

COASTAL CLASSIC FOR CYCLING FANS

Zabriskie edges Leipheimer
in tight sprint to finish line

Thousands line city streets
for world-class view of race

Police say ride goes off
without a hitch



ROBINSON KUNTZ/SENTINEL

Cyclists glide down West Cliff Drive on their way to the finish at the Boardwalk during the Amgen Tour of California on Tuesday.

Bicycle Races

By J.M. BROWN

jbrown@santacruzsentinel.com

SANTA CRUZ — To the cheers of thousands gathered at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk on a sublimely sunny afternoon Tuesday, U.S. cyclist David Zabriskie of the Garmin-Transitions team was the first to cross the finish line of the Amgen Tour of California's Stage 3 finish.

The 31-year-old Zabriskie pulled ahead of three-time defending champion Levi Leipheimer, who held a tight lead as the 120-plus riders emerged from the dense forest of Bonny Doon on a dramatic

'I think it really showcased the city quite well. It was an event that truly had a Santa Cruz flavor to it. It was really cool.'

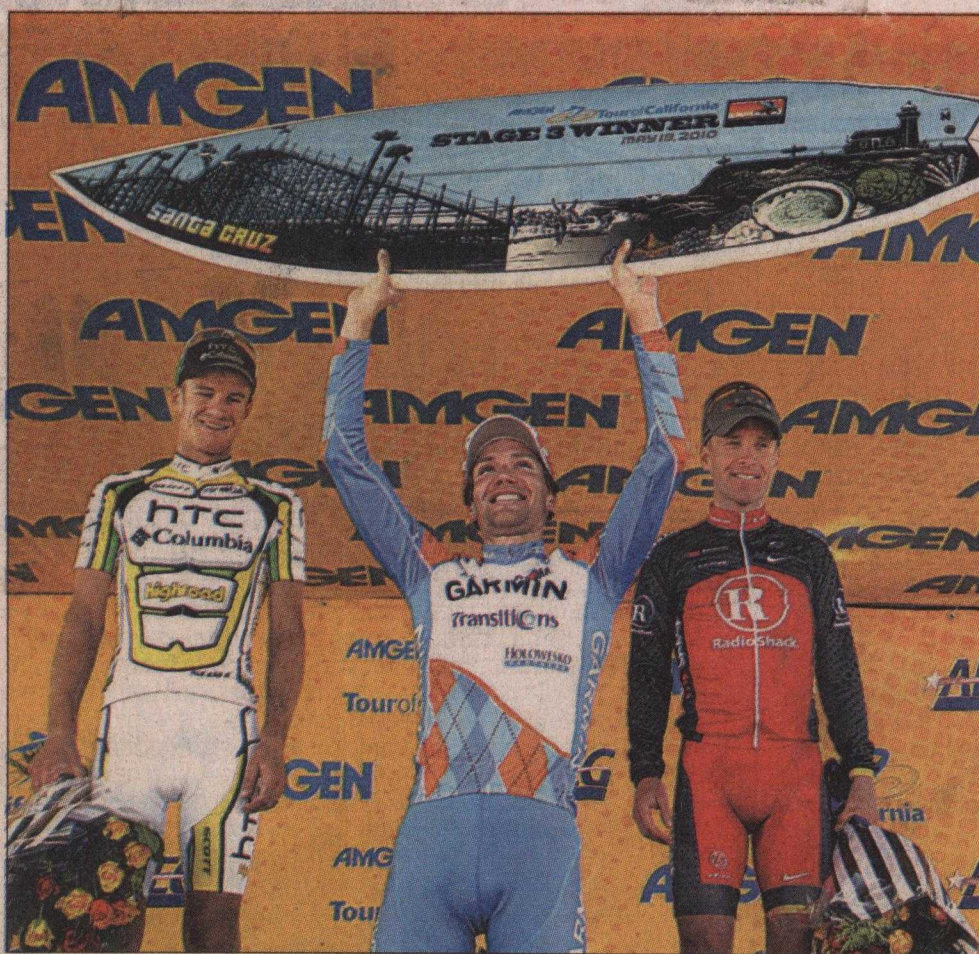
CAPT. STEVE CLARK, Santa Cruz police

Michael Rogers of Team HTC-Columbia for a thrilling finish in front of the iconic 102-year-old Boardwalk, where Mayor Mike Rotkin gave Zabriskie a surfboard, Santa Cruz's version of a key to the city.

