



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MERCO Credit Union Cycling Classic March 1-2, 2008

Cyclists from around the world will once again hit the streets of downtown Merced in the MERCOCO Credit Union Cycling Classic Presented by McLane Pacific. The event will take place March 1-2, 2008.

This year's main event Saturday, March 1st is the Downtown Grand Prix. From all over the globe, professional cyclists will race on a wide, fast .8 mile track that circles the historic Merced County Courthouse in full view of the crowds. The MCUCC is sanctioned by USA Cycling, the official organization recognized by the United States Olympic Committee responsible for identifying, training and selecting cyclists to represent the United States in international and Olympic competition.

Proceeds from the event benefit the United Way of Merced County. Flip Hassett, Executive Director of our local United Way and the Cycling Classic Event Chair, is excited about this year's event. "This is my second year working on this outstanding show of athletic talent and community pride. I have always been inspired by the community's support of this event. From sponsorships to spectators, the Merced community really shines for this annual event."

Sponsorships are still available and are a great way to support our local United Way and show your community pride. Please contact Jennifer West (209-628-1070) or check the website www.mercocyclingclassic.com for more information. Most sponsorship packages include tickets to the Wal-Mart Hospitality Tent which will be located prominently near the Start/Finish Line where invited guests will enjoy delicious food and a great view of the action.

The race is thrilling to watch, with races starting at 7:30am with the Greg Opinski Construction Junior's Race with young rising competitors ages 15-18. The excitement doesn't stop as races of all levels continue throughout the day every hour.

During the race, a festival atmosphere permeates downtown. There will be bounce houses and other inflatable fun for children at the Educational Employees Credit Union Breakaway Zone. Other free activities include a live band, Johnny Rocket and the Thrust, arts and crafts activities provided by the Merced County Arts Council, the Merced Sun-Star Pee Wee Classic, and the Bike Safety Rodeo. Bring the family to Courthouse Park on March 1 for a day of free fun, thrills, and entertainment!

Source: Jennifer West, J. West Group
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