

Burnaby Six Day Night One

Symmetrics Team takes Omnium lead

By Chris Reid, Pedal Magazine

January 3 (Burnaby BC) – The Symmetrics Pro Cycling duo of Zach Bell and Svein Tuft opened a commanding ten point lead in the omnium on night one of the Burnaby Six Day. Adopting the Rocky Balboa approach to Madison tactics, the two relied heavily on their raw horsepower to ride on or off the front for most of the evening's two feature madisons. Their technique was not always perfect, in fact they probably missed more exchanges than any other team, but their continued ability to motor back on after any split and to continually put the rest of the field in difficulty was nothing short of impressive. Tuft has reportedly been battling a cold but he certainly seemed to show no ill effects of it last evening, as both he and partner Bell were able to drive a relentless pace.

Overall victory is far from a forgone conclusion for the yellow machine as they were bested in two of three events by visiting teams.

The young American duo of Austin Carrol and Cody O'Reilly (both riders are under 20, the second and third youngest riders in the field after Junior wonder-kid Cody Cambell) gave an impressive display of speed and technique to win the evenings opening Team Pursuit (serving as a sort of prologue for the weeks competition) ahead of National Team Paring Martin Gilbert and Ryan McKenzie. Having already raced the prestigious Ghent Six day this year, the pair brings international experience to the event far beyond their years. Losing by just two tenths of a second, the Canadian National team was left wondering what could have been had Gilbert not had to race on a borrowed bike after his did not make the flight from Quebec.

Hungarian/American teammates Adrian Hegevary and Daniel Harm (Rubicon Haagnes/Bergmann) scored an upset win in the evening's third event of the evening ahead of the Bell/Tuft freight train, showing why both riders are current national champions in their respective countries.

Other Race Notes:

The evening was also the beginning of the A Invitational Sprint Competition, run as a round robin, spectators will get to see all of the competitors paired off against each other at some point during the event.

Matt Chater managed to fit riding the sprint rounds in between second place finishes in both the A men's elimination to scratch, and the A men's Madison, and beat his Fast Twitch teammate Keith Bruneau, in two extremely close rides.

Cam MacKinnon, fresh from training under Martin Barras, defeated fellow Albertan Joel Regimbald in two straight rides.

In a pairing of two of the newest names in Canadian sprinting, Felix Haspel defeated JetFuel's Jamie Shankland in two straight rides.

Possibly the most anticipated ride of the evening however was between Junior prodigy Monique Sullivan and multiple masters' national champion Andy George. Despite most of George's extend family heckling him from the sidelines, George was able to take out the first ride, but succumbed to Sullivan's impressive speed and power in the second.

The sprint action continued with two Chariot heats won by Cam McKinnon over veteran tactician Bruneau and the young Haspel.

Gina Grain served notice to those in attendance that she is rapidly coming back into form after a rocky start to her track campaign. Grain dominated the B fields points race, showing superior speed to take a commanding lead in the points 23-11 over Ontario's Dave Byer.

Byer has the B's omnium lead, having also placed second in the B scratch race after his late race breakaway was caught by a flying Alex Pope in the last straight.

In the two A events of the evening Scott Laliberte was the dominant rider, winning the elimination to scratch over jack-of-all trades Chater and teaming up with perennial partner Murray Solem to win the Madison over the Fast Twitch Cycling pairing of Chater and Glenn Barr (who aside from racing spent much of the evening running around helping the organization).

Elite Men's Results

Elite Men's Team Pursuit

1. Austin Carroll/Cody O'Reilly (USA National Track Team), 2:16:28
2. Ryan MacKenzie (Volkswagen Trek)/Martin Gilbert (Kelly Benefit Strategies), 2:16:48
3. Zach Bell/Svein Tuft (Symmetrics Pro Cycling Team), 2:17:38
4. Cam Evans */Christian Meier * (Symmetrics Pro Cycling Team), 2:19:04
5. Tyler Farrar (Cofidis), 2:19:54
6. Adrian Hegevary/Daniel Harm (Rubicon Haagnes/Bergmann), 2:21:35
12. Marsh Cooper * (Symmetrics Pro Cycling Team)/Cody Campbell (Escape Velocity / DEVO), 2:22:17

Elite Men's Madison #1 (60 laps)

1. Zach Bell/Svein Tuft (Symmetrics Pro Cycling Team), 15 pts
2. Ryan MacKenzie (Volkswagen Trek)/Martin Gilbert (Kelly Benefit Strategies), 9
3. Tyler Farrar (Cofidis), 8
4. Cam Evans */Christian Meier * (Symmetrics Pro Cycling Team), 5
5. Adrian Hegevary/Daniel Harm (Rubicon Haagnes/Bergmann), 4
6. Austin Carroll/Cody O'Reilly (USA National Track Team), 2
7. Marsh Cooper * (Symmetrics Pro Cycling Team)/Cody Campbell (Escape Velocity / DEVO), 1

*U23

Elite Men's Madison #2 (60 laps)

1. Adrian Hegevary/Daniel Harm (Rubicon Haagnes/Bergmann), 10 pts
2. Zach Bell/Svein Tuft (Symmetrics Pro Cycling Team), 9
3. Austin Carroll/Cody O'Reilly (USA National Track Team), 9

4. Tyler Farrar (Cofidis), 7
5. Ryan MacKenzie (Volkswagen Trek)/Martin Gilbert (Kelly Benefit Strategies), 5
6. Cam Evans */Christian Meier * (Symmetrics Pro Cycling Team), 4
7. Marsh Cooper * (Symmetrics Pro Cycling Team)/Cody Campbell (Escape Velocity / DEVO), 0

Omnium

1. Zach Bell/Svein Tuft (Symmetrics Pro Cycling Team), 24pts
2. Adrian Hegevary/Daniel Harm (Rubicon Haagnes/Bergmann), 14
3. Ryan MacKenzie (Volkswagen Trek)/Martin Gilbert (Kelly Benefit Strategies), 13