Cycling; Rider Taking Classical Approach

By SAMUEL ABT, Special to The New York Times

POITIERS, France, July 2— Somewhere between Mozart's "Haffner" Symphony (Kochel 385) and his "Jupiter" (K. 551), Gianni Bugno learned, allegro vivace, how to become a champion bicycle racer.

Given a month of musical therapy to cure vertigo, Bugno blossomed from a timid rider who seemed able to win only small races into the man who leads the computerized rankings of the world's top 600 professionals.

He is also at the front of the Italian renaissance in the sport: Moreno Argentin is first in World Cup standings and Marco Giovannetti won the Tour of Spain, the Vuelta d'Espana, and finished third in the Tour of Italy, the Giro d'Italia.

In March the 26-year-old Bugno won the esteemed Milan-San Remo one-day classic in Italy and last month he dominated the three-week Giro d'Italia from start to finish. Based on his form in the Giro, many riders and observers rate him high among the favorites in the Tour de France once the race reaches the Alps on July 10.

'Very Impressive'

"He was very impressive in the mountains in the Giro," said Bernard Hinault, who has won the Tour de France five times. "He's not my main favorite, no, but he's certainly on the list of those who have the best chance."

That is high praise for a rider who finished 62d in 1988 in his first Tour de France and 11th last year. That was before Bugno was remade by psychologists, allergists, racing counselors and, of course, his musical therapist.

One of the Italian rider's undetected problems was vertigo, or dizziness and fear of falling when he descended from a mountain peak at high speed. Bugno finally bared the secret after he was first over the top in the Milan-Turin classic last year but was easily caught by the pack on the descent.

"A priest in a soutane could have made it down faster than I did," Bugno said. "I felt so dizzy that I slowed down almost to a stop."

The trouble was laid to a bad crash in the 1988 Giro and to a congenital obstruction in the canals of his inner ear.

Soothing Sounds

As a cure, Bugno tried ultrasound treatments laced with music. "I listened to **Mozart** at different speeds and degrees of loudness for a month," Bugno said. "**After that, the vertigo was gone.**"

Then he visited an allergist, who discovered that he could not tolerate wheat, milk and milk products. A combination of pills was prescribed and his diet was changed.

Afterward, he was put into the hands of Claudio Corti, a veteran Italian rider, who taught Bugno how to take charge of his Chateau d'Ax team.

Finally he began seeing a psychologist, who helped resolve Bugno's timidity. This problem was traced to his childhood, which he spent with his grandparents in Italy while his parents worked in Switzerland. Bugno was born in Brugg, Switzerland, where his father was a carpenter.

All this took place last winter and then Bugno was unleashed.

The rider who had won only the minor Tour of Calabria in 1988, the Tour of the Appenines in 1986, 1987 and 1988 and the semiclassic Tour of Piedmont in 1986 suddenly was storming down the Poggio hill in March to win Milan-San Remo while other riders took the descent more prudently and slowly.

Advice Not Taken

Bugno's victory in the Giro was just as impressive. He won the first day's prologue and never gave up the lead, finishing first by a huge 6 minutes 33 seconds.

Many Italians advised Bugno to skip this 77th Tour de France, reasoning that he had nothing further to prove this year and that his chances were slim. No Italian has won the Tour since 1965.

"The Italians just aren't used to such a hard race," said Bernard Thevenet, who won the Tour de France twice in the 1970's. "And, coming a month after the Giro, the Tour is just too much for most riders who went all-out in Italy."

Bugno knows that. But as he says, "The Tour de France is the summit of cycling: more fans than any other race, more reporters, more pressure.

"The Tour's climbs are usually longer than the Giro's but the time trials are the key to winning.

"I still have a lot to learn but if I didn't feel I had a role to play, I wouldn't be here." ---- Bauer Remains on Top NANTES, France, July 2 (AP) - In a day marked by rain and demonstrations, Steve Bauer of Canada held onto first place today as the Tour de France headed into the countryside.

Bauer finished in the pack on the third stage, 144.5-mile stretch from Poitiers to Nantes, near the west coast of France.

Moreno Argentin of Italy won the stage with a modest breakway near the end of the leg that was marked by showers thoroughout the day. Argentin, the 1986 world champion, was 2 minutes 28 seconds ahead of Christophe Lavainne of France.

The route was changed about 54 miles into the leg when some sheep farmers blocked the road with trees and manure to protest declining prices. That caused the directors of the route to restart en masse in Bressuire and add some three miles to the original distance.

Bauer kept the leader's yellow jersey by 10 seconds over Frans Maassen of the Netherlands with Ronan Pensec of France third, 26 seconds behind.