

Team Spine News

Team Spine Places as Amateur Team, Masters and 3s Get Podium



The world-famous Sea Otter Classic saw near-perfect weather in Monterey, Calif., as hundreds of world-class riders came to this UCI-ranked stage race and amateur one-day races. Team Spine came away with podium shots nearly every day.

National Champion Mark Caldwell easily took the field sprint to win the 50+ circuit race. In the highly competitive 30+ field, National Champion Michael Hutchinson took 6th in the circuit race and rode away in the road race, with teammate Michael Buckley securing second and Colin Cooper taking fifth, leaving top riders such as former pro Jonathan Boyer far behind.

In the Elite 3 circuit race, late-race moves by David Quist and Jason Williams through the fast downhill finish enabled them to nab 6th and 4th places, respectively. In the next day's road race, Quist overcame early-race torpor and made a strong move in the final climb of the race, a two-mile ascent that led back to the Laguna Seca racecourse. That move earned Quist a 5th-place finish and the honor of being one of the few riders to place both days. Quist will now move up to the Elite 2 category.



coming in a minute after. This was enough to nab Team Spine a spot as the third-placed amateur team in the 2005 Sea Otter Classic.

Media Watch:

Team Spine riders got snapped by pro photographers at Sea Otter, showing up on the Web site www.cyclingnews.com. It's not the best angle, but Spine's distinctive logo was clearly visible as the 1/2/Pro field began the descent on Laguna Seca's infamous corkscrew.



Six Spinners went up against a 124-strong field that included top U.S. pro teams. The first day saw Spine's Wayne Puckett land a 15th placing in the prologue, which made Puckett the second-placed amateur.

This led to Puckett being called up to the line in the next day's circuit race, making for great team exposure before a large and loud crowd. Unfortunately, a mistaken time cut for Puckett would prevent him from starting the next day's road race due to a timing error.

The next day saw a brutal road race, which ended with 61 finishers -- less than half the total of riders who started the stage race. Though Pat Caurant and Paul Reichardt couldn't break the duel to the death between HealthNet and Webcor, both finished mid-field, with Lance Doherty