

# National championship team kicks off new year

By Park Baker  
Editor in Chief

The Tornados had a great first week racing. There were 16 teams represented in the first Southeast Collegiate Conference Mountain Bike series.

Our racers compete in four different disciplines. The downhill race is against the clock, with a two run format, and the officials take the riders fastest time. Riders usually start on a ramp or roll in and must navigate rocks and jumps while trying not to go anaerobic. The racers usually don full faced helmets and body armor.

The Dual Slalom is just like slalom skiing, racing against another rider down a track with jumps and berms, each in their own lane. First rider across the line advances to next bracket, but if they miss a flag they are disqualified.

The cross country race is the most classic form of mountain bike racing. Riders line up against each other all at once with the fastest riders grappling for the hole shot into the woods. From there it's a test of fitness, skill, and experience. These races vary from 10-25 miles in length depending on the difficulty of the course.

The Short Track race is much shorter than the XC. It is mass start like the XC, but the slower riders get pulled from the race as they get passed or reach a time cut off.

Senior Kate Weisenfluh gave the Tornados it's first victory of the season with a win in the women's A downhill. Freshman Madison Capps rode to a strong 8th place, and senior Morgan Sykes finished 9th.

In the men's A downhill senior Park Baker raced to a 3rd place finish, sophomore Asher Blackmore 5th, and senior Tripp Bagnol 8th.

Newcomer David Simmons placed 10th in the men's B downhill, and junior Kyle Stallings rode to 19th.

In the Cross Country and Short Track the team was extremely consistent with Lewis Gaffney placing 4th in both events, Scott Hoffner 7th and 9th, and Bryan Underwood was 14th in the men's A races. Sophomore Keith Marek earned a 3rd and a 4th in the men's B races.

In the Dual Slalom Kate Weisenfluh placed 3rd, Madison Capps 9th, Morgan Sykes 10th, and Tripp Bagnol 8th. The next team outing will be at Georgia Tech on September 10-11th. So far the team has a solid ranking near the top of the conference and they looking forward to building steam as the season moves towards nationals in Angelfire, New Mexico at the end of October.

# Men's soccer coach named interim athletic director

By Carolina Anderson  
Staff Writer

As the interim athletic director of Brevard College, Juan Mascaro has been presented with new, but not unfamiliar, challenges until the college can hire a permanent athletic director. Mascaro joined the Brevard College family five years ago, and since then has been given numerous responsibilities.

Whoever the replacement is -- the school will officially begin the search in a few weeks -- and will have big shoes to fill. Mascaro is not new to the pressure of holding such an important position, as Associate Athletic Director last year;

he already has a good sense of what is expected from an athletic director.

"Leadership, knowledge and understanding of the NCAA and Division II, team work and time management," says Mascaro, "are all key qualities that an athletic director needs to have."

When the Clarion asked about how Mascaro was going to balance both coaching and managing all other athletic responsibilities he said that he wasn't worried, "We just have to do things differently, I have great captains and the players understand what's going on. Communication is key, and we've talked about it."

As the associate athletic director last year,

Mascaro was already familiar with the tasks that he is now asked to complete as the interim athletic director. Mascaro also has many goals that he hopes to accomplish while as the interim athletic director, "My goal is to keep the program moving forward, to make sure that we continue to be successful both academically and athletically, and in that order."

Mascaro has realistic and reassuring goals for the future of the athletic program at Brevard College. The job of Athletic Director requires knowledge of the NCAA, and of Division II sports, as well as teamwork, both of which Mascaro has demonstrated daily.

# National championship team under new coach

By Joshua Smith  
Staff Writer

The road to becoming a professional cyclist was an interesting one for Brian Sheedy, the new cycling coach at Brevard College.

Growing up, Sheedy was involved in every sport he could have been exposed to. He participated in baseball, basketball, cross country, track, hockey, and soccer to name a few. "I was most gifted in endurance sports though," Coach Sheedy says, and he went on to run cross country and track in college.

During college he tore his ACL playing basketball. This horrible injury may have been a blessing in disguise. Sheedy picked up a bicycle to use for rehab, and never looked back. Soon enough the riding quickly turned to racing and within a couple of years he was hired to race on a professional road cycling team. He raced professionally for 7 years, and during that time

he had the opportunity to start and manage a professional road team of his own.

Sheedy started coaching Lees-McRae College's cycling program in 2006. Then in 2007 he retired from racing professionally to focus on coaching collegiate. He coached Lees-McRae to 5 National Championships and over 25 Individual National Champions. Coach also owns a coaching business and has coached individuals privately for over 8 years. Sheedy finds himself coaching at Brevard College as the next phase of his outstanding career.

"I definitely want to be coaching the #1 mountain and road bike team in the country. Beyond that I want to see the students of BC Cycling graduate from here as positive advocates for the sport and cycling lifestyle." Sheedy added that he is looking forward to winning the National Championship his first year here. To reach this goal Sheedy plans to focus on whats in front of him.

"Recruiting is obviously pivotal and fundraising is essential, but I believe the most important thing I need to do is invest in and develop the talent we already have here at Brevard. I am very fortunate to come into a team with such great talent and character. Getting to instruct them and watch them improve is the reason I coach collegiate cyclists, and that will be the reason this team develops and becomes even more successful over time."

