Panther Cycling Club: A Brief (But Grand) History

Three years ago, organized cycling at the University of Pittsburgh was nothing more than a shared dream. But with the participation of many eager students and the generous support of several key sponsors, 2005 saw the realization of that dream, and the pursuit of many more.

Our autumn birth began with a flurry of paperwork and phone calls as the Panther Cycling Club was hatched. Only a month old and with just a modest roster of interested riders, we sent a proud delegation to the Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference’s annual road planning meeting held in November at West Point. Despite a meager size, our presence at that meeting had a profound impact. The ECCC – arguably the country’s most highly developed conference – saw the deep potential of a previously untapped Western Pennsylvanian cycling program. We knew this was the start of something big, and the conference agreed, electing to have Pennsylvania host 4 out of the 8 regular race weekends, including a successful bid by Mercyhurst College in nearby Erie to promote their very first race.

With winter we welcomed Freewave and Rudy Project to our proud list of generous sponsors. Many members braved chilly training rides and attended helpful mechanic clinics under the growing banner of the Panther Cycling Club. Together we laughed in the face of old man winter, refusing to let a nighttime low of 28°F curb Evan’s Epic 24-hour Ride. Part outlandish publicity stunt and part fundraiser, this 24-hour long stationary bike-a-thon brought frontpage attention to our young club and our sponsors, as well as nearly $700 in club fundraising for our heroic efforts.
The spring saw us rolling across the northeast from race weekend to race weekend representing our club, university and sponsors. After a monumental first year with over 50 dues-paying members and a race schedule that took us to 8 different campuses in the Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference, it would be a drastic understatement to say that expectations were merely exceeded. As we quickly bank the turn of a new academic year we are gearing up for an even more impressive lap, building upon last year’s glories and recognizing key areas of improvement for the future. Some new additions include a renewed focus on recreational and women’s riding, respectively headed by our new recreational riding chairperson and director of women’s riding.

The 2006 season might have exceeded our own expectations for our first year of existence, but we’ve got even greater things yet to come. Our vision of the future must revolve around more than just successful road racing, although dominance in the Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference is clearly a major goal of ours. Other goals include further development of recreational and competitive cycling throughout Western Pennsylvania. To us, cycling is more than a hobby — it is a way to further enjoy life.

Since that fateful autumn day three years ago, Panther Cycling Club has seen vast growth in the popularity of the club. The 2007-8 season provided us with many new faces and began to broaden the horizons of cycling in our club beyond that of just road and mountain bike racing; last season saw the addition of BMX and Track cycling. Panther Cycling’s “Ride of Love” was a repeat success, the club made almost equaled the amount of money raised the year before for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society of Western Pennsylvania. After the “Ride of Love,” The club participated in the Race to Anyplace, raising money for the same foundation and won.
Last season also provided a momentous in the history of the city of Pittsburgh when the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University teaming up to host the first collegiate cycling race in Pittsburgh. The race was a joint race between the Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference and the Midwest Collegiate Cycling Conference, which allowed for new competition between these two conferences. The race was a great success and aided in promoting cycling in western Pennsylvania.

Through our club we wish to provide this enjoyment to more people in the community. We also plan on participating in many local efforts such as volunteer trail cleanups, and hosting charity rides to benefit the greater Pittsburgh region. Our weekly recreational rides are a great way to encourage new riders to take a more active role in these areas of personal and community-wide growth.
2008 Schedule & Results
2008 Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conf. Road Season

March 1, 2 – Rutgers University

**Individual Time Trial (Women’s B class)**
- 13th place – Stephanie Stambaugh
- 4th place – Spencer Samstay

**Criterium (Men’s C1 Class)**
- 6th place – Spencer Samstay

March 11, 12 – Philly Phlyer *Hosted by UPenn, Temple, Johns Hopkins, Drexel, and Villanova

**Road Race (Men’s D1 class)**
- 13th place – Jeff Buzin

March 15, 16 – Columbia Criterium / Princeton Orange Classic

March 22, 23 – Pittsburgh Steel City Showdown

**Road Race (Women’s B class)**
- 9th place – Stephanie Stambaugh
- 16th place – Kyle MacFarlane

**Criterium (Men’s B Class)**
- 6th place – Evan Charles Perrone

**Criterium (Men’s C1 Class)**
- 13th place – Kyle MacFarlane

March 29, 30 – Penn State Nittany Classic

**Road Race (Women’s B class)**
- 12th place – Stephanie Stambaugh
- 15th place – Stephanie Stambaugh
- 14th place – Kyle MacFarlane

