

**cannondale**  
HANDMADE IN USA

+

**Drake High School Mountain Bike Team**

=

***A Winning  
Combination!***



**The 2004 Drake High School Mountain Bike Team**

**Proposal for Cannondale Bicycles – 3/2004**

By Dan Freeman and Andrew Hardardt

## Who We Are

The Drake High School Mountain Bike Team is currently in its second year of existence, and thriving. From a team of 8 racers last year, the team is now 20+ riders of girls and boys committed to riding for their school. Our fifth place finish in the Norcal series last year is just a taste of what's to come as the word gets out to other Drake High students that our program is the real deal. This year promises to be even better than last based on intelligent and rigorous pre-season training. We can't wait for the gun to off!

## Seasonal Goals

As the new season begins for the Norcal Series, the Drake High School Mountain Bike Team is looking for sponsors like you to help us grow and thrive in this highly competitive arena. Here is a short list of some of our goals and plans for the season:



Drake High's Kevin Bernotas takes his place atop the podium as winner and current Points Leader for the Under-16 Division. 2/22/04

**January 31st/February 1st All League Riding Camp #1, Camp Tamarancho, Marin Co.** A riding camp highly recommended for all riders. This year's camp will feature more coaches (including Blair Lombardi) and smaller lesson groups. The Luna Chix and Soul Craft Riders will also be helping teach riders new skills and safe riding practices. At Camp Tamarancho you will ride some of the best single track in the world! [click here](#)

**February 14th/15th All League Riding Camp #2, Camp Tamarancho, Marin Co.** [click here](#)

**February 22nd MTB Challenge 2, Folsom Lake.** We love to kick off the cross-country racing series with this very fun twisty-turny single-track race, which is the ideal race for a beginner or first time racer. [click here](#)

**March 7th Iron Angels, Angels Camp.** Best known for their Jumping Frog contest, Angels camp is a small town in the Sierra Foothill. All high school events in the morning, and adult events afterward, so the kids will have the course to themselves. A flat fast race with not too much technical difficulty. [click here](#)

**March 21st Race 'X' (or MTB Challenge 3, March 14th).** We are calling this race 'X' because we are still undecided on which event to choose. Waiting to hear more about some exciting possibilities.

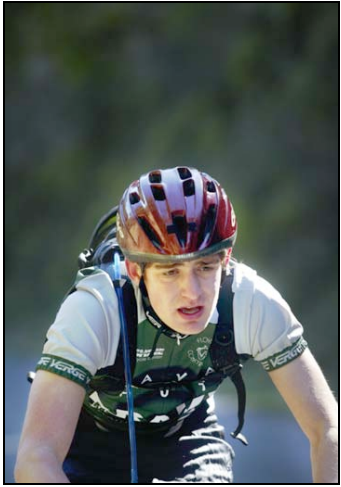
**April 4th Billycross High School Only Race, Lake Sonoma near Santa Rosa.** The ups and downs of this technical course have always proved a fun challenge, even when it's not muddy. This event will be a 'high school only' event -- no adult events that day.

**April 18th Sea Otter Classic, Monterey.** This event is the second largest competitive cycling event in the world, second only to the Tour De France. All forms of cycling come together for five days of racing and exposition. Race organizers have agreed to break the junior fields into smaller groups than in years past, making it easier to enjoy one of the greatest single-lap eighteen-mile courses ever designed.

**May 2nd State Championships, Walker Creek Ranch in West Marin Co.** Racers will want to work on their climbing ability to be ready for this event, and once they reach the top of the climb they will be treated to one of the best single-track descents ever made. This is a high-school only event and the final event of the Nor Cal High School MTB Series. We want to win here!



## ***Background: The Drake High School Mountain Bike Team***



### **Mission Statement**

To provide students with the desire to mountain bike the coaching and camaraderie that will help them to achieve both competitive and non-competitive cross-country goals in a safe and enjoyable manner.

### **Club Goals**

- To give beginner riders an understanding of our sport and to give them a fun and challenging cycling experience.
- To have the intermediate riders advance in racing categories (i.e., beginner, sport and expert). To have the advanced riders increase proficiency and develop and earn top honors at races.
- To remain competitive in the Nor Cal High School MTB Series and to place at least one rider in the top ten for the overall.
- To have fun and enjoy the sport!

### **2004 Athlete Roster**

Arnold, Chris  
Bernotas, Kevin  
Calvelli, Katelyn  
DeWitt, Rachael  
Goebel, Matt  
Harris, Oren  
Hendrix, Becky  
Kopp, Sam  
Lebell, Misha  
Ludke, Ben  
Luse, Ryan

Markle-Allen, Inigo  
Meese, Graham  
Novak, Daniel  
Olsen, Thor  
Olson, Ben  
Paton, Brian  
Phillips, Jamie  
Ranno, Miles  
Silva, Jenna  
Stein, Chris  
Westreich, Adam

## Our Sponsors

We've tapped into our local community and businesses to provide a unique and powerful support system for the students. These wonderful individuals and businesses have given their time, effort and money to help keep Drake High going and growing. Without their support, we simply couldn't do this.



*Java Hut, American Home Renewal, Azure Environmental, Bolids Insurance, Floyd Construction, Nixon-Peabody, Plath & Co. Contractors, Sunshine Bicycle Center, andrewHARDARDTdesign.com*

Join this unique and fun group and help make the Drake High School Mountain Bike Team even better.

