



Race Report #19

Pre Worlds Racing in Belgium for Steven Cozza

4th Place in the G.P of Nations iTT

Steve Cozza

September 13, 2003

On a warm September night, the canal runs quiet with only a train nearby breaking the silence in the little town known as Izegem. Breathing the Belgium air again to me is a feeling of freedom. I will live here and I will suffer greatly here but this is where some of my dreams will come true.

I have learned the past year that life can be very difficult at times but if you continue to dream and continue to follow your dreams your future will fall into place on its own. Everything in life takes time and everything in life takes working for. You can't just be a European pro over night, but with a lot of work and a little luck things will go your way and that is the same with most things in life, especially with relationships.

This past weekend I had my first races back in Europe this year. Since the US National team only sent me and another junior, Keith Norris, over they are having us combine to race on a Belgium team called Think Media Cycling. It was sweet because they gave me so much riding clothes and casual wear clothes. On Saturday the 13th I raced in a 120k road race with some 1k climbs in it. Since these races are for us to get ready for the Worlds in October I raced really hard and aggressive. With like 40 k to go a group of around four broke away and stayed away the rest of the race. I came 50 feet from the group while trying to bridge up but lost them when the course turned into a head wind. Luckily behind me was a group of 20 who broke away and I stayed with them till the finish coming in 12 place. The next day Sunday was a local race known as a kermesse no more than 85k. The race went from the gun just like they all do here in Europe and we were off. Teammate Keith Norris and I attacked together and stayed away for 14 k. The group caught us and then I attacked with two other guys staying away for more then 40k but was caught again with only 20k to the finish. I definitely rode myself into the ground during this race but it was a great work out for the bigger race to come in October. I won a prime and my Teammate took 4th place.

This up and coming weekend they have me doing GP de Nations in France. This is the biggest time trial in Europe and it is 35k long so I am pretty stoked. Our last week here we are doing a two day stage race and that should be great as well.

Other wise all is well. The team house over here is packed right now with over 16 guys in the house so it can get a little crazy here at times.

Peace in the World, Steven Cozza

September 21, 2003

G.P. of Nations

Steven raced in France on Sunday in the largest individual time trial in Europe for 17-18 year olds. Only the best juniors in the world are invited to race. The race is called Grand Prix of Nations. It is a 35k individual time trial.

Steven came in 4th place, 1 second out of third. Steven said it was the longest individual time trial he had ever competed in. He said that he went out too slow and had to turn it on the second half to catch up on time lost. Steven felt disappointed because he said he should have done better. I just told him that he did great and that the race was a learning experience for him to build on. I think he knew that already, but he has this drive to improve.

Steven has one more individual time trial before he leaves Belgium for Hamilton, Canada to compete in the World Championships October 6-12. He says he feels he is getting stronger and should be ready when the gun goes off at the Worlds. Steven noted that his coaches were encouraging after the race.

Worlds Team Announced for Hamilton

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (September 17, 2003)-- USA Cycling announced today the long team for the 2003 Road World Championships to be held in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, October 6-12. From this list, the final selections will be made and announced on Sept. 22. The selections for junior categories have been finalized.

Elite Men Road Race (12 Start Positions)

Automatic Qualifiers:

Mark McCormack (Northeaston, Mass.)

Tom Danielson (Durango, Colo.)

Chris Horner (Bend, Ore.)

Long list for remaining 10 start positions:

George Hincapie (Greenville, S.C.)

Floyd Landis (San Diego, Calif.)

Bobby Julich (Reno, Nevada)

Levi Leipheimer (Santa Rosa, Calif.)

Guido Trenti (Milan, Italy)

Chris Baldwin (Boulder, Colo.)

John Leiswyn (Ames, Iowa)

Michael Sayers (Tucson, Ariz.)

Danny Pate (Colorado Springs, Colo.)

David Clinger (Los Angeles, Calif.)

Christian Vandeveld (Boulder, Colo.)

Fred Rodriguez (Emeryville, Calif.)

Damon Kluck (Santa Cruz, Calif.)

Tim Johnson (Boston, Mass.)

*Note: Tom Danielson will not compete due to injury

Elite Men Time Trial (2 Start Positions)

Bobby Julich

Floyd Landis

Tom Danielson

Levi Leipheimer

Elite Women Road Race (6 Start Positions)

Automatic Qualifiers:

Kimberly Bruckner (Boulder, Colo.)

Kristin Armstrong (Boise, Idaho)
Tina Mayolo-Pic (Dahlonaga, Ga.)
Long list for remaining 3 start positions:
Dede Barry (Boulder, Colo.)
Mari Holden (Colorado Springs, Colo.)
Kim Anderson (Colorado Springs, Colo.)
Amber Neben (Irvine, Calif.)
Christine Thornburn (Palo Alto, Calif.)
Dotsie Cowden (Santa Monica, Calif.)
Jessica Phillips (Missoula, Mont.)
*Kimberly Bruckner will not compete due to injury
*Amber Neben will not compete due to voluntary suspension

Elite Women Time Trial (2 Start Positions)
Kimberly Bruckner
Dede Barry
Kristin Armstrong
Mari Holden
Amber Neben
*Kimberly Bruckner will not compete due to injury
*Amber Neben will not compete due to voluntary suspension

U23 Road Race (5 Start Positions)
Patrick McCarty (Automatic Selection)
Long list for remaining 4 start positions:
Saul Raisin (Dalton, Ga.)
Michael Creed (Colorado Springs, Colo.)
Will Frischkorn (Boulder, Colo.)
Walker Ferguson (Golden, Colo.)
Shawn Milne (Gloucester, Mass.)

Alternates
Stuart Gillespie (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
Dane Jankowiak (Tucson, Ariz.)
Timothy Duggan (Boulder, Colo.)
Jonathan Erdelyi (Cartaret, N.J.)
Michael Voigt (Alexandria, Va.)

U23 Time Trial (2 Start Positions)
Michael Creed (Automatic)
Long list for remaining start position:
Timothy Duggan
Saul Raisin
Will Frischkorn

Junior Men Road Race (5 Start Positions)
Zak Grabowski (Lafayette, Colo.)
Keith Norris (Davie, Fla.)
Steven Cozza (Petaluma, Calif.)
John Devine (Dixon, Ill.)
Craig Lewis (Moore, S.C.)

Junior Men Time Trial (2 Start Positions)
Zach Taylor (Marietta, Ga.)
Steven Cozza

Junior Women Road Race (2 Start Positions)
Karen Amundson (Woodinville, Va.)
Larssyn Staley (Beaverton, Ore.)

Junior Women Time Trial (2 Start Positions)
Karen Amundson
Larssyn Staley

About USA Cycling

Recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee and the Union Cycliste Internationale, USA Cycling promotes American cycling through its 45,000 members and 2,000 annual events. USA Cycling associations include the National Bicycle League (BMX), National Off-Road Bicycle Association (mountain bike), U.S. Cycling Federation (road/track) and the U.S. Professional Racing Organization (professional men's road). For more information contact, USA Cycling Communications Manager, Andy Lee at 719-866-4867.

This press release was published on 17 Sep 2003. For more information, please contact alee@usacycling.org