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SINGLE TRACK TIMES



2022

ALL THE DIRT THAT'S FIT TO PRINT



Howdy MICL Crew,

The first race is in the books and it sure felt good to gather the crew and kick off the season! Huge thanks to everyone who made it happen including the core race staff, race day volunteers, coaches, student athletes, families, our League Sponsors, and the community of Butte. Congratulations to all of the racers who toed the line!

Find our race report, results, and photos below.

And look for our Crosscut Double Header race weekend flyer to hit your inbox tomorrow!

All the best,



Copper Kings Clash: Butte, America

In the shadows of Butte's iconic headframes, MT NICA launched the 2022 race season with excitement, shred and the largest number of registered racers to date! Like the copper and silver miners before them, riders from across Montana, Wyoming, Washington and Idaho came to Big Butte Open Space to work the dirt, sweat and celebrate their hard work with their community and our newest MT NICA race venue did not disappoint.

Smooth and fast uphill, exciting twisty downhill, and a few gravel corners keeping the riders honest was the theme of race day. Three Forks Composite middle-school riders, Wyatt & Auden shared, "The start was interesting and fun, the corners were a little loose and the climb was tricky in the heat. There was a little spill, but I just grabbed my bike and I kept on going." When asked what they liked best about NICA, they highlighted, riding in new places and their awesome team pizza oven!



Clara, a first-year middle-school rider from the Helena Cyclones, agreed the corners were a little dusty and rocky but friends cheering her on was her favorite part of the day. High schooler and first year rider, Jack with the Missoula Mammoths, noted this about his first ever NICA race, “Downhills were a little sketchy, but there were a couple of good passing opportunities. The atmosphere is great and everyone is a big family and super fun to be around – overall a great crew.”



The 360-degree spectator viewing area was a favorite for race day fans where enthusiasts could cheer on riders on from start to finish. Copper City Sprocket parents (and race day volunteers) Rebecca and Charlie were cheering on their middle-school racer at her first ever NICA race. "We were blown away just by the pre-race yesterday, such a huge following and fun energy. Way more than we expected. We thought it was going to just be a dirt trail and this is so professional."



Jason, cheering his senior daughter (Hailey) on for the Spokane Bombers Composite team, noted that his daughter has a real passion for biking. “She wants to continue biking after high school and even start her own bike shop to get more girls in the sport and carry that forward. We can’t wait to visit your bike shop Hailey!

Perhaps wearing smiles bigger than the riders were their intrepid coaches. Jamie, a third-year coach for Bozeman & Gallatin high school shared her race day feelings, “The track is awesome, fun and fast. I love watching all of these amazing athletes reach their potential in life and on their bike.”



Team Director and coach, Adriann, with the Northern Cheyenne Composite Bison was busy cheering on her 6-rider team. “This is such a great program, and we are really working hard to have more students back at home that are interested joining participate. We are excited to be a part of this because it is so positive and there is so many different levels to compete in. Coming out of COVID was a hard thing for some of our students so this has helped them get back out there, not be afraid, get on a bike and have fun.”



Second season rider, Markel (16) with Adriann's Northern Cheyenne Composite Bison team tries to practice every day on the trails behind his house and school. He shared, "I fell in love with riding super-fast. My favorite thing is... you can just escape the world up there."



This past Saturday in Butte Montana, like Markel, riders, coaches and spectators alike were all able to escape the world up there for a little bit. The cheering, smiles

and energy permeating from Butte Open Space Park could be felt all around the Copper City - truly making it the “richest hill on earth”. Next up, Crosscut Classic, Bozeman, MT. Until next time riders, more cowbell!

[Copper Kings Clash Race Results Here](#)

Race Day Reporter – Terry Miller



Crystal Stanionis Race Photos!

Huge thanks to Crystal for providing all of the above race photos and [THIS](#) folder with thousands more!

All images within the provided Google drive are ©CrystalStanionis.

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These images were taken at the request of the Montana Interscholastic Cycling League. Crystal Stanionis is a parent of a Montana NICA participant, and founder of Leave A Trace Legacies, www.leaveatracelegacies.com.



Sponsor Shoutout!

BlueCross BlueShield of Montana

BlueCross BlueShield of Montana has been a huge supporter of the MICL since day one! We feel so lucky to have the support of a company that truly gets behind our core values and wants to help kids in our community develop healthy habits. Thanks



Hospitality Core Race Team Position Open

We mean it, **we need YOU**, to join our amazing core race staff team and help us feed our volunteers. If left to Sam, it will be pizza for every meal!

Do you enjoy feeding hard working folks delicious meals? With last year's well-loved hospitality volunteers Mike and Sharon embarking upon travel adventures this year, we are looking for someone to help with the logistics and prep behind keeping our race day and core race staff volunteers well fed and happy this season. If you have any interest in helping out (even if it's just one race weekend), please reach out to sam@montanamtb.org!

2022 Race Schedule

August 20th: Copper Kings Clash, Big Butte Open Space, Butte

September 3rd and 4th: Crosscut Classic, Crosscut Mountain Sports Center, Bozeman. **Double header weekend** (2 scoring races in one weekend!)

September 17th: Herron Hustle, Herron Park, Kalispell

October 1st: Lolo Final Landing, Rossignol Ranch, Lolo

October 2nd: Lolo Makeup race, Rossignol Ranch, Lolo (Makeup race weekend double header in case a race is cancelled)

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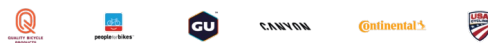
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