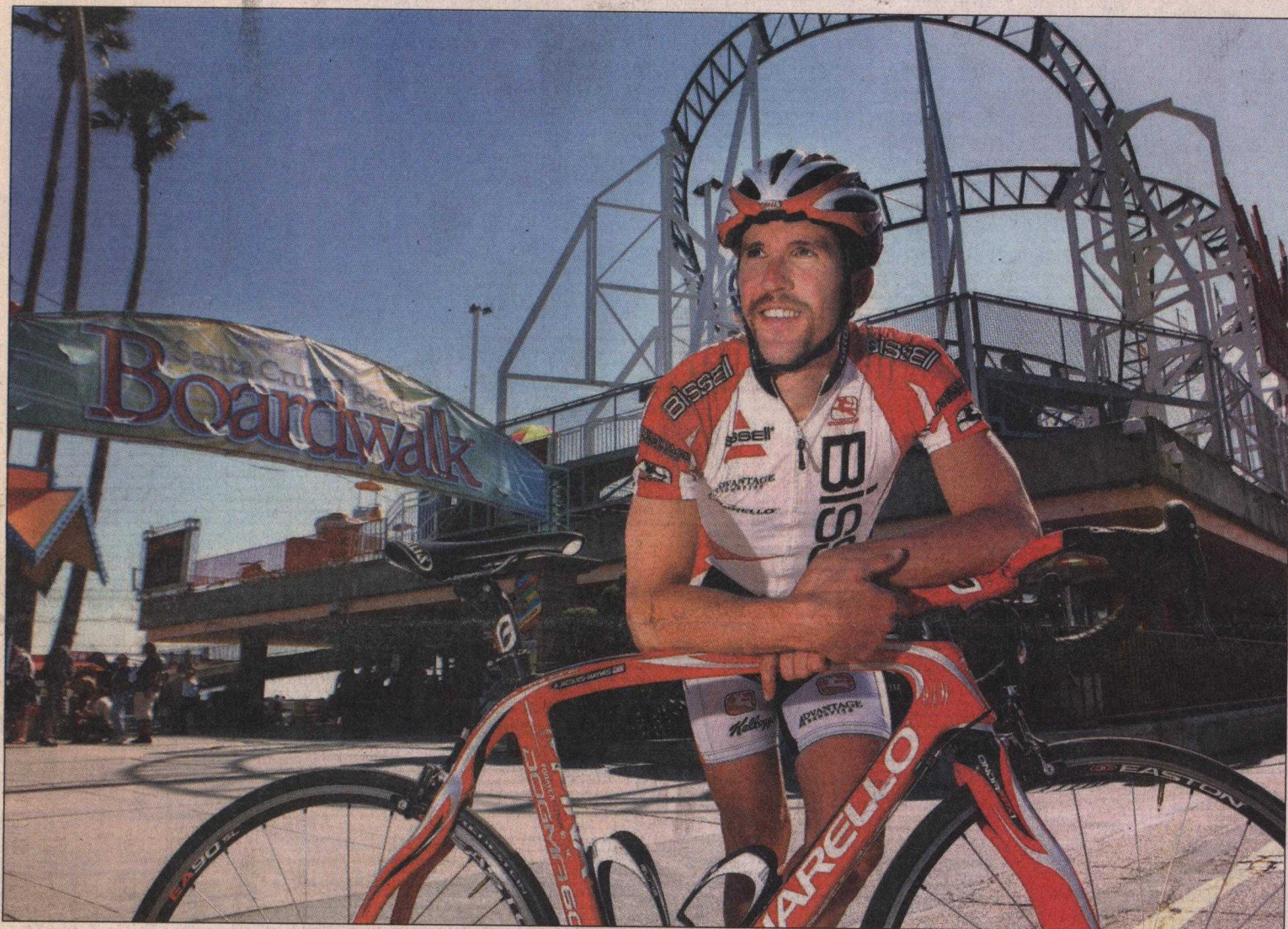


Here they come: Surf City or bust



ROBINSON KUNTZ/SENTINEL

Corralitos pro cyclist Andy Jacques-Maynes is feeling confident for this year's Tour of California. Jacques-Maynes crashed out of last year's race.

Corralitos pro who crashed out of last year's race hopes to be in thick of the action this year

Bicycle Races

5-18-10

By JULIE JAG

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SANTA CRUZ — Andy Jacques-Maynes makes his living as a professional cyclist. He rides for the Bissell Pro Cycling team that is competing this week in the Amgen Tour of California, an eight-day stage race that includes such esteemed competition as Lance Armstrong, Levi Leipheimer and Mark Cavendish.

He is not the kind of guy who hits parked cars, or light poles.

Well, maybe he is that guy. A crash into an isolated metal light pole during a cyclocross race three years ago, and the debilitation that followed, led to Jacques-Maynes' decision to become



Andy Jacques-Maynes tries to walk off a crash in last year's race. A few minutes later he couldn't recall he had even crashed and was pulled from the race.

MICHAEL MARIANT/
AP FILE

a pro road racer. And last year, he sailed headfirst into a parked car during an otherwise minor crash along Highway 1 on Stage 2 of the Tour, which ended in Santa Cruz. Suffering a concussion and retrograde amnesia, the Corralitos cyclist wound

up being the first racer to arrive in Santa Cruz, just as he'd dreamed. Except, in his dream, he wasn't in an ambulance.

