

# GUS BERAT'S NEW ORLEANS BICYCLE CLUB

NEWSLETTER  
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## AN OVERALL VIEW

1973 was a year of modest successes coupled with modest setbacks for bicycle racing in Louisiana. The season started off well with some spirited racing, topped by the Tour De Louisiana and Jewel St. Criterium, but seemed to grind to a crawl towards the middle of the summer. Possibly the great successes of the 1972 schedule made this season seem bland in comparison. Definite improvement has been evident in the last few events of the season, however; and the addition of some new blood and new ideas over the last three months makes 1974 look very promising.

The following will be an attempt to clarify what happened in Louisiana cycling for 1973, by listing first the five worst occurrences of the year followed by the five best.

**FIRST:** The absolute worst item on the list was the abysmal failure of the 1973 N.O.B.C. Novice racing program. In 1972 the novice races were consistently drawing twice as many entries as Senior events. Though there were some large pile-ups, the quality of the racing was very high. This year the most riders ever attending a novice event was fifteen. Two of the races were completely nonattended (the promoters were actually the only people to show up). Next year a serious rider recruitment program in the highschools and more comprehensive publicity will have to be worked on if the sport is to grow in Louisiana.

**SECOND** on the boob list was the scheduling of four 80 mile-plus road in the six weeks prior to the State Championships. June and July are very hot months in Louisiana and long road races usually become masochistic attrition bouts where salt tablets are gobbled by the handful. Also the monotony of having only road races for 2 months drove many riders into hiding, some never to be seen again. Things got so bad that newer riders who had already attained Sr. A status had never ridden a criterium and didn't know how to take a turn. A more rounded season for 74, please!

**THIRD** was the departure of Jim McFadden for California at the end of last season. Though Jim (now Citizen Kane of Competitive Cycling) had almost as many enemies as friends on the New Orleans racing scene, he was a tireless worker for the good of the sport as well as a talented competitor who raised the level of Southern competition by his very presence. As Pres. of NOBC, Jim singlehandedly promoted our most successful racing season while dominating most of the races. When McFadden rode into the sunset (few people know that he is really a Gary Cooper fanatic) Louisiana racing lost one of it's most valuable assets.

**FOURTH** was the utter failure of the Orleans West Wheelmen to live up to their early season prospects of becoming a solid racing organization. At one point in the early season, Dave Weatherly and his young band of merry men (Boyd Fink likened them to the Hitler Youth) actually struck fear in the NOBC hearts. Orange jerseys were everywhere and there was even talk of OWW being officially sponsored. Somewhere around the middle of the season things fell apart on the West bank and suddenly notone orange Jersey (not even Dave's) could be found. The fall of OWW hurts racing in two ways, first race recruitment of youngsters on the West Bank came to a standstill; and second, the Oakwood Bike Festival, one of the state's best promoted races for two years, just didn't happen.

**FIFTH** spot on the honor roll belongs to Bob Perrin, the ABL rep for deciding to enforce the ABL directive on having the State road & track champ. on

the same weekend. This directive is valid for states where membership in ABL is large and people specialize in one or the other. After talking with riders from other states I found that Louisiana was one of the only southern states to enforce this. Naturally only 6 riders competed in the track events (two of which were novices); everyone else afraid to hurt their form for the road. A valuable chance to acquaint local riders with track racing as well as the best choice for a team for the Nationals were forfeited.

Now for the best five happenings of the year: First: The appointment of Bob Perrin as ABL rep for 1973 formed a strong bond between the riders and the REP a situation which had deteriorated in 1972. Perrin is one of the old timers who is openly friendly to new riders but has a genuine stamp of authority which seems to demand respect. Though I personally feel he is sometimes too unyielding on ABL rules, he returned stature to an office sadly lacking over the last two years.

Second was Raligh Industries' sponsorship of the Tour De Louisiana earlier this season. Raligh donated \$2,000 in merchandise, allowing the race to be promoted on a massive scale, drawing riders from as far as Pennsylvania. Hopefully, with further help from Raligh the Tour will become one of the countries' top classics.

Third is the initiation of a highschool racing program which will go straight to this massive untapped source of new riders. The NOBC will be sending lecturers, with films and printed material to local highschools throughout the winter in preparation for a series of highschool races to be held throughout the 1974 season. If this brings in twenty new riders to the sport the quality of New Orleans racing will improve tremendously.

