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University of San Diego

Office of Public Relations

News Bureau

CHAMPION BICYCLISTS, STUDENTS FROM THROUGHOUT STATE COMPETE IN 5TH ANNUAL USD PRO/AM BIKE RACE

Professional cyclists and hundreds of California college students will compete in the University of San Diego Associated Students' Fifth Annual Grand Prix Bicycle Race on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 8 and 9.

The event begins at 8 a.m. each day and runs until 4:30 p.m. throughout Alcalá Park, the picturesque 180-acre USD campus located atop a majestic hill on the west end of Mission Valley with a breathtaking view of Mission Bay, San Diego Harbor and Tecolote Canyon.

All races are sanctioned by the U.S. Cycling Federation. Each day's premier professional race will take place at 3:00 p.m.

Professionals and amateurs will compete for a \$5,000 purse. Collegiate cyclists will compete for medals and points towards their schools' standing within the Western Collegiate Cycling Conference (WCCC).

Cyclists must register at least 30 minutes before their intended events; registration on both Saturday and Sunday begins at 7 a.m. Spectators are welcome at no charge.

Hinckley & Schmitt Water is hosting the event along with the USD Associated Students. Additional sponsor contributions have

been made by IBM, Shimano America, Mon-Systeme Team outfitters and sportswear, GatorZ Sports Optics, and Powerbar. The Fifth Annual Little Grand Prix, a special student race on Saturday, will start at 2:50 p.m. just before the top pro race at 3:00 p.m.

The field of competitors will include former Olympic medalists, world champions and cyclists who have raced in the Tour de France and other major international competitions. U.S. professional and amateur teams expected to compete include Subaru-Montgomery, Chevrolet/L.A. Sheriffs, Coors Light and Spago as well as teams from the 22 universities within the WCCC.

For more information, contact race director Matt Chirpka, 260-6827.