

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

[Subscriber Services](#) [Mobile Edition](#) Site Web Search powered by **YAHOO! SEARCH**[home](#) [news](#) [business](#) [sports](#) [entertainment](#) [opinion](#) [obituaries](#) [blogs](#) [community](#) [contact us](#) [jobs](#) [cars](#) [homes](#) [classifieds](#) [what's on sale](#)

Sentinel Triathlon notes: Marguerite Meyer does double duty for relay teams

Leo Maxam - Sentinel Staff Writer

Article Launched: 09/22/2008 12:00:00 AM PDT

In her first year competing in the relay event of the Sentinel Triathlon, Marguerite Meyer managed to win twice.

The Santa Cruz athlete swam for her co-ed team of Robert Amatelli and Dan Wirls to win the overall relay title, and also did the bike leg for the winning women's relay team.

Meyer has a long and storied history with the Sentinel. She won the women's race back in 1986, the first year it was held on the west side of Santa Cruz, and has designed the race t-shirts for the past eight years. For 2008, her 22nd year competing in the Sentinel, Meyer decided to assemble a relay team of elite local athletes specializing in each of the three disciplines.

With Meyer doing the swim, Amatelli on the bike and Wirls pounding it out on the ground, the three dominated the rest of the relay teams Sunday, finishing in 1 hour, 58 minutes and 25 seconds, over four minutes ahead of the nearest team, the Orange County Triathlon Club from Irvine.

Amatelli, a budding pro cyclist from Santa Cruz who only started racing a year ago, crushed the field in the 40k bike leg up to Davenport, posting the fastest bike time in the event by anyone in both the individual or relay divisions.

"Rob gave me a three minute lead heading into the run," Wirls said. "All I had to do was keep up my pace. I almost could have slowed down near the end."

By the time Wirls crossed the finish line with no other relay teams in sight, Amatelli was already wondering what to do with their first-place prize.

"We get four free tickets to the Boardwalk ... each!" Amatelli said, betraying a slight disappointment beneath his jocular tone. "Maybe I could go down to the Boardwalk and try and scalp 'em."

The lack of a trophy aside, Meyer said she was ecstatic about their time.

"To do 1:58 is incredible," she said.

She added that at 49, after decades of endurance racing, it was a welcome relief not to have to do the run portion of the race.

"It's so nice not to have to run," she said. "It beats me up. It's not the healthiest thing for old bones.

"But," she added. "I'm going to do the whole thing next year for my 50th birthday."

Olympic trials swimmer bit by triathlon bug: Tommy Zaferes, the 22-year-old from Aptos who went to the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials in Omaha, Nebraska earlier this summer, was the first one out of the water in the opening wave, nearly three minutes ahead of his closest competitor. Zaferes would go on to finish the race in 2:07:41, good for second place in his age group. It was the first triathlon for Zaferes, who said he could see himself getting into the races more seriously in the future.

"I hope so," he said. "I just got a bike three weeks ago and ran a few times before the Sentinel. I was just sitting around and had to find something to do."

But first he would have to recover from the Sentinel.

"I'm not going to be able to walk tomorrow," he said.

The family that runs, swims and bikes together, stays together: Santa Cruz resident Georgia Acosta participated in a relay team with her two sons, Andrew and Austin. Georgia Acosta, 38, did the run leg of the race, while older brother Andrew did the swim, and Austin, 14, did the bike. All three had done individual triathlons before and are members of the Santa Cruz Triathlon Association, but it was their first time racing together as a family relay team.

"It was actually Austin's idea," Andrew Acosta said. "Austin has been training on the bike for a year and our mom is a big runner. The relay was great. It's a different experience."

COME ON IN, THE WATER's fine: The water at the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf was 58.6 degrees, according to Santa Cruz City lifeguard Brad Pace, who helped with water patrol during the swim portion of

the race. While ocean temps pushing 60 degrees is almost balmy for Santa Cruz waters, nearly all the competitors Sunday wore wetsuits for the swim. Pace said that the swim went off with no real incidents to report.

"We only had to take out a couple people," he said. "It went really well."

The future of the Sentinel Triathlon: Watch out Shaun Guest and Katrin Tobin, 14-year-old Andrew Porter is hot on your heels. The La Selva Beach teen was the youngest competitor at this year's Sentinel Triathlon and finished with a personal best time of 2:34:40, placing him near the front of the pack. He's been racing in the event since he was ten. What's more impressive is that while others were huffing and puffing at the finish line, young Porter looked as though he'd just finished a leisurely morning stroll along West Cliff.

"It gets faster every year," he said of the race. "The run is always the hardest part for me because I'm a swimmer. I felt good this year though. I've got a little burn going, but it's all good."

As he finished those words a fellow athlete, more than twice his age, came up to Porter to offer him praise for his effort.

"You're making us all feel old out there," he said.

Contact Leo Maxam at 429-2417 or imaxam@santacruzsentinel.com.

Featured Links

Marketplace

- Find a Rental
- Find a Business
- Find Stuff
- Get Grocery Coupons
- View Today's Ads

Special Sections

- Newspaper in Education
- SantaCruz PHOTOGALLERY
- Sentinel Triathlon
- Santa Cruz Live
- TV Schedule

Sponsored Links

- Alternative Cancer Treatment Clinic
- Attorney Finder Lawyer Search
- Aupairs & nannies available
- Bridesmaid Dresses
- Cellit Mobile Marketing
- Chrysler
- corporate awards
- Debt Management
- Diamond Rings
- Internet Auctions
- Magic Love Spells
- Moving Companies, Movers
- Personal Loan
- Reverse Osmosis Water Softener
- Vacation Home Rentals
- yellow pages
- Stem Cell Medicine
- Alternative Cancer Treatment
- Sea Logix Pharmaceutical Grade Fish Oil
- Support our Troops
- Credit Help Resource
- Santa Cruz Real Estate
- Free on-line dating: Deception services
- Moving Companies
- Online Degrees
- Isagenix
- 2009 Calendars
- Property South France
- Apartment Amsterdam
- Property Provence
- Property Provence