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Cycling: Schreiber takes risk, Classic crown

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Tucson Citizen

The activity in the Tucson Bicycle Classic men's combined category 1-2 races yesterday was enough to try Nick Schreiber's patience.

"Everybody was going so aggressively the whole race," Schreiber said, signing though his wife, Cecelia. "Then everything started to slow down at the bottom of Greasewood on the second-to-last lap ... I finally said to myself, 'OK, let's go!'"

Schreiber took the risky chance of surging ahead with more than a full 5.6-mile lap to go. But he and fellow breaker Lee Rosenthal of Durango, Colo., kept the gap open, and Schreiber won the 45-mile West Side circuit race. He thus claimed two stages of three in the 20th annual TBC.



Photo by MASON IBAS

Nick Schreiber crosses the finish line first in the Tucson Bicycle Classic.

Highlighting the women's field for local competitors was the dominance of "part-time" racer Jeanne Anne Krizman, the former University of Arizona golf star and national-class triathlete.

She blazed to the top of Category 3 in Friday's time trial and kept the yellow leader's jersey yesterday in Saturday's Gates Pass 63-mile road race. Yesterday, she held on in fifth place for the three-stage General Category (overall) crown.

Schreiber, who won yesterday in 1 hour, 46 minutes, 22 seconds, actually had a game plan with, of all people, rival Rob Alvarez, with whom he had dueled this summer in the Tucson Criterium Series.

"We wanted to break away ourselves on the third lap, but it didn't happen," he said.

Alvarez, second in the TBC's Pro Category 1 GC, said the plan was to get Schreiber ahead to make up the time deficit (52 seconds) in the GC going into yesterday's stage.

He held a 40-second lead on the pack at one point yesterday but by the finish it was just 20. A sweep including the GC slipped away.

"If he got ahead, it was no threat to us (Category 1 racers)," Alvarez said. "We wanted to get away together, but everybody kept watching me. Then, when Nick broke, we all just sort of looked at each other."

"He was rolling. Then, when little groups would try to get ahead, I'd try to chase them down. It was being a friend for somebody who most of the time is your enemy."

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Alvarez conceded the circuit race with the heavy sprinting required is not ideal for him. His task was to hold sway and keep his second place behind Category 1 circuit race winner Chris Walker of Santa Barbara, Calif.

Rosenthal sort of went along for the ride and made a bid to slip by Schreiber's sprint at the end.

"The guy was with me, and he didn't really help me, and I had to pull and pull, and I was frustrated," Schreiber said. "I was kind of surprised by that time I could (outsprint him)."

Schreiber fell behind in the GC by finishing third in Saturday's rigorous, high-climb road race.

The opposite was Krizman's scene. She broke ahead immediately, then teamed with fellow Tucsonan Karen Candelario Saturday and they kept a sizable lead.

Krizman was content to ride with the flow yesterday.

Candelario, a strong sprinter, lost yesterday by inches in a close sprint to Marisa Russell of Chandler.

"I thought we could hang together (Saturday)," said Candelario of the Desert Foxes team who has been racing for just one season.

"She (Krizman) knew there was a fair buffer of time between us and the rest of them. She knew she could just sit back today and enjoy the ride." The versatile Krizman, a member of the 1996 UA national championship golf team and last year's Tucson Women's City Amateur, is content to dabble in golf, cycling, triathlons and running after retiring from the Ironman-style triathlon scene two years ago.

"Last year I got the lead the (Gates Pass road race) and lost by 100 meters at the end," Krizman said. "I wanted it this year, so I did better interval training but just about seven hours a week of training. I was surprised I felt so good.

"(Yesterday) we were going along, and when the Cat 4s passed us, I thought, 'let's get going.' I don't want this to be a three-hour ride."

"I'm not a good sprinter. To win this stage is really hard for me."