

Thompson cont'd

continued from page 23

JT: That's right.

Bruns: That year you went to the junior world championships. How did you manage that living here, away from the center of cycling?

JT: That was quite interesting actually. My first year as a junior I was at a disadvantage living in the Maritimes. There's not a lot of racing, not a lot of money, you have to go to Quebec to race. I did alright my first year, my second year I went to Quebec for some national team selection races. I think I surprised myself by being picked captain of the national team. One reason was that I was bilingual, another was that I was an adequate cyclist. I credit the environment here in Fredericton for my conditioning. We have a harsh winter and lots of hills, it makes you tough.

Bruns: What about the world championships?

JT: They were a real experience. In the Maritimes, you are riding with 15 riders in a pack, at the world championships I was riding with 250 riders from 27 different countries over a distance 50% longer than I had ever ridden before.

Bruns: How did moving to Montreal and racing with Evian/Miko affect you?

JT: There were some guys in Montreal who were impressed with my style. They had asked me to come to Montreal and race for their team and be there on a more permanent basis. I said that I wanted to incorporate school into it. I did a year at McGill and raced with the big, powerful Evian team. They took the best 4 cyclists in Canada and brought the best 4 young cyclists from the junior to senior ranks. That worked out well. I

tried to incorporate school and cycling but it was difficult. I felt I was doing half and half, I wasn't really focused. So I decided to take a year off school and concentrate on cycling because that was the priority.

Bruns: How did your final season turn out?

JT: Because of short term and long term goals, I separated with Evian so it wasn't important for me to be in Montreal anymore so I transferred to UNB. I rode with the Limongi/Louis Garneau team in Quebec City. The reason I did that was because with Evian I was always a workhorse, I wasn't going into a race looking to win, I would help my teammates win. So I went to a smaller team where I was the most experienced rider. Sometimes some of the riders would help me win races and that's eventually what happened.

Bruns: Why did you quit cycling after winning a national championship?

JT: I lost my competitive edge. I lost the desire to pursue something and I lost the passion for it. It became financially unfeasible to do it. It was always a dream of mine to win the national championships as a junior but I missed the race because of an injury. Finally, last year I became national criterium champ. I realized that it's not going to get any better than this so I finished out the season and hung my bike up for good.

Bruns: Do you have any regrets leaving Evian now that they are professional?

JT: It's tempting when you see the team you use to ride for has turned professional and they are going to make the big dollars and travel all over the world. I guess you have to take into account the type of lifestyles they are going to live; it's like that of a hockey player, but you

play 80 games a season away from home. It is difficult as a hockey player but even worse as a cyclist because you are putting in 100 times the effort as an athlete. So I decided that that lifestyle wasn't the right thing for me to do.

Bruns: Do you have any regrets about quitting cycling?

JT: I don't have any regrets for stopping. I think I built myself up as a character. I pushed myself at a young age to the best of my abilities which I don't think most people ever do in their whole lives. I think I'll always be thankful for all the experiences: the travelling, the people I've met and the

The Brunswickan 25 connections I've made during my cycling career.

Bruns: Do you still ride?

JT: I continue to ride leisurely with friends to keep the weight off. I also plan to play hockey in the winter and hopefully find something else competitive to do later on.

Bruns: What are your plans after you graduate?

JT: I think I'd like to get together with some guys and enter a small business venture, preferably athletic oriented. Whether it's being agents for other athletes or manufacturing some kind of sporting equipment, who knows?

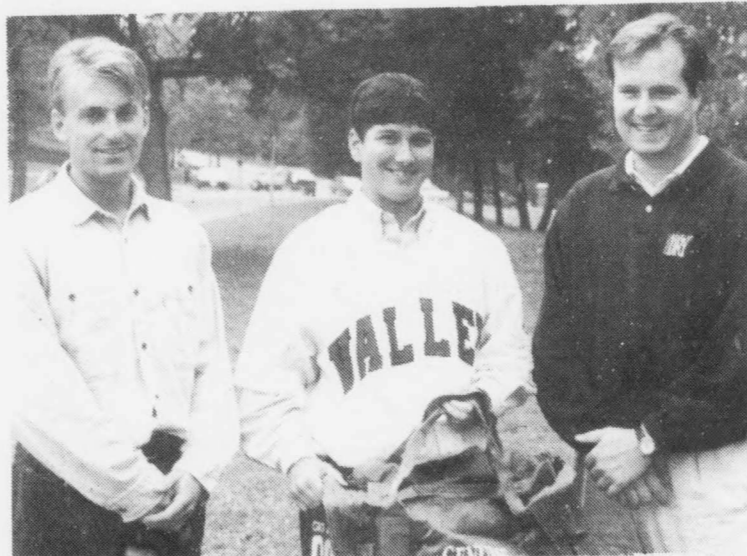
UNB Red Devils hockey

The team requires several persons to fill the following positions for the 1992-93 season:

- **Assistant Manager:** This person would be in charge of the day to day operations of the team including equipment, travel arrangements, payment of officials and several other minor responsibilities.

- **Game staff (minimum wage and incentives):** 5 people to work selling programs, 50/50 tickets and also playing music during each home game.

If you are interested contact Coach Mike Johnston at the LB Gym



Josette Babineau of the Field Hockey team, receives congratulations for being named female athlete of the month from Chris Boyle, left, of Valley Graphics, and Mike O'Pray of Moosehead Breweries

Kevin G. Porter photo

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But to exercise your right to vote, your name must first be on the Voters' List. If you haven't been enumerated at your present address or back home, you have until October 19 to add your name to the list.



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The non-partisan agency responsible for the conduct of the federal referendum