Fourth is the recent permit acquired by the Velo Club of Baton Rouge, to use a deserted auto track 20 miles south of Baton Rouge. Though the track wasn't originally designed for bicycles, it is sufficiently banked for strategic sprinting and exactly 1000 meters around, simplifying timing procedures. With luck, next year Louisiana will be able to send a competent track team to the Nationals.

Fifth was the simultaneous beginning and rocketing to Senior A quality of two new NOBC Juniors in the middle of the summer. Tom Finklea and Jerry Colomb both started in July and within a month were winning training bashes with the seniors. Their talents along with the strength of R. Holmes and R. Gin formed a Junior team which will be the strongest in the South next year.

#### CLIPS AND STRAPS

...There's one born every minute dept:

When Mike Schrammel came into Betat recently to cash a check; Greg Gulotta jokingly told him to endorse it with his name, address, and right thumbprint. When Greg looked over from his work he noticed that Mike had colored his thumb with the pen and made his print on the back of the check.

...When NOBC members were distributing the first Newsletter at a time trial, Herzog came up with a dollar bill and asked, "How much are they?"

... How like a serpents' bite is an Ungrateful Boyd dept: At the Betat Criterium Boyd borrowed Gulotta's only spare rear wheel but had to drop out when a spoke broke after 5 laps. Boyd was furious and was looking at Greg's throat with violent intent. When Gulotta punctured his rear tire after 25 laps and cried out for a spare, Boyd said maliciously, "give him the one he gave me!!"

... After 3 years of having the hairiest limbs in the South- Randy Legaei recently shaved his legs, revealing a concealed Superman emblem tatoo.

...Sorry there were only two newsletters this season but between running a bicycle store during the day, flying a Delta Jet at night, and being a spy for the CIA on the weekend, I just couldn't find the time.

... I wish to apologise to Mike Schrammel and Randy Lejay for flagrant misspelling of their names (I wish everyone had a name like John Gin)

Editor: Greg Gulotta

RIDER PROFILES

Well, get ready for the cruel truth. These profiles are only the opinion of the editor. If you don't agree with the truths listed herein, it's up to you to prove or disprove what I write by your performance on the bike next year. Any complaints must be filed with my lawyer.

JUNIORS

RANDY HOLMES: Randy received Most Improved rider last year and could possibly be considered again this year for the same award. Randy sure has come a long way from being the skinny kid on the Schwinn. He has been the most consistent of the young riders this year finishing in the field sprint in most senior races. Looked very good in the County Stadium Criterium in Milwaukee, had some bad luck in the Intermediate Nationals or he should have been in the field sprint. Only weakness is his sprint. FUTURE: 3 more years as a junior, need I say more?

RICHARD GIN: Every bit as strong as Randy Holmes but with a decent sprint, Richard is an extremely consistent rider. Possibly his best weapon is his general attitude towards the sport which allows him to easily recover from a bad turn of luck. Needs work on his time trialing ability. FUTURE: Excellent local rider, will improve tremendously if he has the chance to travel next year.

JOHN GIN: I honestly believe that John is his own worst enemy of the bike. After a good strong start in training this year he seemed to talk himself out of shape. Also has put love of the machine above love of the sport. Possibly, John's problem is what often happens to an older brother who starts to be matched by his kid brother. FUTURE: If John could get his mind straight I believe he could be a very strong local senior and possibly national class on the track, his future is up to him.

TOM FINKLEA: I hate to say this but Tom is Louisiana's best chance at a National Championship, road or track. The reason I hate to say it is because of Tom's only fault, he talks too much. Tom has nothing in his way to glory except that his statements often make teammates want to run him off the road. He is a decent bike handler, a fair time trial rider, and has good stamina; but his best point is his sprint. I feel sure that if Tom is allowed to remain in any pack til the sprint he will win the race, no matter who's there. FUTURE: Has a history of never staying with any sport very long, if he can stay with cycling his future as a top National rider is assured.

JERRY COLOMB: Performance wise Jerry is possibly our strongest rider, Junior or senior. He has turned in a 1:03 time trial, and broke away from a 12 man pack in sight of the finish in St Francisville and practically thumbed his nose at them. Jerry's problem is that he takes life too seriously and I feel that in time of any personal crisis Cycling will be the first thing to go. I hope he proves me wrong because he is a well liked and well respected rider. Has enormous time trialing ability and a good sprint (if Finklea's not around). FUTURE: Will be one of South's best juniors next year, and hopefully will go to the Nationals.

