

Durango's Danielson dominates in claiming Bob Cook Hill win

Boulder's Moninger second up Mount Evans

By [Kyle Ringo \(Contact\)](#) Sunday, July 22, 2007

IDAHO SPRINGS — A field of hundreds of cyclists in all age groups and both sexes probably wouldn't have believed Tom Danielson on Saturday if he told them two months ago he was as sick as he had ever been in his life.

The 29-year-old pro from Durango produced the second-fastest time in the history of the Bob Cook Memorial Mount Evans Hill Climb, pushing his oxygen-deprived body across the finish line on the highest paved road in North America in 1 hour, 43 minutes, 4 seconds.

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It was the second time Danielson has won the race. He finished 49 seconds ahead of six-time winner Scott Moninger of Boulder, who was the only man within 7 minutes of Danielson's winning time. Moninger finished in 1:43.53, a personal best in the event.

While Danielson's dominance was obvious, it wasn't necessarily a surprise. It was his course record in the cross-hairs Saturday. He

set the mark in 2004 at 1:41.20, almost by accident the first time he ever participated in one of the toughest races around.

"As we saw today, it's not an easy record to break," Danielson said.

That day he went out fast trying to shake some hangers-on. He discovered this year that he should have stuck with that approach once again instead of thinking he'd be able to save a burst for the top of the mountain at 14,000 feet.

When he reached for that burst, it was nowhere to be found.

"I think, now that I look back at it, the most important place to go fast is between mile six and mile 13 because you're between 7,000 feet and 10,000 feet and you have quite a bit more oxygen,"

Danielson said. "It's a little bit steeper of a climb there, and if you can really make a big effort, you can take quite a bit of time out of the overall time.

"When you get to the top, the altitude is so high and there is a lot of wind up top it's not really possible to go much faster. You're really one speed. ... My goal was to ride steady and pick it up towards the end. When I went to pick it, I didn't have any oxygen and couldn't use any of my muscles."

Danielson is proud of his record because he believes it will take the combination of a special rider with the right game plan and excellent conditions to break it. He said he thought he might have been able to do it Saturday, if not for the error in strategy.

Danielson would like another chance at it, and he wouldn't. He would have to be in the United States in July in future years to break the record. But everyone knows the place to be in cycling in

July is at the Tour de France.

"Next time, if I ever come back again, I know how to break it," he said. "Whereas before I didn't know what I was doing. I just went as hard as I could."

Danielson thanked Moninger for his effort and for helping him through some of the top portions of the course by taking the lead and pulling briefly. But the truth is Danielson, who was in bed sick with two different parasites for much of the spring, didn't really need much help.

"I think for a guy out there riding by himself, that was probably the best-case scenario," said Moninger, noting windy conditions at the top of the mountain. "It was a good effort for sure. He was going for it from start to finish."

While a record-chasing pace was the story on the men's side, the women's race was won by Michelle Steiner in a relatively slow 2:22.04. Steiner was one of only three women to finish in under 2:25 but came nowhere near the women's course record of 1:59.19 set in 1998 by Jeannie Longo.

Bob Cook Hill Climb

Men's Professional, 1, 2 — 1. Tom Danielson, 1:43.04; 2. Scott Moninger, 1:43.53; 3. Michael Carter, 1:50.27; 4. John Eisinger, 1:50.59; 5. Angus Morton, 1:51.19; 6. Lachlan Morton, 1:51.27; 7. Kevin Nicol, 1:51.33; 8. LeRoy Popowski, 1:51.47; 9. Norm Bryner, 1:52.11; 10. Brad Cole, 1:54.56.

Women's Open — 1. Michelle Steiner, 2:22.04; 2. Kate van Valkenburg, 2:24.03; 3. Amy Dombroski 2:24.42; 4. Susannah Gordon, 2:26.42; 5. Kristin McGrath, 2:27.16; 6. Noel Weddle, 2:28.18; 7. Beth Fisk, 2:31.08; 8. Katherine Stoll, 2:31.36; 9. Lisa Matlock, 2:35.36; 10. Alisabeth Thurston-Hicks, 2:36.01.

JHK fourth

WEST DOVER, Vt. — Boulder's Jeremy Horgan-Kobelski finished fourth Saturday in the pro men's national cross country mountain bike race.

Adam Craig of Bend, Ore., won the 20-mile race in 2 hours, 16 minutes and 31 seconds.

Finishing third in the women's dual slalom was Boulder's Lisa Myklak.