

2008 Indiana State Road Race, July 19, 2008

Race Report

What a day! 253 riders! Perfect, if not hot weather...this time.

The 2008 edition of the Indiana State Road Race, by any standard, was a rousing success. Benga Sports experienced its first "Full Field", with 75 riders in the Men's 4-5 field. In fact, 11 stand-by riders were able to get into the field when those they replaced didn't show. Seeing that many on the road was exciting, and, as the organizer, gripping!

Congratulations to Martin Meadows, Speedway Wheelmen, who won the Cat 4/5 State Championship and a set of Bontrager Race Lite wheels!

But, what a safe event! The Fishers Police Department are a phenomenal group and serve the community in an exemplarily way.

The M I-II field saw 30 riders who raced for \$400 for 10 places. The NUVO Cultural Trails had 13 guys in the field were perfectly suited to defend their 2006 State Champion, Vic Emond. Matt Riggs and others set a blistering pace, and soon the lead break was formed. Ultimately, Declan Doyle crossed comfortably ahead of Jonathan Jacob for the 2008 IN State Championship with an average speed of 27 mph and a time of 2:47 and change.

64 racers lined up for the M III, which made the purse \$875 to the top 25. A great race, lots of unsuccessful attacks, and a great field sprint at the end were complicated by a challenge for the title. The challenge involved Blayne Roeder, Indiana Hand Center, and Team Tortuga, and centered on the wheel damage Blayne sustained on the second or third lap. The volunteer wheel truck driver unknowingly agreed to pace Blayne and another rider to the back of the field. The driver looked up the road, saw two riders, and followed them. Soon, he realized they were not in the race or on the course. The driver was instructed to return to the rear of the Cat 3 field, and left the racers in pace. And for these reasons—pacing and off-course—the challenge was successful.

Ultimately, Chris Beck, Team Tortuga, is the M III State Champion.

The Women's race had 11 riders. Despite the low numbers, a fast and competitive event took place. Congratulations to Team Tortuga's Sydney Hatten, the 2008 State Champion, and to Meredith Langhost, a first time racer and silver medalist.

An interesting, if not down right weird race was the MAS 35+ combined with the MAS 45+. The two fields raced as one and were scored separately, and by all accounts it was a "different" race. One interesting story came from a Zipp Factory Team rider who, while talking with Calistoga's Steve Spanbauer, made mention that if Steve merely scratched his backside, the field would do the same. Steve said, "Watch this", and jumped. Immediately—and wisely, for that matter—the field jumped and picked up their pace to

Steve's. Ultimately, local-boy-done-good, Don Birch, Heroes Foundation Cycling Team, was the winner of the MAS 35+, and Team Tortuga's Myron Lewis won the MAS 45+.

Another first-time racer was the Juniors 10-12 State Champion, but no stranger to cycling, Joseph Hanley!

Indiana Race fixture, Chuck Moll, added yet another championship to his palmres with the Masters 60+ title.

I was asked to justify charging the "high price" for racing by someone recently. I submit it's an excellent entertainment/activity bargain! Played golf lately?

The Benga Sports business plan is this: develop a well-organized race and give it away to a club team, who can then raise the necessary sponsorship to cover the purse, with the caveat that as long as Benga Sports exists, it is the Event Service Provider. But the race belongs to the Club Team. In this case, a prospective club team is considering producing the IN State RR for 2009! Here's why that's important.

Registration brought in \$6874.75.

The reason the State RR took place under these circumstances was the involvement of a producing sponsor, Motion Cycling at the beginning of the year.

Here's an example of the State RR Expenses.
Expenses:

Portalets	\$160 x 2 days=	\$320
Sound	\$200	\$200
Fuel		\$60.05
Office Supplies		\$66.84
USA Cycling officials		
For 6/7		\$127
For 7/19		\$593
USA Cycling insurance		
\$2 per rider x 215		\$430.00
Security for 6/7		
\$50x 6		\$300
Security for 7/19		
\$280 x 6		\$1,680

Prize list

Cat 4-5	\$1200 (\$620 + Wheelset)
Cat 3	\$ 875
Cat 1-2	\$400
Women	\$145

MAS 35+	\$280
MAS 45+	\$430
Total Prize Payback	\$3,330
Total Expenses	\$7,040.05