



Press Release
For immediate release

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JeffCo, City of Golden host 2004 Cycling Omnium for Disability Awareness

Adaptive Adventures, a nonprofit organization that provides sports and recreation for adults and children with physical disabilities, is pleased to announce its partnership with the City of Golden and Jefferson County for the 2004 **Rocky Mountain Cycling Omnium & National Handcycle Championships** Memorial Day weekend, May 29 – 31, 2004. The three-day event, presented by Wells Fargo Bank, features professional cyclists racing on the same stage with wheelchair athletes. The event kicks off in Evergreen on Saturday, May 29th with an individual time trial set against the beautiful backdrop of Evergreen Lake and Mt. Evans, and culminates in a fast, exciting short-course criterium through historic downtown Golden on Memorial Day.

Adaptive Adventures' Cycling Director, Ian Lawless, says the event brings the right combination of fast-paced racing and community awareness: "Cycling (and bike racing) are a big part of the outdoor lifestyle in Colorado, and we wanted to take this event to the next level and increase awareness about people with disabilities" said Lawless. Although the event will indeed feature elite "able-bodied" bike racing at its best, it will showcase wheelchair athletes using handcycles. With the 2004 Paralympic games right around the corner, top handcyclists from around the country will be here to compete and prepare for the summer games in Athens, Greece.

In conjunction with the criterium in Golden on Memorial Day, there will also be a Disability Awareness Expo presented by Wells Fargo that includes events and activities for the whole family. "We'll feature local programs that serve people with disabilities, and many local merchants, cuisine, and artists. It should be a true family experience with an opportunity to see some awesome bike racing," said Lawless.

Monica Bascio, 2002 World Handcycle Champion of Evergreen (paralyzed in a 1992 in a skiing accident) is optimistic about this year's event: "Wells Fargo, Jefferson Country, and The City of Golden, are all really supportive of people with disabilities, and its great to race in our own backyard!" National Handcycle Champion, Matt Updike, was paralyzed 6 years ago in a car accident on Highway 93, just 3 miles from the downtown racecourse in Golden. "I'm excited to race in my hometown, and hopefully do well in front of friends and family!" said Updike.

Handcyclists will compete for the official "Stars 'n Bars" National Champion's jersey, a gold medal from The U.S. Handcycle Federation, and more-than \$7,500 in cash and prizes. Able-bodied racers will also battle it out in the first "downtown race" in Golden in over a decade.

Where / When:

Time Trial at Evergreen Lake, 7:00a.m., Saturday, 5/29/04
Circuit Race on Table Mountain in Golden, 11:00 a.m., Sunday, 5/30/04
Criterium & Expo in Golden, 12:00 noon on Monday, 5/31/04.

Who Can Participate:

Handcyclists, ACA Category 1/2/3/4, Masters, Women.

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