



November 27, 2010

## Shank wins, Berg battles Shoemaker at Tallahassee Cyclo-cross Spectacular

*David Stotts*  
*CYCLING*

Impossibly steep embankments, ankle-deep sand pits, cement ditches, 30-step staircases and off-camber turns were just a few of the obstacles that tested the endurance and bike-handling skills of scores of cyclists at last weekend's Tallahassee Cyclo-cross Spectacular on the athletic fields of Cobb Middle School.

Racing began on Saturday with collegiate competitions over the maze-like 1.5 mile course constructed from 13,000 feet of plastic tape attached to 250 stanchions.

Tallahassee-native Beck Frydenborg (University of Florida) made a focused chase of Georgia State's David Sagat after the Panther rider got an initial gap. Despite Frydenborg's efforts to close the distance, Sagat, an experienced 'crosser, won after 45 minutes of racing and Frydenborg took second.

In their first attempts at cyclo-cross, Florida State's Greg Buker was best placed in fifth, followed by Jazz Tomassetti in seventh, David Friedt in ninth and Chris Carhart, Kevin Neidorf and Austin Boyle 12th and 14th, respectively. Buker came in fourth on Sunday.

FSU women Katie Lotterhos, Kristen Baker and Samantha Fortunas took first through third.

Leigh Graziano finished third on Sunday.

Hometown favorite Tim Shank (Gulf Coast Velo) scored a victory for Tallahassee in an exciting 45-plus masters race. The GCV rider shot forward the moment FSU Cycling President and race promoter Jack Tomassetti, said "Go!" and strung out the field up the first long climb. After holding off a determined pursuit by Scotty Graham (Orlando Velo), Shank, who clocked 6.5 minute laps, won by 25 seconds.

"Scotty put pressure on me the entire race," said Shank. "It was a hard course with a lot of climbing."

Tom Gillis (GCV) placed fifth and improved to third on Sunday.

Three-time state junior's cyclo-cross champion Graham Gillis, a 16-year-old junior at Chiles, won the Junior 15-18 category. He was fastest on Sunday against C Men and was on track to win Sunday's Men's B competition until a flat tire stopped him.

First-time 'crosser Brent Scargin (FSU) rode to third place in Men's C.

Ten-year-old new racers Sam Schaefer and Aiden Parker placed second and third in Junior's 10-14.

In Single-Speed, FSU's Erich Kopp raced to second place on Saturday. Cody Johnson placed third in Men's B and FSU's Chris Sandelli held on for fourth. On Sunday, an on-form J.C. Lakey (Great Bike Shop) took second in both Single-Speed and Men's B followed by Gulf Coast Velo's Geoff Schaefer in third and Kopp in fourth.

Triathlete Alicia Kaye bested FSU/GCV's Lotterhos by a minute in the hard-fought women's A contest.

Two dramatic men's A races pitted mountain bike expert David Berg against Olympian and National and World Champion triathlon professional, Jarrod Shoemaker. After Berg finished a competitive second to

Shoemaker on Saturday, Sunday's all-out rematch elicited rowdy support from the crowd. Once again however, the Maclay honor student's superior technical skills were parried by Shoemaker's bottomless endurance.

When the tri-champ slipped on a sheer embankment, crashed and slid down the hill, Berg attacked and gained 20 seconds. But Shoemaker reclaimed the time on the open parts of the course with displays of pure power. Then a front-tire flat and long trip to the wheel pit dropped Berg to third and gave Shoemaker a second victory.

"I've got the stamina from tri," said a tired Shoemaker after congratulating Berg on a great race. "But technical skills?"

"No."

Bryan Derstine (GBS) finished fifth on both days after suffering back pain and a broken handlebar.

Jack Tomassetti produced the well-organized event assisted by dozens of FSU students and USA Cycling official Sandi Jones. Jimbo Smart designed the challenging course.

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