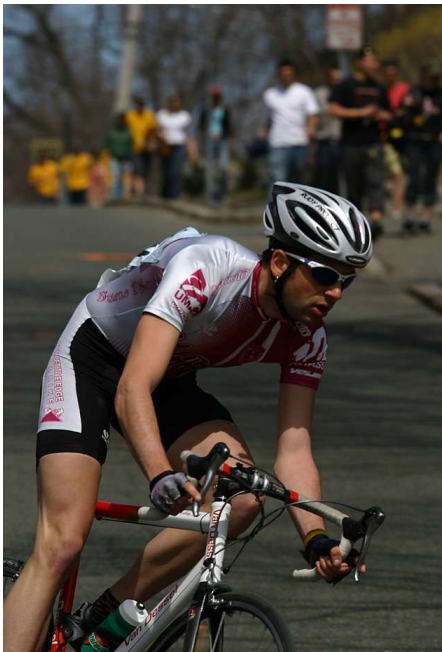


## Press Release: UMBRC Rocks the Boston Beanpot Collegiate Weekend

On April 9th the UMass Bike Racing Club showed up in the town of Grafton MA for the road race portion of the Boston Beanpot collegiate race weekend with a fifteen passenger van and two cars full of racers, all of whom were ready to roll. It would prove to be their best showing yet.

The weather was perfect for racing, and the first fields of C and D riders rolled out of the starting area at 10am to take on the challenging course that consisted largely of rolling hills with two challenging climbs of roughly a kilometer and a very technical fast descent. As the men's C field made the corner for the finishing climb, UMass rider Voeker Schwarzer would claw his way to a fourth place finish across the steep finish. Alex Duggan also pulled out a strong finish in the C field taking 18<sup>th</sup> while Chris Kessler and Nick Vitelli took 19<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> respectively in the men's D field.



*Alvin Nordell, Men's A Racer*

When the C and D races finished, with the sun reaching it's high point, the Men's A and B fields lined up ready to duke it out on the same course covering 72 and 58 miles, respectively. Alvin Nordell put in a good showing taking 13<sup>th</sup> in the men's A field, despite needing to get a wheel change after being involved in a crash in the feed zone. It took him a tremendous amount of effort to catch back to the front group, so just finishing with them was an achievement.

It would be the men's B field that would clearly demonstrate UMass's race domination. Lining up in the B field from UMass were Aaron Oakes, Dave Maynard, Justin Finn, Justin Lindine and Anthony Santamaria. This group used superior team tactics and race strategy to wreak havoc with the rest of the B field. Lindine was in a break of three racers that went away in the first lap, but was quickly reeled back in by the peloton. But the idea was good. A lap later Lindine and Finn broke away up the longest of the courses climbs, and quickly opened up a 40 second gap. As they struggled to maintain their lead, Oakes and Santamaria actively controlled the front of the main group, slowing the pace and chasing down any chase groups that were being organized to catch their teammates. Meanwhile, a University of Vermont rider managed to solo up to Finn and Lindine and the trio commenced to open up their lead to more than a minute. With two laps to go, the UVM rider cracked and was dropped off the back. It was back to the



UMass duo again. With one lap to go, after cresting the course's toughest hill for the 4<sup>th</sup> time, Finn was forced to drop off the pace and Lindine continued to put the hammer down on the last 12 miles solo. Crossing the white tape of the finish line, the UMass team had delivered Lindine to a 1 minute and 48 second victory.

As the main group approached, Dave Maynard, who had been riding towards the back of the group saving himself as a backup finisher,

streaked to a 9<sup>th</sup> place finish in his first collegiate race of the season. After all their work, Oakes, Santamaria and Finn still pulled in at 30<sup>th</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup>, and 36<sup>th</sup>. UMass' "killer B's" had struck.

April 10<sup>th</sup> saw the UMass's riders once again proving to be a dominating force in the Tufts Criterium. The technical six-corner, 1km, course was a challenge to even the best crit racers. In the men's D race Chris Kessler managed the corners well enough to earn a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish with Nick Vitelli and Mark Slater taking 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

For the second day of racing, the men's B field would prove to be one of the hottest races of the day. With positioning a key in the outcome of the race, it was a battle to get into the first set of 90 degree left hand corners first. Right from the gun, a lead group formed a split in the field. UMass's Justin Lindine made it into this group which gradually was whittled down to four riders. The four proceeded to rail the corners, taking quick turns pulling each other around the course. With only a handful of laps left, their hard work paid off, as they caught and lapped the main field. Justin Finn, sitting in the main group prepared to wind up for the finishing sprint. With two laps to go, Lindine was forced up onto the sidewalk where he slid out and cracked his helmet. Quickly grabbing his bike, he hammered back onto the tail end of the group glad for his one lap advantage over the main group. Finn managed to sprint out of the field to 8<sup>th</sup> place, while Lindine clung to the pack and ended up with 3<sup>rd</sup>.

UMass clearly showed that they have the ability, strategy, and teamwork to throw down with any team in the ECCC. The next goal is Easterns at University of New



*Chris Kessler, Men's D Racer*

Hampshire, where UMass hopes to come home with the Eastern Conference Title. Till then, they continue to train and race hard. Thanks to the support of all our sponsors, Competitive Edge Ski & Bike, Bueno Y Sano, Zanconato Custom Cycles, Honey Stinger Energy Products, Kenda Tires, Thompson, Voler Apparel, Sock Guy Socks and Wenzel Coaching, we hope to continue our trail of great results. A special thanks is also due to Erik Miller, a former UMBRC'er himself who took these

pictures, and many, many more that can be found at

<http://doctorit.smugmug.com/Sports/72307>. We greatly appreciate his enthusiasm for

UMass racing.