



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AREA TEEN SECURES FIRST PLACE WIN AT HIGH SCHOOL MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE

[Eau Claire, WI, September 9, 2019] - Connor Buchanan, 10th grade at Lakeview Tech High School, secured a first place win in a field of 44 riders at the season's first NICA Wisconsin League mountain bike race held in Eau Claire, WI on Sunday. The field of Division 2 JV 3 riders was filled with steep competition on the twists and turns of aggressive singletrack terrain at Lowe's Creek Park. Connor was joined on the podium by fellow riders of SLSMTB (Southeastern Lakes Scholastic Mountain Bike Association), Rider Rainer, 2nd place, and Nathan Gowe, 4th place. D2 JV3 riders completed one six mile lap and two five mile laps, for a total for approximately 16 miles of off road riding. This races launches the sixth season of racing for the Wisconsin League with a total of 710 athletes competing in grades 6-12.

Connor Buchanan is part of a growing mountain bike association for youth in Southeast Wisconsin and Northern Illinois. This association was started by Head Coach, Dave Bender in 2014 with one athlete from Central High School. Since then, the team has experienced exciting growth year over year with 63 registered athletes for the 2019 season. This growth has led to the formation of an association compromised of six area teams known as SLSMTB, Southeastern Lakes Scholastic Mountain Bike Association. Because of his vision, dedication, and success, Dave Bender was recently awarded the National "Coach of the Year" for 2018 by NICA.

Connor began riding with the team in 2018. This is his first win. Connor recently completed his Eagle Scout project supporting area mountain bike trails by installing a tool and repair station at Silver Lake Park in Kenosha County. "Connor is one of the hardest working athletes on the team. He gives his all in every drill and always has a positive attitude," said Head Coach, Dave Bender.

Six additional athletes from SLSMTB celebrated podium wins 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. However, it is not without grit, determination, and hard work that Rider Rainer, Ryan Paupore, Nathan Gowe, Paula Urban, Samantha Brooks, and Jon Olenick achieved similar success this weekend.

Connor Buchanan	10th grade	Lakeview Tech	D2 JV3	3 laps	1:13:05.44	1st place
Rider Rainer	12th grade	Burlington High School	D2 JV3	3 laps	1:13:28.47	2nd place
Nathan Gowe	10th grade	Warren Township High School	D2 JV3	3 laps	1:14:42.71	4th place
Paula Urban	11th grade	Grayslake Central High School	JV3 Girls	3 laps	1:27:19.53	5th place
Ryan Paupore	10th grade	St. Joe's Catholic Academy	D2 JV2	2 laps	53:15.64	3rd place
Samantha Brooks	10th grade	Wilmot High School	JV2 Girls	2 laps	59:15.05	4th place
Jon Olenick	7th grade	Trevor-Wilmot Consolidated Grade School	MS 7th grade boys	1 lap	31:33.16	3rd place

Complete race results can be found at <http://www.wisconsinmtb.org/race-1-lowes-creek-race-results/>

The next race will be on September 15, 2019 at 9 Mile Recreation in Wausau, 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.

Southeastern Lakes Scholastic Mountain Bike Assoc.
www.slsmtb.com - slsmtbboard@gmail.com