

# Young is climbing ahead of schedule

Inga Thompson, the top female cyclist in the United States, was startled during last month's World Cycling Championship road race when she glanced across a pack of riders and saw Julie Young grinning.

"What's wrong with her?" Thompson later asked Bob Augello, manager of Team Kahlua, for which Young rode this year. "She's always got a half-smile on her face."

As Thompson and the international cycling community are discovering, there's nothing wrong with Young. In that one-day, 55-mile championship race in Germany, Young helped Sally Zack finish fourth before fading to 24th herself.

Young, who has only competed for three years, gave a better indication of her ability two weeks ago in the Tour of the European Economic Community — formerly, the Tour de France de Feminin.

Semi-Sacramentan finished the 1,100-kilometer race, which features 11 stages in 10 days, only 1 minute, 10 seconds behind winner Astrid Schop of the Dutch National Team. Young was the top U.S. rider in the event, finishing in a tie for fourth with Catherine Marsal. Thompson did not compete.

Leontien Van Moorsel, a Dutch National rider who won the World Championship road race in August, finished second, and Roberta Bonanomi of Italy was third, one second ahead of Young and Marsal.

"It was a great race," Young said upon returning from her first real taste of international competition. "It was really intense. I learned a lot."

One thing Young learned firsthand was something she already was aware of: The level of competition in Europe is much more demanding than in the U.S., where the fields are not filled 120-deep with strong riders.

"The depth of riders is so much greater in Europe," said Young, a St. Francis High School graduate who took up cycling after the UCLA golf team collapsed during her sopho-

## BICYCLING

By Matt Peters

more year. "They're fast every day. They're attacking every second."

Young said she was able to follow prerace strategy each day, which was to stay near the front, where she would be less likely to be blocked from chasing breakaways or slowed by bottlenecks in the course. One day she got away off the front on an especially mountainous leg of the race and was able to make up a full minute on the leader.

Climbing is Young's forte. Her weaknesses are individual time trials and field sprints. Young said she will work on those during the offseason which, for her, began with the end of the Tour of the European Economic Community. Young, who lives in Auburn, said she'll continue to ride her bike through mid-October, then will run hills and ski cross country.

If Young's three-year track record is an accurate indicator, look for her to come out even stronger next year and be more competitive in time trials and field sprints. Augello said it typically takes a minimum of five years for a cyclist to reach world-class level. For a cyclist to be competitive at an international level in three years is phenomenal.

"She believes that anything is possible," said Augello, attempting to explain how Young has been able to achieve success so quickly. "Most people who truly become great just don't believe things are impossible. She doesn't believe in other peoples' limitations."

Augello said Young's attitude, coupled with beneficial genes, should allow her to become one of the best cyclists in the world. With her recent showing in the European Economic Community, she has proven she's just a step away, Augello said.

Or, make that a half-step.

## CYCLING

### CALIFORNIA LOTTERY CLASSIC

At Old Sacramento

Men: Scott McKinley, 7-Eleven, 1 hour, 34 minutes, 20 seconds; Kurt Stockton, American Commerce; John McKinley, Menlo Velo; Roberto Gaggioli, Coors Light; David Farmer, Coors Light; Bob Mioniske, World Champ R.R.; Jamie Paolinetti, McNall Sports; Eric Rekka, Los Gatos; Derin Stockton, American Commerce; Mark Calowell, Spago; Gavin O'Grady, Crest; Jeff Pierce, 7-Eleven; Frank Sarate, Vita Crunch; Troy Miller, McNall Sports; Jack Vanderveen, Snaklee; Steve Speaks, Crest; Greg Oravetz, Coors Light; Steve Larsen, U.S. National.

Women: Ruthie Matthes, Ritchey, 1:12:03; Sally Zack, Ritchey; Louisa Jenkins, Hammerhead; Julie Young, Menlo Velo; Meg Gordon, Weight Watchers; Linda Brenneman, Weight Watchers; Laura Charameda, Mischief; Shan Rodgers, Menlo Velo; Elizabeth Keyser, Menlo Velo; Jennifer Garrison, Davis Bike Club; Stacey Cooper, Rio Strada; Jody Cox, Menlo Velo; Christy Nicolson, V.C. La Grange; Jeannie Golay, Cool Max; Sue Sutton, Weight Watchers; Katrin Tobin, Ritchey.

