



SO CAL CROSS PRESTIGE SERIES

SOCALCROSS Race Report – SCPS #12 – Santa Cross, Wood Land Hills, CA - Sunday 12/21

By David Sheek and Dot Wong

Women in red danced the day away while Snotty Scotty and the Hankies played their rock n roll holiday tunes including the theme song of Santa Cross, “Run, Run Rudolph” while competitors twisted through the hillside on the tacky dirt course surrounding Pierce College in Woodland Hills, CA. Santa Cross was the season finale of the eco responsive Southern California Prestige Series (SCPS) and it went out with a bang as riders saw the best course, prizes, raffles and awards in amateur cyclocross racing and the eco-sportfest 5k cross country run.

Team CICLE and SoCalCross hosted the event and presented everyone with the three B’s (Bitches or Bastards, you fill in the blank) as the course had three demoralizing climbs. While handling skills helped on this course the most important skill was the ability to climb and then have enough power to get back on the gas, yet allow one to rest, for the next B. It was awesome to hear expletives from the racers and legendary announcer, Larry Longo throughout the day.

Starting out with the cross country run, participants ranged from 9 years to 70 years old. Each ran the challenging course at their own pace and it was Iron Crossers Wes Reuttiman (PAA) and Hannah Rae Finchamp (Team CICLE) won both their XC and CX races on the day!

The Junior ‘crossers of SoCal lined up first including Somersby Jenkins (Echelon SBA) won the Junior Women 15-18 race and also went home with the Yuba Transporter bike as the series helped raise awareness of Yuba’s mission for bikes in Africa and supported CICLE.org’s mission to promote transportation bicycling in So Cal.

The Elite Women’s race had its fast start with the field breaking up pretty quickly on the first lap as they hit the climb. Team CICLE took the early lead as Carolyn Popovic created an impressive gap from the field, but bad luck and two pit stops for a flat tire allowed Coryn Rivera (Team Redline) fresh off her third straight national championship win to take over and develop a solid lead. Carolyn held onto second place in the race with her CICLE teammates Dot Wong and the Ryan girls along with Megan Cordes (The Great Chuweenie) on the chase. But to no avail, it was Rivera who benefited from the climbs that allowed her to open a gap on the field. Popovic also benefited from the mountain bike friendly climbs for second place. To round out the top five it was Junior, Kendall Ryan in third, Dot Wong in fourth followed by Junior, Alexis Ryan in 5th, also the new 15-16 National CX Champion, rounding out the top five. Youth reigned supreme with three of the five elite women’s podium, Juniors!

The Elite Men’s race granted more exciting racing for the season finale as Mark Noble (Bailey Bikes) fresh off an impressive silver medal finish at nationals brought the same charge that he did last week in Kansas City, MO back home to Woodland Hills for the final race of the 2008 SCPS. The field was missing a few of its usual powers but this did not keep the level of racing down. The groups like so many separated pretty quickly and it was Noble leading followed closely by Brent Prenzlou (Celo Pacific/ALAN). Chance Noble (Cal Giant) and Fritz Bottger (PAA/Vitamix/Sixtuffit.com) looked in good form too but unfortunate flats from the sharp woodchips on course sent the two to the pits early for their back up bikes. The leaders made a great race off the front and opened a large break from other racers. Behind the leaders there was a lot more action as it was Jason Siegle (Team CICLE), Anton Petrov (Team Prolong), John Bailey (Bailey Bikes) and Bobby Langin, Jr. (Team Platinum). It was Noble leading with two laps to go until Prenzlou attacked in a technical section and continued to punch it on each climb. It was an impressive push as he took the win with at least a 20 second gap on Noble. The chasers still could not catch these two as they kept picking up the pace throughout the race but it was Petrov in third followed by Siegle and Bailey to round out the top five.

