

Team Swift Race Reports

April 2017

Race Reports for:

1. Sea Otter Classic
2. Copperopolis Road Race
3. Cat's Hill Criterium
4. Wente Road Race
5. Sequoia Cycling Classic
6. Dana Point Gran Prix
7. NorCal MTB races #4 & #5
8. Collegiate Nationals

April Top Results:

1 st Place	Sea Otter Circuit Race	Juniors 15-16	Gianni Lamperti
1 st Place	Sea Otter Circuit Race	Junior girls 15-18	Sawyer Taylor
1 st Place	Sea Otter Road Race	Junior girls 15-18	Sawyer Taylor
1 st Place	Cats Hill Criterium	Senior Category 3	Lucianno Lamperti
1 st Place	Sequoia Cycling Classic	Senior Category 3	Parker Rous
1 st Place	Wente Road Race	Senior Category 3	Gianni Lamperti
1 st Place	Norcal Race #4	JV Girls	Sawyer Taylor
2 nd Place	Sea Otter Circuit Race	Juniors 15-16	Lucianno Lamperti
2 nd Place	Sea Otter Road Race	Juniors 15-16	Gianni Lamperti
2 nd Place	Sea Otter Road Race	Junior 13-14	Andrew Mathiesen
2 nd Place	Cats Hill Criterium	Juniors 15-18, 4/5	Andrew Mathiesen
2 nd Place	Wente Road Race	Senior Category 3	Isaiah Chass
2 nd Place	Copperopolis Road Race	Senior Category 3	Gianni Lamperti
2 nd Place	Wente Road Race	Juniors 15-16	Andrew Mathiesen
3 rd Place	Copperopolis Road Race	Juniors 15-18	Creighton Gruber
3 rd Place	Wente Road Race	Senior Category 3	Lucianno Lamperti
3 rd Place	Wente Road Race	Juniors 15-16	Jonas Crean
4 th Place	Sea Otter Road Race	Juniors 15-16	Lucianno Lamperti
4 th Place	Sea Otter Road Race	Senior W Cat 3-4	Sawyer Taylor
4 th Place	Cats Hill Criterium	Senior Category 3	Isaiah Chass
5 th Place	Copperopolis Road Race	Senior Category 3	Lucianno Lamperti
5 th Place	Copperopolis Road Race	Juniors 15-18	Andrew Mathiesen
6 th Place	Copperopolis Road Race	Juniors 15-18	Jonas Crean
6 th Place	NorCal Race #5	JV Girl	Sawyer Taylor
7 th Place	Cats Hill Criterium	Juniors 15-18, 4/5	Jonas Crean
9 th Place	Sea Otter Road Race	Juniors 17-18	Isaiah Chass
9 th Place	Sea Otter Road Race	Juniors 15-16	Creighton Gruber
10 th Place	Sea Otter Road Race	Senior Category 4	Chase King
11 th Place	Sea Otter Road Race	Juniors 17-18	Parker Rous
12 th Place	Sea Otter Circuit Race	Juniors 15-16	Andrew Mathiesen

15 th Place	Sea Otter Circuit Race	Juniors 15-16	Jonas Crean
15 th Place	Sea Otter Road Race	Juniors 15-16	Jonas Crean
15 th Place	Wente Road Race	Pro,1,2	Ben Cook
18 th Place	Sea Otter Circuit Race	Juniors 17-18	Parker Rous
18 th Place	Dana Point GP	Senior Category 2/3	Parker Rous
18 th Place	NorCal MTB #5	Senior Varsity	Ben Cook
19 th Place	Sea Otter Circuit Race	Juniors 17-18	Isaiah Chass
21 st Place	NorCal Race #4	Senior Varsity	Ben Cook
22 nd Place	Sea Otter Circuit Race	Juniors 17-18	Ben Cook
31 st Place	Sea Otter Road Race	Juniors 17-18	Ben Cook
45 th Place	Wente Road Race	Senior Category 3	Creighton Gruber

Rider Race Reports

1. Sea Otter Classic

4/22/17

Monterey

Circuit Race Reports

Gianni Lamperti

1st Place Sea Otter Circuit Race Juniors 15-16

Starting the circuit race, it was hot and was very windy over the top of the corkscrew. The 17-18's field started only 1 minute in front of us, so there was bound to be some confusion and mixing with results. For the first two laps, we went pretty slowly although it was not as slow as 17-18 as we almost caught them. Up the climb, there were attacks on almost every lap for about 5 laps before we finally got away with a group of 7. Luke made a few really clean moves that he got away with for about half a lap. It was hard to get away solo because everyone was organizing surprisingly well. On the last lap, it went reasonably slow over the top of the climb. On the starting grid at the bottom, it was still slow so I drifted to the back. I attacked up the right side of the road and as I was starting to jump, Tyler Reynolds saw me and jumped on my wheel. Once I knew he was going to hold it, I let up and a Byrds rider countered. I jumped on his wheel through corner one and coming around corner two, he started to sit up. I jumped as hard as I could up the outside and got a gap. I went as hard as I could to the line and took the win. I was super excited and was happy that my work is starting to show.

-Gianni

Lucianno Lamperti

2nd Place Sea Otter Circuit Race Juniors 15-16

We started slow. It went pretty easy the first lap over the climb. Then people started to attack. There were a few moves before my teammate Gianni and I started to make some big ones on the climb. The field ended up like 10 riders. After that I tried attacking in a few different places. Nothing could really stick on the climb with a strong head wind on and just after the climb. There was a roller but it had the headwind after so there was nowhere to stick a good move. I felt with 2 guys we could do well in the sprint so we kept it hard but were not riding over the top aggressive. I knew as long as we had people on the edge our group would get a little smaller. With 2 to go I attacked near the top of the climb and then Gianni jumped over the top. We lost a few guys. It stayed hard as we went into the last lap. Over the climb we rolled a little easier. Then on the roller about 1k to go my teammate attacked. He got a small gap with 1 other rider. I sat in for a minute and then followed a rider that jumped. Meanwhile Gianni ended up solo. I won the field sprint for second behind Gianni. I was super stoked to go 1, 2 with my brother.

-Luke

Andrew Mathiesen

12th Place Sea Otter Circuit Race Junior 15-16

In the Circuit Race, I was hoping for a top ten finish but I never rode the course beforehand. I realized that there were very strong riders and that I was not going to do as good as I wanted to. On the first lap of the 75 minute race, the pace was very slow because nobody attacked and people wanted to see how the course looked. Afterwards, the riders started attacking and people were getting dropped; I hung on for another two laps and then I got dropped with two other riders. We chased for a couple laps then caught back on but a short time later I got dropped again. It was a cat and mouse game for the rest of the race and ended up finishing a few seconds after the leading group.

-Andrew

Jonas Crean

15th Place Sea Otter Circuit Race Juniors 15-16

A week after the tough Copperopolis Road Race, I felt really solid and was excited for two days at the Sea Otter festival. After registering and warming up on the road I lined up. We saw the 17-18's go five minutes before us, and then we were off. This course is really tough, with lots of rollers, a steep climb, and a fast descent called "the corkscrew". We hit the climb after a long roller, and I could feel it. The pace was super fast, but I felt strong. We went over the top and flew down the corkscrew, which really stretched out the groups and everything more or less came back together on a long roller before the start of the next lap. The real action happened on the second lap. We were coming over the long roller right before the climb. I was in the middle of the group, and I suddenly noticed Luke was not near the front like he usually is. Then I saw

Luke sprinting past the group and up the climb. The group surged and followed. I could feel myself cracking but I managed to stay with them. Coming into the next lap Luke attacked again and this time it shattered the group. I was dropped but I started working with another guy. We made good time and finished the race together. I got 15th. I was a little bummed, but I knew that I had given it my all.

-Jonas

Parker Rous

18th Place Sea Otter Circuit Race Juniors 17-18

Selection races are always the hardest races because the racers aren't just referred to as juniors, they're also called category 1 and category 2 men. Mix this group with a windy and hilly circuit race and it is considered a success to simply finish the race. With this as well as memories from last years' disaster stuck in my head I took to the line. I knew I was in better shape this year and that proved to be correct as the race started. Team Swift was constantly near the front and always covering moves. It is safe to say that other than the big teams such as LUX and Specialized, we were very animated. However 7 laps in to the race, the field split and with the combined efforts of the team, we missed it. Ben, Isaiah and I found ourselves in no man's land. We were too strong for the shattered groups behind but not strong enough for the top group. As Ben and Isaiah dropped back with thoughts of a hard road race the next day I continued on solo. I lapped the 15/16's on their finishing lap and was privileged to watch Gianni and his brother Luke destroy the field. As I rolled across the line and met up with Ben and Isaiah I could tell we were all disappointed, despite our best efforts we simply could not make the split.

