



# Splendid day for a race



# Splendid day for a race

## Happy birthday for women's champion

By JULIE JAG  
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

SANTA CRUZ — Celebrating her 40th birthday while pain nagged at her right Achilles tendon, Katrin Tobin of Santa Cruz thought her athletic glory days had passed. Sunday, when she won her first Sentinel Triathlon after numerous attempts, Tobin proved herself wrong.

"When I turned 40 and was injured, I thought '39 was my best year, I'll never race anymore,'" she said. "I thought that was the beginning of the end. Now every year is a bonus. It's nice to be back."



BOYCE

Tobin beat out two younger women for the victory in the 21st edition of the Sentinel Triathlon.

She finished the race in 2 hours, 15 minutes, 53 seconds, while 26-year-old Ginger Ellsworth took second in 2:18.03 and 30-year-old Megumi Masuda crossed in 2:19.42.

Top local man, Dave Reid, experienced the same phenomenon, except he was on the losing end. Reid, 28, completed a stunning swim and bike, then eked out enough of a run to hit the tape first Sunday morning. But he had a 5-minute head start on two older athletes who were in hot pursuit, and who ended up turning in quicker times.

Albert Boyce, 38, of Stockton, won the Sentinel



**TOP:** A curious sea lion watches as a group of swimmers passes by Sunday morning during the Sentinel Triathlon. **ABOVE:** Dave Reid of Santa Cruz, the top local male finisher, grinds his way to the finish line. Reid finished third overall in the race, the 21st Sentinel Triathlon.

in his first attempt with a time of 2:00.51. Aaron King, 38, of Menlo Park took second for the second straight year with a time of 2:02.08, while Reid turned in a 2:02.26.

Participants start the race in waves, by age group, so the first person to cross the finish line doesn't necessarily post the fastest time.

Still, Reid, who improved on his fifth-place finish last year, said coming in first, if just for a moment, was a great feeling.

"I've never done that before," he said. "It's so much fun breaking the tape."

Reid, who lives in Santa Cruz, led from the start, coming out of the water tied with Loren

Siebert. And his quick riding — nearly three minutes passed between the time he exited the transition area and the time his closest pursuer entered it — may have actually helped Boyce turn in his quick time.

"We had those jackrabbits in front of us," Boyce said, referring to Reid and a small pack of young runners that crossed before him. "Maybe that was it."

Boyce and King will next try their running, swimming and biking skills at the triathlon nationals, which will be held in Shreveport, La., next week.

Tobin had plenty of athletes to chase — young, old, male and female — but there were two she was especially concerned with.

The first was fellow Santa Cruz racer Sarah Kerlin. Kerlin won the Sentinel last year and at the last minute had scrapped plans to compete in an Exterra triathlon in Lake Tahoe so she could reclaim her local crown. But Kerlin got a flat tire on her bike almost immediately after exiting the transition area for the cycling portion of the race, leaving Tobin in the clear.

Or so she thought.

Tobin said she was feeling pretty good until she came to the turnaround for the run, near Natural Bridges Beach State Park. There she spotted an unknown female runner sporting pigtales and was sure she read the number 36 on the woman's calf — where the racer's age is written. A 36-year-old would have started in the same

See **TRIATHLON** on **PAGE D2**

## Triathlon

Continued from Page D1

wave as Tobin, so when she crossed the finish line, she was sure she had finished second.

That runner turned out to be

26-year-old Ellsworth, who started with the first wave of runners. Ellsworth undoubtedly is a good runner, qualifying for a Kona Ironman in her first year of competing in triathlons. But, she would have had to come in at least 5 minutes ahead of Tobin to win.

To Tobin's relief, she didn't. "I've done this race a bunch of times, and I've always been the best local (female finisher), but I've never even won my age group," she said. "At 41, you'd think I could win my age group."

Her age group is one of the

few things Tobin hasn't won, though she came close in 1999, finishing third behind two other 37-year-olds. She's used to being on top in most things, especially cycling. She was a member of the USA Cycling team from 1984-1990 and even won a stage in the women's

Tour de France.

But in her 41 years — no matter what the race, the finish or the age — she said one thing has remained the same: "It hurts just the same as it ever does."

Contact Julie Jag  
at [jjag@santa-cruz.com](mailto:jjag@santa-cruz.com).