Contact Dan Freeman:  
Drake HS Mt. Bike Coach  
1327 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.  
San Anselmo, CA 94960  
ph (415) 458-3477  
fax (512) 597-2908  
<mailto:DrakeMTBCoach@aol.com>

## Team Uniforms



Drake High Teacher and Mtn Bike Team Coach Dan Freeman commissioned [andrewHARDARDTdesign.com](http://andrewHARDARDTdesign.com) to design the Drake High jerseys for 2004. The uniform incorporates the school's colors along with a proverbial "target" that signifies two things: The Drake Team has a target they are shooting for [Winning the Norcal Series] and that the team, because of their talent and determination, feel they will be every other team's target. The design also is meant to instill a sense of strength in Team Members by signifying that they are not afraid to be the target of all the other teams... Drake had the confidence, strength and leadership to be the best and they're gunning for it!

## Rider Highlights

- **Matt Goebel** - 2003 Junior Expert Boys 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Norcal Series
  - **2004 MTB Challenge #2 6<sup>th</sup>**
  - 2003 Billycross 1<sup>st</sup>
  - 2003 Sea Otter 19<sup>th</sup>
  - 2003 State Champs 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - 2003 Iron Angels 5<sup>th</sup>
  - 2003 MTB Challenge #2 8<sup>th</sup>
  - 2003 MTB Challenge #1 6<sup>th</sup>



Drake High's Misha Lebell takes her #3 spot on the podium for the Under-16 Beginner Girls Division. 2/22/04

- **Misha Lebell** - 2003 Under 16 Girls Beg/Sp 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Norcal Series
  - **2004 MTB Challenge #2 3<sup>rd</sup> (17-18 Div.)**
  - 2003 State Champs 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - 2003 Sea Otter 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - 2003 Iron Angels 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - 2003 MTB Challenge #2 4<sup>th</sup>
  - 2003 MTB Challenge #1 6<sup>th</sup>
- **Kevin Bernotas** - 2003 Under 16 Boys Beg/Sp 9<sup>th</sup> place in Norcal Series
  - **2004 MTB Challenge #2 WINNER**
  - 2003 State Champs 9<sup>th</sup>
  - 2003 Billycross 6<sup>th</sup>
  - 2003 Iron Angels 10<sup>th</sup>
  - 2003 MTB Challenge #2 10<sup>th</sup>
- **Daniel Novak** – 2003 Under 16 Boys Beg/Sp 10<sup>th</sup> place in Norcal Series
  - **2004 MTB Challenge #2 3<sup>rd</sup>**

- 2003 Billycross 8th



## Press Release

2/22/04

Folsom Lake, CA

The Drake Mt Bike Team made a strong claim today that it is a challenger for the NorCal team title this year by nailing a third place team finish, less than a hair from second, at today's first race of the season MTB Challenge #2. Several of last years top Drake riders finished in usual style and some entered new territory, while new riders wasted no time in contributing to the teams success.

In the junior expert division, defending 2003 third place finisher, Matt Goebel, discovered that the field of talented riders will be less than friendly. Some new talent, plus a return of last years challengers have come back in fine shape to vie for the ultimate individual crown. Matt's 8th place finish in JX made him Drake's top point earner for the team today with 221.

Kevin Bernotas took his place atop the podium for the first time today as winner and current point leader for the under 16 division. Kevin took the immediate lead at the start and never let it go, and a result he'll wear the coveted yellow Leader's Jersey in the next race on March 7 . Strategically, Daniel Novak keyed Kevin's rear wheel and used it to guide him to a hard fought third place finish. These two renew the season long dual they fought against each other last year as rookies to the league. The friendly competition has paid off, it seems.

Misha Lebell has moved up to the under 18 category, but the results have not changed. Her early struggles in the race with pedal issues and crowded trails were overcome by the end as she finished strong in third place in an increasingly competitive and growing girls field.

Rounding out the points for Drake was the surprise of the day. Rachael DeWitt's sheer persistence paid off for the whole team as her 7th place finish in 18 under grabbed a needed 168 points for the team - all this in her first race ever. Another great example of how individual efforts go beyond the individual.

Special mention for effort goes to Graham Meese for riding his sister's borrowed, undersized bike to a more than respectable 9th place finish in a competitive 18 under field. On top of that, severe chain issues kept him from improving that placing even more.

Other outstanding efforts were out in by new racers Ryan Luse and Chris Arnold who finished 14 and 15 respectably in under 16, and Chris Stein who is so far the most improved new rider over the last three months. In the under 18 category, Oren Harris, Sam Kopp, Thor Olson, Brian Paton, and Adam Westreich put in excellent efforts. All but Oren Harris completed their first races ever. Ben Ludke made a great start in the race

but was sidelined by not one but two flat tires from which he couldn't recover. Jenna Silva sat out this race with a mild snowboard injury and will contribute at the next race at Angels Camp.

The team race turned out to be a near photo-finish as the top three teams finished within 75 points of each other - extremely close - making certain that this season will not be dull for Marin MTB fans. If you are curious about seeing what this league is all about, don't wait!!! There are only five more league races...and it just may be that the team with the biggest fan base takes the edge.

That's all for now. Stay tuned for workout updates, camping details, and other general merriment.

Final Score:

Redwood 1086  
Nevada-Union 1016  
Drake 1011  
Berkeley 750(?)

*Dan Freeman*  
*Drake HS Mt. Bike Coach*  
*1327 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.*  
*San Anselmo, CA 94960*  
*ph (415) 458-3477*  
*fax (512) 597-2908*  
[DrakeMTBCoach@aol.com](mailto:DrakeMTBCoach@aol.com)

Check out [www.norcalhighracing.org](http://www.norcalhighracing.org) <<http://www.norcalhighracing.org/>>

###



**Join Us...**  
**Become a Drake High Mountain Bike Team Sponsor**  
**and Be a Winner!**

Contact Dan Freeman:  
Drake HS Mt. Bike Coach  
1327 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.  
San Anselmo, CA 94960  
ph (415) 458-3477  
fax (512) 597-2908  
<mailto:DrakeMTBCoach@aol.com>