

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



YOUTH MOUNTAIN BIKING DELIVERING BIG RESULTS BOTH ON AND OFF THE BIKE

[Waukesha, WI, October 13, 2019] - When kids came out to their first casual practice in July, they were enjoying warm summer sun and long days to ride the flowing trails at Silver Lake Park. Some kids were familiar with the sport and all its' challenges. Others were pedaling up a small grassy hill for the first time, feeling as though they conquered the world. Each individual set their sight on a goal meaningful for them. The SLSMTB youth mountain bike team focuses on getting more kids on bikes while maintaining a fun, safe environment. These boys and girls all want their own success. It looks different for each individual. They all want to improve in some way. They all need to test their focus, endurance, bike handling techniques, attitude and internal motivation. They all need to learn new skills on the bike and off the bike. Some kids crash when they try clip in pedals, some learn how to replace a broken part, some learn how to jump a log. It all matters!

Every race this season in Wisconsin thus far has challenged EVERY. SINGLE. ONE. of those lessons or newly found skills. The beautiful September day in Wausau provided the ideal backdrop for an all out competitive sprint to the finish. The mud in Mt. Morris demanded every ounce of grit. The race this week summoned bodies in a new way as they battled the cold and the wind. The dramatic swing in temperature that all of Wisconsin experienced this week posed a special set of circumstances for kids that are used to riding in mild conditions. But, mountain biking isn't mild! Competing in the frosty chill made kids think about how to ride, how to prepare, how to dress, how to eat and how to warm up their bodies to be ready for the race. Braving the crisp air with different breathing and mentally psyching yourself up to race in the cold were a new part of the preparation. All lessons that will be applicable far beyond this race. Everyone conquered a hurdle on Sunday! Regardless of a podium win, each athlete had a victory when they crossed the start line. They proved they could! They showed up! You can see it in their face.

Eight athletes from SLSMTB celebrated official wins on the podium this weekend. The team focuses on NICA's core mission of "getting more kids on bikes" while building strong minds, bodies, character, and communities through cycling. Connor Buchanan (10th grade, Lakeview Tech) finished in second place in the D2 JV3 race as he navigated through the competitive field of riders. He retains the white Leader's Jersey for this season with the highest overall points. All our JV3 racers competed with heart and Nathan Gowe (10th grade, Warren Township) fought his way through the cutting wind to join Connor on the podium with a 5th place finish. Ryan Paupore (10th grade, St. Joe's Catholic Academy) dug deep, found his tenacity and clinched a first place finish in the D2 JV2 race. Riley Schneider was ready, he rallied and captured a podium win for the first time this season, snagging 5th place. Don't mess with these girls! Mountain bike girls are cool. They are also tough. Mia Scarleto (12th grade, Bradford High School) and Paula Urban (11th grade, Grayslake High School) didn't let a little cold keep them from a fight in the Girls JV3 race. Despite a few setbacks on the course, Mia delivered a 4th place finish with Paula close on her wheel to round out the top with a 5th place finish. Samantha Brooks (10th grade, Wilmot High School) pedaled hard, put her head down and pushed through to the finish in 5th place for JV2 Girls. Jon Olenick (7th grade, Trevor-Wilmot Consolidated) got out in front again and captured a generous lead for a strong 1st place finish. The SLSMTB association is divided into six teams. The SLSMTB Composite IL North team continues to lead the way with a second place win this week and is currently holding in at third place overall for team points YTD for the season.

Connor Buchanan	10th grade	Lakeview Tech	D2 JV3	3 laps	1:09:15.92	2nd place
Nathan Gowe	10th grade	Warren Township High School	D2 JV3	3 laps	1:11:33.14	5th place
Ryan Paupore	10th grade	St. Joe's Catholic Academy	D2 JV2	2 laps	48:03.10	1st place
Riley Schneider	9th grade	Warren Township High School	D2 Freshmen boys	2 laps	47:04.80	5th place
Mia Scarleto	12th grade	Bradford High School	JV3 Girls	3 laps	1:22:00.02	4th place
Paula Urban	11th grade	Grayslake Central High School	JV3 Girls	3 laps	1:22:37.40	5th place
Samantha Brooks	10th grade	Wilmot High School	JV2 Girls	2 laps	55:41.68	5th place
Jon Olenick	7th grade	Trevor-Wilmot Consolidated Grade School	MS 7th grade boys	1 lap	26:29	1st place

Complete race results can be found at <http://www.wisconsinmtb.org/race-4-minooka-race-results/>

The final race and State Championships will be on October 27, 2019 at Trek Trails in Waterloo, WI.

NICA, the National Interscholastic Cycling Association has been committed to developing interscholastic mountain biking programs across the United States since 2009. There are currently 26 states with active leagues throughout the United States. The momentum and interest in the sport is undeniable, as teams continue forming and growing throughout the United States. Racing in Wisconsin is run by the Wisconsin High School Cycling League. Local teams in SE Wisconsin and Illinois are run by SLSMTB (Southeastern Lakes Scholastic Mountain Bike Association) with head coach Dave Bender and Board President Julie Lang overseeing team activities for local youth interested in mountain biking.

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