

Pinfold garners win for Symmetric

From F1

Tuft, another Beijing-bound Olympian, had gone out on a solo breakaway with 10 laps to go, putting his head down and building up a 15-second lead at one point as the rest of the eight-man Symmetrics team kept the pack tightly punched. They went at Tuft with a lap to go and then let the sprinter, Pinfold, do his job.

“My hat’s off to Svein,” said Pinfold, who won the Tour de Delta road race on Sunday. “He’s going to Beijing and he showed why today in front of his home crowd. It’s always impressive.”

Grain lauded the work of her Webcor Builders teammate and fellow Olympian Erinne Willock of Victoria in helping her throughout the race.

“Erinne Willock was absolutely fantastic today. [She] was the epitome of team work today. Without her, I don’t know if I would have had fresh legs coming in here. That was probably the longest sprint-win I’ve had here at Gastown.”

Grain, racing in front of a crowd that was four and five-deep behind the barriers in some places, edged Cheerwine Pro Cycling’s Kelly Benjamin of Kansas City by half a bike length at the finish. Australian Ruth Corsett of Jazz Apple Cycling was third.

“When you’re sprinting on brick, your bike is all over the place and you lose a lot of power,” said Benjamin, of the final sprint. “I told myself before the race, ‘Don’t forget that you have to go early because it’s hard to pass on brick.’ And then I just didn’t do what I said.

“It doesn’t matter. Gina was super strong tonight.”

Benjamin, who was making her first visit to B.C. for cycling’s Superweek and won two stages of the Tour de Delta last weekend, said the Gastown race, now part of the 11-race USA CRITS series, was “amazing.”

“There are probably like two crits with this sort of crowd interchange, live music ya da, ya da in the whole U.S.

“There were people everywhere. It was amazing. I’ll be back for sure.”

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WARD PERRIN/VANCOUVER SUN

Gina Grain of Burnaby (left) beats Kelly Benjamin to win the women’s Tour de Gastown race Wednesday. She was also the winner in 2006, is a member of Canada’s Olympic team and will compete in the track points race in Beijing.