-Parker

Ben Cook

22nd Place Sea Otter Classic Circuit Race Juniors 17-18

Bustling team vans and a sea of pop up tents crowded the Sea Otter Classic as my family and I pulled up to the venue for the first time of the year. I met the team at the Lamperti's camp sight and unpacked my trainer. My friend Ethan, who graduated from the team last year, came to watch us race before his own circuit race the next day. The rest of the team headed out on the road as I did a warm up on the trainer while Ethan hung around with me. I had just gotten over the flu in time for the race, so I hadn't done any hard efforts in a few days. I got a really good and hard warm-up in on the trainer and was feeling in good shape for the race. Ethan helped me with my bike and bottles and I headed down to the start line.

I met the team at the start, with Team Specialized lined up behind us and Lux to our side. Parker, Isaiah, and I would be facing about 15 laps of the famous Laguna Seca race track, featuring a 13% gradient punch followed by another 500 meters at 8%, and then immediately down the corkscrew and back around to start another lap.

The music blasted and the announcer boomed as the heat radiated off the track

and onto our legs as we started down the raceway. Things began slowly up the first climb and for the next lap as riders chatted away as we rolled down the course. By the third or so lap the pace was picking up on the bottom part of the climb. I was in about fourth wheel and took off over the top. I gapped off the field by a few seconds and a Lux rider came with me. We held the gap along the backside of the course but to no avail, and were caught before the next lap started. Laps 5 and 6 were fast paced as well, and I attacked around the 7th lap again as Ethan and Coach cheered me on over the hill. The same Lux rider came with me over the top but the field was moving faster and had already lost some riders at this point. The following lap, Specialized's Cole Davis made a massive attack from the bottom of the climb, causing Parker, Isaiah and I to struggle to hang onto the group. I was officially done attacking now.

The next few laps were painful but not unbearable, until finally Cole attacked once more and the three of us clawed our way at the back of the group, but ultimately lost contact over the top. I chased hard with Parker for the next lap but the field had been obliterated, and the small group that was left was moving away from us. I finished the next few laps with a small group, and one rider and I attacked them on the final lap and sprinted in to the finish. I met the rest of the team for recovery drinks and to talk at the end of the circuit afterwards. It was a fun yet brutally painful day as always at the Sea Otter Circuit race, and for having just recovered from illness, I was happy that I could get out there, make a few attacks, and have fun while I could!

-Ben

Isaiah Chass

19th Place Sea Otter Classic Circuit Race Juniors 17-18

The Sea Otter Classic Circuit Race is always a really good race, and it has a good short hill in it. The race started off, and we rolled the first climb pretty easy. On the next lap it started going harder, and attacks were going over the top of the hill before the corkscrew. I followed a move by Specialized and we got a little gap going into the corkscrew but we the field was right on us at the bottom. I stayed on during the solid attacks on the hill, but nothing was staying away and the field was staying pretty much together. With five to go, I was farther back than I should've been, and that was the lap that it was full gas the whole way around the track. Going over the top of the climb, I was just off the back of the group but couldn't manage to get on. I worked with my teammate Parker, but I saw my teammate Ben and a good sized group behind so I eased up a bit to get in their group, figuring they were going to catch us. The group didn't really want to work very hard, so after rotating for the next few laps I got off the front on the climb on the last lap. I stayed off the front from my group and then came up on the 15-16 field with a few corners to go, so I stayed off the back of their group so that I wouldn't mess up their finish. I was bummed that I got popped over the top, but I definitely learned that I need to be closer to the front at all times, because that one time that you are at the back is when you get caught out. It's always a super fun race racing on the track, so I am excited to race it next year and hopefully do better.

-Isaiah

Sawyer Taylor

1st Place Sea Otter Circuit Race Junior girls 15-18

I love the circuit race at Sea Otter Classic. I look forward to it every season as a race that always promises to be fast and fun. In 2016, there was actually a pretty good-sized junior girl's field. As I rolled to the line this year, however, I saw this was not the case. I would have switched to the 3/4/5 category if I would have been able to but it was too late at this point. We need more junior girls at these races! However, starting a minute back from the 3/4/5's meant I got to chase their field.

After a few short delays caused by the start of all the P12 men's and women's races, we rolled to the line and were off. I relaxed for the first two laps to see what my competition looked like. Then, on the third lap going over the top of the main climb, I attacked really hard and got away. I ended up being able to hold this effort for the remainder of the race! Just as I had last year when I was in a break of two off the front, I went into the corkscrew on the descent with a lot of speed, got low on the flats, and went hard on the climb. After it was clear that I had a really good gap. I eased up a bit to save my legs for the next two days of racing. I ended up somewhere between the break and the chase group in the women's 3/4/5 field. While I didn't catch the leaders, I was definitely able to make up some ground on the field while really opening up my legs. I crossed the line with my arms in the air before spinning around to cool down. After watching the finish of the boy's races, I went to my podium and got my winner's jersey to show to all of our awesome sponsors.

Side note:

Soon after my finish, I heard the terrible news that Ethan (a Team Swift alumni who was on the team last year) had crashed on the course. The entire team made an effort to make sure that Ethan was taken care of and that all of his gear got to him eventually. The Rous family especially stepped up to help Ethan and accompanied him to the hospital to make sure he was properly taken care of. Everything that members of this team do to support each other is pretty awesome and says a lot about this team and the respect that we have for each other.

-Sawyer

Road Race Reports

Gianni Lamperti

2nd Place Sea Otter Road Race Juniors 15-16

The start of the road race was neutral until the bottom of the hill. The course was a little different than last year as the climb that we do every lap was a bit bigger and the course was a little longer. On the first lap, it was not too hard over the climb and mostly stayed together. In the race, there was no point in us being too aggressive

as we were confident in the final climb and the sprint. All we had to do was make sure that we were in every move that showed any threat. On the second lap, the climb was pushed pretty hard and split the field in half. We dropped a few riders and about three got back on the field before the climb on the next lap, because we were cruising. On the third lap, Slocum got on the front and went really hard over the climb, but it stayed together until we got to the false flat on the top. I attacked hard and got the group down to 7 guys. On the fourth lap, we were mistakenly told by the rear moto referee that this was our last lap. We got ready for the final climb and then the lead moto took a left turn for one more lap. On this lap, it did not go very hard over the climb as it was really windy and nobody was too excited about soloing it into the final climb. Coming into the final climb, Specialized was on the front setting a good tempo as we came into the last kilometer. At the 1k sign, a Byrds rider attacked. I was right on him and he slowed back down. I was third wheel at 300m when Luke went to the back and attacked. He had Nolan Jenkins on his wheel and they came by pretty fast. I jumped hard and could not catch Nolan and took second. It was a blast racing at Sea Otter this weekend!

-Gianni

Lucianno Lamperti

4th Place Sea Otter Road Race Juniors 15-16

I knew the road race was going to be hard and hot. The course was different and more exposed. We started natural and rolled down the hill. We started on our first lap. We hit it pretty hard up the climb. There was a small group off the front but we came back quickly. Then we rolled decent for the next two laps or so not splitting the field at all. It would break on the climb and then come right back together. With 1 lap to go we finally had a group of about 8. We rolled pretty well the whole lap. On the climb we dropped one guy and kept it hard. As we made the turn up the final climb riders were attacking. I rode wheels. Then I set a hard pace until 1k. Then I faded to the back to jump at about 400m. When I jumped I did not get a clean gap and the rider on me jumped for the win. My teammate got second. We have a lot to learn from this race and take home with us.

-Luke

Creighton Gruber

9th Place Sea Otter Road Race Juniors 15-16

On the neutral descent that started my first ever Sea Otter race, I stayed towards the front right behind the motorcycles. When the neutral zone ended we were right at the base of the climb that we'd have to ride every lap. The pace up the first climb was slow; it wasn't until the next time up the hill where the pace picked up. On the second time up the hill someone picked up the pace quite a bit, dropping a bunch of people. When the hill leveled out to about 3% someone accelerated and I was not able to match the acceleration. I rode for about 5 miles with the main pack in sight until

the group with Jonas caught me. We were now in a 5 man group trying to get back on. After 2 laps off the back of all out chasing, the front group with Luke and Gianni slowed down a bit and we caught back on. I was able to make it up the hill with the main group the next time around, but on the final time up the steep climb I got dropped from the 7 man lead group. The group I settled in with consisted of Erik from team Specialized, two other guys that were on the same team and me. Because we were still "racing" for top 10, the 2 teammates took turns attacking, so Erik and I took turns pulling it back. Eventually one of the teammates got away from us, so the other 3 of us rode to the final climb together. When we got to the climb I set a pace I knew I could hold, dropping the 2 riders with me, so I rode in for 9th.

