



Junior Cycling Development Program

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Team Swift Special Report

Team Swift & US Postal Rider George Hincapie Team-up for a Charity Ride

Tour of Marin Charity Ride
Corte Madera, CA
May 16, 2004

Team Swift Junior Development Cycling Program attended a ride with George Hincapie to help raise money for the Marin Country Day School. US Postal showed up in force for this Sunday's ride with top professional riders George Hincapie and Robbie Ventura, and many top Postal masters racers like Larry Nolan and Scott McKinley. The ride was a half-century of rolling terrain on a sunny California day. The organizers of the tour provided a special treat to all of the riders; a Tour de France style rolling enclosure, complete with several lead CHP motorcycle officers. Everyone followed the moto's out of the school's parking lot and through the meandering city streets, before the buildings finally opened up and gave way to the beautiful scenery around the back country roads of Marin. George said that he was still a bit tired from the exhausting Spring Classics, but it was obvious he wasn't about to let any amount of fatigue spoil the party... He set a fast pace in front of the 250+ rider field all day and even played around with a few small attacks. At one point our group got split up on a climb and George was behind, and then suddenly he came flying by us with Laura on his wheel! Afterwards he said "Well, that was fun!"



Team Swift Director Laura Charameda,
USPS Member George Hincapie & Team
Swift member Mike Margraf.

After a little bit of hard work came a lot of great food though. There was a fully catered lunch waiting for the riders back at the school. Everyone sat and enjoyed the food, and shared their favorite parts about the ride. Mike was surprised to see how thin Hincapie was in real life as opposed to how he looks on TV. Nathan enjoyed hearing the first hand accounts of how everyone's racing season has been going and some of the inside scoops. And Laura enjoyed seeing George again after past years spent racing on the US National Team. Professional riders that make time to do these charity events mean so much to the cycling public, the causes and, in my case as a Junior Director, I see how much even a brief encounter between a Professional like George and a young rider can mean in their future in this sport. George is a true Professional and a great ambassador to our sport".



George Hincapie, Mike Margraf and
Team Swift Alumni member Nathan Miller
who is now a Pro for McGuire Pro Cycling
Team in San Francisco

Laura, Nathan and Mike had a great time riding with George and interacting with so many other people who just love the sport. This area of the country has so many cycling supporters including many that help sponsor our own Team Swift non-profit Junior Cycling Program. It was great to have the opportunity to meet some of our Team Swift donors, ride with them and thank them in person.