

Event Summaries

Triple Crown Stage Race

by *John Hughes*

Coming out of retirement, Kitty **Goursolle** was the top woman in the California Triple Crown Stage Race. Retirement? She was the first place woman in the John Marino Open RAAM Qualifier in 1983 and was the first woman to compete in RAAM! Goursolle wrote, "I turn 50 this year and wanted to do something great for that milestone day, rather than feel sad that I'm getting so 'old'."

The competition was close with just 42 minutes separating the top three finishers after 617 miles and 47,000 feet of climbing in the three double centuries. Lasse **Bjerga**, 50, from Cedar City, UT was first overall. He completed the Mulholland Double on April 16, Devil Mountain on April 30, and the Central Coast on May 14 in just 36 hours 11 minutes total! David **Roth** was second and Robert **Choi** was third. 32 riders including two tandems completed these three tough doubles.

Full story at www.ultracycling.com/results/triplecrown2005.html

Complete results at www.caltriplecrown.com

Fasching Wins Raid Provence

by *John Hughes*

For the second year in a row Wolfgang **Fasching** won the Raid Provence Extreme (RPE) RAAM qualifier. This year the RPE was also the European Ultra Cycling championship.

At the start in Saint Remy de Provence on May 21 the 46 solo riders were nervous with anticipation. At the timed start at the base of the Col de Murs they took off like they were starting a 100 km race.

After 100 miles the racers reached the Malaucene side of Le Mont Ventoux. Laurent **Boursette** was the first to the top in 1:17, followed by Fasching in 1:18, and Valentin **Zeller** in 1:19.

After Ventoux Fasching dominated the race; only Boursette could temporarily stay near him. Zeller, who finished third last year, and Boursette, who was fifth last year, eventually dropped out. Zeller's pace van had mechanical problems.

Fasching, from Austria, won in 19h 57m, only three minutes slower than his win last year.

Fasching averaged 19.19 mph (30.88 kph). Daniel **Wyss** (Switzerland) was second, 20:53. Yves **Chizelle** (France) was third 21:59.

"This victory was harder than last year and thus more meaningful", Fasching said. "I set Raid Provence Extreme as one of my season high points and I'm overjoyed to have won it." Fasching, who won RAAM three times, will race the 2005 XXAlps Extreme, which he won in 2003.

Six riders qualified for RAAM.

Full story at www.ultracycling.com/results/rpe2005.html

Complete results at www.velo-concept.com

Race Across Oregon

By *Saunders Whittlesey*

The Race Across Oregon on June 4-5 kept with its three unlikely traditions: on such a hard course, the events remained tight; riders with less RAO experience prevailed; and race leaders over the crux Ochoco Pass at mile 370 won despite all the potential for trouble thereafter.

Kenneth **Philbrick** of Seattle won the solo race, Team Ol' Fogey (Don and Bruce **Olsson** of Portland, OR) took the two-person team race, and the four-person team race went to the recumbent RAO Speedwagon (Keith **Kohan**, Rand **Milam**, John **Williams**, and Michael **Wolfe**, of Oregon).

Rookie Philbrick won the solo event in 35:23 with a smart, steady effort. He trailed the race leaders for almost 300 miles, letting more experienced racers fall by the wayside. Then using his time trialist's body to gain time along the John Day River, he assumed the lead after the halfway point and continued to a comfortable win.

Wade **Baker** took second place. Just 10 miles from the finish James **Kern** passed Baker. Kern was on his way to becoming the first rider to finish RAO on a recumbent. Baker dug deep and re-passed Kern for second place. Tom **Jacobsen** came in fourth. Baker and Jacobsen qualified for RAAM.

John **Spurgeon** attempted to be the first to cover RAO on a fixed gear. He made it to the bottom of Timberline Road, six miles from the finish, but could not even walk his bike up this last climb of 2,000 feet.

Full story at www.ultracycling.com/results/rao2005.html

More information at www.raceacrossoregon.com