-Creighton

Parker Rous

11th Place Sea Otter Road Race Juniors 17-18

Even though it is only two days of racing at Sea Otter it is as hard as any stage race that you might do. It is comprised of a difficult circuit race and a road race that is not only windy but has approximately 5000 feet of climbing in just over 50 miles. If that doesn't scream "extremely difficult", then I don't know what does. At the start of the road race there is a long downhill neutralized section that would eventually be the finishing climb, it goes directly into a climb known as "the wall". Why is it called "the wall"? Well, it is a 2 minute effort when taken at speed it averages 10% with a few rollers and a false flat immediately after it. The first lap was typical Sea Otter; lots of aggressive attacks that are always dangerous. Going into lap two on the wall a split was made and again we did not make it, only this time a few other strong riders didn't make it. This meant one thing, a group that would work. We chased hard for the next few laps and continued to shell riders off the back. With two laps to go, and the majority of the group work done by Isaiah and me, we caught the group ahead. Shortly after catching them we learned that there were two riders long gone off the front so motivation to work was low. Going onto the final climb, there were desperate attempts by solo riders to leap free but they all failed. Soon after that some of the stronger riders attacked and the group was split. This time both Isaiah and I made it but the longevity of the attack left the group splintered and everyone rolling in solo. Isaiah and I finished 9th and 11th, while Ben unfortunately suffered a mechanical early in the race.

-Parker

Isaiah Chass

9th Place Sea Otter Road Race Juniors 17-18

The race started off neutral down the descent that we would be coming back up for the finish. At the bottom of the descent we would be going up a steep little climb, so I made sure I was at the front so that I would be able to drift back if I needed to so I wouldn't make the same mistake I made in the Circuit Race by being too far back when it went super hard. On the back section of the course there were a few rollers

and a solid headwind. Before a roller, there was a move that went that ended up staying away. The rest of the lap stayed together, with little moves trying to go but not getting off. Coming into the second lap, we would be going up the steep little climb, so I stayed at the front again in case I needed to drift back. It was super hard going over the top, and a lot of riders got popped off. By the descent, the group got a lot smaller and it wasn't that big now. A couple riders went across to the break on the rollers on the back section of the course. The group was now down to not a whole lot of riders. It stayed together going over the climb, but it still stayed hard, especially going over the top. On the fourth lap, we caught a good group, but there were still two riders off the front. Going into the last lap the group was pretty solid but no one really wanted to do anything. On the first climb it went hard as usual, but not enough to really split the field, except for maybe a few riders at the back. There were some attacks on the rollers before the feed zone, but when nothing got away, it went pretty easy until the last climb. Going up the last hill, I was towards the back but I was feeling good. With 1K to go I came around a bunch of riders as the front strung out for the final sprint. It got steep towards the finish, and there was one more rider ahead of me that I knew I could get so I gave it one last jump and got him before the line.

-Isaiah

Ben Cook

31st Place Sea Otter Road Race Juniors 17-18

Despite my best attempt, it was a quick demise to my Sea Otter road race. I got a less than ideal warm-up in on the road, and admittedly should have warmed up on the trainer instead. I rolled over to the start line with Parker and Isaiah for the 46 mile 17-18 race. We rolled down the starting hill in neutral and immediately climbed up the wall that lie in front of us. On the following rollers, as attacks came from all sides and the field played cat and mouse, I pinch flatted my front wheel on a rough section of road. I rolled behind the field for as long as I could with my left hand in the air, but the team car never came around me. I finally stopped and took my own front wheel out, and the wheel change still took another minute. I hopped on my bike and chased, but couldn't catch back onto the lead group.

As I rolled through the lap solo, I heard Parker's dad, David, yelling at me from the sidelines with my dad. "Find a reason to race! Find a reason to race Ben!" He yelled up the main climb of the course. That gave me just enough motivation to make it back around the lap alone until I saw them again, and then repeat the process all the way to the finish. It was a very upsetting day to flat out of a race that I had a great shot at, and I finished a lap early just in time to see the field come in as a sprint for third, and I've won the sprint on this course more than once before. I rolled back to the car with my teammates after I got my wheel back, and we packed up as a team and headed for home.

-Ben

Sawyer Taylor

1st Place Sea Otter Road Race Junior girls 15-18

This race starts exceptionally late every year and 2017 was no exception. At 5:30 at night, all of the junior 15-18 girls rolled to the line for the start of our 30-something mile road race. The excitement I had to do a race I love so much in a much more competitive field over-shadowed the notion that I wouldn't be finishing until after 7:00PM. After the neutral roll-out, the race started up the first climb. It was several miles long and steep and punchy. I sat in for the most part and just spun. I knew that this would have to be a very smart race for me. There were racers in my field that I knew were just as good or better climbers than me. But, if I was able to stay with the leaders until the finish, I knew I had a good chance to take the sprint.

I didn't attack at all on the first lap. I followed some stuff but everything came back together on the windy back-side of the course. I made sure to stay hydrated. This is almost always a hot course so getting dehydrated can happen quickly and easily! I was drinking a bottle every 45 minutes to an hour. I drank all the water I brought plus most of a neutral bottle. Going into the second lap, I felt really good. Again, I rode wheels for the most part but was always moving up on the descents. In the last few miles of the second lap, I moved up and tried to get swallowed up by the field but they wouldn't let me back in. Someone was constantly marking me. If I moved, they moved. So, I attacked really hard going up a short rise and got a small gap. No one came with me so I eased up and it was closed quickly. This time, I was swallowed back up by the field.

By the time we got up the last climb on the last lap, it was just three of us. I played my cards smart, and going into the finish I felt really good. I tried to stay sheltered but in the last kilometer and a half or so, I got pushed to the front again. At 1k to go, I attacked as hard as I could and moved from one side on the road to the other. For the last few minutes, I put out as much power as I could before crossing the line to take another win! I was so excited to take the win in this race after a second place finish last year. Soon after my finish, my mom and I headed home. I had a race early the next morning that I needed to get ready for!

-Sawyer

Andrew Mathiesen

2nd Place Sea Otter Road Race Junior 13-14

Today I really wanted to win because I knew I was one of the strongest riders, but I was a little sore after the circuit race from the day before. For the race, I got a good warm-up in but I still had lactic acid in my legs from yesterday. In the race, the pace was really slow and there were some attacks that sped things up, but after a while it went back to being slow. I tried to pick the speed up on the climbs and I did this in hopes that people would drop off or it would hinder the stronger riders. During my attack, I just tried to get a feel how strong were my competitors but each time they got on my wheel as soon as I sped up to get away. On the finishing climb, I was not feeling too great but I kept pushing onward. On the last 200 meters, I started my

sprint because somebody jumped and I thought I had it. Consequently, halfway to the finish line I started to slow down and realized that I started it too early. Someone passed me 50 meters from the finish line and I could not pull him back. In this race, I thought I should have started my sprint later and to not push so hard the day before.
-Andrew

Sawyer Taylor

4th Place Sea Otter Road Race Senior Women Cat 3-4

Less than 12 hours after the finish of my last road race, I was on my way back to the Sea Otter race course for my final race of the weekend. Although I wasn't yet fully recovered, I was stoked to race again and was hoping for another podium this weekend. After a good warm up, I headed to the start in an enormous field of 3/4/5 women. I was super excited for another chance to race on this awesome course. It was the same exact distance as my race last night. If everything went right, I knew I could do really well.

After the neutral rollout, we hit the first hill hard. There were two really strong women who immediately moved to the front. I tried to stay somewhere in the field. Today, moving up in the field on the descents would be harder as I was on junior gears. Track racing has given me the ability to hold really high cadences for a long time but I still wouldn't have quite the edge that I had on Saturday night. Nevertheless, I was able to get a good position coming up over the top of the first climb and onto the long descent to the windy flat section. I tried to stay in the field for the most part in the first lap and ate and drank a lot as it was already getting hot. Going into the second lap, the race was still together. Then, going up the big climb, the two really strong women who were first up the climb the first lap attacked. I took the chance and jumped too. The three of us rolled over the top of the climb away from the rest of the field. I led on the descent and moved back into the draft for the flat section. We were hammering so hard. We were taking pretty consistent pulls although I'd say that one woman named Ryan was taking the longest pulls. She won the crit and the circuit race solo on Thursday and Friday. I knew she would be my biggest threat at taking the win. I was hurting but so were the other two. I knew we could make this break work.

As we were going through the back side of the course, my sifter stopped working. As I later learned at Shimano neutral support, my bike rack had pushed my hood into my shifter. I couldn't shift up without holding the front of my shifter. I lost focus for 30 seconds and got dropped from the break. I wasn't able to get back on but I was caught by another woman named Eleanor Valez. I had raced with Eleanor quite a bit in local stuff and knew she was super strong. I was already burned out from being in the break but we still tried to make out chase work. In the last kilometer and a half, we got caught. At this point, I was pretty far gone. I still sprinted and, although Eleanor took the sprint and the last spot on the podium, I still ended up in fourth.