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Overall Series Awards were handed out throughout the day including 16 Eco-sportfest 5k race categories and overall 5k run champs received prizes from Santa Cross sponsor, Team Duke as racers learned more about the John Wayne Cancer Foundation. Iron Crosser Awards went to male, female, and junior racers who competed in both the XC and CX races! SoCalCross Prestige Series CX champions received the coveted Voler champion jersey, Arogant Bastard Ale and Kreative Shots.com 8x10 photos and lots of prizes from our series sponsors. The highlight of the day was 10-14 Junior Women's Champion, Hannah Eckvahl (Velo Bella) running up to the podium to receive her jersey. Each week, Hannah challenged herself to each race always beaming from ear to ear! Congrats to Hannah! 15 other series champions were crowned for those who battled it out each week:

- Joshua Said (Velo Allegro)10-14 Junior Men
- Peter Morris (Bike Religion)15-18 Junior Men
- Somersby Jenkins (Echelon SBA) 15-18 Junior Women
- Robin MacDonald-Foley (Judgement Velo/Trek) Women 35+
- Mike McMahon (Tea Velocity) Men 35+ 1/2/3
- Robert Kmetz (Rock N Road) Men 35+ 3/4
- Charles Morris (Bike Religion) Men 45+
- Jon Miller (Rock N Road) Men 55+
- Wendell Woodford (unattached) CX4 Men
- Matt Masters (Mafia Racing) Single Speed 4
- Susan Thompson (PAA) Women 3/4
- Eric Christenson (Rock N Road/Outside All Day) Men 3/4
- Noah Holdcomb (Cannondale) Single Speed 1/2/3
- Coryn Rivera (Redline) Women 1/2/3
- Brent Prenzlou (Celo Pacific/Alan) Men 1/2/3

Team CICLE earned its second straight championship trophy for best overall cyclocross team of the series. 2nd and 3rd place were closely contested with Rock N Road edging out Celo Pacific. This season over 150 teams participated in the Prestige Series!

Grand Prize Drawing Winners were awarded for a YUBA Transport Bike, Ellsworth Roots CX Frame, Fuji CX frame, Shimano Dura-Ace Wheelset, Alpha Q CX20 Carbon Fork, SRAM Rival Crankset, SDG Saddle and Tufo Tubulars. A Warner Springs Ranch Vacation was award to Robot 138, winning the Photo of the Week Drawing. Almost 1,000 photos were uploaded for the 12 races! If you have a moment, go to SoCalCross.com and check out the Flickr Slideshow!

Thanks to our Series Sponsors especially Energy Efficiency Solar who powered up each and every Prestige Series race, along with Kool N Fit Sport, Fluid, Clif Bar, Landmark Insurance, Calrad Electronics, Valet Box, Michelin, Sock Guy, Sportsbase Online, SRAM, Protech Skincare, Willamette Valley Vineyards, Bear Naked Granola, Cyclocross Magazine, Planet Bike, Acid Zapper and thanks to our Official Bike Shops: Banning's Bikes, Bike Religion, B&L Bike + Sport, Montrose Bike Shop and Rock N Road Cyclery who help host our pre-season cyclocross Clinic and Happy Hour Tour.

January 2009 cyclocross in Southern California will continue with the 2009 Cross Fever Series. So don't go hanging up your cross bike and think it's time to start the long boring base miles of training for your road or mountain bike season. You still need one day of intense fun each week and the Cross Fever Series will deliver as it presents one race each Sunday in January. The series will visit four locations kicking off Sunday, January 4th with last year's state CX championship course at Hart Park in Bakersfield. Bring some extra clothes, as the temps in Bakersfield tend to be a bit cooler. On January 11th Happy Hour begins in San Luis Obispo for Talley Vine Cross at Talley Vineyards where we will drink fruit of the gods, sorry juniors not allowed at the wine tasting but we will share our crackers. On Jan 18th, El Dorado Park in Long Beach looks to host its first ever cyclocross course inside the famed Eldo Summer Crit course. Lakeside racing, sandpits, and the airplane hill climb are sure to be memorable. Your last chance to 'cross will be in OC where it all began. Irvine Lake will be the home of the Sunday, Jan 25th event. Pre-register on SportsbaseOnline by Jan 2nd and get a 20% discount. 4 races for only \$80! Race one – race all four... whatever it takes to cure your 'Cross Fever!

Let's celebrate 'cross World Championships on Jan 31st, Feb 1st. Party to be announced!

Happy Holidays!