

Greetings Alumni, Sponsors and Teammates!

Spring break came and went last week with 2 more weekends of collegiate racing. March 15th and 16th saw the UMBRC go unrepresented in Pennsylvania with the Lehigh Mountaintop Criterium and UVM's Tour de Hempfield. After returning from "training camps" all over the country over break, a stronger, more diverse UMBRC team took to the streets of Harlem on March 22nd for Columbia's famous Grant's Tomb Criterium, and then headed to New Jersey on Sunday for Princeton's Orange Criterium.

Unfortunately, distance and the difficulty of meeting and organizing while the university was closed resulted in no UMBRC riders being able to make the trip to Pennsylvania. However, after some rest and for some of our luckier riders, training in warmer weather, the team came back to score some valuable ECCC points in New York and New Jersey just a week later. The Columbia crit is always action packed and did not disappoint this year. The morning saw our fearless club leader, Pieter Van Lieu enter his first race of the season. Unfortunately since he splits all his time between running the club and crunching engineering problems, he found himself dropped from the men's C field, but no worries, he had fun. In men's B, Aaron Oakes once again put in a good performance and found himself 9th, followed by Alvin "Money" Nordell in 11th, and Justin Finn hanging on for 34th. Unfortunately, Dave Berryman was nowhere to be found, and we went without a rider in the A field. However, on the women's side, recent transplant from Boston, Alicia Genest picked 4 intermediate sprint points on her way to a 3rd place finish. Last, but certainly not least was Caitlin Trahan racing on a road bike for the first time in women's B, holding on for 26th in a field of 30 even though she missed the start of the race by several seconds due to a flat! Overall, UMass took 9th place out of 25 schools.

The relative success on Saturday was followed by some bad luck on Sunday, but hey, it was another sunny and beautiful day to be on the bike. Pieter decided to take the day off today, so no C action to speak of, but our powerhouse B men had a good showing. Justin finished just inside the points in 15th, followed by Aaron in 20th, and Money in 24th but picking up 3 sprint points along the way. Caitlin was on time for the start of this race, and avoided some crashes to finish 23rd. In the A's, Mukunda Feldman put in his first collegiate appearance for UMass, taking 26th. So the team ended up 22nd on that day, but with more riders in attendance, it's a sign of good things to come.

Speaking of which, this weekend, the racing action is in Boston! The greater Boston teams have joined together to put on the Boston Beanpot weekend – TTT, crit, and road race in Somerville (the old Tufts crit) and Grafton (the old BU road course, I think), respectively. We have a school van and we are hoping to fill it to capacity!

Please check out www.umbrc.com for usual updates and some new photos, and www.eccc-info.com for full results from all the races. Thanks again for your continued support! Until the next issue...

GO UMBRC!

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