

2004 Athens Olympic Games: cycling to start the party

Tomorrow (14 August), the discipline of cycling will have the privilege of awarding the first medals in the Games of the 28th Olympiad. Without the inclusion of BMX, which will make its appearance in four years' time at the Beijing Olympic Games, the cycling programme will have no fewer than 11 days of competition this year: three for road, six for track and two for mountain bike.

In total, 480 men and women riders will compete for the 54 medals awarded to cyclists.

Programme:

14 August: men's road race
15 August: women's road race
18 August: men's time-trial race
 women's time-trial race
20-25 August: track events
27-28 August: mountain bike events

WCC trainees ready for the Games

Ten trainees from the World Cycling Centre successfully qualified for the Athens Olympic Games. They are the road specialists Maaris Meier (EST), Abbas Saeidi Tanha (IRI) and Amir Zargari (IRI), and track riders Ross Edgar (GBR), Wilson Meneses (COL), Daniela Larreal (VEN), Ahmed Lopéz (CUB), Josiah Ng (MAS), Victoria Pendleton (GBR) and Yang Hee Chun (KOR).

The UCI is delighted that they will be taking part in the Olympic Games and hopes that the results they obtain fully reflect their talent.

The Italian and Lithuanian Cycling Federations prepare for the Olympic Games at the WCC

With a view to the Athens Olympic Games, the Italian and Lithuanian Cycling Federations have chosen to make their final preparations at the World Cycling Centre. The Lithuanian pursuit team has already spent a few days here (24-27 July and 7-10 August). The Italian points race specialists Vera Carrara, runner-up in the World Championships, and Angelo Ciccone have planned some time here (8-10 August for the first and 16-19 August for the second).

2004 UCI Juniors Track World Championships: outstanding performances by WCC trainees

Trainees from the WCC made their presence felt at the recent UCI Juniors Track World Championships in Los Angeles (USA). Guo Shuang was outstanding and obtained three gold medals in the 500m., keirin and sprint. The Tahitian Zahn Tuanua finished third in the Madison, Alexandr Pliuschin (MDA) third in the Scratch, Rafâa Chtioui (TUN) fourth in the points race and Kyle Swain (RSA) seventh in the same event.

In total, athletes training at the WCC brought back three gold and two bronze medals from the event, a very promising result both for the continuation of their careers and their National Federations.

Cyclo-cross International Training Camp at the WCC

From the 13th to 17th of September 2004 (not far from and just after the UCI Mountain Bike /Trials World Championships at Les Gets), the UCI is organising its first international International Cyclo-cross Training Camp at the WCC. The objective is to give riders who are not yet confirmed specialists in the discipline but dream of being among the best, the necessary knowledge to join the elite. Priority will be given to young riders specialising in mountain bike, BMX or trials, and the event will be run by Adrie Van der Poel, 1996 Cyclo-cross World Champion.

For more information, please contact the Sports Coordination Department - Cyclo-cross (cyclo-cross@uci.ch).

2004 UCI Trials World Cup in the context of the Urban Contest in Lausanne (SUI)

The final of the 2004 UCI Trials World Cup will take place in Lausanne (SUI), the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee, from the 20th to 22nd of August. No fewer than 70 professional and semi-professional riders will be competing on this occasion. The event will take place in the context of the Urban Contest which brings some 10,000 spectators to the banks of Lake of Geneva each year, and the programme will include inline roller, BMX and longboard competitions.

For more information: www.uci.ch.

UCI World Cups: road and trials on the agenda

In this period of Olympic celebrations, the UCI World Cups will continue to take place. After the Clasica Ciclista San Sebastian (7th August), the Züri Metzgete, the eighth heat in the 2004 UCI Road World Cup, will take place in a week's time on the 22nd of August. In the 2004 UCI Trials World Cup, fans of this highly technical discipline will be able to follow the competitions in Pra Loup, France, this weekend (13th to 15th of August).

For more information: www.uci.ch.

The following riders have been sanctioned for doping offences:

Jamie ALBERTS, penalised by the **French Cycling Federation**, disqualification from the contest Les Monts du Lubéron (FRA), 7th March 2004, 3-year ban from 3rd June 2004 to 3rd June 2007. **Corinne SEMPE**, sanctioned by the **French Cycling Federation and decision amended by the UCI**, fine of CHF 300. (art. 64 AER).