



SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

4th Annual Lafayette Criterium is Sunday, July 13

Kids are Welcome!

By Lee Borrowman



Bright and early Sunday morning, the Lafayette Criterium bicycle race returns to Mt. Diablo Boulevard for its fourth year. Cyclists will race around a closed one-kilometer loop along Mt. Diablo Blvd, 1st Street and Golden Gate Way. Again this year, one of the event's highlights will be the kids' races (bikes, trikes and training wheels), benefitting the Lafayette Arts and Science Foundation.

The start/finish line is on Mt. Diablo Blvd in front of Boswell's. The Criterium is actually several races, and cyclists compete in categories organized by skill,

age and gender. The first race starts at 7:15 and the last at 3:15. Registration opens at 6:00am on race day, and cyclists must be registered at least 30 minutes before their start time.

Calling all kids! It's a Fun Ride, so go have some fun! Get out there and pedal, pedal, pedal! And then send us your picture and tell us what you like best about riding your bike (pictures@lamorindaweekly.com)!

If you're looking for speed, check out the Pro races. But for sheer grit and determination, don't miss the rest! Last year's Men Elite 3 race featured some outstanding cyclists. The Category 5 cyclists are those with

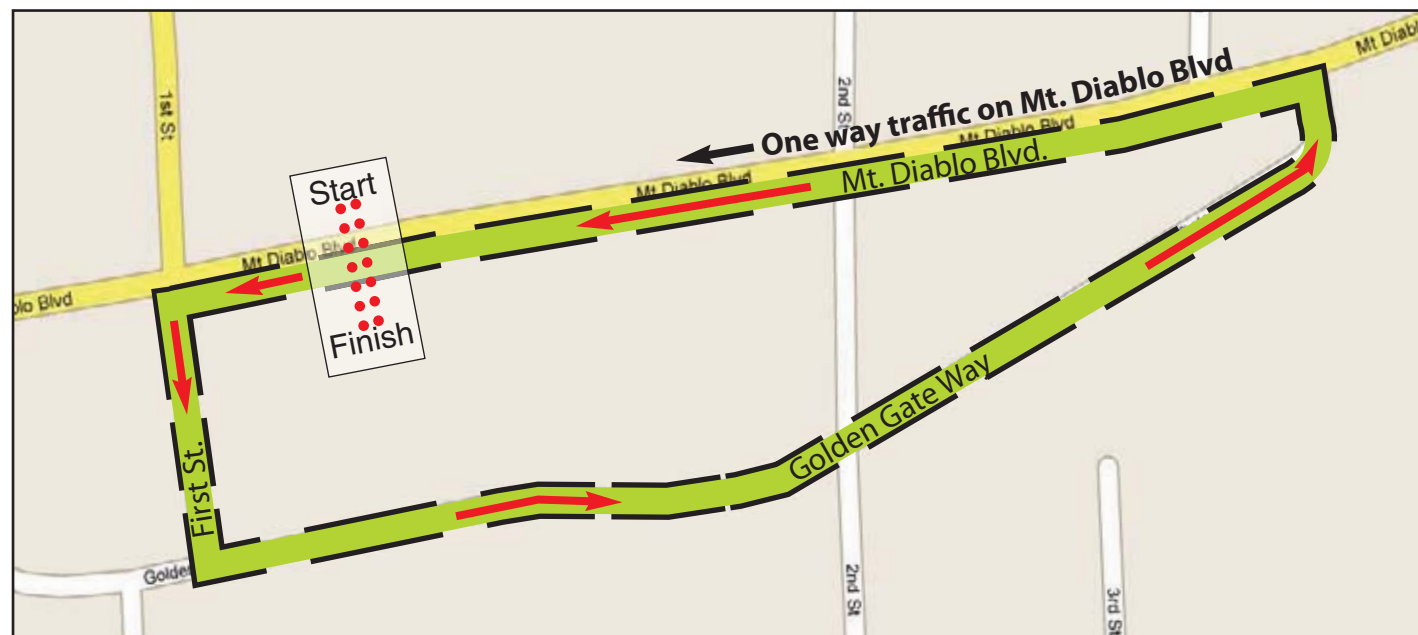
the least experience, usually in their first year of racing. Spectators should respect the directions of the race officials, who will be monitoring the length of the course to keep racers and spectators safe.