**ITT (Women’s B class)**
- 15th place – Stephanie Stambaugh

**ITT (Men’s C1 Class)**
- 14th place – Kyle MacFarlane

**Criterium (Men’s C1 Class)**
- 16th place – Kyle MacFarlane

April 8, 9 – Army Classic

April 12, 13 – Boston Beanpot* Hosted by Harvard, Boston College, MIT & Tufts

**Team Time Trial (Men’s D1 Class)**
- 10th place – U Pitt

April 19, 20 – UVM Weekend (University of Vermont)

April 26, 27 – Eastern Championships, Cornell
WE NEED YOUR HELP!
AND WE CAN HELP YOU IN RETURN

Representing Pittsburgh as we race across the Northeast is nearly as expensive an endeavor as it is exciting. Before the season began, members of established clubs told us that consistently attending race weekends would take a huge toll, both on the club, financially, as well as on the racers. We were advised to ease into the season, to only attempt to go to one or two races at the risk of burning out our fledgling team. But through the strong support from our loyal sponsors – including Dirty Harry’s Bike Shop, Freewave, Rudy Project, Arevian Technologies, Park Tool, Juris Venture, S&T Bank, and Dave and Andy’s – were we able to attend 7 of the Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference’s 8 race weekends last season, and by the season’s end we were hungry for more!

Your much-needed support allows our racers to attend even more race weekends on a college student’s budget. Whatever resources remain after a full year of racing will go directly into the growth and development of the club in the form of equipment and programs designed to foster racing skills. With Freewave’s spectacular contribution last year, for example, we were able to purchase several extra stationary trainers, a professional grade tool kit, and the proper roof racks needed to transport 12 bikes atop University vans. With Panther Cycling Club, your money goes a long way!
Sponsorship is a PARTNERSHIP, and in return for your financial support we proudly carry your organization or company on our back each time we take to the road. Our website receives attention from cyclists and organizations from around the world. We constantly receive emails from people from countries as far as Taiwan and Australia asking about the club and requests to link our site to theirs. Through our website, your name will be linked across a huge network around the world. Closer to home, our name and affiliated sponsors will appear in front of millions of Americans during the Pitt football games because of our volunteer efforts at the games. In all of these venues, we are committed to representing your company or organization as a supporter of a healthier lifestyle and athletic discipline.

From daily training rides to highly publicized ECCC-sanctioned races held all across the northeast and even local charity rides, we see it as our duty to make sure that your company’s logo gets around – FARTHER AND FASTER THAN THE COMPETITION!
Sponsorship Agreement

This invoice serves as receipt for money/product given to the Panthers Cycling Club at the University of Pittsburgh in return for advertising on PCC cycling apparel and PCC's website for the 2007 season. This invoice does not exclude other agreements, verbal or otherwise, between the Panther Cycling Club and its sponsors.

Please contact Sponsorship Coordinator Jeff Buzin at Pittcycling@gmail.com with any questions.

Company/Individual's Name: ___________________________ Date: ________________

Contact’s Name: ___________________________ Title: ________________

Email: ___________________________ (Required for Team updates and other occasional communications)

Phone: (____) _______ - ___________ Address: ___________________________

Dollar Amount / Type of Support: $ _____________

Please make all checks out to The University of Pittsburgh

• Carbon Fiber Sponsor – $1,000+
   This level of sponsorship will help provide us with the means to acquire team jerseys, proper training equipment and tools – truly a long-lasting gift! As a Carbon Fiber Sponsor you will be considered a primary partner, receiving top placement upon our jersey and website, as well as a team autographed jersey for your company.

• Gold Sponsor – $500 - $999
   Give one racer the opportunity to compete over a full season, covering their lodging, gas, and food for the entire racing calendar.

• Blue Sponsor – Below $500
   All levels of support are strongly needed and equally appreciated by the Panther Cycling Club.

Matt Appleton    Jeff Buzin
President        Vice President, Sponsorship Coordinator
Panthers Cycling Club
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Pure donations are always welcomed
Donation Amount: $ ________________
Donor’s Name: ___________________________

Please make a copy of this invoice for your records, and send this original back to the above address