



Photos by Ed Campbell

### Triathlon

(continued from page 1)

lars worth of bikes here," said Ohio resident Jason Mallet, 33. "And that is not counting the little gadgets hooked on them."

The little gadgets Mallet spoke of were what the cyclists referred collectively to "their little edge for winning." Some bikes had electronic mile markers attached to their handlebars. Others had speedometers. Some bikers even had both. One biker had what he called a wind bladder, placed on the frame to help smooth out the air current enveloping the bike at high speeds.

Although Mallet's estimate was high, the cost of the bikes did reach a at least a mind-boggling \$150,000, according to Harris.

Mallet, however, did not come all the way from Ohio to estimate the total cost of bikes in the race. "I came up to see the race," he said pointing over to two runners jogging by. "I love to watch the runners. They show more stamina than anyone I have ever known."

Mallet, with his wife Kimberly and daughter Elizebeth, come to the Back Mountain every year to watch the triathlon. They have friends in the area, but no family here. "We just drive up to spend the weekend in a tent, watch the race, then go home," Kimberly said matter-of-factly. "You can bet your hat we'll be here again next year, too."

Carrie Monka, 24, sat in a lawn chair late Saturday evening looking out from the Fish Commission Boat Launch at the boats on the lake. Earlier in the day, Monka was boarding a plane from Los

Angeles, California. Monka's brother-in-law was a competitor in the triathlon.

"This is my first time out here," Monka said. "It is kind of exciting." Monka had never been outside of California until Saturday. "I have never even been to Nevada," she said, as if everyone in California was supposed to go there at least once.

Monka was surprised to see how small the triathlon was. She explained that living in Los Angeles makes one expect larger crowds the day before a sports event. "I guess for the Back Mountain, this is enormous," she said. "But in California, you would expect a lot more people. It is a nice change actually."

William Yuzelski, 41, offered a different view of the triathlon's size. Yuzelski came from Locafe, Montana to watch the race. "This is a lot larger than I was led to believe," he said Saturday as bikes were being piled along metal frames to hold them in place until they were needed during the race.

Yuzelski was in the Wyoming Valley visiting relatives when he heard about the triathlon. "My brother Kris told me I should come and watch the event," he said.

Yuzelski said he expected the crowds to be a lot smaller, especially the day before the race. "Most sports events back home have only about 100 to 150 spectators," he said, "and they usually are only local people. Look at all the people here from out of state and it is only the day before."

He counted aloud 244 spectators staring at the bikes and athletes.



### Triathlon scenes

There was plenty to watch in Sunday's Greater Wilkes-Barre Triathlon. Above, far left, Sylvia Puntous, from Montreal, was one of the top name pro competitors. Other photos, clockwise from upper left, Peter Eckman, Kingston, legs it out in the run; Bob Guzenski, Shickshinny, changes into his biking shoes; Ian Richardson, Shavertown, looks on as he readies for his part of the team race; Jerry Kavangh, Dallas, shows the strain of the days event.



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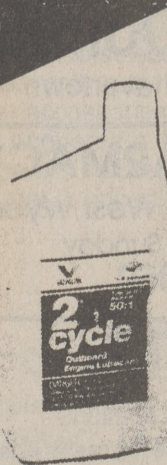
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