

Santa Cruz Race First Professional One In California

Next Sunday Santa Cruz will be the test site for the first professional bicycle race ever held in the State of California, according to American Bicycle League officials.

Professional cyclists from throughout the Western United States will journey to Santa Cruz to compete in the annual Tour de Santa Cruz, which is sponsored by the Santa Cruz Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Last year's race attracted almost 100 contestants for two days of racing as Bob Parsons, 1967 road racing champion, walked off with the traditional

bouquet of roses and a first-place trip to the Olympic Games in Mexico City.

This year, with the race turning professional — except for its junior events — the riders will compete for \$1000 in cash and merchandise prizes.

Racing will be confined to just one day — next Sunday — and the cross-country race has been dropped from the slate of events.

Officials said all emphasis will be placed on the closed circuit course on Beach Hill, which has been termed more exciting for spectators.