

Greetings Alumni, Sponsors and Teammates!

The Boston Beanpot weekend has come and gone, and some of us will prefer it that way. With beautiful weather on Friday, in the 70s and sunny, spirits were very high for the upcoming races. However, the dropping temperatures and increasing clouds were a sign of how the weekend would go.

Saturday morning's team time trial went on without a single UMass team. I'm not quite sure how this happened – this event was dominated by the men of UMass just a few years ago. Regardless, the white athletics van arrived at Tufts University quite full and ready to go. The 6 corner crit course starting on Professor's Way in the heart of campus is a classic, and would provide excitement for the day. The coalition of Boston schools did a fantastic job – Pedros provided neutral support, our own conference director Mark Abramson MC'ed, all facilities were excellent, a brand new Maserati paced the field providing an interesting soundtrack, and the president of USA Cycling even showed up to watch. Overall, a well organized weekend.

It looked good for us as the men's D field lined up. The three UMass riders who started the race looked solid all the way through. Dave Brodsky, Daniel Wilkom and Aaron Wyatt finished 10th, 11th, and dnf respectively. The C field was UMass-less, primarily because the previously mentioned guys could finally get to a race early enough to race D's. Next up was Caitlin Trahan and the B women. This was a fast and tough course, and the large field of "equally matched" women shattered within the first 2 laps. The lead group easily lapped some riders and the race became very confusing for us spectators. Caitlin ended up getting pulled, but since she asked a spectator and not an official, she kept riding like a champ the whole time. There's the UMass spirit for you! Perhaps the most exciting part of the day was the men's B race. Alvin "Money" Nordell, Aaron Oakes, and Matt Valauri started at a blistering pace. Matt found himself outpaced and dnf'ed. Alvin and Aaron rode a brilliant race. When a pack broke off the front, they motivated their group and stayed smart. With 4 laps to go, it came together and on the last lap, Alvin took the lead. And then it all went wrong... As I stood there waiting to take the best picture of the day (Alvin in the lead charging through turn 2), I watched him crank it over way too far and go sliding through the apex into the curb and hay bales. I could go on with details, but alum Ken Avery ('01) and I carried him off the road and you can view the rest in the photo archives on www.umbrc.com. Aaron hung in for 14th. Alicia Genest put in a good performance in women's A's ending up in 7th. Stuck with lapped traffic and a group of riders who wouldn't help her chase the breakaway lead by Julia Oh of Harvard, there wasn't much she could do. It was up to Dave Berryman in A's to pay back his rivals for the previous weekends (or at least that's what he told me before the start). The sun wasn't shining on Dave that day, and he dropped out of the race just a few laps in – one of many victims of the early punishing pace. Team result: 15th of 27.

Sunday's road race in Grafton looked like winter again. With chilly temperatures and freezing rain, no one was going to have any fun. Men's D: Finishing 9th, 25th, and first dnf'er, Daniel, PJ McQuade and Dave (respectively) put in respectable performances – securing at least 1 point for the team. Our brave leader, Pieter van Lieu made it to the C race, but again, found his schoolwork overpowering his riding and he dnf'ed. After last week, he asked if I could make his case sound more pathetic, so I'll add that he was fighting off sickness, his car died over spring break, he stubbed his toe the day before, and I stood him up after the meeting that week. Good enough? In B women, Caitlin faired much better and ended up 27th. The B men started without their fearless leader, but Aaron stepped up to take 13th – perhaps our most consistent rider. No Alicia in A women, and Dave unfortunately rounded out the weekend with a DNF in the road race as well. Team result: 23rd on the day and 19th of 31 for the entire 3 event weekend.

Currently, we're looking forward to better weather, and better luck next weekend at UConn in Storrs, CT. Sorry for the lengthy report this week – that's what happens when I actually show up at the races myself.

Please check out www.umbrc.com for usual updates and lots of new photos this week, and www.eccc-info.com for full results from all the races. Thanks again for your continued support! GO UMBRC!

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