

The season is picking up pace as racers concluded their second race of the season in Lola, Wisconsin at Lola Winter Park on Sunday, September 20. The course proved rigorous, beginning with a relatively mellow start compared to the infamous Minooka start hill. After a few small hills riders sprinted to be the first into the single track in hopes of obtaining an advantageous position, a crucial aspect to a good race. The first set weaved in and out of a pine forest before opening up to yet more double track before entering technical single track. The course in and of itself consisted of short punchy climbs followed by sandy single track. Riders met their first challenge upon entrance of a steep, rooty and slick single track climb mid way through the course, which in turn led to even more single track that posed a challenge due to its tight corners and sprawling roots. Racers continued on for most of the race, alternating between technical single track littered with sand and challenging double track climbs and descents. The finish ran along a gravel road before hooking a sharp right around a line of trees into a straight away with the daunting finish line poised at the end, while spectators crowded around to witness the exciting finishes of almost 300 racers.



Coming into the second race of the Wisconsin High School Cycling League, the Varsity Boys leader, Daxton Mock (LMHS), was hoping to win another race even with the amount of competition he faced. As the race started, a group of four riders broke away from the remaining competitors in the group. In this group was Daxton Mock, Cole McDicken (Hortonville High School), Tristan Hauser (Wausau Composite), and Gavin Abric (Hayward Composite). After these four riders went back and forth for the entire race until Mock broke away towards the end

of the race and came through as the winner for the Lola Ignitor. Closely behind was McDicken in second, Hauser in third, Abric in fourth, and Mathias Klingemann (La Crosse Composite) rounded out the top five.



In the Varsity Girls race, the current series leader, Lauren Lackman (Wausau Composite), had her heart set on another win in the series. Compared to years past, there was a stacked field of female racers who all wanted the gold medal. At the beginning of the race, McKenna Dwyer

(Camrock Composite), broke away for the first 30 seconds of the race and was then caught by the rest of the field. Dwyer led into the first single track but upon the exit of the single track, three riders caught and passed her. Katy McDicken (Hortonville High School), Lauren Lackman (Wausau Composite), and Erin Bennett (Wausau Composite) led most of the race until McDicken made a move that put her almost a minute in front of the pack. It was looking like McDicken was going to come out on top until Lackman caught her towards the end and won her second race of the season. McDicken followed in second, Bennett in third, Dwyer in fourth, and Lorissa Thorpe (Wausau Composite), rounded out the top five.

As with all sports, riders endured an array of experiences throughout the course of their race. Some sprinted to the finish line, scarcely scraping by with a victory. Others may have experienced mechanicals that drastically changed their race results, while some had blow out finishes. The JV Boys race was the epitome of these instances for the top four finishers battled for the first place spot in the final seconds of the race. Aidan Lemorande (Green Bay Composite) came out victorious, beating the other three riders by a mere one second. Emma Osborne (Ozaukee Composite) blew away the Sophomore Girls field, finishing nearly four minutes ahead of her nearest competitor. Leah Fletcher (Lake Country Composite) upset the series leader of the Freshman Girls category and now reigns as the leader of the Freshmen Girls series.

There were many other standout racers such as Alexia Abric (Hayward Composite), Bryne Dobrient (Blackhawk Composite), and Pavel Nelson (Rice Lake Composite) who all came out with first place finishes, as well as all our middle schoolers who preformed astoundingly well.



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For results and photos from the Lola Ignitor visit
<http://www.nationalmtb.org/results/wisconsin/2016/RiderResults2.pdf>

Join the Wisconsin High School Cycling League for race #3, The Hayward Hustle in Hayward, WI. For more information visit <http://www.wisconsinmtb.org/wp-content/uploads/2016-Hayward-Race-Flyer.pdf>

