



COLLEGIATE TRACK NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SEPTEMBER 2017 • INDIANAPOLIS, IN

**** MEDIA ALERT * MEDIA ALERT * MEDIA ALERT ****

USA CYCLING COLLEGIATE TRACK NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS TAKING PLACE AT MAJOR TAYLOR VELODROME

- Who/What:** More than 150 student-cyclists representing as many as 30 colleges and universities will **compete at the Major Taylor Velodrome in Indianapolis** as collegiate cycling's national champion Marian University hosts the USA Cycling Collegiate Track National Championships on September 14-16. Teams are allowed a roster of up to ten men and ten women to score points towards a team championship as well as race for individual titles. Over three days, cyclists will compete for **National Championship 'stars and stripes' jerseys** in the individual and team events at the 333-meter, concrete oval that once hosted the Pan-Am games and has been home to many national events over the years. **Event is free to the public.**
- When:** Thursday September 14 - Saturday September 16- morning and evening sessions each day. For a complete schedule, visit <https://www.usacycling.org/2017/collegiate-track-nationals>
- Where:** Indy Cycloplex, home of the Major Taylor Velodrome, an Indianapolis city park operated by Marian University on the near northwest-side at 3649 Cold Spring Road, 46222
- Why:**
- > Watch some of the nation's best collegiate cyclists compete in a unique and fast-paced national championship event
 - > Support Indianapolis' own Marian University defend their USA Cycling Collegiate National Track Championship and try to win their 20th title in the track discipline
 - > Enjoy food and drink in a family-friendly atmosphere while spectating fast racing
 - > Learn about a unique sport and city park, one of only 26 velodromes in America
- Media:** If you'd like an interview with Marian University Cycling head coach Dean Peterson or a Marian University student-cyclist, or for more information about USA Cycling Collegiate Track National Championships, please contact Michael Kubancsek, 317/847.7946 or mkubancsek@marian.edu.
- Social media:** Follow along on Twitter @indycycloplex, @usacycling and on Facebook "Indy Cycloplex, home of the Major Taylor Velodrome"

MORE INFO:

- **MAJOR TAYLOR VELODROME:** Built in 1982 and host site of the 1987 Pan American Games, the Major Taylor Velodrome is a 333-meter (three laps equal one kilometer), concrete, open-air bicycle track featuring 28-degree banking in the turns and nine-degree banking on the straight-aways. Located immediately north of the Marian University campus, the Velodrome is named for the world champion and record-setting African-American cyclist, Marshall “Major” Taylor.
- **FIXED GEAR FEVER:** A track bike may look like a traditional road bike at first glance, however, a closer look reveals some significant changes that make the bike ideal for velodrome racing. Most notably, track bikes feature a fixed, single gear with neither a freewheel nor brakes. Cyclists have their choice of gear depending on the race, thus making gear selection crucial: lower gears for quicker acceleration, and larger gears for maintaining the faster, more consistent speeds needed in the time trial events. Cyclists match their gear with cadence for maximum performance and utilize the track apron to slow their bikes and come to a stop following efforts or slow their speed for strategy’s sake. Track racing has historically been popular and is making a resurgence at America’s 26 velodromes, racing venues designed for specifically track cycling.
- **TAKING HOME THE ‘SOFTWARE’ AND HARDWARE:** In cycling, it’s all about the jersey. Sure, USA Cycling Collegiate Track National champions and podium finishers will take home hardware in the form of a medal, but the real prize is a Stars-and-Stripes national champions’ jersey. The highly coveted patriotic jersey features white stars amidst a blue background up top with horizontal red and white stripes. In addition, the collegiate teams are competing for a team trophy signifying the top performance by all of the team’s riders, for both the varsity and club divisions.
- **RACING CAPITAL OF THE WORLD:** The Indianapolis Motor Speedway and its Greatest Spectacle in Racing, the Indianapolis 500, have made the city of Indianapolis the undisputed racing capital of the world. But, a smaller concrete oval just four miles from the famed 2.5-mile Brickyard will host an event to further boost the city’s reputation for speed. The collegiate cyclists who come to Indy to race for national championships this September last raced this event at Major Taylor Velodrome in 2014.
- **KNIGHTS’ CYCLING LEGACY:** When it comes to collegiate cycling, Marian University has been a force since making their debut in 1992. The Major Taylor Velodrome actually served as the impetus for the school to establish a cycling program 25 years ago. Since that time, Marian’s Knights have captured an impressive 37 team national championships, including 19 on the track. This year they will defend their 2016 title and look to make it 12 in a row. The Knights excel in each of cycling’s disciplines, winning national championships in cyclocross, road, BMX, and have been the top Division 1 collegiate cycling school for the last five seasons. On their home turf, the Knights are the team to beat at this year’s track national championships.
- **TUNE-UP EVENTS:** The Major Taylor Velodrome hosts numerous events to prepare local and regional cyclists, including riders from the ‘home team’ Marian University, for national-level racing, including racing every Thursday night from May through September. The 2017 Major Taylor Racing League includes twenty-one events this summer.