For having the problems I did in this race, I'm not disappointed with how I did. Yes, I did really want a spot on the podium. However, I took the risk than came with going with the break. And if not for the issues that I had, I think it would have paid off.

Next year, I'll likely be doing the P12 race. I can take what I've learned this weekend and apply it to my races for next year and even the rest of this season. Until next year, Sea Otter Classic.

-Sawyer

Chase King

10th Place Sea Otter Road Race Senior Category 4

The start of the day could not have gone better; I was able to check in quickly, get all my gear sorted, and start my warm-up with little wasted time. After a nice pre-race spin, I made my way to the starting line. While I was chatting with some out-of-state riders next to me, one of the race officials drove down on a motorbike to inform us that the P/1/2 field was on course for longer than expected (the lap distance was measured incorrectly), and that it would be another 20 or 30 minutes before we actually started. After a cacophony of groans and complaints from the antsy group of riders wanting to get started, and another 50 minutes of killing time, the race finally started. By popular demand, the officials removed one lap from our course, meaning we only had about 52 miles instead of 60.

The course is quite hilly, which suits my strengths perfectly. At the start of each lap, there was a short steep, punchy climb, and I would go to the front to set a strong pace to prevent any attacks. The group stayed together for the most part the entire race. There were a few solo moves that happened unexpectedly (i.e. no sudden surges), and suddenly a rider would be 20m up the road. None of these worked in the end, however.

On the final lap, I was with the front group of about 12 riders going in to the final descent. I was 2nd wheel going into the descent, but the pace got really high, averaging about 45 mph, but I was falling back. Even with as aero of a position as possible and reaching 150 cadence, I lost the front group, and was about 20 seconds down going into the final turn. Since the bottom part of the hill is not very steep, the front group had an advantage and gained more time. I chased hard and managed to pass 3 riders, placing 10th, which I'm pretty happy with. This was a great event, a fun course, and I'm happy for a top 10. Looking forward to racing here again next year!

-Chase

Jonas Crean

15th Place Sea Otter Road Race Juniors 15-16

After a somewhat disappointing finish at the circuit race, I was extra motivated to do well at the next day's road race. I barely warmed up at all for this race, because I knew I would need every bit of energy for the hilly course. After a neutral descent we immediately hit a long, steep hill that really hurt to go over. After we got through the descent and some nice pavement, it was just a series of long rollers and short descents. After a manageable lap of this we hit the climb and the field shattered. I cracked and dropped off the back with some other guys. We started working together and kept a

somewhat chaotic paceline for around two laps. Going into the fourth lap I took a feed and someone shouted "group is one minute up the road!" We all groaned because we knew that we couldn't close a gap that big with five guys. However, once we got to a long section of rollers, we saw that the pack was more like fifteen seconds up. I got on the front and pulled the rest of the way. After recovering a bit we hit the short descent before the final lap. As soon as we started the lap I bonked for the second time. I dropped off the back like a lead weight and knew I didn't have a second chase left in me. I still gave it everything and finished the race 15th overall. I was disappointed in two 15th places but I still had a lot of fun.

-Jonas

2. Copperopolis Road Race

4/15/17

Milton

Gianni Lamperti

2nd Place Copperopolis Road Race

Senior Category 3

As we rolled out for the road race, we turned left and it was already bumpy. They had recently patched all the potholes so there was fresh asphalt on the road and it got in your mouth. It had quite the crunch to it. As we passed the feed on the first lap and there was a Cycle Sport rider pushed it on the front. Isaiah got on his wheel and they literally rode away from the field. It was crazy fast and people were getting spit out the back already. Over the top of the climb, nothing was really organized and the group of three got a pretty big gap. Coming around on the next lap, we caught Isaiah on the climb as he got caught out of the break. Over the top, Sun Power attacked and Luke went with him. I waited as the group was down to 14 of us. Once we got into a little bit of crosswind and I knew that nobody in the group was motivated, I attacked over a little roller and bridged to Luke and the other Sun Power rider. Once I got there we rotated until we came into the bottom of the last climb where we caught the second place rider. I thought about attacking over the climb, but was pretty tired and was more confident in my sprint. Luke did not make it over the climb and I held it out until about 200 meters. I jumped hard up the left inside and stuck it to the line for second.

-Gianni

Lucianno Lamperti

5th Place Copperopolis Road Race

Senior Category 3

The Paris-Roubaix of California is a hard race. The roads are rough, the climbs are hard and the riders are fast. We started and rolled easy until we hit the climb about 10 minutes in. There was a hard pace at the front. A little group of 3 got a little gap with my teammate in it. They had about 15 seconds over the top of the climb. They slowly got a little bigger of a gap. We could not see them going into the second lap.

The field rolled at a decent pace but not super fast. There was no moto with us so nobody knew the gap.

On the second lap I was solo going up the climb with about 20 seconds on the field. I came around the corner and saw my teammate. He was not with anyone. I asked him how far the break was up the road. He said about 2 minutes. I rolled solo over the top and could not see the break. I kept rolling for a while getting time on the field. Then my teammate Gianni and one other rider bridged. We started rotating. We rolled into the third lap and went hard up the climb. We got a time gap and there was one rider 4 minutes up the road and another 9 minutes. I figured we would try to pull back the guy at 4 minutes but probably not the other rider. We rotated hard the whole lap. Going into the fourth I was pretty smashed. I knew Gianni was felling good. I made it over the climb. I took some long hard pulls. Pretty soon I could see the other rider. I took a really hard pull to catch him right before the final climb. Gianni then jumped with just one other guy. He was able to get second and I rolled in for 5th. We had a good hard race and I am looking forward to next year.

-Luke

Creighton Gruber

3rd Place Copperopolis Road Race Juniors 15-18

The field at my last race as a cat 4 was small, but all but one kid had a teammate. The first of two laps there were no attacks: it seemed like everyone was just checking out the course. When the second lap had begun Jonas was on the front and the rider behind him sat up. Jonas continued to ride and nobody chased, eventually he was out of sight. Once the group got over the big climb on the course the Tieni Duro kids realized they needed to chase. It took a long time for the rest of the group to get organized, so Jonas's lead kept growing. With about 3 miles left at the foot of the final climb a Tieni Duro kid attacked, so I followed. He tried to get me to pull through but I wouldn't because Jonas was still up the road. The group came back together for the rest of the climb. With 1 mile to go we caught Jonas on the descent. With 500 meters to go I was in the very back of what was now a six man field. The sprinter from Tieni Duro tried to have me go ahead of him but I stayed on his wheel. As he and I were playing cat and mouse a rider in their first road race attacked and caught me off guard. When the Tieni Duro kid and I tried to catch him, he was already too close to the line. The Tieni Duro kid beat me to the line so I ended up third.

-Creighton

Jonas Crean

6th Place Copperopolis Road Race Juniors 15-18

I was fortunate enough to have this race during my spring break. After a solid week of training, I was feeling very good. After warming up and rolling out I lined up. I was ready for the "Paris Roubaix" of California. And boy did it earn that title. After a

bumpy first section which included a feed zone hill, we went through a series of rollers and hit the first climb. We were going at an easy pace, because nobody knew what the course would be like. After the first climb, we followed the hilly course around a lake. The road was gravelly and terrible. After around 18 miles of this, we hit a short hill before the descent. The pace became so slow that some guy in front of me shifted his chainring to the smaller cog. Because of this my front wheel knocked into the wheel in front of me and I went down. I scraped my hands and my chain fell off. Quickly I got to my feet while Creighton and Andrew's dads fixed up my bike. I got back on and sprinted to catch back up. The pack was considerate and slowed down to allow me to catch up.

After a gnarly descent we started our second lap. The pace began to pick significantly. Fraiser from Tieni Duro rolled off the front, and I chased him down. After I caught him, I decided to do some pace making, after about a minute I flicked my elbow, but nobody pulled through. Annoyed, I looked back and saw that I was like 15 seconds up the road with nobody behind me. I stopped pedaling, but then I heard Creighton screaming "GO" at me. After that I took off up the feed zone hill, and started building my lead. Coming over the top of the first climb I had like 45 seconds on the group, so I decided to really commit 100 percent. I was in as aero a position as I could go. About 3/4 of the way through the lap I had 1:30 on the group. Coming over some of the rollers my lead dropped to about a minute. However, I was keeping it consistent. Tony gave me some time splits. I had five miles to go, but there was still that climb and descent. I dug deep on the final climb and gave it everything on the descent, but I was caught with 2k to go. At this point I was completely cracked and the group dropped me in the sprint. I got 6th. I was disappointed because I had almost won in a solo breakaway. However, I was proud that I held the breakaway for 18 miles and was able to help Creighton and Andrew get 3rd and 5th. Overall I really enjoyed this race and would like to win it next year.

