

Floyd Landis stuns everybody on stage 17; Raymond less impressive

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Raymond Chen

Wow. I delayed my departure for work Thursday morning until the results were in. And then I was inspired by Floyd's fantastic performance to kick it up a notch on one of the hills on my route, only to find about two thirds of the way up that there's a reason I don't normally go up the hill that fast... (On an unrelated note, a mini-van tried to run me off the road while I was heading up that hill. They pulled up next to me and then started a right turn. Fortunately I was able to escape to the right.) Okay, well, attacking that hill wasn't such a great idea now, was it. I decided to continue with an alternate route that takes me up a different hill, and I was able to dispatch it with a decent amount of vigor. (Crossing the street at the top of the hill, another car tried to run me off the road. At the corner was a pedestrian and one other cyclist. A car pulled forward to make a right turn on red and didn't notice the **three** people waiting to cross the street. Just as the driver decided that the coast was clear, the light turned green, and zoom off he went, right in front of us. A little squealing of bicycle brakes and nobody got hurt, at least not this time. That's one of the skills you pick up as a bicyclist: Detecting which cars are going to try to kill you.)

Okay, so my attempt to "really show the road who's in charge" wasn't quite the overwhelming success I had hoped. Undaunted, I also picked up the pace on the way home, and at least that effort was successful: I set what I believe to be a personal best time. Go me.

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