

## 2013 World Series of Bicycling Season Recap

The 2013 World Series of Bicycling has come to an end, and with so much going on at Valley Preferred Cycling Center in the months of September and October, let's take a moment to remember some of the best moments of the 2013 season.



For those fans who attended every race or the majority of races, one name comes to mind when you think of rider of the year. That name is Kim Geist. Geist was dominant from week one, winning 4 of the first 5 women's omniums of the season, en route to easily winning the female rider of the year honor.

The early season consisted of two more names in addition to Geist that dominated the track and headlines. Matt Baranoski and Steph McKenzie won the marquee events during each of the first two weeks, the 200 m sprint finals and the men's and women's Keirin Cups. McKenzie went on to win the women's Keirin Final during the UCI Festival of Speed before returning home to New Zealand for the summer. Baranoski, on the other hand, seemingly met his match during the Festival of Speed in the form of Trinidad Olympian Njisane Phillip. Phillip defeated Baranoski in a dramatic race between two of the world's fine sprinters. Phillip would also defeat Baranoski for the second time on August 16 during the UCI Fastest Man on Wheels, cementing himself as one of the world's premiere sprinters.

Among the many overarching themes of the 2013 season was the outstanding performance by Germany's Rudy Project Racing Team. The team of Marcel Kalz, Andreas Graf, Christian Grassman, Martin Reinert, Nico Hesslich, Hannes Baumgarten, and Achim Burkhardt put on some very special performances this summer in T-Town. The team racked up 20 top three finishes, 13 first place finishes, and the pair of Kalz and Grassman won both the 40 lap and 100 lap Mike Walter Madison on June 28<sup>th</sup>, which happened to be German Theme Night at the track as well. Thanks for the festive spirit fellas!

The month of July began with two riders who were making their T-Town 2013 debut winning Keirin Revenge on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Natasha Hansen of New Zealand and Kamil Kuczynski of Poland won the

men's and women's Keirin titles on that night, along with Kim Geist winning another omnium, and Andreas Graf winning the omnium on the men's side.

One of the most popular races on the 2013 calendar was the Golden Wheel race on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Kirstie James took the crown on the women's side, besting fellow Kiwi 's Natasha Hansen and Liz Steel, who finished third and fourth respectively.

USA Cycling Junior Track National Championships took over T-Town for the second straight year, and our local riders made us very proud throughout the week. Nadia Latzgo and Bailey Semian seemed to be called to every podium for every race they competed in; James Mellen won a gold medal in the individual sprint, along with gold in the team sprint along with teammates Tyler Nothstein and Calan Farley. It was a very special weekend smack dab in the middle of the pro racing schedule, and we could not have been prouder of our local riders who showcased the talent that T-Town produces.

The following week was a celebration of the world class field of female riders who call T-Town home each summer. The Phoenix Sports women's open was a four lap open wheel race in which all age groups, from 10 years old to professional women, competed. Fittingly Kim Geist would go on to receive the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Chairman's Trophy for winning the women's omnium. Geist, along with the entire women's, embodied the best in cycling all season long.

Tandemonium showcased, for the first time ever, NINE tandem bikes on the track at once on a battle on the big bikes. Nick Reoder and Zach Semian won the men's 12 lap tandemonium, and Jamie Alvord and Leandro Bottasso defeated Tyler Nothstein and Matt Deifenbach to win the tandem sprint finals.

For the second year in a row, Valley Preferred took top honors in the Rodale Corporate Challenge, with team Fuji taking second, and Bicycling Magazine taking third. One of the annual favorites on the World Series of Bicycling calendar, the Rodale Corporate Challenge allows the Lehigh Valley's finest corporations and businesses to compete on the track alongside professional cyclists in a 16 team pool to decide the best cycling company in the Valley. Valley Preferred protected their "home track advantage" for the second straight year to reign supreme among local businesses. Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter was on hand to shoot the official starting gun, and say a few words before cheering on his wife Lisa who was a part of the PHL Made team.

Newcomer Bernard Esterhuizen was crowned Fastest Man on Wheels on August 16<sup>th</sup> by winning the men's Keirin final on that night, as Njisane Phillip won the men's sprint final over Matt Baranoski for the second straight time.

The season wrapped up this past Friday August 30<sup>th</sup> with the UCI Madison Cup race. With quite possibly the largest crowd of the season on hand, Americans Bobby Lea and Jackie Simes won their 3<sup>rd</sup> Madison Cup in 4 years, coming across the finish line to chants of 'USA! USA!' as they stormed back to defeat New Zealand Olympians Aaron Gate and Shane Archbold.

This season introduced a whole new Valley Preferred Cycling Center. New staff, new promotions, new winners, and new champions, and through it all one constant remained, Valley Preferred Cycling Center continually brings more talent through its gates than any other track in the world.

A big thank you is sent to all of our fans, riders, volunteers, interns, officials, staff members, and everyone who made the 2013 World Series of Bicycling possible.

What will 2014 hold? You have to be here to find out.