-Jonas

Andrew Mathiesen

5th Place Copperopolis Road Race Juniors 15-16

A few days before the race, I had just gotten over a Sinus infection, so I was just hoping to do my best. In the race, the first lap I was slow on the flats and decently fast up the climbs. Halfway through the first lap, Jonas crashed right in front of me while we were ascending a climb so I had to clip out so I would not fall. Once I moved my bike out of the way, I got back on and could not clip in so my dad pushed me until I could get up to speed. Then I sprinted back up to the group which was a little further up the road and luckily nobody attacked at this time. On the second lap the pace increased and one of my teammates got into a break that almost lasted to the finish. Our group let him go, then half way through the lap we started chasing him and at this time neither Creighton nor I pulled when Jonas was up the road. At the beginning of the last climb, I was trying to sit in so I could recover the best I could. However, I did

not because everyone was going super hard and I died out but did not get dropped. We caught my teammate Jonas while descending to the finish line. When we got to the hill it was 2 kilometers from the finish and the four guys that were still left were fighting for wheels. There was a big roller right before the finish, so I switched into my little ring to spin to the top. Going down the roller, I could not switch into my big ring and I lost the race before I could contest the sprint for the finish.

-Andrew

Ben Cook

DNF Copperopolis Road Race Pro/1/2

Copperopolis- The Hell of the North, or of California, as it was known. The name was daunting to hear even a month before the race itself, and this year I would be racing with the baddest boys in town, the Pro/1/2's. Lucky for me, a certain Criterium du Dauphine champion decided he would come out to play with us on the sunny spring morning of April 15th. Yes, Andrew Talansky was in my race. Was it time to downgrade yet?

The first climb of the unpaved, pothole ridden 105 mile course was "the spiciest first climb I've felt in a few years" according to my friend Zach from Dolce Vita. I think it was the spiciest thing since my dinner the night before, but that's beside the point. Some little green dude pulled off the front as we crested the climb, and was congratulated with a "nice pull Cannondale!" from an Herbalife rider nearby. The field filled with laughter instantly.

The flat section that followed was fast, as expected, but with little cause to it. Riders attacked at the front without much purpose or energy, just enough to pull the field along painfully. I made it over the next climb and the main descent of the course safely (safety is all relative at Copperopolis, FYI) and got in position for the next main climb. Talansky decided to go from zone 1 to zone 2 this time, and shelled another 15 riders in the process. I barely clawed on to the back of the group by chasing for the many miles of flat roads leading to the halfway point on the lap, and stayed with the field, which decided to immediately take a grupetto (a truce in the race for riders to stop and use the 'bathroom'). So I stopped, emptied the water bottle that I had downed before the start, and began another brutal chase back onto the field. Once I was on, I was practically smashed. I had been going almost max effort for an hour and a half, and there was nothing more but climbs ahead. On the next hill, Cam Piper from Illuminate attacked, and that was lights out for me. I was dropped with two other Illuminate riders and a few other stragglers, and we headed down the descent and rolled another lap alone, and I was even dropped from their group. I came into the "finish", 63 miles into the race, by myself and called it a day. It was great to meet and chat with my childhood hero, Andrew Talansky, and I was glad I could race with some of the best pros in the nation, but I had been rolling solo for almost an hour by the time I came in, and it was time to call it a day and head home.

-Ben

3. Cat's Hill Criterium

4/29/17

Los Gatos

Lucianno Lamperti

1st Place

Cats Hill Criterium

Senior Category 3

I started at the back and quickly moved up on the first lap. We kept the pace high for the first five laps attacking and pulling hard. Then the race calmed down. We rolled hard but not many attacks for a couple of laps. Then we had a prime lap. I rolled through second and then countered. I was solo for about 2 laps before being caught. Then there was another prime. My teammate Isaiah got it. We kept attacking on the climb slowly making our group smaller. I got the next prime that put me into a group of 3 for a couple of laps. Now with three to go we needed to all be at the front ready to go. Our group was not very big so it was going to come down to who was smarter. We were all up there with 1 to go. I attacked on the climb. Then I was about 5th wheel on the top with Isaiah on my wheel. I looked back and didn't see Gianni. I was second wheel going down toward the last corner. I passed up the inside on the last corner. I looked back hoping Isaiah was coming but I didn't see him. I hit it hard in the sprint after not seeing him. I was able to get the win. I was happy to have fun with my teammates and race hard.

-Luke

Isaiah Chass

4th Place

Cat's Hill Criterium

Senior Category 3

I was super excited to race Cat's Hill because it would be my first time racing it, and everyone has always said how good of a race it was. I knew it would be a good course for me because there was a punchy little climb in it that gaps could go really quickly on. The race started off, and I rode top five into the hill where I jumped hard and got a gap. After I came back, my teammate Luke hit it hard and got a break. We stayed really aggressive in the beginning of the race and kept it fast. About half way through, a break went with my teammate Luke in it, as well as a couple other strong riders. Luke had his parents tell me to bridge across, so I attacked on the climb and tried to get across. I got caught about a lap later, and then waited for another move to go. It stayed fast almost the entire race because riders would try to attack on the hill every lap. Towards the end, Gianni got off the front, and I got on a Limitless rider going across to him. We worked together for about a lap and then got brought back. With three laps to go I was in good position and knew what I needed to do for the finish. With two to go it was getting strung out for the finish, but I was still where I needed to be. On the last lap, I stayed on my teammate Luke's wheel going over the hill, and then it went hard through the next two corners. It was strung out going into the last corner, and Luke jumped hard and got a gap. I couldn't get by the rider ahead of me to stay on

Luke, so coming out of the last corner I sprinted as hard as I could with a rider next to me, but he got me at the line.

-Isaiah

Gianni Lamperti

12th Place Cat's Hill Criterium Senior Category 3

The race started out at a pretty fast pace and I felt good. I was at the front by the bottom of the climb and it naturally went hard for the first few laps. Like usual, when there is a short punchy climb in a race, it typically goes really hard over it. About 6 to go, I jumped over the top of the climb and got a little gap on the field. A Limitless rider and Isaiah were with me and we stayed away for about a lap and a half. Once we got back in the field, I drifted back to about mid-field and slowly made my way back to the front. A rider went as we came across the finish for the last lap and I closed it back down and once I got there, there was nothing I could do as the top riders passed me going over the climb. I rolled down into the finish and heard that we took the win. A hard last lap for me, but a good race for the team.

-Gianni

Andrew Mathiesen

2nd Place Cat's Hill Classic Junior 15-18, 4/5

I was feeling good today and also I wanted to win and maybe get one or two primes. In the race, I started out at the front and I was ready to take the first primes or go with any attacks. I was at least in third wheel for the entire race. On the first prime, Jonas pulled me, so I could get going up to speed. As a result, I broke away on the downhill part of the course. After I got the prime, I sat up so I could join the main group. When I was off the front, a rider from Specialized broke away but I continued to sit up thinking we would catch him later in the race. The whole time I was in the front of the group following attacks and letting nobody go away. We never caught the guy that broke away. On the last lap, I was really feeling it and there was an attack up the last part of the hill in which I followed. Someone countered the attack and I did not see him so he got away. I chased for the last part of the lap and finally caught up to him on the final straight away. It was a drag race to the finish and I got him by half a wheel. I thought I should have gone with the Specialized rider rather than sit up and wait for the group.

-Andrew

Jonas Crean

7th Place Cats Hill Criterium Juniors 15-18, 4/5

I was stoked to race the infamous Cats Hill Crit for the first time! Post Sea Otter I had good form and was eager to get more experience in criteriums. I had agreed to

help Andrew in this race if he would help me out in the Wente Road Race the next day. After rolling out and lining up, I noticed we had a nice sized field, which would make it even more fun. As soon as the race started I clipped in and took off. I took the first couple corners ahead of the group. After the third corner the hill started, and I attacked super hard, trying to shake some people out of the group. Coming over the top 7 or so kids caught up to me. I let a guy from Jakroo take the wind for a bit. Coming over the hill on the second lap I attacked again because this was a prime lap, and Andrew followed. We entered the straightaway with a 1-2 second gap on the field and I let Andrew collect the prime. We slowed a little and sat in the group for a few laps, covering attacks and working really well together. A few laps later Aiden McNeil from Specialized went off the front. Andrew or I should have chased him down, but we stupidly expected someone else to. After a few laps more we realized he wasn't coming back. On the final lap my handlebars slipped, allowing the other riders to open a gap on me. Andrew got 2nd in the field sprint and I got 7th, just a few second off the pack. Even though I have a disappointing finish, this was by far my favorite criterium and I had a lot of fun.