That's just his luck. It also seems to be his luck to come

SEE RACER ON A2

IF YOU GO

TOUR OF CALIFORNIA, STAGE 3

START: 11:15 today at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco

EXPECTED FINISH: Between 3:20-4 p.m. at the Beach Boardwalk (a detailed map showing where exactly the course runs in Santa Cruz County is on B9 in today's Sports section)

DISTANCE: 113.3 miles

ON THE NET: www.tourofcalifornia.com and www.tourofcalifornia-santacruz.com

MORE INSIDE

- Here's the skinny on where to watch and park in Santa Cruz, and what roads to avoid, **A2**
- Chris Carmichael, Lance Armstrong's coach, lets Santa Cruz fans of the famed cyclist in on some of Armstrong's training secrets, **A2**
- Race organizers this year moved the race from February to May. It was a huge risk — but one that appears to be paying off, **B7**
- Australia's Brett Lancaster, riding for Cervelo, surges ahead of a pack of 26 riders to claim the tour's second stage, **B7**

the 1992 and 1996 Olympics cycling teams and

Carmanacher, who coached is also riding in the Tour of California.

son said. "For him to take the time to do this is nice."

SHUTTLES

Two shuttles will run every half hour from downtown locations to Depot Park from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Shuttle stops are:

- Marini's, Pacific Avenue near Walnut Avenue
- Former Sentinel building, Cedar and Church streets
- Calvary Church, Cedar and Lincoln streets
- Depot Park, Pacific Avenue and Washington Street

RACER

Continued from A1

back stronger after such setbacks.

Today, Jacques-Maynes and his compatriots in the 800-mile, eight-stage tour between Nevada City and Thousand Oaks will again pedal down Highway 1 toward Santa Cruz. Stage 3 begins in San Francisco at 11:15 a.m. and the leaders are expected to arrive in front of the Beach Boardwalk around 3:30 p.m.

Perhaps Jacques-Maynes will be among them.

"This year the motivation is super high because I feel stronger," said Jacques-Maynes, 31. "I'm just looking for my opportunity."

Bissell brought on Jacques-Maynes mostly as a domestique, whose main purpose is to help get his twin brother, Ben, a five-time Tour of California racer, to the podium. But plans can change during the course of a race, and if Jacques-Maynes finds himself in a breakaway group near the finish, he could get the green light to try to chase down a win.

Ben said he is confident his brother can fill whatever role he is called upon to do, accident or not.

"He's really one of the go-to guys and has been leading up to and after that crash last year," Ben said. "He's the guy the team pivots upon. He never slouches in that role. And he certainly knows how to come back. To bounce back from such a small [accident], for him is like water off a duck's back."

Compared to the cyclocross accident, in which Jacques-Maynes broke 15 bones, including 10 on his spine, bruised both lungs and punctured one and suffered a torn ligament in his hand, a concussion and a black eye, he barely suffered a scrape during the Stage 2 pileup.

Because of the amnesia, Jacques-Maynes doesn't remember exactly what happened. However, in a post-race blog post, Team Liquigas' Kjell Karlstrom describes it this way: "I was taking a water bottle from my teammate Brian Vandborg, so I only had one hand on the handle bar. Then, I hit a huge pot hole and went down. I took

about 15 or 20 other riders down with me! ... [Jacques-] Maynes was the worst off, as he went to hospital with an injury. I am OK, but bruised and sore. I don't think it will affect my ability to keep riding though. I think I'll be OK."

Jacques-Maynes also thought he was OK at first. His mechanic rushed him a replacement bike — his was wrecked — and he was back on the road in no time. But when the medics caught up to him — mid-ride — Jacques-Maynes couldn't remember how he had gotten hurt, or even that he had been in a crash. At that point he pulled himself from the race.

A little more than a week after the crash, Jacques-Maynes returned to racing. Still, Ben said his brother has struggled to shake the disappointment of missing his homecoming.

"I think it was a bit of a blow to him," said Ben, who was named the Stage 2 Most Courageous Rider last year for his effort in trying to chase down stage winner Thomas Peterson and eventual Tour winner Leipheimer on the excruciating climb up Bonny Doon Road. "It's hard to have to deal with yet another setback like that. Luckily, he was not so badly hurt that he had to do another recovery period. He came back with form and ambition a few weeks after that. ...

"It's the mental hit on the day of wanting, dreaming, wishing and hoping and having that ripped out quickly. That is difficult. It's something you have to get over. It's a part of racing, it's just unfortunate that he had a couple of these troubles."

Jacques-Maynes said he is ready to put them behind him. But burying the hatchet during the Tour of California, the largest cycling race in America, is a tall order. Not only are the 128 cyclists among the best in the world, including 11 current national champions and seven Olympic medalists, but they are all in near prime shape since organizers moved the race from February to May and the heart of Tour de France training.

"It's going to take quite a bit of luck," Jacques-Maynes said.

But, he added, he has plenty of motivation.

"I don't want to be known as the guy who always crashes."

CLOSURES

These road closures will be in effect through 6 p.m.

- Beach Street from Main to Raymond streets
- Riverside Avenue between Second and Beach streets
- Cliff Street from First to Beach streets
- Front Street from South Pacific Avenue to Third Street

Police will begin closing roads that are part of the race route at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, beginning with High Street and ending with West Cliff Drive at Beach Street. Race route roads will reopen from 4:20-4:45 p.m.

EVENTS

11 A.M.: The MBT Footwear Lifestyle Festival, Cliff Street between Beach and Second streets

11:15 A.M.: Race begins in San Francisco

11:15 A.M.: Live entertainment begins at the Boardwalk

2:30 P.M.: Breakaway Mile walk for cancer starts at the Dream Inn

3:20-4 P.M.: Race ends at the Boardwalk, Beach Street and Riverside Avenue

4 P.M.: After-party at the Bicycle Trip, 1001 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz