

FSU cycling set to roll today in Gadsden, Sunday in Ox Bottom

COLUMN BY DAVID STOTTS • DEMOCRAT CORRESPONDENT • FEBRUARY 20, 2010

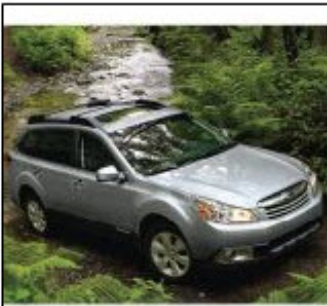
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The drought is over and now it's a flood. The Big Bend hasn't hosted a major collegiate or USCF on-road bicycle race since 2008. But starting today and continuing the following weekend of Feb. 26-28, the region will see some of America's fastest men and women on two wheels roll into town to compete in dozens of races at four area venues.



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This morning, hundreds of collegiate conference bike racers from seven states will line up in rural Gadsden County to contest individual and team time trials followed by grueling afternoon road races.

Jack Tomassetti, FSU Cycling's vice-president, guarantees that the low-traffic 16-mile loop in the steeply hilly area northwest of Havana will "rip riders' legs off." The 64-mile men's 'A' race rolls out at 1 p.m., with other categories departing at five minute intervals.

Beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday, cycling fans can see all the speed, jockeying and crashes that comprise bicycle racing at the one mile criterium loop at Sleepy Hollow Circle in the Ox Bottom neighborhood.

"The team is ready to show that Leon (and Gadsden) County have some the best riding in all of Florida," said FSU Cycling's president, Bryan Derstine.

More info can be found at <http://www.floridastatecycling.com/seminole-cycling-classic>.

Next weekend's diabetes-themed and jam-packed bike racing schedule begins Friday afternoon.

Local pro Morgan Patton and teammate Jackie Crowell from native-son Phil Southerland's Team Type 1 will lead a children's diabetes fund-raising bicycle ride on a 2.7 mile loop at the Centerville Conservation Community from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

On Saturday morning, Team Type 1 riders will make an appearance in Tom Brown Park to help kick off TMH/Leon County School's Stomp Out Type 2 Diabetes Rally and Mountain Bike Race. Mountain bike races in all categories from kids and juniors to expert go from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the Magnolia Trail.

More information can be found at <http://www.cccyclists.org/StompDiabMtbRace.htm>.



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