-Jonas

4. Wente Road Race

4/30/17

Livermore

Gianni Lamperti

1st Place Wente Road Race

Once the race started, it rolled pretty slowly until the first climb. Then it went fast and I drifted back to about midfield before we came over the top. The course then steadied out and there were a few false flats, which were quite fast. For me that was by far the hardest part of the course. The wind was coming from straight ahead on the finishing stretch and as we rolled up the roller on the first climb, I knew we would still have a good chance even if it came down to a sprint. On the second lap, I still was not feeling 100% and decided it was going to take a hard effort to get my head in the game. A guy attacked up the climb and I followed it. We did not get more than 5 seconds as there were a few individual riders who were pulling everything back. Coming into the third lap, I was feeling a lot better. Nothing really happened until the finish except a nice steady hard tempo. Coming into the final kilometers, I lined up behind Lucianno and Isaiah for the sprint. Coming out of the last corner we were a little far back, but on the right side and ready to go. As Lucianno was starting to jump, a rider tried to take Isaiah's wheel and almost crashed both of us out doing it. I kept the wheel just as Lucianno jumped up the right side. We got a good gap on the field and took the top three steps of the podium! It was a great way to finish out the weekend of racing!

-Gianni

Isaiah Chass

2nd Place Wente Road Race Senior Category 3

The race started off pretty easy so I had some time to find position. This was my first time racing at Wente, so I wanted to stay near the front and pay attention on the first lap. On the first main climb, the pace picked up quite a bit and was pretty hard. The field definitely got smaller, but by the end of the climb I was surprised that the field was still so big. After the main descent, there was a T intersection where the flaggers weren't definite about which direction we were suppose to go, so half the group went right, the wrong way, and half went left. During the confusion, a rider attacked but no one was going to work with him so it got brought back pretty quick.

The second lap and third lap pretty much went the same way, where it would go hard on the climb and then come back together over the top. I stayed within the top ten and made all the little gaps. On the last little climb on the third lap, I made a little move but the pace was already high so no one came with me. On the last lap, I was feeling good and knew that if I could just stay near the front I would be able to do in the finish. On the first main climb it was pretty hard as usual and strung out a bit, but then it came back together over the top. My teammate Luke kept the race under control and rode the front for the rest of the lap. I stayed near him and just kept myself out of the wind. Going into the last little descent, I stayed on my teammate Luke's wheel and got ready for the finish. We were a little far back going into the last corner but it ended up working really well. Coming out of the last corner it went hard for a couple hundred meters and then eased up, and that is where Luke jumped super hard with Gianni and me on his wheel. We got a good pop on the field and then I jumped as hard as I could over the top of the roller to the finish. Gianni came around me before the line, and we managed to pull off 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

-Isaiah

Lucianno Lamperti

3rd Place Wente Road Race Senior Category 3

Wente road race is always a good one. After doing Cats Hill the day before we knew we were able to race hard with the cat 3's. It started and we suddenly hit it hard on the climb. Riders were going all out. The field did not really split. In the cross winds it stayed hard and people were hurting. So when we came into the climb on lap 2 I attacked. The front of the field chased splitting a lot of riders off. As we went over the top I kept it hard so no one caught back on. This now made it to where our field was safe and a lot smaller. We rolled the whole lap hard with no one getting off the front. On the 3rd lap we took it a little slower on the climb but went really hard in all the wind to make our group even smaller. On the last lap we had about 35 riders in our group. Once we knew it was going to be a sprint we all came up with a plan. I would jump early with them on my wheel and then they would both sprint. So coming out of the last corner we sat in until the bottom of the roller. Then I jumped hard and we got a

small gap. I held it until the top where they sprinted to the line. We had a good enough gap so I held on for third. I was happy to go 1 2 3 in a hard road race.

-Luke

Andrew Mathiesen

2nd Place Wente Road Race Juniors 15-16

I feel like I did not recover how much I wanted to from Cat's Hill Classic, but I still knew I was going to get a good place, even though I was sore. The race started out with all junior categories together and Cat 5's starting after us. In the race, the pace started out fast because a team of 6 riders were at the front. They all broke away from the group and nobody chased until they were more than a minute up the road. Someone from the Junior 17-18 category went up to the front and pulled all of them back. We were all together for the rest of the race. On the end of the 2nd lap, I was feeling sick and was not too confident with my sprint. I could not catch up to people as easily as usual and that hindered me. We were going at a good pace until the last two miles where the speed picked up. We were all fighting for wheels and I got tucked in at 5th wheel. I stayed there until the final climb to the finish where I tried to lead my teammate, Jonas, out for the win. Just as I did so someone started their sprint and I fell back and followed the guy that was in my category and I could not get around him by the line. As a result, I thought I should have attacked at the base of the climb.

-Andrew

Jonas Crean

3rd Place Wente Road Race Juniors 15-16

This race is a hilly, 7 mile loop that had an uphill finish. It should have been my day. Unfortunately, immediately after starting this race, I wasn't feeling good. Maybe it was the previous day's race, or maybe it was the temperature, which was in the mid eighties. Whatever it was, the entire first lap I was just suffering. After that I started to feel good. Andrew and I were letting some other guys pull, and just going with the flow, not really feeling super aggressive. At the end of the second lap four Tieni Duro guys broke away. I didn't try to chase, because they were part of the 17-18s category. However, coming into the third lap, we reeled them in. Attacks started going but nothing stuck. I suspected everyone was tired from the heat. I took a feed going into fourth lap and tried not to get too tired. The pace was slightly faster on the rollers and hills but nobody attacked till the roller right before the descent. One guy went off the front, causing everyone to chase. We ripped down the descent, and I started positioning for the sprint. We came around the last corner and started up the roller. I was in good position, around 4th wheel. No one went yet. Then I saw Aiden Jose go, and then I opened up as well. However, I realized that I had gone too early, because I burned out way before the finish line. Aiden got first and Andrew got second. I got 3rd. I was disappointed that I didn't win, because I knew I could have. However, it wasn't my day and I could've done worse.

-Jonas

Creighton Gruber

45th Place Wente Road Race Senior Category 3/4

I started off at the front quarter of the field, because I wanted to be towards the front of the big climb. The first time up the climb nobody attacked, but the pace was high enough that I fell back in the group. Going into the long descent I was in the back of the group. When the group reached the bottom of the hill the corner flaggers were pointing the flags in two different directions so the first 15 riders turned the wrong way. From there to the end of the first lap the pace was not high. On the base of second time up the big climb the big teams got to the front and picked up the pace, so I made my way back up to the front. When we hit the climb the pace was still high and I began to drift back in the pack. The hill leveled out for a little bit so I was able to stay on the back of the pack. But the road pitched up again and I got dropped. I could see the field for a while and Tony was yelling at me to chase back on. About 2 miles left on my second lap I got caught by another rider then he and I rode the last 30 miles of the race together.

-Creighton

Ben Cook

15th Place Wente Vineyards Road Race Pro/1/2

Well, that result was a lot higher than expected! I could have sworn I was 20th, or 25th, or less. Anyways, on to the race report.

We lined up with about 40 Pro,1,2 riders, seven of which were from Mikes Bikes. One of them attacked right off the start line of our 5 lap, 75 mile race, and even his own teammates laughed along and questioned him. Following him was Charlie Velez (code name *slippers*, for that time he forgot his shoes in a junior crit, raced in his slippers, and got 2nd) and a Specialized/Muscle Milk rider. I waited another minute or two, and decided to give it a go and jump myself. The break had a minute and 20 seconds, and I brought them back to just 17 seconds on my own by the top of the first climb, but couldn't fully make the bridge. Perhaps I should have really tried for it harder to get up there, but eventually the field came dangerously close to the break and just a few seconds from me, so I called my efforts good for the day, and received many pats on the back and compliments when I returned to the field. The break lingered at about 15-20 seconds, so I continued to attack again and again on the false-flat downhill to try to make it to them, and also to try to show myself in the P/1/2 field. I didn't make it to them, but was pretty successful in gaining another gap along the way.

Finally, I called it and realized I wouldn't be getting away as the first lap came to a close. The next hill was insanely fast as Dolce Vita's Cooper Shanks drilled the front. For the rest of the race it was merely survival from one hill to the next. I rode in the top 10 of the small remaining field for most of the race. Finally, we came into the

fourth and second to last climb. The pace was light and I somehow managed to make it over with the group, but the pace really picked up in the rolling climb section following the main climb, and I was popped after 2 ½ brutal hours. I met up with a group of 5 and we rolled it in together, encouraging each other each hill to make it over the top. In the end, Andy from Mikes Bikes, Tim from Muscle Milk, and I tried to go ahead and sprint it out for kicks, but I had nothing left and the two gapped me off in the end. Stephen Tortorelli and two others finished behind us, and I rolled back to the cars with Stephen. He told me about the book he was reading in endurance athlete psychology called *How Bad Do You Want It*, and I figured that title to be pretty fitting for today.

