

UMass Hosts Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference Championships

October 14th-15th UMass hosted the Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference Championships in western Massachusetts.

The cross-country and dual slalom events were held at Holiday Farm in Dalton, MA. The Cross-country featured a semi-technical course on 90% fast single-track, some smooth fire road and an over-under- technical element where riders crossed over an earlier part of the course on a small bridge. There were plenty of fast sections for the roadies, and technical rocky sections and bridges that appealed to the mountain biker in



Above: The line for the DS Start
Below: Start-finish of the cross-country race. Redbull supplied the finish line archway



all of us. It was definitely one of the most fun races in the ECCC.

Justin Finn came out for his first race of the collegiate season after a rough summer of injury. In the Men's A XC Justin finished in third place.

The dual slalom was fast and provided opportunities for A riders to excel. It featured one of the most amazing backdrops of the collegiate season, with the leaves changing MA. And there was a race going on. The start gate was generously provided by "Frank the Welder" at Sinister Bikes.

The Downhill and Short-track races were held at Jiminy Peak Resort in Hancock. The short track course started with an immediate 90 degree turn into a brutally steep climb. Another 90 degree turn, and a false flat turned into a winding downhill that developed into a mud handling contest by the end of the

morning. Anthony Maressa lapped the Men's B field, taking another win and securing his number one spot in the season overall. Dave Bottomley finished soon behind Anthony, another impressive finish for the freshman who just recently moved up to Bs at the UVM Race Weekend.

“Ughhhhhh!!! That was insane!!!” Alex Czulak exclaimed finishing his first run on the downhill course. It was the cross-country rider’s first downhill event, and he was hooked. The course featured several drops, rocks, roots, tight single-track and windy open sections. It was a fast course that really showed off a rider’s technical skills.

We thank Holiday Farm and Jiminy Peak for the immense amount of help they provided us. Without them, UMass would not have been able to host one of the largest, most fun collegiate races of the season. 154 riders came out on Saturday, and 113 on Sunday, racing a total of 275 races.

Heading into the weekend, UMass was ahead of UVM in the team season overall by 12 points. We made a valiant effort and, with Easterns being worth twice the points of a normal weekend, were reduced to second place by only 4 points!!!

UMass Riders attend Mountain Bike National Championships in Angel fire, NM



UMass riders Matt Tenure and Alex Duggan will be attending the U.S. Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championships October 19th-23rd. Matt Tenure will be participating in the Mountain Cross and Downhill events; Alex Duggan in the Cross-country and Short-track Cross-country.



Left: The Mountain-cross course at Nationals in Angel Fire, NM. Matt Tenure raced this course in October this year.

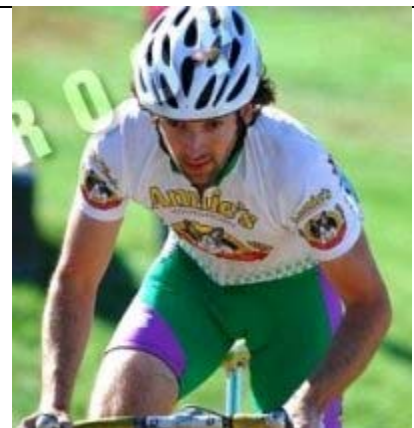
Tim Cook to attend Collegiate Cyclo-cross National Championships

UMass graduate student Tim Cook will be attending the collegiate Cyclo-cross National Championships in Providence Rhode Island on Sunday. He goes into the race after a stellar cyclo-cross season in the men's "Killer B" category. The B category is especially difficult in cyclo-cross because of the large number of racers at the start line each weekend, in excess of 100 people. The fact that the only higher category in cross is elite, in which case you would be racing against the likes of Tim Johnson, Mark McCormack, six time national champion Jesse Anthony, and many other of the world's top professional racers.



Above: Alex Duggan rocks a single-track section on the Nationals STXC course

Below: Tim Cook hammers to make up time earlier this season



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