Alice Burke, 41, of Santa Cruz, cheered as the riders sped by, saying she loved the excitement and energy of the crowd. "It was worth coming out for," Burke said.

Tuesday's race was the second Tour of California to roll through Santa Cruz. After two failed bids, the

SEE RACE ON A10



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL

Dave Zabriskie raises his winning trophy — a fish-tail surfboard shaped by Doug Haut. Zabriskie is flanked by second-place finisher Michael Rogers at left and three-time Tour of California winner Levi Leipheimer.

5-19-10

MORE INSIDE

■ Amgen race passes by UCSC peacefully, **B1**

■ Cancer survivors find deeper meaning in race, **B3**



■ Cancer survivors join Watsonville resident in Breakaway walk, **A7**

■ Festival atmosphere draws crowds to finish line, **A7**

■ Race gives old friends a chance to reconnect, **A7**

■ Views of Stage 3 from start to finish, **A8-A9**

■ Dave Zabriskie edges out Levi Leipheimer for a photo finish, **C1**

■ Videos, slideshows and more online, **SANTACRUZSENTINEL.COM**

RACE

Continued from A1

city was selected last year to serve as a host, with downtown as the finish line. The race was moved to May after cold showers pelted the riders last February — a move that hoteliers, restaurant owners and merchants from the beach to Pacific Avenue hoped would be an off-season boon in an otherwise slow year. Police estimated there were 20,000 fans at the finish line and another 5,000 scattered along the course race in town.

"The event showcased the very best of Santa Cruz, with a collaborative community effort to produce a truly unique Santa Cruz experience," police Capt. Steve Clark said.

The race's economic effect on Surf City won't be known for days or weeks, as business owners, city officials and fundraisers tally their ledgers. But one thing is certain: The race once again raised the city's international profile and provided pure enjoyment for cycling enthusiasts and casual fans alike.

"It's great to join other cycling fans and ride together," said Luis Jevons, 43 of Sunnyvale, who took the day off from the Sunnyvale-Cupertino Cycling Shop to watch the action from Pine Flat Road in Bonny Doon. "This is my first time seeing any kind of race. The speed they do it at blows us away."

Those watching the race live on Versus got a rude surprise when, just minutes before the finish, the network switched over to the NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs. The tour's website carried the race live from 2 p.m. to the 4 p.m. finish.

But tens of thousands of spectators seized the opportunity to see the race in person, lining the final stretch of the 113-mile route from San Francisco



Onlookers cheer as cyclists ride down West Cliff Drive during Stage 3 of the Amgen Tour of California on Tuesday.

ROBINSON KUNTZ/SENTINEL

to Santa Cruz. Several hundred volunteers served as course marshals along the route and at the finish line.

"It was fabulous — people just had an incredible time," Councilwoman Lynn Robinson said. "It was a spectacular response from Santa Cruz in every respect."

Police said the race went off without a hitch. Capt. Steve Clark said the tour drew an estimated 25,000 spectators citywide. There were about 20,000 in the festival area near the Boardwalk and 5,000 along the race route within city limits.

"I think it really showcased the city quite well," Clark said. "It was an event that truly had a Santa Cruz flavor to it. It was really cool."

However, after racers completed the course and spectators started heading home, an irate driver near the finish area tried to run down people, then led police on a 10-minute low-speed chase from the beach area through the Westside to Mission Street.

