

2001 Chris Thater Memorial Cycle Results

STRONG SURVIVE- AND WIN- AS LIESWYN, SCRYMGEOUR TAKE CHRIS THATER MEMORIAL

Monday, August 27 BINGHAMTON, NY - Prior to the running of the eighteenth annual Chris Thater Memorial, the talk was about how it was a criterium for non-criterium riders, that it was a race where the strong generally flourish.

And that's just what happened today, as John Lieswyn (7 UP/Colorado Cyclist) and Kristy Scrymgeour (Saturn) turned in bravura performances off the front of the pack to take the wins in the Men's and Women's events.

First up was the Pro/Elite Men's event: 50 miles on a technical 1.2 mile circuit in suburban Binghamton that included six corners and one climb per lap. It has traditionally been a course that has rewarded aggressive riding.....and John Lieswyn is nothing if not aggressive. After seeing a number of early breakaway attempts- some of which included Lieswyn himself- come to naught, the 1999 winner took the bull by the horns and spearheaded the eventual winning move, with Scott Moninger (Mercury) the only rider able to stay with him. While the duo never gained more than 20 seconds, their margin was just enough, as Lieswyn held off Moninger for the win, with Saturn's Mark McCormack leading in a 20-rider chase group for third, just eight seconds in arrears. It was an especially satisfying win for Lieswyn, who, after finishing third overall in the 2000 Pro Tour, was having a season of 'much effort, little reward': "For sure, it was great to win here today. After winning it two years ago, I knew that I had a good shot if I rode aggressively, but smart. And the team was great- thanks to all my 7 UP/Colorado Cyclist teammates!"

The aggression continued two hours later, as the Elite Women competed in their 35-mile event. Due to a scheduling conflict with another major women's event, both Saturn and AutoTrader.com came into the Chris Thater Memorial with smaller-than-usual contingents. But it didn't seem to matter much, as Saturn continued to do what it has done in every other Pro Cycling Tour Women's event: dominate. Just seven miles in, Saturn rider Kristy Scrymgeour attacked solo for a prime; a chase group of seven quickly formed, and it looked as if they would catch Scrymgeour and make a strong breakaway of eight. But they never did: the combination of Scrymgeour's time trial prowess- she's the current Australian National Time Trial Champion- and some ace blocking by Saturn mate Anna Millward proved to be too much, and Scrymgeour ended up lapping the main field- and nearly the chasers as well!- to win handily.....though she wasn't sure it was going to work out that way: "I thought for sure that I'd gone too early, but my legs felt good today, and Anna did a great job of controlling the chase." Tina Mayolo-Pic (AutoTrader.com) took the seven-rider sprint for second, with Joanne Kيسانowski (Procter & Gamble/Women's Health) snagging third.

In the overall Pro Cycling Tour standings, there were no major changes as Saturn's Trent Klasna and Anna Millward continue to hold commanding leads in the Men's and Women's categories, respectively. The next stop on the Pro Cycling Tour is in the Bay Area on September 8th-9th for the San Rafael Grand Prix (Women only) and the San Francisco Grand Prix (Men only).

RESULTS Pro/Elite Men 1. John Lieswyn (USA), 7 UP/Colorado Cyclist 50 miles in 1 hour, 55 minutes, 25 seconds 2. Scott Moninger (USA), Mercury- same time 3. Mark McCormack (USA), Saturn- at 8 seconds 4. Vassili Davidenko (UKR), Navigators 5. Graeme Miller (NZL), NetZero 6. Derek Bouchard-Hall (USA), Mercury 7. Oscar Pineda (GUA), 7 UP/Colorado Cyclist 8. Jeff Hopkins (AUS), Embassy International/Grange Insurance 9. Harm Jansen (NED), Saturn 10. Michael Sayers (USA), Mercury- all same time

Elite Women 1. Kristy Scrymgeour (AUS), Saturn 35 miles in 1 hour, 36 minutes, 16 seconds 2. Tina Mayolo-Pic (USA), AutoTrader.com- at 2 minutes, 35 seconds 3. Joanne Kيسانowski (NZL), Procter & Gamble/Women's Health 4. Anna Millward (AUS), Saturn 5. Laura Van Gilder (USA), VeriZon Wireless 6. Cheryl Binney (USA), Procter & Gamble/Women's Health 7. Roz Reekie-May (NZL), UPMC/Pittsburgh Cycling 8. Kelly McCombi (AUS), Australia- all same time 9. Charmain Breon (USA), Talgoamerica.com- at one lap 10.