



SYMMETRICS
CYCLING TEAM



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SYMMETRICS SUPPLIES DOUBLE TROUBLE FOR US PROS IN BC SUPERWEEK

Press Release presented by Rocky Mountaineer Vacations

VANCOUVER, B.C. (July 13, 2005)

The following press release was issued on July 13, 2005 by the BC Superweek Organization Committee.

The two fastest guns in the West will lead the fight against the seemingly invincible American riders at BC Superweek, a 10-day bike racing festival that includes seven of the best races in Canada.

It begins with the Tour de Delta (July 15-17), Tour de Gastown (July 20), and the Tour de White Rock (July 22-24.)

No BC rider or team has ever won a men's road race or criterium since BC Superweek began in 2003. This year, two stars of the Vancouver-based Symmetrics team, Eric Wohlberg and Svein Tuft, are coming off successful weekends at the Canadian Road Nationals. Tuft, who won the Time Trial title, and Wohlberg, who finished 2nd in the time trial and road race, are confident they can end the domination by US Pro teams.

"Health Net will be the strongest of the US squads and there are a lot of good local riders, but I really think we have the best chance and best team of all," says Symmetrics' wily 40-year-old, Wohlberg, an eight-time National Time Trial Champion riding for a Canadian team for the first time in a decade. "We've got the horsepower and we've got the numbers. We'll have 10 to 12 riders in every event and we've had some fantastic results in the last two months."

Symmetrics has gone from dominating local events to becoming a force on the national and continental scene and being the first Canadian team invited to the exclusive Tour of Georgia where they competed against Lance Armstrong and his Discovery Channel team. They returned home and won the men's and women's BC Road championships as well as major events in Washington and Oregon. Their biggest victory of the year though might have been a second place finish in the Tour de Beauce, where Langley's Svein Tuft lived up to his reputation as the strongest rider in Canada by finishing second in the week-long stage race against the top US pros.

"The team has really gelled," says Tuft. "We've really learned how to race together. We know everyone's strength and ability. We've got a lot of time trial guys who can go fast but nobody's racing for themselves. They're all great guys committed to doing whatever it takes to win. Last year we were happy with what ever we could get but this year we can ride effectively and go for every stage. We're pretty excited about our chances at BC Superweek."

Symmetrics now has past BC Superweek winners like Wohlberg and 2001 Tour de White Rock winner Andrew Pinfold. They have future stars like the kiddy corps of Marsh Cooper, 18, Christian Meier, 20 and Cam Evans, 21, who is sidelined with a broken kneecap. The biggest

threat of all however remains the enigmatic and enormously talented Tuft, who at 28 is better and happier than ever.

“Svein’s a fantastic athlete, a bona fide star,” says Wohlberg who has raced with and against the best in 20 years on the US Pro circuit. “His confidence level is way up because he’s happy with the situation he’s in. I know he was close to quitting last year but a lot of day to day stresses disappear when you’re on a good team.”

Tuft admits he suffered burnout racing with American teams that used him as a domestique, a slave who did all the hard work early in races setting up the win for other teammates.

“It wasn’t my role, it was more the constant travel that wore me down,” he says. “At first it’s great but they have you sleeping in a hotel room one night, then in a house or a closet or whatever the next night. After three months of it you have to go home and get your head together. I’ve got to be able to do my own thing. That’s why I love Symmetrics. They give me leeway and they don’t try to do every race on the NRC calendar. They pick races that are closer to home and suit our riders and sponsors.

That’s why I’m doing so well now. I sucked early on this year. I didn’t get on a bike until spring but that’s what works best for me. Race a lot all the time and you might physically have form but mentally you’re wasted and don’t have any bullets left for the end. I’d rather be happy and motivated and that’s what I am right now.”

Tuft’s biggest motivation is to finally win a BC Superweek race. He’s come close, finishing second in Delta’s White Spot Road Race in 2001 and Gastown in 2002. “Delta is an awesome road race but there are so many things that can happen there. We’ll have to see how things play out. But old Gastown is definitely at the top of my list. I would love to win that race in front of all those people. That would be something alright.”

The veteran Wohlberg also has high hopes after finally shaking a lingering case of bronchitis that’s plagued him for weeks. A couple of months after his 40th birthday, the man who does a thousand sit-ups a day, was fifth at Redlands, one of the toughest races on the US circuit. As a mentor and role model he’s been a key factor in taking Symmetrics to the next level. He still brings his frying pan to every race. His pancake breakfasts are legendary.

“That’s one of those quirks the guys love to make fun of but they still enjoy eating them,” he chuckles. “We do have a good time on this team. We enjoy hanging out with each other. There’s no friction and everybody’s working for each other. If you get a bunch of Canadians together that’s what you get. Winning takes personal commitment and sacrifice from each and every guy.”

For more BC Superweek information visit www.bcsuperweek.com

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More about Symmetrics Cycling

The Symmetrics Cycling Team is owned and operated by Rusty Chain Projects Inc. Established in 2002, Symmetrics Cycling provides support through leadership, guidance and development within a professional infrastructure to foster the personal and athletic growth of the next generation of Canadian Olympic cyclists. The image of sport contains values very similar to those of co-sponsors [Symmetrics](#), [Westlam](#) and [Northern Feather](#): goodwill, team spirit, dedication, friendship and competition. All companies involved see the team as an opportunity to support these values, widen their brand recognition, and unite employees behind a cause. Symmetrics Cycling is Canada's largest sponsorship in the sport of cycling which includes a development team, women's team, men's professional team and the Cyclist for Charity program: a four-pronged approach with a common foundation based upon the team's commitment to charitable and community projects.

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