AL VALDES: Al is a lot like Randy Holmes was last year, he only lacks self-confidence. Made a good showing in the last handicap race. Al is on the verge of finding himself, if he does soon, he'll become a strong junior next year. He also needs a good size helping of luck.

NICKY CIOLL: Nik is a Highschool swimmer who seems to use cycling as an off season pursuit. Started strong in the winter but towards the middle of the season he just stopped finishing races. FUTURE: looks good on bike, has good potential but I really don't have any more than that to go on.

MARK MOORE: Mark started this year like a house afire (even had R. Holmes worried) but seems to keep falling off his bike. Had two or three bad crashes which were unprovoked. We haven't seen him since the states but I hope to see more of him next year. FUTURE: If he can stay in the saddle and train with Weatherly he'll improve, however I wouldn't put money on his staying in it.

BERND HARZOG: Bernd is one of these guys who sticks with it through thick or thin. He has raced for two seasons and actually got worse this year. Possibly if he loses weight he'll develop. At least he can't use the convenient excuse of a klunker anymore.

#### SENIOR B & C

JOHN LAFLEUR: John's one of these unlucky guys who may have ruined his cycling career by wasting his time in med school. After a year of understandably parttime racing John has shown steady but not remarkable improvement. FUTURE: If he doesn't stop this doctor nonsense, he will possibly develop into a decent local club rider, scedule permitting.

FUDGY BIGGS: (You know, the guy with the grey shorts) Fudgy is kind of an enigma, he's a somewhat solidly built guy who only rides big gears, is never seen training, but still has shown remarkable improvement. If Fudgy could train with the club and gain some knowledge of bike handling and gear use, he might surprise a lot of people.

MIKE WOLFSON: Another one of these unlucky guys who has to put a healthy law profession before cycling. Mike has another big drawback in weak knees which he guards very carefully, so he hates to ride in a pack. Now that we have a track Mike should confine his interests there. This guy's legs are so strong he has bent innumerable Campg rear hub axles, and a Phil wood the first time he got up on it. FUTURE: even with his limited time he could possibly go to the nationals as a Kilometer man.

BRUCE WILLIAMS: To my Knowledge, in the few races that Bruce has started (when he hasn't had a flat) he has never been actually dropped by a peleton. He has great staying power and stamina, but cycling is obviously a very secondary thing to Bruce (his only training is his daily ride to work) and I don't expect too much from him even in attendance.

KARL VIKTOR: Karl started the sport late in life but has an excellent build for it and a good attitude towards it. I didn't expect too much from him but he really surprised me in the last handicap race. FUTURE: may advance to Senior A and become a decent club rider.

JOHN CALDAS: A good solid rider with as much on the ball as any of the A's, especially strong in long road races, with a decent sprint. FUTURE: Should be watched closely in State Road Race next year, John will surprise some people next year.

GARY MCKENZIE: Gary has a good aggressive attitude towards the sport and did some impressive things as Ken Reed's sidekick earlier this year but I don't think we'll see as much of him next year. If Gary is serious about continuing racing he should consider a leg weight program along with a lot of speed work.

JOHN BARTLE: John is the shorter of the Bartle brothers, and seems to be the brother with less natural ability but more dedication to the sport. When John hasn't punctured this year, he has ridden excellently, especially in the state road race & time trial. **FUTURE**: Another one who should be watched closely in the states next year. John gave up a chance to go to the Nationals this year so it's hard to say how he will do in out of state races.

PHILLIP BARTLE: Phillip is one of the best natural riders i've seen. He started the year in great form, especially in the first Jewel St. Crit. but took on a job as a camp councillor and went into hiding. **FUTURE**: should develop into a strong all around rider, but we need more evidence.

DAVID HUGHES: David can't decide which of his Schrammel cousins he wants to follow: Mike the bikie, or Chris the sailboat racer. After spending half the season on the bounding main, David has really shown no improvement over last year. **FUTURE**: Needs to keep his feet dry longer before we can tell anything. Looks good on the track.

