Tulane takes several wins at UT Austin Season Opener!
February 16-17, 2013

The Tulane Cycling Team opened up the season by putting several riders on the podium for their first race of the season. Second year veteran and so far undefeated rider (from last year) Scott Stewart set the standard for the day by breaking away at the half-way point of the 60 mile Road Race in the Men's B category. He built a 2 minute lead at one point over the hard chasing pack, lead mostly by riders from MSU and Rice University while being held up by Tulane's Zack Berman who was disrupting the chase. Stewart held his lead all the way to the finish, raising his hands in victory far enough ahead that the chasers weren't even in sight. Soon after, the sprint for 2nd place was taken by an LSU rider, with Tulane's Ryan Barnes right on his heels for 3rd place.

Next for the day came the Women's B 50 mile Road Race. The race mostly stayed together all the way to the end, where we saw Ellie Rodebeck, Tulane's only entrant in the field charge to the finish line ahead of LSU's best rider and a duo from UT Austin.

Almost all of the remaining Tulane riders in the C and D categories were racing for their very first time. All had good, respectable finishes in the road race, working out first race jitters and avoiding the inevitable crashes.

Next came the Team Time Trial, a short 6.5 mile test of team VS clock. Tulane's Men's B team easily took first place well ahead of 2nd place MSU. We were not surprised with this. They were less than a minute off the winning time from the A category. Some of our riders will be upgrading soon.

The next day in the multi-lap Criterium race, a timed circuit race, Charlotte Fornier, our new recruit for Women's C held the lead for several laps, eventually getting caught by a group of 3 chasers. Charlotte finished 4th with another of our first timers Katie Duncan taking 9th place in the large women's field. We're already impressed with what the next race will show for them.

Once the Women's B Criterium started, Ellie Rodebeck blasted away from the field, easily lapping the field for first place ahead of Oklahoma and LSU. Ellie was the dominant rider in her category for the weekend.

The Men's C Criterium started off with almost 50 riders on the very short course. All of our C racers did well, keeping out of trouble and fighting hard for top spots. Matt Carvell, a Tulane Senior kept contact with the top 10 in the field, narrowly avoiding a last lap crash to finish 11th place. Our other Tulane racers all finished in the top 20.

Next came our final race of the weekend, the Men's B Criterium. The race immediately split up into a group of 6 animators breaking away decisively. Of the 6 escapees, 3 of them were from Tulane! Again, Scott Stewart attacked off the front, leading several laps clear of the other 5. The previous day must have proved too difficult for him, because soon he was caught and struggling just to maintain contact behind his team mates. The last lap came down to a sprint between these 6, which LSU won with Ryan Barnes taking 2nd for Tulane. Stewart held on for 5th place!

We travel to College Station to meet MSU on their home turf on March 1-3rd. We're ready, fit and well trained! You can keep up with us on our web-site cycling.tulane.edu or keep in touch with us by following us on Facebook.
**Ride with Tulane Cycling Team!** The Rouge Roubaix Grand Fondo allows you the opportunity to ride with the Tulane Riders on the infamous Rouge Roubaix Race Course. Don't worry, this is a non-competitive ride, but it will challenge you. It will be a tough day on the bike but we'll be there for you.

**Wanna Race?** Join the Tulane Cycling Team. Are you a student, undergrad or grad level, we would love to have you among our ranks. Respond to us on Facebook or reach out directly below.

**Would you like to be a part of Tulane Cycling's future?** We are always looking for sponsors and supporters. Contact us at cycling.tulane.edu! We can show you the benefits of sponsoring the team.

Kenny Bellau
Tulane Cycling Team Coach