

Iranian visit to the World Cycling Centre (WCC)

The President of the Iranian National Federation, Mr. S. Hashemi, visited the UCI President, Hein Verbruggen, last Tuesday.

He was able to see the progress made by the two young Iranian track specialists, Amir Zargari and Abbas Saeidi Tanha, both of whom are training at the WCC.

He also appreciated the quality of the velodrome facilities at Aigle and the UCI confirmed that it would provide support in the form of technical expertise for the construction of 5 velodromes in Iran over the next few years.

The UCI BMX Supercross escapes the clutches of "Isabel"

The first UCI BMX Supercross event was successfully held on the weekend of 19 and 20 September in Pennsylvania (USA). For a while, hurricane "Isabel" threatened to call the whole competition off. The sky having finally cleared, the organisers worked night and day to prepare the course, allowing the best BMX riders in the world to test their skills on a track even faster and more technical than the average.

Robert De Wilde (NED) won the competition, closely followed by the American rider Robbie Miranda and Michal Prokop (CZE).

New class of MTB competition on the UCI calendar

For the first time, an EHC class (*Hors Classe* one-day major event) will take place from 8 to 12 October 2003, in Fréjus, southern France.

This new class, which allows riders to collect a large number of UCI points, will cover top-level competitions with strong international representation.

The event inaugurating this new class is none other than the Roc d'Azur (20th anniversary this year). This race is one of the last opportunities for nations to improve their ranking in the UCI classifications, this being one of the major criteria for establishing participation quotas for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

UCI Road World Championships: a large media presence

More than 700 media representatives are already accredited for the UCI Road World Championships which will take place from 7 to 12 October 2003 in Hamilton (CAN).

The media impact of the event promises to be significant on the American continent as well, which will once again be hosting the UCI Road World Championships, eight years after the Colombian event in 1995.

The images from the different races, produced by CBC, will be broadcast by television stations from around the world, and will no doubt be one of the highlights of the international sporting season.

Meetings at the "worldwide" week

The 172nd UCI Congress will take place on Thursday 9 October 2003 in the Hamilton Convention Centre, alongside the UCI Road World Championships. In the presence of delegates from the five Continental Confederations, Mr. Hein Verbruggen will open the Congress at 9 a.m.

The third and final meeting of the year of the UCI Management Committee is planned for Monday 6 October, and the Professional Cycling Council will meet on Friday 10.

Good news from the antidoping front

This Friday 3 October 2003, the UCI's lawyer, Mr Philippe Verbiest, will present the UCI's policy on fighting doping, in the context of a Symposium organised at the Olympic Museum. In addition to regulatory and disciplinary issues, he will describe the principles underlying the UCI health promotion programme, such as medical check-ups.

The following riders have been sanctioned for doping offences :

Patrick MOLENAARS, sanctioned by the Koninklijke Nederlandsche Wielren Unie, disqualification of the Europe Cup MTB 2003 and warning. **Vincenzo DI FALCO**, sanctioned by the Federazione Ciclistica Italiana, disqualification of the Settimana Ciclistica Lombardia 2003 and suspension of 1 year from 10 May 2003 to 10 May 2004.