#### SENIOR A

LOUIE LEDERMAN: (Senior B) Louie was at his strongest early last year before his costly crash in a novice race which sidelined him for over two months. Like a true trooper, Louie picked up the sport again this year only to drop it again and go touring to Colorado with Chris Todd. Louie has once again come back from the dead and is improving steadily. **FUTURE**: If he sticks with it Louie will become a strong local club rider.

DAVE WEATHERLY: For many of us this year Dave was the God that failed. Dave seemed to spend more time excusing himself than threatening people. Certainly a turnaround from the talented upstart of 1972. I realize that Dave had tendon trouble this year but I still think he could have been a top local rider, helping racing in the area and himself, if he had participated more. Still possesses the best spinning form and bike sense of any rider in the area. Looked great in Texas & Florida but a dismal season locally. **FUTURE**: Now that Dave is in college I don't know how much time he will have to devote to it, but on any given day when he's in training he can make his presence known in racing here or out of state.

BOYD FINK: Boyd had the kind of season this year which would have made a lesser man hang up his wheels. By a rough count, he had mechanical trouble in no less than eight races, including the National Track events in Milwaukee. Despite the bad luck, Boyd proved that he is ~~under~~ the strongest track rider in the state as well as one of the strongest criterium riders. **FUTURE**: Though I know Boyd will ride all events next year, he should concentrate on speed in short races and the track. Should sweep the state track events again next year.

CHRIS TODD: The reason why the club BAR was so hotly contested this year was the absence of Chris for most of the season. I feel sure that if he hadn't spent 2 months touring out West, he would have swept it easily. Chris has no evident weaknesses as a rider: strong sprint, good climber, good time trialer. I'm anxious to see what effect his living in Seattle and racing in Canada will have on his ability. **FUTURE**: Should be one of the South's top ten riders, in all types of events, when he returns next summer.

**GREG GULOTTA:** Most improved rider from last year. Has more racing experience than anyone else in NOBC. Shows tremendous determination and will power. (He stopped eating for a while, didn't he) A worker in any race. A good time trialist by local standards. NO SPRINT. Fairly aggressive in road races, but his attacks aren't decisive. If he improves any more this coming season as he did from last year, he is a definite threat in any road race. To sum it up: Greg is the Raymond Poulidor of the state. (Profile by John Gin)

**JIM HAWES:** Jim's like Ole Man Ribber, he just keeps rolling along. Though he made 40 this year, he rode very aggressively in the state road race (the most grueling race of the season) and may have placed if he hadn't led out the sprint. **FUTURE:** Next year will be Jim's first as a veteran, if he can train enough I really feel he could last till the field sprint in the Nationals Veterans road race.

**MIKE SCHRAMMEL:** Not many riders have it as good as Mike, he is neither a full time student nor a full time employee, thus he has unlimited training time; he has good stamina, great climbing ability, an able bike handler, a descent sprint, and the means and transportation to travel to distant races. Then why doesn't Mike win more races. I really feel that Mike's biggest problem is laziness. Mike has a reputation as a wheel-sucker, a hard one to lose especially when you advertise plans to suck Reed's wheel in the state 's til the sprint. Though this type of riding could win races at one time, it just won't work anymore. The last three races of the year saw a new, more aggressive Schrammel, hopefully a sign of future tactics. **FUTURE:** Hard to tell, if he sticks to his old ways he won't improve; If Mike wises up he will surely win many local races next year.

**RICHARD HUGHES:** Richard started strong this year but fell into that old pitfall of getting married and honeymooning in Europe right in the middle of the year. Never seemed to regain his best form, but looked good on the track. Suffers from a healthy dose of Mike Schrammel tactics. **FUTURE:** If he trains properly, Richard will be at least a top local senior next year, may go to the nationals for track.

**DOUG HADDOCK:** Since Doug has disappointed me for two straight seasons I certainly won't touch on his future. Doug is one of the best natural cycling athletes this state ever saw and I hope the fates are with him in 1974

**RANDY LEGAEI:** A three year veteran who is strong in all categories, Randy had a good season but didn't quite live up to what some of us expected of him. Randy is one of the only riders I know who seems to race for the pure pleasure of the competition and doesn't care about impressing people or eventually devoting his life to cycling (or some of us who have deeper sexual or existential reasons for thrashing ourselves). **FUTURE:** Will continue to be one of Louisiana's finest all around riders, but will probably never travel out of state.

