

Team Report

May 11, 2007 / No 2

Fulton Flyers Development Team Update / Dedicated to Young Cyclists in Georgia



The Grand Peloton

In its second year, the Grand Peloton is a ride for cycling enthusiasts of all abilities, being a celebration for those that raised funds in support of the Georgia Cancer Coalition. The Grand Peloton is also an official sponsor of our team, and eleven of our riders took part in this great event.

Participants enjoyed a ride over the final twenty miles of the April 21 stage of the Tour de Georgia, finishing just before the pros arrived.

The Grand Peloton was much more than anticipated by most of the riders. As riders prepared for the start most exchanged stories of why they were riding, of those that had survived cancer and others that had lost the fight. It was sobering yet inspiring, and made one realize this was about much more than just another bike ride.

Riders were organized into three "pelotons" (red, white and blue) to match riders' abilities, each with its own cycling celebrity leader and each rider receiving an appropriately colored Grand Peloton jersey. As the pelotons made their way towards the finish line in Stone Mountain Park, the excitement grew for even the most experienced riders. Escorted by the Georgia State Patrol, their swarming motorcycles added an additional element of excitement.

The ride finale came as the three pelotons entered the park and merged into one single group. Sweeping under the Tour de Georgia finish banner many of the riders gave "high five" to the spectators as thousands were already lining the road. This was all topped off with valet parking for the bikes and a great spread of food in a finish line VIP area. The Grand Peloton is an experience not to be missed! And a special thanks to Matt Hilley and Bob Longmire of LEJ Sports Group for including the Fulton Flyers in this event.



Devo Racing Results

Spring season success continued for the Fulton Flyers in April and early May. Spring is criterium madness in the southeast, as you can see in our race reports below. The Flyers had great results in most of the events. Our young ladies scored three victories, with Jackie Soladay and Rose Mauney taking first wins for 2007 – both on Blue RC4, SRAM DoubleTap and Panaracer Extreme tires!

Perry-Roubaix – March 31/April 1 - named after the Queen of the Classics, Paris-Roubaix, this road race travels over rough pavement mixed with dirt and gravel sections. Our two riders in this grueling event showed true class in Mens Cat 3, with Christian Parrett riding away solo to win, and Oscar Clark controlling the group and still placing 7th.

Barber Motorsports “Live to Ride” Circuit Race – April 7 - the only Devo rider in this Birmingham, AL event, Jackie Soladay rode aggressively to her first win. Covering the opening attacks, she tackled this undulating course to power away for the victory in the final sprint. Jackie scorched the turns on her Blue RC4 with a fresh set of Panaracer Extreme tires.

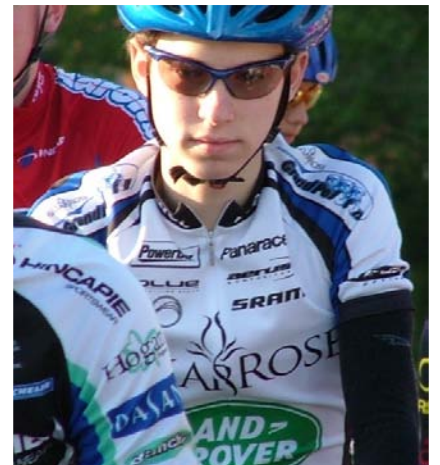
Raccoon Mountain – April 15 – a mid-race two mile climb and a one mile finishing climb shape this race. The day opened with Christian Parrett’s fine 15th in his first Pro-1-2 event, and Thom Shaffer in 7th in Cat 3. Our Junior Men showed promise with Everett Lindner displaying his climbing prowess to take 15th and Dylan DeGan 19th. Sean Cochran fought it out in the Jr 10-14 to take second. In Women Cat 4 Rose Mauney and Gillis Rowston rode their Neuvation R28 wheels to 5th and 6th respectively, with Alex Wechsler in 15th. The girls handled the wet roads in spectacular fashion on Panaracer Extreme tires and Blue Competition Cycles bikes.

