

GREENFIELD TRIATHLON



STAFF PHOTO/THOMAS JOHNSTON

Competitors make their way up Nash's Mill Road during the bike portion of the 41st Greenfield Triathlon on Sunday.

Great day for a race

Theberge, Gump win sprint course titles

By **THOMAS JOHNSTON**
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GREENFIELD — It was near perfect conditions on Sunday for the 41st Greenfield Triathlon.

After the swim portion of the race was canceled last year, the water at the Green River passed its tests over the weekend which allowed the triathlon to be a full go on Sunday. That brought out a large group of athletes to compete.

It was Chicopee's Garret Theberge who was the overall winner in the sprint division, completing the course in a time of one hour, nine minutes and 41 seconds.

"It went really well," Theberge said. "The swim was nice. I haven't done the swim here

so it was nice to have that this year. It was nice to do a full triathlon. It was a great day for it."

Theberge has participated in the Greenfield Triathlon in the past, noting how great the community support is throughout the race.

"There's tons of support all over the course from the community which is so nice," Theberge said. "Especially during the run. I was happy to have the swim."

Gill's Isaac Bingham placed second (1:11:01), Greenfield's Daniel Bensen placed third (1:14:20), Northfield's Terrance Mckeeon came in fourth (1:16:06) while Littleton's Sam Currie placed fifth (1:16:48). Harrisville,

SEE TRIATHLON B3



STAFF PHOTO/THOMAS JOHNSTON

Competitors exit the transition area and head into the run portion during the 41st Greenfield Triathlon on Sunday.



STAFF PHOTO/THOMAS JOHNSTON

Competitors cross the finish line during the 41st Greenfield Triathlon Sunday.

Theberge, Gump sprint to victory

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Rhode Island's James Juskalian (1:18:39), Greenfield's Ben Whitbeck (1:21:05), Charlestown, New Hampshire's Brian Lashway (1:21:50), Rocky Hill, Connecticut's Rob Speers (1:23:42) and South Deerfield's Jon Reino (1:23:49) rounded out the top 10 sprint finishers on the men's side.

South Deerfield's JoEllen Reino has dominated the women's sprint division, taking first in each of the last six triathlons.

That streak came to an end on Sunday, as Conway's Leah Gump placed sixth overall and was the first woman to cross the finish line, doing so in a time of 1:16:56.

"I wasn't expecting this at all," Gump said. "This was for fun for me. I'm very happy with how it went."

Sunday was the first time Gump participated in the Greenfield Triathlon, though she has other triathlon experience in the past. She also noted how much support is given to the competitors throughout the course.

"I haven't done this triathlon before," Gump said. "When I was little I did a shortened one in Westfield. This was so much fun. It's a great event. All the people who put it on do such a great job."

What makes the triathlon so difficult is the different elements it possesses. It's not often someone is a master in the swim, bike and run and for Gump, the area she felt weakest was on the bike heading in.

That didn't deter her, as she blew through the competition to take first.

"I used to swim as well so that didn't bother me," Gump said. "The only part I wasn't sure about was the cycling. I didn't know if I'd be able to get through it without falling off but I did so that was a success."

Reino took second on the women's side with a time of 1:21:05. She said she was just pleased to still be doing the race and that she enjoyed seeing younger athletes like Gump, whose dad Jay competed as well, participating in the triathlon.

"I'm just happy to still be doing this race," Reino said. "Whatever happens with the results happens. I'm so happy to see the younger generation win. I was just happy that I put everything out there and that's all I can do."

Beverly's Deborah Moore-lai took third (1:24:42), Hadley's Elena Betke-Brunswick took fourth (1:25:43) and Shutesbury's Melissa Warwick placed fifth (1:25:48). Greenfield's Ava Fortin (1:26:15), Easthampton's Erica Tibbetts (1:26:51), Lowville, New York's Sarah Peebles (1:27:11), West Chesterfield, New Hampshire's Elizabeth Bianchi (1:28:19) and Deerfield's Jennifer Schimmel (1:29:50) rounded out the top 10 in the sprint race for the women.

The international race was won by Marlborough's Tomas Restrepo Velasquez, who completed the course in a time of 2:30:19. Like many, Restrepo Velasquez noted how happy he

was to see the swim part of the race return.

"I came here three years ago and liked the course," Restrepo Velasquez said. "There wasn't a swim though. It's much different now with the swim and it was perfect conditions today. The water was perfect."

Restrepo Velasquez competed in the Greenfield Triathlon in 2022, where he took second place. Enjoying the course the first time around, he made the trip back on Sunday and didn't regret it.

"This is one of the most honest courses around here," Restrepo Velasquez said. "Uphill, downhill, flats. I really like this course. This went better than expected. I came here three years ago and took second but was far away from first. I never thought I could win but this feels great. I felt great the whole way through."

Shelburne Falls' Kristian Whitsett was second (2:36:18) and Williamsburg's Skye Loomis came in third (2:43:43) in the international race. Suffield, Connecticut's Russell Petrucci took fourth (2:47:21) and Worcester's Lucas Restrepo took fifth (2:47:26) on the men's side.

Southwick's Elena Massamusiak was the winner on the women's side on the international course, completing it in a time of 2:44:19. Florence's Yurany Jarvis took second (2:49:19), Athol's Heather Gray came in third (3:06:26), Granby's Gwendolyn Heaner placed fourth (3:10:15) and Suffield, Connecticut's Lisa Wojcik took fifth (3:26:15) on the women's side.