



LAWRENCE CYCLO CROSS, Sat. & Sun., Dec. 4-5, 1976, promoted by Mt. Oread BC, sponsored by Blue Hills Bike & Hike of Kansas City; USCF.

The Lawrence Cyclo Cross again had an outstanding field. Of course, Tyger Johnson of Dakota, Illinois, came back to defend his title. The promoter's jackpot came when entries came from Eric Di Rivera and Tom Smith. Those two are currently the best and most dedicated crossers from the East (both from Massachusetts).

In part, Di Rivera and Smith's attendance to Lawrence could be attributed to the National Cyclo Cross at Sunriver, Oregon, the previous weekend. While flying back from the Nationals, it would be nice to drop in on the local action.

In all there were four contestants who were in Oregon, including Scott Dickson of Macomb, Illinois.

Enough can't be said of DeRivera and Smith's contribution to the success of this year's Lawrence Cross. Arriving a few days early, they were mildly appalled by the lack of preparation on either the Saturday or Sunday course. Top-caliber athletes have been known to stop at that. But DeRivera and Smith immediately asked for a few rakes and volunteers and cleared and swept Martin Park like it never had been swept before. The result was a new course at the same park, which impressed Parks & Rec director, Fred De Victor, who is usually concerned with the final outcome of the land use (and abuse). There was hardly any complaint from the "ole-timers" of the Martin Park meet.

The same enthusiasm went into laying out the new course on the University of Kansas' west campus.

On the first of this two-day event, Tyger Johnson and Eric DeRivera rode neck and neck throughout the early part of the 16 mile race.

Tyger won and so the results continue to look the same in the Midwest. But could Eric have really challenged the Midwest's top ace had he not cracked the downtube of his bike frame? Tom Smith came in third, about 3+ min. down, but ahead of the Kansas state cross champ, David Conrad.

And where were Dennis Scott, a two-time former winner of this event, and Scott Dickson? D. Scott was weakened by a weeklong bout with a cold and hadn't shaken it by the Saturday race. Dickson had three flats during the race and exchanged positions with Jim Troxel throughout the whole race. Another MtOBCer, Gene Wee, of course took advantage of Dickson's misfortunes and finished a happy fifth.

Chicagoan Mike Farrell entered his first cross race and failed to make much of an impression, coming in last and having considerable trouble getting back into his toeclips after dismounting.

But the next day, Farrell took care of his major problem and removed his clips and straps. He would have placed higher Sunday, but was almost a minute late for the start.

Sunday was Martin Park again. And again.... Tyger won. Eric DeRivera looked very much the challenger that day and even Tyger's wife looked concerned. But a wink from Tyger convinced her he felt very much in control.

Dennis Scott got over his cold and took 5th behind Conrad. Dickson avoided getting a flat and relegated Wee back to his usual 8th place (last on this day).

Attendance at most cross races had been down throughout the Midwest this season and Lawrence was no exception. But then, Dec. 4th and 5th is so close to final exam time and that date on the calendar certainly kept a few Kansans from competing.

And so the 1976 racing season ended. And again, Blue Hills was generous with its sponsorship of this race as it had with so many other events in this area. Thanks again, George Bradley!

RESULTS: Dec. 4, 1976, Kansas Univ. west campus, 16 miles (10 laps). SENIORS: 1-Tyger Johnson 59:14; 2-Eric DiRivera (Wachusett Whlmn/Native) 1:00:32; 3-Tom Smith (Conn. Yankee/Knight) 1:02:34; 4-David Conrad (MtOread/Gitane-Gran Sport) 1:03:50; 5-Gene Wee (MtO/Gitane-Gran Sport) @ 1 lap 59:32; 6-Scott Dickson (Skunk River/Michael's) 1:00:57; 7-Jim Troxel (MtO/Gitane-Gran Sport) 1:01:31; 8-Mike Farrell (Stowe/Shimano) 1:01:55; 9-Dennis Scott (KCBC/Coppi-Blue Hills) dnf. JUNIORS: 1-Buddy Streb (KCBC/Coppi-Blue Hills) 14 laps in 1:01:08; 2-Kerry Miller (Heart of Am. Whlmn) dnf.

Dec. 5, 1976, Martin Park, 10 miles (17 laps). SENIORS: 1-Johnson; 2-DiRivera; 3-Smith; 4-Conrad; 5-Scott; 6-Farrell; 7-Dickson; 8-Wee. JUNIORS: 1-Streb.

Photo Page

IT HAPPENS EVERY WINTER! SCENES FROM THE LAWRENCE CYCLO CROSS, Dec. 4-5, 1976.

1-Tom Smith, from Princeton, Mass., demonstrates a typical hill climb, with typical carrying technique, in a typical cross. Smith finished 3rd on both days. 2-Tyger Johnson, the defending champ at the Lawrence Cross, won again. Here, he is mounting his steed, Roy Rogers' style. 3-Mike Farrell, from Chicago, leaps a log in his first race ever on Sat., Dec. 4th. On Sun., those toe clips were removed.



1- (Danny Caplan photo)



FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT!
Jim May gives his wife, Cheryl, a helping hand while riding rollers last winter. Watch for more roller races this season (see COMING EVENTS for details). (Cal Melick photo)



2- (Danny Caplan photo)



3- (Gordon Fitch photo)