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## ACTIVITY SPORTS

### Cycles of dominance: Colavita, Travel Girl teams overpower pro criteriums on Saturday

By Joe Medley  
Star Sports Writer  
04-17-2005

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Team Colavita dominated Saturday night's Sunny King Criteriums Men's pro race in downtown Anniston.

Nearly all of the team's eight red-clad racers crossed the start/finish line ahead of the field with four laps to go, and world-class sprinter Juan Jose Haedo made his scheduled run across the finish line in first place.

Then came the discussion.

After United States Cycling Federation officials weighed whether another team's lapped racer dropped back and helped draft four of the top finishers back into the lead pack, Haedo's and Colavita's victory stood.

Haedo finished in one hour, 29.7 seconds to beat second-place finisher Jeff Hopkins of Jittery Joe's by two-tenths of a second. Five Colavita racers finished in the top 12.



The riders in this men's criterium moved so fast they appeared to be a blur as they pedaled through the streets of downtown Anniston. Photo: Kevin Qualls/The Anniston Star

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"Our team had good representation in the front, and we knew we'd have five guys in the breakaway," Haedo said. "That was really good, and then we knew that, with a lead like we had in the past races, we could win."

The Pro Men's race, which paid the winner \$10,000, was the feature event on a day-long card that included races in four men's divisions and two women's divisions.



Atlanta's Jenn Green, racing for the Atlanta-based Travel Girl team, won the Women's Pro race, and Team Colavita's Frank McCormack won the Masters 35-older race.

The criteriums served as a tuneup for this week's Tour de Georgia for the pro teams. The first stage is Tuesday in Augusta, Ga., and the race concludes Friday.

**Iona Wynter leads Jenn Green through a corner during the women's categories 1-3 criterium on Saturday. Green won the race and Wynter came in second. Photo: Kevin Qualls/The Anniston Star**

Saturday's criteriums also covered the first leg of a cycling weekend that wraps up with today's Cheaha Challenge 102-

mile race. Today's race, expected to draw a record field of nearly 600 riders, starts and finishes at the Piedmont Civic Center.

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The discussion following Saturday's Pro Men's race centered on whether a lapped Jittery Joe's rider dropped back to help Hopkins, the team's top sprinter. Hopkins was in a breakoff pack of four racers that had fallen back from the eight-man lead pack.

Lapped racers are not allowed to help teammates on the lead lap, according to USCF rules.

About 45 minutes after the race's finish, officials ruled that the results would stand. The team that dominated the race would keep its victory.

Haedo, from Argentina, picked up his third victory this year. There was little doubt which Colavita racer would make the final sprint.

The race bodes well for his team's chances against a Tour de Georgia field that will include Lance Armstrong.

"We are ready," Haedo said. "We have good motivation. For the next couple of races."

Green is looking forward to the Tour de Georgia women's race. It's a

EXTRA



home race for the team sponsored by Atlanta-based Travel Girl magazine.

Travel Girl had five racers in Anniston on Saturday.

"This is the perfect prep race. That's why we're all here," Green said. "It's exactly the same time of day. It's great."

Green's team dominated Saturday's Women's Pro race in a fashion similar to Colavita's dominance in the Men's Pro race. Four Travel Girl racers finished in the top 16.

"We had about a 10-person breakaway, and then we started to drop back," Green said. "Then, I had two teammates go to the front and just work their butts off. Then, we started kind of attacking each other ... and, the next thing I know, I'm up the road with two girls on the same team."

Green won the final sprint against Forum Cycling's Iona Wynter, the second-place finisher, and Forum/Kenda's Alliston Carter.

#### **About Joe Medley**

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