



Above: Chris Kessler celebrates his win at the Penn State Criterium

UMass Bike Racing Club

End of Season Report

Submitted: May 15, 2006

The UMass bike racing club completed two successful seasons over the 2005-2006 year. We put many miles in on the bike and many, many more on Athletics van #7. There are many team and individual successes to reflect upon.

The mountain bike team was a powerhouse in the Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference (ECCC) mountain season from the very first weekend. Aaron Oakes started it off with his first place finish at the 8-hour "UConn Enduro" event. We sent nine riders to the next weekend's race at Dartmouth College. Our guys controlled the field, finishing first in every category for a total of 5 wins at Dartmouth. UMass riders won five more events and took second place in six events over the course of the season. Six of our riders qualified for Collegiate Mountain Bike Nationals, held this year in Seven Springs, PA. Our own Justin Finn finished with a very impressive 6th place of all collegiate mountain bikers in the U.S.

It was, without doubt, an amazing season. The team placed second overall in the ECCC while fielding only a third as many racers as the winning team, The University of Vermont. Even more impressive however, in the individual standings, UMass riders Justin Finn, Colin Eggleton, Justin Lindine, and Aaron Oakes finished 1st through 4th respectively. The UMass team dominated the mountain and the podium this past fall.

With the mountain season behind us our attention turned to the Spring road race season. Frigid UMass riders were hitting the road as early as November to prepare for the first road weekend March 5th at Rutgers University. To be sure we were ready Coach Dave Peckinpugh provided everyone an individual training plan to meet their spring fitness goals. Anticipation for the road season was greater than for Christmas and somehow we made it through the wait.

It was unfortunate that just after the club rejoined following the January break our co-President, Justin Lindine, needed to withdraw from the University. Justin is a very talented road racer and

both he and the team had high hopes for his success in the elite men's A field. Matt Brewster, our club treasurer, stepped up to help club President Alex Duggan govern and lead the club, or at



Above: Matt Brewster and Alex Duggan head up Irish Hill in the UVM Circuit race
Below: UMass TTT team puts in a second place finish at the ECCC conference championships in Ithaca, NY.



least to drive the van.

Spring coursework was burdensome for many of our club members and kept many from attending all the conference races. Most weekends we fielded a small squad, but, although outnumbered, the UMass team would not go unnoticed. At the Rutgers opening weekend Matt made a two-man break that lead the criterium field by almost a minute and finished in second place. The next weekend, novice racer Jeff Elie made an excellent start by taking second place in the

Drexel/UPenn Criterium in Philadelphia, PA. Chris

Kessler was not satisfied getting soaked with tire spray in the pack at the very rainy Penn State criterium so he made a solo break and took a well-deserved first place.

Our individual finishes were strong but the best event for the UMass team was the team time trial. The TTT squad made its first appearance at the Penn State weekend. With Aex Duggan, Matt Brewster, Jeff Elie, and Chris Kessler working as one in this competition against the clock we took 2nd place in the C category.

Acknowledging their superior fitness in the C field, this group moved up to race in the B category. Once there their collective results only got better. The TTT squad finished 3rd at UVM, and in 2nd place at the ECCC Championships in Ithaca, NY. This consistency and capability is a testament to the strength of teamwork and the individual riders in our squad, especially since aside from the pre race warm-up these guys never had time to practice riding their pace line.

2005 and 2006 mountain and road seasons were certainly successes for the UMass racing squads. In addition, our recreational club members had a good time off the race course this year. There were many new bike purchases, many riders trying new riding disciplines, and ample tall-tale stories about “epic” rides and super-human feats of bike handling. There is much room for growth in the coming year and we are making a huge effort to recruit new riders from the campus community. We would like to spread the joy of bicycle riding, the satisfaction of team work, the thrill of racing, and the comradery of good friends. For the Fall our goals are to grow club membership, be a factor at mountain bike nationals. We look forward to another successful year of academic and athletic representatives of the University of Massachusetts.

Best Regards,

The UMBRC Officers

Alex Duggan (President)

Matt Tenure (President)

Matt Brewster (Treasurer)