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FSU Cycling takes off in the rocks of Conyers

By David Stotts

DEMOCRAT CORRESPONDENT

While most FSU students are putting the final touches on their dorm rooms or apartments today and planning the evening's entertainment, the cycling Seminoles are in Conyers, Ga. racing mountain bikes on granite slick rock guaranteed by organizers to "rip your legs off."

Georgia Tech organized the season opener of the Southeast Collegiate Cycling Conference's eight-race fall mountain bike schedule. Leading the charge for FSU Cycling was club president, Bryan Derstine. He is accompanied by returning star Nat King and consistent finisher Jack Tomassetti.

The team will target forthcoming races at ETSU, Brevard and Clemson. But the main focus will be the Tallahassee race at Tom Brown Park on Sept. 5-6. Derstine invites all FSU students to give mountain bike racing a try in the beginner category, or to just experience Tallahassee's largest and most beautiful park as spectators.

The club president says that a dozen riders will return from last semester, and that he has received e-mails from a lot of interested student cyclists all summer.

Contact Derstine at bdd06@fsu.edu for details and check out FSU Cycling's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=17609717510.

He will have an information and recruitment table at the Sports Club Program recruitment night at the Leach Center on Sept. 3 from 5-7 p.m.

Marino wins training stage ride/race

When the hot and steamy days of August sapped the energy to train for the fall racing season, FSU finance professor Donny Autore, came up with a simple concept to add spice and motivation to informal weekly training rides: Time every ride, record winners and call it a "training stage ride/race."

Atomic's Tom Gillis kept track of Aug. 11-16's six usual training rides as timed stages with an overall leader.

After winning the first four stages, Autore seemed destined for overall victory. But at stage five's Chaires Ride, Gulf Coast Velo's co-founder Chris Marino took second in an intermediate sprint and won the stage to move within 1:08 of the leader. Maitland Jones' two third place sprints moved him up to second place overall only 29 seconds behind Autore.

At the final stage six circuit ride/race, a three-man breakaway of Gillis, Marino and "GCV super-domestique" Pete Butler stayed away to the finish line. Marino won by four minutes over the field. Gillis was second and Butler third. In the final general classification, Marino rose to first place and Gillis climbed to second, 57 seconds back. Erstwhile leader Autore, rounded out podium in third, two minutes behind.

Spook represents Tallahassee

Gulf Coast Velo junior rider Alex Spook earned a coveted spot with the Florida Development Team and

competed last month at the Fitchburg-Longsjo Classic international stage race in Massachusetts and the Red River Gorge stage race in Kentucky. The races showcased the United States' most talented young riders for possible careers as professional cyclists.

Firsts forTallahassee racers

Graham Gillis (Atomic), David Berg (BikeChain.com/EnduranceFactor) and Chris Slayton (BikeChain.com) captured first place in their categories at the final race of the Georgia State Championship Series mountain bike races in Dahlonega, Ga. Slayton was the overall winner of the Clydesdale class. Jim Singleton took fourth on the day and second overall.

Three locals gofor the Fool's Gold

Intrepid cyclists Carroll Hageseth, Mickey Phillips and Don Davis began the 50-mile Fool's Gold mountain bike race in Helen, Ga. on Aug. 15 with a relentlessly steep eleven mile climb. At the end of the day, Hageseth was the 13th fastest woman with a time of 7 hours and 17 minutes. Phillips was 21st at five hours in a men's field of hundreds and Davis finished 24th in 5:03.

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Cycling
