

Record turnout heats up Town and Country YMCA

Hughes sets womens course record

by Bob Wilkiewicz
Sports Editor

OCONOMOWOC — Setting a new record in terms of quantity, if not in quality, more than 500 participants competed in the ninth annual Town and Country YMCA Triathlon on Saturday.

David Richter was first overall in the 1/4 mile swim, 15-mile bike ride and three-mile run with a time of :59.35 minutes.

"Today we were fortunate the course was shaded most of the time. If it was like this right now, it would be very hard."

Mike Teofilo

The mens course record of :59.12, set last year by James Cichy, remained in place with help from a combination of high temperatures — more than 90 degrees — and steamy humidity.

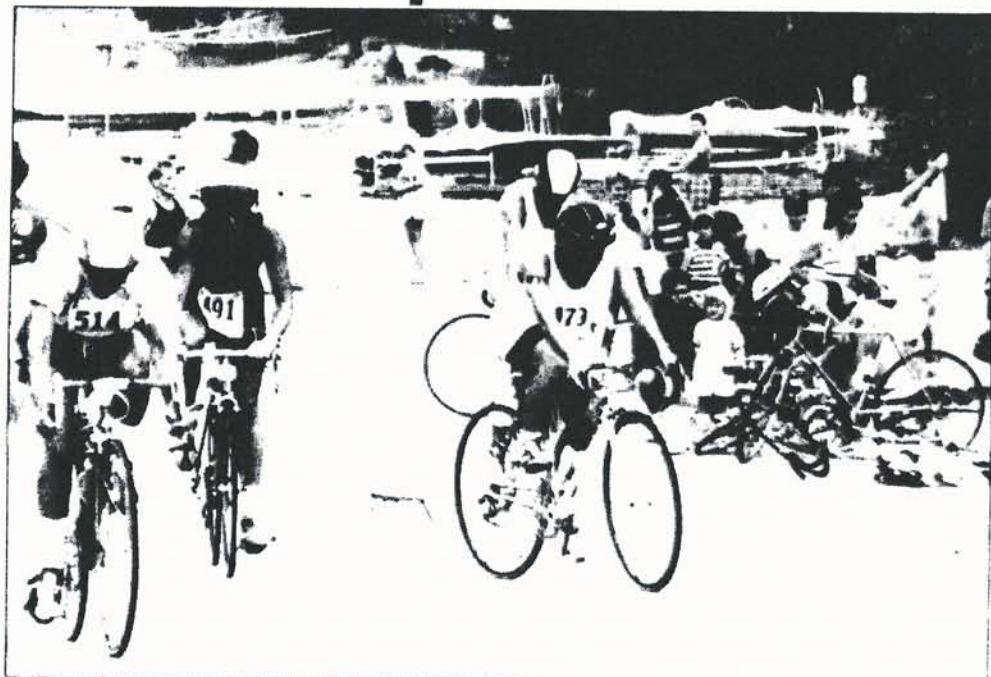
Michael Dodds was second in 1:00.23, while Jay Johnson took third place with a time of 1:00.15.

Cichy finished first in the 25-29 age group in 1:00.38.

However, things were better in the women's division as Kara Hughes took first place in 1:08.58 which bettered last year's record of 1:09.26 by Adrienne Driftmier.

Agnes Eppers was second at 1:11.38 and Dianne Davis was third with a time of 1:11.53.

Driftmier was first in the 30-34 age group with a time of 1:14.56.



Margaret Oettinger (514), Anne Wandler (491) and Pamela Strebel (473) get started on the 15-mile bike ride section of the ninth annual Town and Country YMCA Triathlon last week Saturday after finishing a 1/4-mile swim.

Bob Wilkiewicz, Enterprise Staff

In addition to the challenges of the course, participants and officials had to contend with an unplanned obstacle as computer problems delayed the processing of results for more than two hours.

"It's been quite an experience," said event director

Vicki Sheppard, who was in charge of the event for the first time.

However, an event-record 562 triathletes competed, which helped relieve some of the frustration caused by the computer problems.

Surprisingly, an older age group had the most participants.

"The age 30-34 group is the largest," said Sheppard. "We find that many of these people are continuing to train as they did when they were younger."

"Some use the event for cross-training for longer events or for marathons and more people are concerned about staying healthy."

One of the competitors was Oconomowoc High School varsity cross country coach Mike Teofilo, who completed the course in slightly more than an hour.

"I do it because it's local, it's a reasonable course and a well-run event," said Teofilo. "Today we were fortunate the course was shaded most of the time (due to clouds). If it was like this right now (sunny), it would be very hard."

In addition to contending with heat and humidity, one of the most difficult things for the competitors was making the transition from biking to running.

"On the run I was tired but then felt pretty good after a mile," Teofilo said. "It's tough after getting off the bike. Your legs feel like rubber."

Another competitor was Paul Wisniewski, an area resident who owns a consulting business. Wisniewski, who was a runner in college, completed the course in 1:22.26.

"It was very difficult today, the run was the toughest," said Wisniewski. "You have to keep hydrated. That's the most important thing."

"There's two water stations on the run and you take some along on the bike. In these conditions, you lose it faster than you think."

The Town and Country Triathlon is the fourth in a five-event series sponsored by YMCA's state-wide.

The series-ending finale, a dual-course event which features a 1/2-mile swim, a 23-mile bike ride and 6.2-mile run for its longer course, will be held in Wausau on August 3.