

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Illinois Cycling Association Announces the 2010 Illinois Cup Racing Series *Illinois premier set of competitive cycling events* expands to 14 races

CHICAGO, IL—February 3, 2010—The Illinois Cycling Association, which governs Illinois road and track bicycle racing for USA Cycling, announced today the complete schedule for the 2010 Illinois Cup.

The Illinois Cup has expanded from last year's 12-race slate to this year's 14-race calendar, beginning in March and culminating in August. With races held across the state, riders from many Illinois-based racing clubs will compete throughout the series to win the overall individual awards and the team competition.

Made up of primarily of criteriums, the series will include select road races as well. A criterium is a form of bicycle racing that takes place on a short course and typically lasts 15-25 laps. A road race takes place on a course that is usually more than 10 miles long and with enough laps for the race to last over an hour.

The Illinois Cup is Illinois' premier competitive cycling series, gaining a great deal of attention in the local racing community, and gaining interest with the general public. The Illinois Cup has increased the popularity of the sport, reflected by the number of people that have started to race bicycles. "Illinois has seen one of the largest growth rates of bicycle racers in the country," said Steve Hansen, the Illinois Cycling Association's president. "The Illinois Cup has played a role in this growth by bringing more attention to the sport through a well-organized season long series of races. Our member clubs are seeing strong growth in membership which makes the sport more competitive and fun for everyone."

Illinois Cup events always feature an exciting Pro/1/2 race showcasing some of the region's top cycling talent, but many of the races in the Illinois Cup provide opportunities for teenagers, older adults, and others that are new to the sport to give it a try. "Getting involved with one of our member clubs is a good way to get into the sport," said Hansen. "The clubs help you develop the skills and ability to ride fast in a friendly and supportive environment."

More information about the Illinois Cup schedule and racing clubs can be found at www.illinoiscycling.org or call 847-971-4290.

Illinois Cup Schedule 2010

Spring Super Criterium
South Beloit, IL
March 27, 2010 (Saturday)

SCW Spring Criterium
Joliet, IL
March 28, 2010 (Sunday)

Hillsboro-Roubaix
Hillsboro, IL
April 10, 2010 (Saturday)

Vernon Hills Grand Prix Criterium
Vernon Hills, IL
May 2, 2010 (Sunday)

Monsters of the Midway
Chicago, IL
May 15, 2010 (Saturday)

Fox River Grove Challenge
Fox River Grove, IL
May 16, 2010 (Sunday)

Downtown Champaign Criterium
Champaign, IL
May 23, 2010 (Sunday)

Quad Cities Criterium
Rock Island, IL
May 31, 2010 (Monday – Memorial Day)

O'Fallon Grand Prix – Road Race
O'Fallon, IL
June 5, 2010 (Saturday)

O'Fallon Grand Prix - Criterium
O'Fallon, IL
June 6, 2010 (Saturday)

Sherman Park Criterium
Chicago, IL
June 12, 2010 (Saturday)

Cobb Park Criterium
Kankakee, IL
June 20, 2010 (Sunday)

Proctor Cycling Classic
Peoria, IL
June 26-27, 2010 (Saturday & Sunday)

Grayslake Cycling Classic
Grayslake, IL
August 7, 2010