Event sponsors:

CIBA Foundation - Indiana Sports Corp - Indiana Foot and Ankle Institute - LincLogix - Marian University - Matthew’s Bicycles - Motionwear - RATIO Architects - SRAM - St. Vincent Sports Performance - TruTrainer Premium Bicycle Rollers - Zipp Speed Weaponry

USA Cycling National Championship Sponsors:

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About Marian University Cycling: The Marian University Cycling Team is a full varsity team at Marian University in Indianapolis. Governed by USA Cycling, the team competes year-round in five cycling disciplines: track, cyclocross, mountain bike, BMX, and road racing. A team of over 70 student-athletes from 20 states and seven countries train and race while going to school full-time and serving the local community as well as pursuing their cycling hopes and dreams. As of June 2017, the team has 37 team national championships, in track, road, BMX, and cyclocross, is the reigning Division I Omnium Champion Team, and has been honored as the USA Cycling Collegiate Club of the Year five times, most recently in 2016. To learn more, "like" the team on Facebook or visit www.muknights.com.

About the Indy Cycloplex: Formerly known as the Lake Sullivan Sports Complex, the Indy Cycloplex came under the management of Marian University in a partnership with the City of Indianapolis starting in April 2011. With support from Mayor Greg Ballard and the Indianapolis City County Council, the University is leading the effort for a new era for this historic city park, the home of the Major Taylor Velodrome and a newly-renovated BMX track with regular programming. Many opportunities exist to promote health and fitness to residents of all ages, create a nationally-recognized competitive cycling facility that hosts local, regional, and national races and events in five cycling disciplines year-round, as well as engage the community in unique ways. Positioned to be a destination for regular regional- and national-caliber cycling competitions and events, the Cycloplex is also locally a hub for cycling of all types. Components of the community efforts have included children's day camps, an urban garden, and a weekly farmer's market. To learn more, visit www.indycycloplex.com.

About POWER BOOSTER™: Founded in 2006 by Marian University's Head Cycling Coach Dean Peterson, POWER BOOSTER is Indianapolis' premier indoor cycling studio, powered by Marian Cycling. Utilizing Computrainer units, POWER BOOSTER is a series of classes that works as a cohesive system to increase power and prepare riders for the summer season and beyond through pedal efficiency drills, specific output intervals, and feedback from coaches who are experienced cyclists in the community. The established system of workouts can be found at the Paul J. Normal Cycling Center on Marian University's campus. POWER BOOSTER™ is proud to provide neutral warm up for Indy Crit and other local cycling events in our partnership with TRUTRAINER ROLLERS, an Indianapolis-based manufacturer of premium bicycle rollers.

About Marian University: Marian University, founded in Indianapolis in 1937, is the only Catholic liberal arts university in central Indiana. It serves a student body of nearly 3,000 through dedication to excellent teaching and learning in the Franciscan and liberal arts traditions. Marian University is one of Indiana's 31 independent colleges and one of 244 Catholic colleges and universities nationwide. Since 2001, Marian University has been led by President Daniel J. Elsener, whose vision and leadership are transforming the university. In 2013, Marian University opened the Michael A. Evans Center for Health Sciences, home to its College of Osteopathic Medicine. Marian University has amassed 37 national championships in cycling, captured the NAIA Football National Championship in 2012 and 2015, and won the NAIA Women's Basketball Championship in 2016 and 2017.

About USA Cycling: Recognized by the United States Olympic Committee and the Union Cycliste Internationale, USA Cycling is the official governing body for all disciplines of competitive cycling in the United States, including BMX, cyclocross, mountain bike, road and track. As a membership-based organization, USA Cycling comprises 60,000+ annual members; 2,500+ clubs and teams; and 34 local associations. The national governing body sanctions over 3,000 competitive and non-competitive events throughout the U.S. each year and is responsible for the identification, development, and support of American cyclists.