raleigh South-central, and J. W. Vaughn, sales rep. for the area, not only made the race possible with the generous sponsorship but went out of their way to help in the administrating and promoting of the Tour.

The prize ceremony was officiated by the Mayor of Hammond, John Temple (for Raleigh), and Doug Haddock (race director for the Gus Betat New Orleans Bicycle Club). The most memorable scene of the presentation is that of the short champ, Thomas Officer, holding aloft a 24 1/2 Raleigh Pro (traditionally John Howard's size) in one hand and the winner's cup in the other.

### General Classification:

**SENIOR I & II:** 1. Thomas Officer (Witcomb-CY) 4:42:28, 2. John Howard (Raleigh) at 45 sec., 3. Del Blundell (DBRC) at 49 sec., 4. Mike Neel (Turin) at 58 sec., 5. David Ware (SFW) at 2:02, 6. Don Bir at 2:06, 7. Ted Waterbury (Ray Sport) at 2:20, 8. Ed Schaefer (St. Pete. BC) at 2:40, 9. David Klenk (DBRC) at 3:24, 10. Jim Crue (VC Roubaix) at 3:55, 11. Alan Kingsberry (Lima RR) at 4:11, 12. John Harlan (TVS) at 4:11, 13. Hens Schneider (NAJA) at 4:16, 14. William Logan (VC Roubaix) at 5:24, 15. Harry Vergis (VC Roubaix) at 6:17.  
**SENIOR III:** 1. Tim Grossnickle (Paris Sport) 4:47:03, 2. William Carlisle (MW) at 14:12, 3. Howard Horn (ETBC) at 46:08, 4. Stephen Hodges (SABRC) at 50:26, 5. Marshall Childs (DBRC) at 54:04.  
**JUNIOR:** 1. Tom Finklea (Betat) 3:13:06, 2. Jerry Colomb (Betat) at 34 sec., 3. Blain Norfleet (DBRC) at 1:12, 4. Richard Ainsley (NAJA) at 2:59, 5. Jerry Anderson (DBRC) at 3:37.  
**WOMEN:** 1. Eileen Brennan (WSC) 2:05:10, 2. Tracy McConachie, at 6:34, 3. Juliette Brown (NAJA) at 10:14.  
**INTERMEDIATES:** 1. Scott Held 2:02:00, 2. Mark Moore, at 6:31, 3. Joey Goodsell, at 23:11. **VETS:** 1. C.J. Grossnickle (Columbia) 2:09:20, 2. Jim Hawes (Betat) at 55 sec., 3. Charles John (Betat) at 6:13.

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The junior road race (50 miles) was a dismal affair with a training jaunt pace. There was literally no aggressive riding until after the seniors caught, forcing their pace on the junior group. Within sight of the line a pileup took out Kevin Bucy (San Remo BC) one of the race's strongest juniors. Tom Finklea won the sprint easily with Jerry Colomb one second back.

#### STAGE III, 37 MILE CRITERIUM, HAMMOND

Now that Officer held a 2:10 lead going into the criterium, Neel, Howard, and Blundell



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Eileen Brennan barely won the Women's event from two promising Texas women, Tracy McConachie and Juliette Brown. C J Grossnickle won the Veteran's event in a

#### North Carolina Results

Rocky Mount Stage Race, Rocky Mount, N.C., March 23-24, 3 stages, 137 miles.  
**SENIORS:** 1. John Howard (Raleigh) 5:30:40, 2. Wayne Stefina (Ray Sport) at 26 sec., 3. John Allis (Raleigh) at 59 sec., 4. Dicky Dunn (Raleigh) at 2:35, 5. John Eustice at 3:35, 6. Doug Thomas (A & W) at 3:58, 7. Bill Shook (Ray Sport) at 4:31, 8. Bill Coorey at 6:35, 9. Steve Hefferman at 8:15, 10. Steve Woznick (Pairs Sport) at 9:53. **JUNIORS,** 137mi: 1. Dale Stefina (Ray Sport) 3:40:43. **WOMEN,** 137 miles: 1. Mary Jane Reoch (Hill Cycles) 6:09:47.

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