

Martin Ernst Bruhn (born in Vancouver, British Columbia) is a former amateur road bicycle racer.

Cycling Career

Born in Vancouver, British Columbia on August 16, 1958, Martin Ernst Bruhn started racing at the age of 15. Placing second in his first race, Bruhn went on to win the next five, and became completely taken with the sport.

Influenced by his mother's cousin, Jan Rol, a Dutch cyclist who was part of the 1956 Olympic team, and a later teammate of Peter Post, Bruhn took on the sport full time, electing not to play high school soccer but to pursue the Olympic dream.

In 1974, together with his brother, Michael Thomas Bruhn, also a racer, Bruhn started Mass Bay Road Club (MBRC), one of the oldest bicycle clubs in the United States. Merging with South Shore Racing Development League, MBRC would go on to promote some of the top bicycle races in North America, *e.g.*, the Plymouth Rock Criterium, as well as establishing several future USA national champions, such as Mark and Frank McCormack, Paul Curley, and Bob Beal.

In 1975, as a junior in high school, Bruhn entered the foray of race promotion/production, with the inaugural Dog Bone Special Road Race, later to be called the Myles Standish Road Race, now one of the oldest road races in New England.

By 1976, Bruhn was racing full time and finished consistently in the top ten of all of the races he entered. That year, he was invited to participate at the prestigious Dorset Training Group, a bicycle racing camp in Vermont. Understanding the need for mid-week racing, Bruhn created the Wompatuck Training Race in Hingham, Massachusetts. George Mount of Team USA's amazing sixth-place finish at the Montreal Olympic Road Race (1976) inspired Bruhn's stellar performance at the Le Tour de L'Abitibi, in which his teammate, Steve Pyle, was the overall winner.

In 1977, Bruhn and his brother were invited to join one of America's top racing teams, the Connecticut Yankee Bicycle Club, sponsored by Dawes Bicycles of England. The club has included a roster of competitors such as Tom Officer, Esther Salmi, Lans Christensen, and Richard Sachs. Placing third in that season's first road race, Bruhn then left for Holland to race for Alcmaria Victrix, one of the oldest cycling clubs in the Netherlands. In Holland, Bruhn raced for four months, ending his time there as the Junior Road Club Champion. Returning to the U.S., he competed as a First-Year Senior, winning five races he entered that Fall season.

In 1978, Bruhn opted to forgo his Spring semester of college to race full time, supplementing his training program with work at Eastern Mountain Sports, Boston. The highlight of the season was winning the prestigious Mt. Washington Hill Climb, part of the Mt. Washington Grand Prix. By the season's end, Bruhn was nominated for the Canadian National Cycling Program, and began training in earnest for the Moscow Olympics. Returning to his Boston College studies, Bruhn started the Boston College Cycling Club, which today is one of the participating collegiate teams in the Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference (ECCC).

Thereafter, in 1979, Bruhn competed in 54 events, racing for sponsor, Eastern Mountain Sports.

In 1980, he participated in the Olympic training camp on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, alongside teammates Pierre Harvey, Louis Garneau, Michael Bruhn, Gordon Singleton, and Steve Bauer. The camp was coached by Team Canada coach, Norman Sheil. Bruhn was selected for and participated in Tour of Baja Mexico, racing against USA's Tom Schuler and Poland's Czeslaw Lang. Upon returning from Mexico, Bruhn raced for premier road racing team, 10 Speed Drive Racing, Tallahassee, Florida. Highlights included seventh place in the Fitchburg Longsjo Classic, selection to the 10 Speed Drive Coors Classic Team, and a fourth place at the Montreal Grand Prix. That August, Bruhn retired from the sport to resume his college studies.

After seeing *Chariots of Fire*, Bruhn was inspired, and returned to racing in 1982, when he resurrected the Connecticut Yankee Bicycle Club with his brother Michael and with his mentor, Richard Sachs. He recruited national

sponsors for the team – Le Coq Sportif and Volvo. In addition, during that same year, Bruhn founded Euro-Velo Sport Camp based in Papendal, Holland, a racing program geared for young cyclists to benefit from exceptional coaching coupled with international competition. The program coach was Stan Swaim. Camp-goers included Peter Stevens, brother of cyclo-cross guru, Tommy Stevens, and Lawrence Cook.

Bruhn traveled to Europe in 1983 and spent half the season in Germany and Holland. He made the decision to train for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Highlights of Bruhn's accomplishments in 1984 included 26th place overall in the Tour of Ireland, 4th place at the Quebec City International, and 6th place overall at the Grand Prix of Bermuda. He was Empire Games Criterium Champion. In addition, he was long-listed for the Olympic program, and while racing in Austria, Tour of St. Anton, he watched the Olympic road race live via satellite and witnessed his teammate and friend, Steve Bauer, win the Silver Medal. At the end of the 1984 season, Bruhn once again made the decision to retire to complete his studies at Boston College. In 1985, he received a Bachelors Degree in History from Boston College, and in the Fall of that year, committed to one more racing season in Europe. In 1986, Bruhn put together a six-man team to race a four-month German Sonderklasse Racing Schedule, racing every weekend against riders such as Udo Bolts, Christian Henn, Werner Stauff, and Paul Curran. Returning to the U.S., his last race that year was the club-sponsored Whaling City Cycling Pro-Am in New Bedford, Massachusetts, a four-stage event. Officially retiring from active competition, Bruhn then created a sports marketing company that promoted the Greenwich Criterium, the Woodstock Cycling Classic, and the Ossining Grand Prix. In addition, Bruhn has volunteered at such high-profile events as the U.S. National Cycle Cross Championships, Tour de Ulster and the Philadelphia International Cycling Classic.

Post-Retirement

Bruhn is the father of two sons. He resides in the New York's Hudson Valley, and is involved in the all-natural food business, having worked with Ronnybrook Farm Dairy and Bread Alone Bakery. Bruhn is presently Director of New Business Development at Bora Bora Fruit Juices, an artisanal fruit juice company based north of New York City. Bruhn still rides regularly, as well as volunteering at local food –inspired events, lie the Binnewater Farm Project and the Queen's Galley's Hunger Project.