

APRIL 19, 1979

Bicycling CYCLING

WEEKEND OF BIKE RACES

ROBERT A. LEIBOLD

The streets of Capitola Village will be the scene of action, speed, and strength this weekend, as the fourth annual Capitola Criterium gets underway. From 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday, some of the best bicycle racers in the West will compete in a number of races around the traditional course, established in 1976 by the Santa Cruz County Cycling Club.

Capitola's course is shorter and faster than the Santa Cruz loop marked for Sunday the 22nd (see GOOD TIMES, April 5, 1979). The Capitola loop is only two-thirds of a mile around, so there is almost always racing action in sight. The streets used are Monterey-Fanmar-Terrace-San Jose-Esplanade-Monterey, and the finish/start area is on Monterey at Capitola. This course provides for a stiff climb each lap up the Monterey hill, an extremely exciting hairpin turn from Fanmar onto Terrace, and the "gunbarrel," the three-block speed stretch on narrow San Jose Ave. off the hill.

Racing action at Capitola has always been exciting, and these multi-lap races have never been decided until the last turn around. In 1976, the final lap of the senior "category two" race saw a massive pile-up at the hairpin (captured by a number of local photographers) that resulted in the exhausted riders at the rear of the pack being given a surprise last chance.

Fred Markham, the 21-year-old rider from Los Gatos, is the odds-on favorite to win the Pepsi Classic this year, according to promoter Norm Gall. "He's currently on the U.S. National Team, and has been training especially hard for the Pan Am games this year in July," said Gall. In fact, Markham has been on the National Team since 1976, when he competed at the Montreal Olympics. He now rides for the famous Indy/Exxon/Ultima team, along with national champion Wayne Stetina.

Tom Bartlett, with the Sacramento/Fuji team, was last year's winner, and is expected to shine again at the Pepsi Classic this year. His 1978 victory seems more spectacular when his two bike changes and one flat tire are considered. Rory O'Reilly, with the Santa Barbara/Nishiki team, is the Central California Track and Road champion, and is usually considered a threat in the fast criteriums. However, the hill in the Pepsi Classic, while not large, can become a mountain after 45 laps, and may be a problem for O'Reilly.

To the uninitiated, bicycle racing can be somewhat confusing; after all, it is *not* simply going around and around and being first at the end. However, the race program, available along the course, and the professional announcers will help to clear up the mysteries



Fred Markham of Los Gatos, favored to win this year's Pepsi Classic.

of the sport. If you plan to attend either the Capitola or the Pepsi Classic (Santa Cruz) races, please leave dogs at home, or keep them on a leash; they have been known to cause serious crashes. There is, naturally, no charge for watching the race, and everyone is encouraged to attend and enjoy the competition. For more information, call Bob at 425-8688 or Frank at 426-0253. •

PATHWAYS TO SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT

Sharing spiritual growth
with
guided meditations
by

Sal Rachel light worker

Wednesday, April 25, 7:30 pm
Laurel Center Multi - Purpose Room
\$2.00 donation

NOW OPEN!

ALTERNATIVE

