

Cycling wins its first Division I national title

Sarah Hill takes first place in individual omnium

By Calum McAndrew
Editor in Chief

The Brevard College Cycling team won the Division I USA Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championship for the first time in their history, adding to a host of other national championship titles in recent years.

After placing second in their first ever showing in the Division I National Championships last year, the Tornados managed to go one better this year in Snowshoe, W. Va., thanks to the help of several inspired individual performances, and a historic team performance.

Senior Sarah Hill claimed the individual title for women, finishing a tremendous 84 points ahead of second place, totalling 487 points over the entire weekend. Hill, who is in her final semester at Brevard College, was evidently delighted at both her individual success, and the victory for the team.

"I am so overwhelmed," Hill said. "Everything just went exactly right and I couldn't think of a better way to end my collegiate career. Brevard is absolutely the best team in the entire country, and I am confident that I pass the baton onto some amazing riders."

On the men's side, it was junior Walker Shaw who provided the Tornados best showing over the weekend, riding his way to a runner up finish in the men's individual championship. Shaw recorded 296 points in the individual omnium, 34 points behind eventual champion Stephan Devoust of Fort Lewis College.

Also with impressive individual showings for the Tornados over the weekend were sisters Allison and Hannah Arensman, who placed fourth and fifth respectively in the women's individual omnium. Freshman Carson Beckett also had a championship to remember, as he emerged from the men's individual omnium with a total of 240 points.

In addition, the Tornados also emerged as victors from the team relay national championship,

meaning on Sunday, Oct. 23, Brevard captured their first Division I title in this discipline.

The four-person team for this event consisted of Allison Arensman, Beckett, Zack Valdez and Janelle Cole, who together led Brevard to the team relay national title, ahead of Fort Lewis College who placed second, and Savannah College of Art and Design, who finished third.

Rounding off the weekend was the dual slalom event, where sophomore Kyle Grau finished one place ahead of teammate Shaw, placing in sixth and seventh respectively. Also competing in this event were juniors Callum McEwan, who placed 13th, and Zach Hutelin, who finished in 16th place for the event.

For the women in the dual slalom, it was once again Hill who provided the Tornados best performance, finishing in 12th place. Junior Samantha Miranda also competed in this event, finishing up the race in 18th place overall.

The title that Brevard will find the most pride in, however, is the Varsity Omnium first place

result, which hands Brevard their first Division I National Championship in their history. There has not been a shortage of championships and accolades for the team in recent years—in mountain biking alone, the team has five national championships in the previous seven years—but this particular achievement is what years of work has been building up to, according to head cycling coach Brad Perley.

"I'm floored and beyond proud of the efforts put in by our entire team and coaching staff this weekend," Perley said. "It's certainly the culmination of lots of hard work over the years, and it wouldn't be possible without all the great people in this program."

After a weekend full of racing, Brevard found themselves over 100 points ahead of third placed Marian University, and 59 points ahead of eventual runners up Fort Lewis College, in what will go down as a historic weekend not just for the Brevard College Cycling team, but for the College as a whole.



Photo Courtesy of BC Athletic Media Relations

The BC cycling team poses on the podium after their most recent National Championship success.