Susan G. Komen Criterium – April 16 – this women’s only race preceded the Tour de Georgia Stage 1 finish in Macon. Four Devo women lined up with a 30 woman Cat 3/4 field in front of a huge crowd. With two laps to go and one woman away, Ann Turner jumped away for second as her teammates covered the field. The team finished well in the field - Rose Mauney 15th, Jackie Soladay 17th and Gillis Rowston 18th. All of them on Blue Competition Cycles, Panaracer Extreme tires and Neuvation wheels!



Dylan DeGan

Twilight Criterium – April 28 – with over thirty juniors in this event Brian Ceballos sprinted to third, followed by Oscar Clark 8th, Kyle Cochran 11th, and Everett Lindner 28th – his first ever Criterium! In Women Cat 3/4 our Women rode aggressively, with Jackie Soladay 8th, Rose Mauney 11th, Gillis Rowston 17th and Alex Wechsler 20th. Thom Shaffer placed 28th in a very aggressive Cat 3 race. In the Saturday afternoon “finals” race Ty Magner rode to 10th.



Everett Lindner

Historic Roswell Criterium – April 29 – Ann Turner was back in action and lead the girls with a hard fought 2nd place, with Gillis Rowston in 9th, Jackie Soladay 11th and Rose Mauney 18th. Their Blue Competition Cycles, Panaracer Extreme tires and Neuvation wheels were the perfect combination for this challenging course. In the Cat 2/3 event, Oscar Clark gave the perfect leadout to put Ty Magner into 4th – this would have been a victory if our guys were not riding their restricted junior gears. In Juniors, Dylan DeGan survived repeated attacks to finish with a strong sprint to 7th. Brian Ceballos sprinted to 9th in Cat 3/4 and Sean Cochran 4th in Juniors 10-14.

Dilworth Criterium – May 5 – the only Devo rider in this Charlotte, NC event, Rose Mauney rode aggressively to her first win this year. Grabbing a mid-race prime with an attack on the finishing climb, Rose repeated this move on the final lap to power away for victory. Rose’s Blue RC4 equipped with Panaracer Extreme tires and Neuvation R28 Aero wheels hooked up perfectly and kept her in good position throughout the race. Victory Number 2 on SRAM DoubleTap!

Anniston Sunny King Criterium – May 5 – Jackie Soladay raced hard in this night time event to place third in Women 3/4, with Gillis Rowston in 10th. The girls rode Blue Competition Cycles with Neuvation wheels and Panaracer Extreme tires to take on this very tight course.

Festival of Speed – May 12 – The first major track race for 2007 at the Dick Lane Velodrome (East Point, GA). An outstanding 7th in the Points Race, Oscar Clark placed 10th overall in the Pro Event, which featured two-time Olympian Kent Bostick. Rose Mauney continued her winning ways, taking first in an exciting Miss-and-Out and 5th overall in the Women Open.

Collegiate Nationals – May 12 & 13 – Lawrence, KS - though riding for their respective schools at these events, Flyers they are. Carla Swart (Lees-McRae) was part of the 7th place squad in the Team Time Trial; Ann Turner (University of Georgia) placed 8th road race, 16th Criterium and 11th overall. Flyers' alumni Thomas Brown (Emory) placed 5th Criterium. Very impressive results for these young athletes!

Highlighted Sponsors

These three of our Supporting Sponsors stood out over our April races

SRAM – with the arrival of DoubleTap groups our team quickly put up fine performances with this great shifting system. Ann Turner took it to two second places, while Jackie Soladay racked up the first victory with DoubleTap at the Barber Motorsports event followed by Rose Mauney at Dilworth. See the latest on DoubleTap and other great components at www.sram.com.

TrainingPeaks.com and **Ultrafit**, along with our co-title sponsor **Land Rover Gwinnett**, are in their third year supporting our team. Following Stage 6 of the Tour de Georgia, we had the pleasure of meeting in person one of the owners of TrainingPeaks.com, Mr. Dirk Friel (yes, the son of Ultrafit owner and The Cyclist's Training Bible author Joe Friel). All of our riders rely on the "bible" for training guidance, and a number of them use the great training tool that is TrainingPeaks.com.

