

Tour de France vet wins criterium

By Pat Malach
Emerald Managing Editor

Call it being in the right place at the right time, or call it a benefit of aggressive riding. Alex Stieda, the winner of the Sunday's sixth stage of the Willamette Stage Race, calls it both.

What started out for Stieda as a day to try and propel Coors Light teammate Scott Moninger into the overall race lead turned into an opportunity to carve another notch in his own stage win belt.

Sunday's criterium around the University campus was the last event of the five-day, six-stage 1992 Willamette Stage Race. The race began Wednesday with the Prologue Time Trial and continued Thursday and Friday with the Shotgun Creek and Kill Hill road races.

Thursday saw the riders face a tough test with the Lost Creek Road Race and the Big Fall Creek Time Trial that took place just hours apart. The racers' times for each day's event are compiled for a cumulative time to decide the overall winner of the stage race.

The criterium event for the Men's 1.2/Pro category covered a 7.5-mile course around the EMU for 59 minutes plus 5 laps.

The Coors Light Team set the pace on the first lap of the final event with an attempt to get Moninger in a break group so he could gain time on overall race leader Herbert Niederberger of Team Spago. Before Sunday's stage, Moninger trailed Niederberger by just 51 seconds.

When that attempt failed, Stieda, who in 1986 became the first North American to wear the yellow jersey in the Tour de France, joined Paul Dahlke of Olympic Sports and Scott Fortner of the Saturn team in a three-person break that would eventually produce the stage's top-three finishers.

Dahlke, Fortner and Stieda worked well together with Fortner taking a monster share of the pulls at the front. The group built leads of as much as 20 seconds, but never less than 10.

Stieda said he initially went with the break because Fortner was high enough in overall standings to pose a possible threat to Moninger's second-place ranking in the stage race. Stieda played the team role and was marking Fortner's move.

"I was surprised the (field) didn't bring us in,"

Stieda said. "I guess they just kept us close. With about 10 minutes to go, I realized we could probably stay away, and then I was thinking about the win."

For the most part, the pack of riders seemed content to let the escapees keep their small lead intact. Karl Maxon of Sachs-Fila made several attempts to bridge to the lead group but was only able to close to within 10 seconds each time before being swallowed up by the pack.

In the meantime, Stieda was able to come up with a winning strategy to take the sprint where he and Fortner swept by Dahlke at the line for a close 1-2-3 finish.

"I think both those guys are real strong, steady riders," Stieda said, "but neither of them have a really fast sprint, so I had a feeling I could beat them in the sprint. I just made sure I didn't pull too hard the last couple of laps, and that I didn't take a pull right before the sprint."

"I think Paul (Dahlke) led it out. Scott (Fortner) and I waited, waited, waited, and he went around on the left, I went around on the right and I was able to hold Fortner off at the end, probably by a wheel length."

American cycling superstar Davis Phinney, known to fans as the "King of Criteriums," won the field sprint and finished in fifth place behind the three breakaway riders and Coors Light teammate Chris Huber.

Phinney, who has two stage wins in the Tour de France to his credit, said he has been using this stage race as training for the Tour DuPont on the East Coast later in May.

"We tried a few things to get Scott (Moninger) out away from Niederberger and it didn't work," he said. "So then Alex was out front and we just went for the stage win. And that was fine."

Stieda thinks the way things turned out are fine, too.

"That's generally the way things work out in the long run anyway," he said. "If you're just riding aggressively then you're putting yourself in a winning position."

**Willamette Stage Race
Overall Results
Men: Cat. 1.2/Pro**

(1) Herbert Niederberger/Team Spago/10:15:37 (2) Scott Moninger/Coors Light/10:16:15 (3) Nathan Dahlberg/Team Spago/10:17:32 (4) Roy Knuckman/Coors Light/10:17:34 (5) Michael Carter/Subaru Montgomery/10:18:07

Injuries vex men while women's tennis shines

By Doug Carter
Emerald Contributor

The Oregon men's tennis team watched its hopes of upsetting Washington this weekend vanish with the procession of Ducks heading for medical attention and the disabled list.

Oregon was forced to default eight matches on the last two days of the three-day Pacific-10 Northern Division Championships, but the Ducks managed to finish in the middle of the pack for the tournament held at the campus courts.

Washington ran away with the Northern Division Championship for the 16th straight season, winning 38 matches to Oregon's 14 and Washington State's eight.

Oregon senior Chris Gladwell was playing well and in the middle of a set point when his already torn knee gave out on a running forehand. Gladwell's fall was punctuated by a horrific burst of verbal anguish that drew everybody's attention to the injured player.

"I thought I broke my leg in half," Gladwell said. "I didn't want to look at it."

The unfortunate incident forced Gladwell to retire right when he was playing some of his best tennis of the year.



Chris Gladwell

"Chris was playing the best I've seen him play, ever," Duck coach Buzz Summers said. "It (the injury) also broke the concentration of some of our other players."

One Duck who admitted to being distracted was Lee Kirner, who was leading 3-0 when he heard it happen and went on to lose his match.

In addition to Gladwell's misfortunes, the Ducks suffered a few more key injuries and went without the services of four players, including Christian Oelke, ap-

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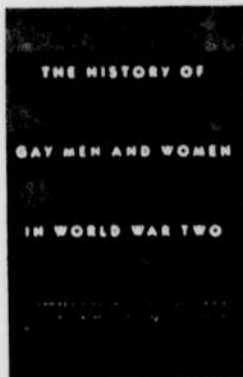
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