



March 15, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Sheri Clark  
Race Director  
(559) 285-7932

### PRO CYCLISTS TO VISIT AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

VISALIA — Just days away from racing in this weekend's highly anticipated Quad Knopf Sequoia Cycling Classic, professional cyclists will Friday take a message of safety to area school children.

Professional cyclists competing in this weekend's National Race Calendar event are scheduled to visit Pro-Youth HEART After-School Programs in Visalia and Exeter. The program will begin at 4 p.m. at Four Creeks Elementary School, 1844 N. Burke St., Visalia, while visits will begin at 3:30 p.m. at the following schools:

- Washington Elementary School, 500 S. Garden St., Visalia
- Crowley Elementary School, 214 E. Ferguson Ave., Visalia
- Houston Elementary School, 1200 N. Giddings St., Visalia
- Lincoln Elementary School, 333 S. D St., Exeter

"It's a chance to talk to students about bike safety and how important it is to wear a helmet and be safe," said Mike Camarena, Quad Knopf Sequoia Cycling Classic pro/team liaison.

Cyclists will also inspire children enrolled in HEART to pursue an active lifestyle and stay on a positive course in life by staying in school and participating in healthy extracurricular activities, Race Director Sheri Clark said.

Pro-Youth is a nonprofit organization that sponsors the HEART After-School Program. HEART, which stands for Homework, Enrichment, Acceleration, Recreation, Teamwork, complements learning by providing free homework assistance, literacy and math training for children in kindergarten through sixth grade every day that school is in session.



P.O. Box 155 • Lindsay, CA • 93247  
[www.sequoiaclassic.org](http://www.sequoiaclassic.org)



Racing for the two-day Quad Knopf Sequoia Cycling Classic kicks off at 8 a.m. (pro racing starts at 12:30 p.m.) Saturday at Exeter High School, while on Sunday the race moves to downtown Visalia. There, the Visalia Criterium will begin at 7:30 a.m. and finish with the pro men's race scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m. at Acequia Avenue and Johnson Street.

During the Visalia Criterium children 12 and under will get the chance to get out and get active by participating in a free Kid's Race. The bike race, scheduled to start at 1:10 p.m. Sunday, is a .7 mile lap around the course. Although the race is free, children must have helmets, bikes and be at the event by noon to register for the event. Parents must be present to sign waivers for children to participate.

Both children and adults can also participate in the Jeff Barnes Brain Injury Foundation Charity Walk/Run, scheduled to begin at 3 p.m., just prior to the pro men's race. A \$10 donation is requested to participate in the 0.7-mile walk/run, which will raise funds to benefit the The Jeff Barnes Brain Injury Foundation. The Foundation is a Visalia-based non-profit public foundation that works to provide assistance to brain injured persons and their families and educates the public through campaigns, one of which provides bicycle and skateboard helmets to children

Hundreds of pro athletes are competing in the Quad Knopf Sequoia Cycling Classic with hopes of taking home more than \$40,000 in cash and prizes. The event is on the National Race Calendar, which means professional racing teams can earn points toward USA Cycling's National Championship by competing.

"This is a pivotal year because it's an opportunity for the Visalia area to prove that people are serious about bicycle racing and supporting the event," Clark said. "It's very much a community effort."

For more information on the Quad Knopf Sequoia Cycling Classic, contact Sheri Clark at (559) 285-7932 by e-mail at [Sccracedirector@yahoo.com](mailto:Sccracedirector@yahoo.com) or Mike Camarena at 333-4107.

### **About USA Cycling**

USA Cycling is a family of organizations that promote and govern different disciplines of the sport, and works as one to build the sport of bicycle racing, assist with athlete development and sustain international competitive excellence.

### **About Quad Knopf**

Established in 1972, Quad Knopf provides professional services for projects in both the public and private sectors. Services provided by our 300-person staff include: civil engineering, land development planning and engineering, architecture, surveying, biological and environmental sciences, land use and environmental planning and construction phase services. Based in Visalia, Calif., the firm also has offices in Bakersfield, Fresno, Roseville, and Reno, Nev.

#