Overall it was a blast to get out and try my hardest at Wente for one more year, and I'm glad that throughout a hot and fast day I never once gave up.
-Ben

5. Sequoia Cycling Classic

4/2/17

Visalia

Parker Rous

1st Place

Sequoia Cycling Classic

Senior Category 3

criteriums have never been my strong suit but whenever I have the opportunity to race one I usually take advantage of it. When I heard about a Crit only an hour from where I live it crossed my mind to compete in it. When I heard it had a large cash purse, I was sure to do it. And so my dad and I went to Visalia to race the category 3 together. We both agreed that he would work for me in hopes of setting up a sprint finish. Upon arrival we took a few laps of the course, registered, and spoke with a few of my dad's teammates who raced earlier and therefore had valuable information about the course. One of them included Sam Ames who won the Visalia crit cat 3 back in 1988. As I warmed I noticed that not only did I feel good, but I was tired of getting beaten by riders who I am stronger than. On the start line we had a field of about 30, small but large enough to make it an interesting race. The actual racing went as such; small attacks every few laps but none that were super promising. My dad and I shared turns at the front and were always attentive but we never had to do much until the end seeing as there was a team of 5 men and who controlled the group. With a few laps to go, a break of 3 went up the road and the peloton began to stall. Going around for two to go I got on my dad's wheel and he took up pace. He chased for nearly two laps as I sat tentatively behind him waiting to either launch a sprint or an attack to catch the front group. On the last lap with one corner separating us and the finish, Sam (the guy who won this very race back in '88) yelled at me to go for it. I went around my dad and dove in the inside line of the final corner, catching and passing the breakaway of three wide. Despite momentarily tapping the brakes I had the most speed exiting the corner and I led the final 150 meters to the finish.

-Parker

6. Dana Point Gran Prix

4/30/17

Dana Point

Parker Rous

18th Place Dana Point GP

Senior Category 2/3

Dana Point is an iconic Southern California criterium always attracts large fields of riders. It's because of this reason that I wanted to go race it. Having never raced it before but being familiar with the area it almost felt like a home race. Dana Point is set up so they can have long races but in order to do this, race organizers combine some categories, for instance instead of racing a category three I had to race the category 2/3 combined. This was going to make for a fast race with a large field of riders. To be more specific for pre-Reg the race had 83 riders and race day it grew to over 100 riders.

When I got to the start line I happened to get a first row start. The first few laps of the race were good, as I never really drifted back past 10th position. The pace was high in the corners and were smooth but seeing as it was an hour long race I knew I had to be focused and in it for the long-haul. As the laps seemed to drag on I slowly drifted back in the pack to 30th position, which is not necessarily close to the front but seeing as the field is over 100 riders I was still in the top third and was comfortable.

At the midway point in the race there was a crash on corner one and I went down. Luckily I only hit a hay bale while as others did not end up so lucky. The crash was so big the officials had to neutralize the field for two whole laps. I was able to get my free lap and seeing as nothing was broken both in me and on the bike I was able to jump back into the group. I was at the back however and because the line of riders almost at first a quarter-mile long I had to work extremely hard through the next 20 minutes of the race to make my way back up to the front of the field. I got there just in time to throw in a little attack as we headed in to five laps to go. I was near my father and his teammate who were also racing the category 2/3 crit and as we sat comfortably still in the top third of the group as the laps started to countdown. On two laps to go there was another crash just as big as the previous crash but this time with slower speeds. My father and I were caught up behind this crash as half the field was able to slip through freely. At this point going into one to go there was no hope of ever seeing the front of the field. I rolled across the line off the back but I knew it was not a lack of fitness but rather for a spell of bad luck. This race did not disappoint however it had an unfortunate ending. I'm still glad I went to race it.

-Parker

7. NorCal Mountain Bike Races #4 & #5

Ben Cook

Speakers blasted, heaters cranked, and windows fogged as 8 people squirmed around in my 5 person car, parked directly across from our team's pitzone. It was 41 degrees and dumping rain and hail on course as the girls raced their fourth NorCal League race. Teddy, Zach and I would be racing four laps of the famous Granite Bay Grinder, which was now covered in layers of thick mud and clay that would surely gum up our tires and test our legs. It was 11:30AM and we raced in an hour. I removed the varsity and JV riders from my car to get kitted up when we received word that our race would be delayed an hour and shortened a lap to avoid the weather. I piled people back into the warm car and started the engine once again.

Once we were out and kitting up an hour later, the three of us varsity rider rolled down the road for a warm-up. It was finally clearing up and getting warmer outside by the time we headed to the start line. The course was in pretty good condition this morning, but it would be ruined by now. We started off with an immediate creek crossing with sand five feet high on either side; followed by a half mile section of constant puddles and mud covering a double track before hitting the real single track of the course. My teammates Sawyer and Brenna sat on the start line with me, I took the left side. "Win. That's all you've got to do." Said Sawyer. We lined up in rows of five, and I started about halfway through. CoCo, the NorCal director, counted us down from five to start. On 'one' I clipped in and almost began sprinting immediately.

"WIN!" Called Sawyer over and over again behind me as I sprinted down the trail on the left side of the field. Riders clustered and slid on all sides, but I held my ground and moved up. Outside of the creek crossing was a sandpit and the feed zone. I kept to the left and floored in through the sand pit and double track, and ended up passing most of the field.

"Cookie!?" Yelled my friend Ethan as I flew by him at the front of the race. Before I knew it I was out in front with Tyler Sargent and Teddy, with a gap to the others behind us. I was in third! In a Varsity race! I held onto those three and held comfortable position when Ethan caught up to us, making four. The course was slimy and muddy, and through many close saves, my rear wheel finally lost it and slid out from underneath me in a wet corner. I kicked the ground in an attempt to stay upright but couldn't hang on. I hit the ground hard and a few riders passed me, but I stayed near the top five as I continued on. The rain and mud was picking up further, and I was going through more and more pain. My back hurt, my hands were numb, my lips and breath were freezing, and I was suffering to say the least. I gave up spots and resented myself as there was nothing I could do to stay with the front group, my crash had drained me. I rode the next lap in 10th place, hoping to catch 9th place and hang on to my top 10 in the finish as we came around for the last lap. Two more riders caught me from behind and I began to further give up hope. Finally, through hopping and sliding all around the course once again, I lost control. My front and rear slid out for the third or fourth time of the day, but this was the second time I had hit the ground. I began to get up in a hurry, shaking with nerves and cold, and found myself holding my broken chain in my hand when I looked down. I took a deep breath. My

race was over. And in a sort of sense, I was glad it was. I was in so much pain for that entire day, trying to hang on to spots and hold on to some level of dignity. I waited for a few moments and pondered my options, and my race up until this moment, and remembered what my coach from freshman and sophomore year taught me. If you can finish the race, you will finish the race.

I put the chain in my back pocket and got to walking. I had four miles to go. Riders passed me, asked me if I was ok, and offered any assistance they could, but all I could do was to keep walking. I walked in the rain, the hail, through mud pits and with my back on the ground or on my back, up steep rock sections and down slippery corners, all so I could finish the race. Everybody who saw me, the few that were left on course, still cheered for me. It was with two miles to go that I gave in and took a quick link from a race marshall to fix my chain. I threw it back on and cranked down the quick link, thanked the marshall for his help, and kept riding nice and slowly. I spun the last two miles in just as the sun poked up, and then immediately turned back into hail and dumping rain again. I finished and my coach, Dave Benjamin, was waiting at the end for me, as well as Vanessa Hauswald, one of the amazing NorCal directors. She cheered me home through the last turn, took a picture of the mud that covered every inch of my body, and called me a total stud for finishing as I came to a stop for the day. Sawyer rushed over to take my bike as Dave helped me limp along back to the team tent. All the other racers had changed and were drinking hot chocolate or eating burgers, and I still had my helmet on. When they saw me walking up to the pitzone, ruined by mud and pain and walking, they stood up and applauded. The applauded and cheered and howled for me, and I felt the first warm sensation of the day, tears welling up in my eyes.

Today's race taught me that being a racer is so much more than getting good results. It taught me that every race is a fight, and it taught me that every race should be finished. It taught me what amazing friends and teammates I have to care for me and support me, and it showed me how great of a community my school's team really was. Teddy, who ended up 2nd, made ME the hot chocolate and helped me change. Other teammates gave me wipes, Sawyer helped me wash the mud off my body, some gave jackets or made food, but they all supported me when I could hardly move myself. We watched our riders take the top steps of many podiums, and finally second place in the team competition. Drake still beat us, of course, but we had edged out Tam this time.

'REEEEDDDWWOODDDDD!!' We began calling in low and loud voices on the podium. Finally our cries picked up to a fast 'REDWOOOOD! REDWOOD! REDWOOD! REDWOOD!' as the rest of the audience, and even the Drake team on top of the podium, admired our famous and old school chant. As it turns out, the difference between me finishing and dropping out gave my team enough points to move from fifth overall to second overall, and claim the podium like we deserved. It was felt almost patriotic to have this much school spirit, but our team somehow did it every year. We chanted and hooted and hollered and waved jerseys and arms from the top of the podium. I might have finished dead last today, but there were plenty of people behind me that didn't finish the race at all, and I know finishing made me stronger. I know our

old coach, Coach VIP, would have been proud of my race today. As VIP used to say, 'No Reservations, No Retreats, No Regrets'.