The Grand Peloton was a great experience for our riders. Starting with the Friday evening reception, where we met Floyd Landis and Olympian Mari Holden, and ending with a wonderful Tour de Georgia finish line reception on Saturday, the Grand Peloton was much more than we had anticipated. A special thanks to Matt Hilley and Bob Longmire at the Grand Peloton!

Upcoming Events:

May 19 – Cycle for Parkinsons Criterium

May 26-27 Sandy Springs Stage Race (TT, RR & Criterium)

June 2-3 Union City Mayor's Cup Omnium (TT, Criterium & RR)

June 16-17 Savannah Georgia Cup Stage Race

June 11-15 – USA Cycling Development Camp – SC (Oscar Clark & Christian Parrett)

June 18-22 - USA Cycling Development Camp – TN (Rose Mauney & Kyle Cochran)

June 30- July 1 – Dahlonaga Georgia Cup Stage Race

July 11 – 17 - Junior and Espoir (U23) National Road Championships, Seven Springs, PA

Odds & Ends:

InterContinental – Holiday Inn Express – support the team by making InterContinental Hotels (ICH) your hotels of choice, particularly Holiday Inn Express! By connecting to any InterContinental Hotel website from our website, then booking your online, the team receives a commission – no cost to you! Holiday Inn Express is a supporting sponsor that is providing rooms for us during the Junior/U23 National Championships this July. See the ICH links at www.fultonflyerscycling.org – and support the team in this unique and unlimited sponsorship!

Category Upgrades are awarded to riders that perform at the top of their category. Three Fulton Flyers junior men made a significant upgrade in April, moving from Category 3 to Category 2 based on their mutual dominance in Category 3 races last fall and this spring. These are Christian Parrett, Oscar Clark and Ty Magner. They chose to upgrade at the same time so they can continue to race as a tight-knit team as they have all year. This move is significant in that most races that include Category 2 riders also include Category 1 and Professionals. Good luck guys!

About those restricted gears... USA Cycling is the governing body for cycling in the U.S. and follows international rules for restricting gear ratios for riders under the age of 18. "Junior" gears produce a distance of 26 feet for one revolution of the cranks. Older riders can use any gear they choose – usually in the range of 31 to 33 feet per crank revolution – more than a 25% advantage! To compensate our Juniors must pedal faster, with the benefit being that they develop a smoother pedaling style while protecting their knees from the very high forces produced by "mashing" larger gears. This makes our victories in the adult categories even more impressive!

Collegiate Racing continues to be a success for the Fulton Flyers. Without listing all of the results, let it be known the FFCC riders have been on the podium at every Southeastern Cycling Conference event this spring! Our collegiate riders include:

Ann Turner – University of Georgia
Carla Swart – Lees-McRae (NC)
Emily Wesley – Auburn University (AL)
Daniel Stallings – Georgia State University
Thom Shaffer – University of Georgia
Thomas Brown (FFCC alumni) – Emory University (GA)

Website Highlights – Be sure to check our website frequently at www.fultonflyerscycling.org - we are working hard to keep our website updated. Please let us know how we can improve!

Alumni Report – Jafer Beizer and Thomas Brown continue racing well in the Pro-1-2 world with the Myogenesis Nutrition presented by Landmark Dodge Pro-Am Cycling Team. Both have been very active in National Racing Calendar (NRC) events, the highest ranking for Pro-Am races in the United States. Jafer won the NRC Men Cat 2 Criterium in Walterboro, SC May 2 as well as competing in the NRC Pro events in Beaufort and Walterboro. Jafer placed 4th overall in the Highland Rim (TN) Stage Race May 5-6, and 16th at the NRC Joe Martin Stage Race May 11-13. Thomas rode all of the Southeastern Crit Series as a Pro, including Twilight and Roswell, both NRC events.

Next Update:

Results from Sandy Springs and Union City – two big events for the team.
Sponsor highlights of Tifosi Optics, Blue Competition Cycles and PowerBar.
Preview of Junior and U23 National Road Championships.