#### JOHN GIN'S CRYSTAL BALL

This is how I (John Gin) rate the riders in NOBC on a range from 1 to 10.

NAME	SPRINT	T.TRIAL	ROAD	Aggressive	HEAD
Holmes	6	7	8	8	8
Gulotta	6	8	8	9	8
R.Gin	7	8	8	8	8
Colombo	8	10	8	9	7
Finklea	10	8	8	8	8
Lederman	6	6	6	7	6
Schramel	9	6	8	8	8
Legesai	9	7	7	6	8
Fink	9	7	7	6	8
La Flour	8	6	6	6	6

CRITERIUM-TRACK

Jewel St. Criterium  
Waterbury  
Bir  
TODD 4  
WILLIAMS 3  
HADDOCK 2  
GULOTTA 1

Track Events  
SCHRAMMEL 4  
PERRIN 3  
LEGAEI 2  
R.GIN 1

State Track  
FINK 4  
WOLFSON 3  
PERRIN 2  
GULOTTA 1

Betat Criterium  
LEGAEI 4  
TODD 3  
SCRAMMEL 2  
HOLMES 1

La Boucherie GP  
COLOMB 4  
LEGAEI 3  
FINK 2  
HOLMES 1

TIME TRIALS

Number 1  
TODD 4  
GULOTTA 3  
HADDOCK 2  
FINK 1

Number 2  
FINK 4  
GULOTTA 3  
PERRIN 2  
HOLMES 1

Number 3  
HARGROVE 4  
LEGAEI 3  
GULOTTA 2  
FINK 1

STATE CHAMP.  
HARGROVE 8  
GULOTTA 6  
DIEM 4  
LEDERMAN 2

Number 4  
TODD 4  
COLOMB 3  
GULOTTA 2  
FINKLEA 1

Number 5 & Makeup  
COLOMB 4  
GULOTTA 3  
TODD 2  
FINKLEA 1

ROAD RACING

Covington #1  
MONTGOMERY 4  
HADDOCK 3  
FINK 2  
GULOTTA 1

Handicap #1  
HOLMES 4  
TODD 3  
HADDOCK 2  
GULOTTA 1

Tour De Louisiana  
Montgomery 4  
Todd 3  
Scrammel 2  
Williams 1

Covington #2  
GULOTTA 4  
HAWES 3

Covington #3  
GULOTTA 4

Covington #4  
SCHRAMMEL 4  
LEGAEI 3  
HAWES 2  
GULOTTA 1

State Championship  
SCHRAMMEL 8  
LEGAEI 6  
HAWES 4  
GULOTTA 2

St. Francisville RR.  
COLOMB 4  
FINKLEA 3  
LEGAEI 2  
SCHRAMMEL 1

Handicap #2  
SCHRAMMEL 4  
LEGAEI 3  
HOLMES 2  
LEDERMAN 1

CLASSIFICATION POINTS

CRITERIUM TRACK

GC Pts		BAR Pts.
4	FINK	10
3	LEGAEI	9
2	TODD	7
2	PERRIN	7
1	WOLFSON	6
1	SCHRAMMEL	6
	COLOMB	4
	GULOTTA	3
	WILLIAMS	3
	HOLMES, HADDOCK	2
	R.GIN	1

TIME TRIAL

4	GULOTTA	19
3	HARGROVE	12
2	TODD	10
1	COLOMB	7
FINK 6; DIEM 4; LEGAEI 3		
FINKLEA, PERRIN, LEDERMAN 2;		
HOLMES 1		

ROAD RACING

4	SCHRAMMEL	19
3	LEGAEI	14
2	GULOTTA	13
1	HAWES	9
MONTGOMERY 8;; TODD, HOLMES 6;		
HADDOCK 5; COLOMB 4; FINKLEA 3;		
FINK 2		

POINTS TOTALS

GC PTS.		BAR PTS.
6	GULOTTA	35
6	LEGAEI	26
5	SCHRAMMEL	25
4	FINK	18
4	TODD	23
3	HARGROVE	12
PERRIN 2; WOLFSON, HAWES, COLOMB 1		

RESULTS: Though Gulotta and Legaei tied in GC points the tie had to be broken by BAR total points, thus Gulotta won.