-Ben

Sawyer Taylor

1st Place NorCal Race #4- Granite Bay Grinder JV Girls

On the start line of my second mountain bike race of the season, I threw my windbreaker to my coach and looked back up at the gray, ominous sky while reconsidering my decision. I had on arm warmers and knee warmers but it was sprinkling although it was supposed to let up early on. This was going to be a race of toughness, persistence, and grit. I won on this course last year as a freshman, and although the conditions were different, I was hoping to do it again.

I didn't have a call up so, as usual, I was starting from pretty far back. As soon as the whistle blew, I went hard. I knew that it would be a race to the single track so that's exactly what I did. Within the first few minutes, I had moved from the back of the pack to second wheel behind the girl in the leader's jersey, Julia Radue. I had proven in the first race to be stronger than Julia but knew how technically skilled she was. This course would favor racers like her over me. I knew that I needed to get gaps on the hard parts so that I had time for mistakes on the technical parts if I made them. We stayed together on the first lap. I never let Julia out of my sight. She kept on getting a little bit of time on me going through technical sections.

Going into the second lap, I pulled ahead on the flat finish straight and got a gap. I went hard on the climbs and did the technical sections as fast as I could. Still, when we hit the rocky staircase about a third of the way through that lap, I could see that Julia was not far behind. Less than a minute later I crashed pretty badly coming off of a small drop into a really muddy, chewed-up section. I lost my front wheel and went down. Julia passed me while I was picking myself up and got a gap. For the rest of that lap, I was chasing. Going into the finish stretch going into the final lap, I passed her just as I did on the last lap to win the race!

-Sawyer

Ben Cook

18th Place NorCal MTB #5 Senior Varsity

"This course is wrecked man! You'll dig it!" Said Enduro Pete, AKA one of our head coaches, Pete Brockman, as I rolled up to the team tent. It was hot and dusty, and the varsity boys would be racing four brutal laps on the brand new Six Sigma Ranch course up in Lake County, one of my favorite places in the state. I rolled out the fire road and to the smooth and windy mountain road that led to the course entrance to warm up. I sprinted hard and made it almost all the way to my last gear up my warm up hill each interval. I did a few 15 second jumps, a couple 30 seconds, and then a 1 minute to help warm-up. I had done two one minute pyramids the day before, so I was feeling in pretty good shape for the race today.

On my warm-up I met Xander Sugarman, who was currently wearing the Varsity leader's jersey and would be my roommate at CU Boulder next year! We spun around a bit and chatted for the first time on our way back to the venue. At noon I headed down to the staging area, right next to our team's pitzone. After spinning up and down the bumpy and grassy start with Xander a few times I returned to staging to take my place. I ended up showing back up a little late, and was in the second row back of the general staging instead of the first like I had hoped. CoCo counted us down from 5, as 28 Varsity riders sat on the blazing startline.

Right out of the gun Xander and his teammate Tate attacked hard. I moved up some places on the left side and by the first feed zone climb, which was steep and sandy, I found myself around 7th or 8th place. The course wound about the ranch aimlessly, and I struggled through each turn as I didn't have a chance to pre ride the day before. I slid into 10th or so, hanging on to a group with Ethan Wolfe, Landon Farnworth, and Pearson Aimes from Woodcreek and Tam. Up some of the steeper and more technical climbs I began to slide off the back of them, as hard as I fought. I found myself braking hard into corners and sprinting out of them while the rest of the group remained smoother ahead of me. Eventually the three of them slipped away, and then soon out of sight. Alone now, I struggled to make my way around the winding and seemingly endless course. Through six steep creek crossings I made my way to the finish of the lap, and started next one alone again. I refused a bottle, having started with two on my bike, or so I thought.

I rode alone until about the section I was dropped on the first lap, when Alexander Hill, a rider who I had heard of the morning of, came up behind me. Alex and I worked well together until three more riders eventually caught us from behind as well. I hung on and moved backwards through the group, until finally on the last climb they left me in the dust. I came down the descent to start the next lap solo, and again refused a bottle in the feed zone. I reached down to grab my second bottle, only to grab a handful of nothing where my water should have been. It must have dropped on the course, and I realized that I hardly had a sip of water left in my current bottle when I passed by the feed zone. The next lap was completely brutal, and I was still in the top 15, but struggling to push myself forward anymore. Every climb hurt my back and body as I pushed up and over each crest, but I had to keep going to the finish. Two riders, Mac and Walden, came with me on the third lap and I led them around the course. I tried attacking on the climbs but had nothing to keep them away from me. We rode hard and chatted as we did, they were good riders and good people to have around. Eventually they both dropped me nearing the end of the lap, and my teammate Zach came whipping past me on the final climb as well.

I came into the fourth lap solo, and finally took a much needed water bottle. My back was blowing out completely and I could hardly output power anymore. "Just 25 more minutes, Ben." Called Pete from the feed, where I had seen him each lap, as I passed by for my last time. I pushed through each remaining climb, knowing that to finish this race itself would be an achievement. I had to get off and walk on one climb due to the pain in my lower back, but I remounted and carried on down the winding and narrow course. I came across Mac with a flat tire, so I stopped and gave

him the Co2 and adapter that I had on me. I carried through the last lap as the girls cheered me on and sang songs one last time up the final descent and climb. Cole Urban, the brother of one of our former teammates on Redwood, came shooting me on the last hill. I caught a second wind, threw myself into gear, and hopped onto his wheel. I kept him in sight and focused on just holding on to him as much as I could. He was moving quickly and riding strong, and I held his wheel almost all the way to the last downhill. He gapped me off on the last small roller to before the final sender and creek crossing to the finish. I chased as hard as I could towards him, and sprinted all the way in to the line, but couldn't come around him.

I rolled into the finish after over two hours of racing. My legs were shattered, my lungs coated in dust, my lips and face destroyed with mud, and my body absolutely ruined. Despite giving up a lot of spots and suffering through an abnormal amount of back pain, I did my best had a great time that day. It was an honor to finish any major varsity race as tough as this one, and I was more than stoked to still finish with an alright placing. I lingered around, enjoying the mud and dust that coated my body as I ate a burger and chugged chocolate milk with Zach in the pitzone. We changed and helped the team clean-up after our post race meeting, and headed over to team podium. When they called every Redwood rider to the podium, one of whom won the best sportswoman award for the season, the whole team hooted and hollered. Finally, the famous Bill Cobran called Redwood to the third step of the podium for the season overall, and we screamed our heads off and repped the podium better than we ever had before. It was a really fun day, and when it all came to a close I packed up the car with my teammate, and we burned out of the dusty lot and began our break for home.
-Ben

Sawyer Taylor

6th Place NorCal Race #5- Six Sigma Slinger JV Girl

After a run in food poisoning only two days before the fifth and final NorCal race of the season, I wasn't expecting a lot out of this race. However, in order to qualify for states I needed to get this race in so a race it would be. Despite not being in the best form, I was excited. NorCal races are always a ton of fun and this was a brand new course built this year specifically for this race. Last year I wasn't even able to do conference championships. On top of this, I was in the leader's jersey from my win at Granite Bay.

After a warm-up and a pre-ride, I headed to the line. Despite being in the leader's jersey, I was sent to the last row because I missed so many races in the early season meaning I probably shouldn't have been given the leader's jersey. Anyhow, I went really hard off the line and went from the 40's to the top 10's by the time we hit the first singletrack section. I was able to make a pass or two but it was really hard to pass on such a narrow course. I hovered around 7th for the most part of the first lap. Then came the first crash. I slid out going around a dusty corner but was able to get back on pretty quickly. I didn't get passed but lost time. However, I was able to make up time on the climb and make a few passes around the finish line going into my

second and final lap. I was in fourth now and knew that if I did everything right I could come out this weekend with a podium despite really not feeling well. There were two other girls on my wheel and we stayed together for the most part. Going into the final big climb before the finish with about a mile to go, I dropped my chain and got passed by 5th and 6th. By the time I got back on my bike, they were gone. I hammered it to the finish but didn't catch either of them to take 6th.

Despite narrowly losing a podium finish, I'm not disappointed in how I did. I had some bad luck and made some mistakes but I still took 6th in a really competitive field after getting pretty sick. And of course, I finished and qualified for states. I know that I have a chance to crush it at state championships and dwelling on this race won't help me do that. As always, thank you to all the people who support me at these races. It's not easy to support a racer on a good day but it's even harder on the bad ones.
-Sawyer

8. Collegiate Road National Championships by Ethan Frankel

<https://ethanfrankelcycling.wordpress.com/2017/05/03/ucla-at-the-2017-usa-cycling-collegiate-nationals/>