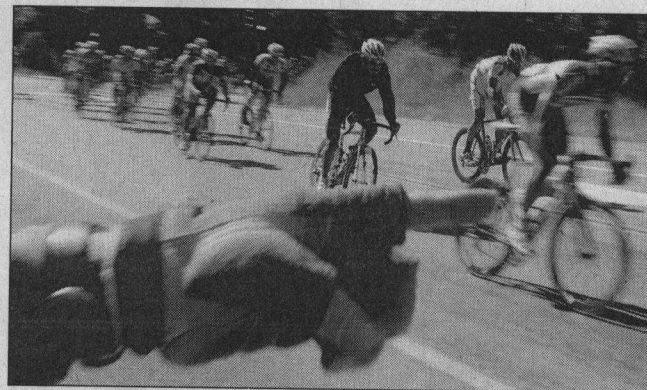
"We had enough resources we were able to keep him corralled," Clark said.

No injuries were reported, and the man was detained at a gas station at Mission Street and Miramar Drive, police reported.

Tuesday's pack of 120-plus riders left Ocean Beach in San Francisco at 11:15 a.m., traveling down Highway 1 along the dramatic San Mateo County coastline before heading inland for two moderate climbs near Pescadero. Riders later scaled Bonny Doon Road for an endurance-testing climb from sea level to 2,000 feet at a 10 percent grade before winding their way down to the past UC Santa Cruz to the Westside.

At the intersection of Western Drive and Mission Street, Tate Woniya, 35, of Felton, sat in his Jeep Cherokee for two hours hoping for a good view of riders coming down the chute. Several hundred were gathered at the corner.

"The hill and the turn is the excitement," he said. "They're a lot faster than other parts of the



A spectator points out his favorite rider as the pack rolls down Highway 1 toward Swift Street.

BILL LOVEJOY/SENTINEL

course."

At the end of Swift Street, riders hit West Cliff Drive's expansive view of the bay, where volunteer Doug Huskey, 57, of Santa Cruz, was stationed during his second stint as a course marshal.

"Personally, I think this is a great spot. You've got a view of them from quite a distance off and they will have to slow down a little bit at least," he said. "We're the buffer. We keep them from the cliff."

Riders steamrolled past Lighthouse Point into a flinch-making horseshoe

climb around Beach Hill to the finish line.

Victoria and Herb Perry of Mountain View had a room at the Coastview Inn on Beach Street, right across from the Boardwalk arcade and one of the two live-stream TVs. Santa Cruz was a much shorter trip than France, where they traveled in 2007 to watch the famed Tour de France.

Like many spectators, Victoria Perry confessed, "We're here to see Lance Armstrong."

Shuttles transported spectators from down-

town parking lots to Depot Park. Volunteers with the Santa Cruz bicycle advocacy group People Power valeted bikes for spectators along Beach Street, where the MBT Lifestyle Festival packed in crowds interested in snatching up race merchandise.

"People don't have to worry about locks, and we get to do community outreach about sustainable transportation," said People Power volunteer Paul Hempstead, 22.

Surfer James Cavanagh, 30, of Santa Cruz, popped out of the ocean a couple of hours before the riders passed. He said he wasn't that in to cycling, but welcomed the race.

"I think it's pretty exciting," he said. "Hopefully it will bring some tourists in our town and they will spend their money and help boost our economy here."

Kelly Carducci, a massage therapist from Auburn, spent Monday night at the Seaway Inn so she and her husband could watch one of her clients; rider Chris Jones of Team Type I, compete. The pair brought their mountain bikes for a ride at Wilder Ranch on Tuesday before the race.

"We came to follow the tour. This is our last stop before heading home," Carducci, 37, said. "We've also been wanting to mountain bike down here, so we used the opportunity as a mini-vacation."

Valerie Klem and Peg Muscato took a break from their jobs at a UC Santa Cruz extension office to cheer the riders. They walked to a vantage spot on Mission Street.

"It's a great thing to showcase Santa Cruz and the beauty of Santa Cruz," Klem said.

Staff writers Megha Satyanarayana, Shanna McCord, Jennifer Squires, Alia Wilson, Laura Copeland, Romain Fonsegrives, Sarah Rolan and Bonnie Horgos contributed to this report.