

NACT 2009 Press Kit

After a successful inaugural season, the North American Cyclocross Trophy (www.nacyclocross.com), is expanding into Canada for 2009. Created in 2008, the series is comprised of “the classic cyclocross races” across North America. Traveling throughout the United States and Canada, the NACT showcases the best ‘cross courses and attracts internationally-ranked competitors. Overall series winnings combined with daily prizes make it the richest cyclocross series in North America.



2009 Schedule

Full Speed Ahead Star Crossed, September 19 Seattle, WA

Held under the lights at Seattle’s Marymoor velodrome, Star Crossed is the U.S. ‘cross season’ and NACT opener. DJs, a deep prize list, 360 degree viewing and – of course – a beer garden, make this a race a fixture on both professional and weekend warriors’ calendars.

RAD Racing Gran Prix, September 20 Lakewood, WA

The next stop for the NACT is down the road to Lakewood, Washington and the Rad Racing Gran Prix. Hosted by the junior development Rad Racing squad, all proceeds go towards funding the team. Think you’re in early season shape? The 80 meter “Knapp run-up” will test your fitness.

Great Brewers Gran Prix of Gloucester, October 3-4 Gloucester, MA

For two days, Gloucester, Massachusetts shows off beautiful New England foliage juxtaposed with a challenging dirt, asphalt and grass course at Stage Fort Park. With a title sponsor this year, one of the *grande dames* of the New England race scene just got better and bigger.

Toronto International Cyclocross, October 17-18 Toronto, ON

Taking a turn north, the NACT crosses the border into to Canada for the first time. Held at the Centennial Park ski hill outside of Toronto, the two courses take advantage of the varied terrain to challenge racers’ endurance and bike handling on both Saturday and Sunday.

Blue Sky Velo Cup on October 31 Longmont, CO

Get your costumes out; both speed and creativity will be on parade for the Blue Sky Velo Cup. While the course is fast, racers will need to watch out for some tricky sand traps that might slow them down. Keeping your costume out of your bike spokes might also be the key to success.

The Boulder Cup on November 1 Boulder, CO

Colorado loves cycling and the Boulder Cup is held in the heart of a large and rabid ‘cross community. Consistently drawing some of the biggest crowds in the U.S., mile-high Harlow Platts Park in South Boulder offers spectators a full course view of the action and stunning views of the adjacent Rocky

Mountains. A combination of hard pedaling sections and slower technical spots create a dramatic tempo for racers and fans.

Whitmore's Landscaping Super Cross Cup on November 21-22 Southampton, NY

This is no typical refined Hamptons polo match. Instead prepare for mud, sweat and maybe some tears of pain as the NACT heads into its final weekend in Southampton. This is the last chance to make or break the podium as racers have back to back races to earn points and scramble towards the top on this fast and physical course.

What is cyclocross?

Cyclocross originated in France around the turn of the twentieth century and was primarily used by road cyclists as off-season training. The sport was carried across the Atlantic after WWII to the United States. The U.S. held its first official national championship cyclocross race in 1974 and the sport has continued to grow and garner attention. The North American Cyclocross Trophy has attracted the biggest names in North American racing, with three-time U.S. national champion Ryan Trebon taking the men's 2008 NACT title. Luna's Georgia Gould won the women's competition. Many of the NACT podium winners represent the US and Canadian national teams at international events and the world championships.

The cyclocross season usually begins in the early fall in September after road racing ends, and continues to the UCI world championships held at the end of January. Consisting of a combination of off-road and road riding, riders must dismount/remount and portage their bikes over barriers and through sections too difficult to ride. Race courses are usually two to three mile circuits and race time runs around 60 minutes, meaning that spectators can watch as the entire race unfolds over off-camber turns, steep run-ups and across diverse terrain. Seasonal weather adds another factor as racers often contend with mud, rain, and sometimes snow. Cyclocross bikes resemble road bikes but use wider, knobby tires which help with traction on off-road sections, and have cantilever brakes which help keep mud and other debris from getting stuck in the wheels.

Along with its epic weather conditions and fervent fans, cyclocross is one of the fastest growing sports in the United States, attracting both experienced cyclists and novices. Sales of cyclocross/hybrid bikes have been steadily increasing in recent years accounting for nearly 20% of the 18.5 million bikes sold in the United States last year (see: <http://nbda.com/page.cfm?pageID=34> for more details). In addition to the elite racers, the NACT offers other categories open to riders of all abilities and many of the races have junior categories as well.



For more on cyclocross, see the following:

- 2007 Starcrossed promo <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hITYJ9oEgCs>
- American cyclocross trailer: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWxuDZL_420&feature=related

- Monkey boy at Erdinger Gran Prix <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubRLCWSS4Lg&feature=related>
- Gloucester seat cam <http://www.vimeo.com/1942422>
- Whitmore handlebar cam <http://www.vimeo.com/2333208>
- <http://www.vimeo.com/2621424>
- Boulder Cup, riding through sand <http://www.vimeo.com/2161643>
- Gloucester run up cat 4 men <http://www.vimeo.com/1949634>,
- Elite women's run up <http://www.vimeo.com/1978158>



Points and Prizes

Points are awarded for the top fifteen finishers and the series prizes run as follows:

Prize Money:

Men - \$4,000

1st - \$2,000

2nd - \$1,000

3rd - \$550

4th - \$250

5th - \$200

Women - \$3,000

1st - \$1,500

2nd - \$1,000

