

Harlem Championship Bike Race Won by Cyclist From Baltimore

By **GEORGE GOODMAN Jr.**

A 35-mile race was the highlight yesterday of the first Harlem Bicycle Championship, a series of races that sponsors hope will be an annual event.

A total of 11 races drew 300 contestants and nearly 5,000 Harlem residents watched from stoops and sidewalks lining the mile-long course of streets surrounding Mount Morris Park, as Robert Phillips, a 26-year-old Baltimore man, won first place in the feature race, defeating Patrick Gellineau of Trinidad.

It was a surprise finish for most "but not for me," said Mr. Phillips as he received the first place award, a color television set.

Mr. Gellineau was followed by Steven Arbetnan in the 35-lap Criterium sanctioned by the Amateur Bicycle League of America and sponsored by the 32d Precinct Community Service Council and the Chain Bike Corporation.

Earlier cyclists complained of broken glass, ripples on the course, a treacherous pot-

hole and occasional debris tossed onto the track by on-lookers—all of which caused a few minor accidents.

"But the people were so enthusiastic they made me really feel like competing," said Richard Guzman, a 21-year-old racer who received a consolation prize after his rear wheel became entangled in a bundle of wire.

"It was a fast race with classy competition," he said, echoing George Mettle, a Jersey City lawyer, and Stanley Kuczynski, an elevator construction worker of New York City, both of whom said riders had come from as far as California.

David Walker, a police officer who works in the Community Affairs Department, said, "The idea is to demonstrate that Harlem is part of the city as well as other communities where these events are usually held."

Mr. Walker who conceived the races said that 15 bicycles were given to 30 winners in various events, along with trophies and other prizes.

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