Start Time	Category	Duration
7:15	Cat 5	40 minutes
8:00	Women 3/4	40 minutes
8:45	Men Master 45+/55+	40 minutes
9:30	Men Elite 4	40 minutes
11:10	Men Elite 3	50 minutes
12:05	Men Pro 1/2	75 minutes
1:25	Women Pro 1/2/3	50 minutes
2:20	Masters 35+1/2/3	50 minutes
3:15	Men Masters 35+ 4/5	45 minutes



Kids Fun Ride Schedule

Start Time	Age	Duration
10:25	Kids 8-9 years	10 minutes
10:35	Kids 6-7 years	10 minutes
10:45	Kids 5 & under	10 minutes



Traffic and parking notes:

The east-bound lane on Mt. Diablo Blvd will be closed to traffic, as will a block of 1st St and most of Golden Gate Way. West-bound Mt. Diablo Blvd will be open to one-way traffic. No parking will be allowed on the route, so watch for signs the night before the race. To avoid the annual traffic jam, the best bet is to bike to the race; no spandex required, but don't forget your helmet. If you must drive, plan to park in

outlying areas and walk in. During the race, employees and customers of Boswell's, Feathered Follies, McDonald's and the Cheese Steak Factory can park in a marked area in the Corporate Terrace parking lot.

Veteran Blue Hairs Win Orinda Spring League

By Tim Fong



Back row, left to right, Jim Buckley, Rob Fellner, Dan McCormick, Chuck Engs, Bill Jones, Steve Diekmann, Bill Marchant, Gregg Vignos
Front row, left to right, Dan Michelini, Jeff Julian, Chris Lang, Jeff Allen, John Fernbacher
Photo provided

In the second half of the Orinda Over-35 Basketball Spring championship game, the Blue Hairs (7-2 regular season) were able to separate themselves from Team DB (6-3) en route to a 56-47 victory. The Blue Hairs won its last championship two years ago, and have won four championships since the summer of 2000.

"The game was really close during the first half," said Blue Hairs forward Rob Fellner. "We didn't get a good lead until there was about ten minutes left in the game."

The veteran Blue Hairs knew to stay away from their weaknesses during the game. The Blue Hairs are one of the oldest teams in the league and have good chemistry from playing so many seasons with each other.

"Our team has players that are over forty years old, so we tried to slow the game

down so that we could set up an offense and get back on defense," said Fellner. "We aren't lightning quick, so we used screens and cut to the hoop to try and get good looks at the basket."

At the championship game, the Blue Hairs had its biggest crowd in attendance for the season. Fifteen kids were yelling for their dads from the stands during the game and gave a boost to the players in the second half.

"The fans motivated us and gave us some momentum in the second half of the game," said Fellner. "It was really great to hear our kids rooting us on and towards the end of the game we fed off of the fan's motivation."

Coming into the post-season, the Blue Hairs were tied for first and Team DB was only one game back of the three-way tie for first place. In the playoffs the Blue Hairs blew out their opponents with the scoring

from Steve Diekmann, who is tied for second with the most points in a NCAA division III game.

"Diekmann really took control in the playoffs," says Fellner. "Now that he is older he is isn't as quick as he used to be, but his natural skill really helped us."

In the championship game, Bill Marchant helped Diekmann on the offensive end and 6'6" Bill Jones stepped it up on defense.

"Jones was a huge factor for us in the game," said Fellner. "He had Plantar Fasciitis during the regular season, so he didn't play until the last game. In the championship game, he shut down Team DB's tall 6'10" center."

Although the basketball players like having fun and being competitive in the games, the refreshments after the game may be the reason some of the players stay in the league.

Send sports stories and ideas to:

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Lamorinda Water Polo Players Bound For Beijing

By Tim Fong

Competing in her third Olympic Games, Miramonte graduate Heather Petri is aiming for her first gold medal in Beijing. Petri, who graduated in 1996, made the final roster of thirteen players for the 2008 US Olympic Water Polo team as an attacker.

The US Women's Water Polo team has a good chance at gold this summer at Beijing after winning gold in Melbourne last year at the World Championships. The team is currently ranked number-one in the world and the team's main competition is number-two ranked Australia.

The Women's Water Polo Olympic field has only eight teams. Petri played for the UC Berkeley Water Polo team after starting the Women's water polo team at Miramonte. Petri has been a part of many firsts in women's water polo, including playing for the first US Women's Olympic Water Polo team at Sydney.

In Olympic play, Petri received the silver medal at Sydney in 2000 and grabbed the bronze at Athens in 2004. Petri will be playing attacker in the Olympics alongside Brenda Villa, who is the captain of the team and the only other third-

time women's water polo Olympian.

On the men's side, Campolindo graduate Peter Varellas made the Men's Water Polo Olympic team. Varellas will also play attacker and is joined by two fellow Stanford players including Captain Tony Azevedo.

The Women's Water Polo team has four upcoming games against Australia from July 4-10 in California and then will train for Beijing. The Men's team is currently training in Colorado and will continue to train until the Olympics.

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