

IN TOUCH

with Club Sports & RIM

MASTERING THE RIDE

Those whose every wish is to compete in a race where they must propel themselves and their bike up a 24 percent-grade hill as fast as they can, should join the men and women of the cycling team.

The cycling team, one of the 25 club sports on the University campus, is open to all students regardless of experience or ability. Chris Davis, president of the team, and Karl Maxon, coach, urge anyone to join even if they just want help with bike maintenance or equipment use.

"You don't have to be an elite race-horse to cycle," Davis said. "A person's goal could be to complete a century race later in the season or do a tour during the summer."

Maxon will be giving seminars on such topics as proper dress and preparation and riding techniques at the biweekly meetings.

Anyone doubting Maxon's credentials should take a look at his impressive record. He has been racing for 13 years, five of those professionally.

Maxon has raced as an amateur and a professional for French, Italian, and Spanish teams. He has 118 career victories, was a two-time National champion, and was chosen for the U.S. national team four times.

"They twisted my arm to get me involved (in Club Sports)," Maxon said. "I'm just starting to slow down from my own cycling season."

The cycling team is fortunate to have help from Maxon and will be needing much more in the upcoming season.

One problem area is with the lack of women who have joined. Every race has an "A" team, which is made up of the five best riders for that particular type of race. Last year only three women made up the "A" team.

Sara Brown, who rode last year and went with the team to nationals, said it was difficult having only two other women on the team and that their support was critical.

"We were really close with respect to cycling," Brown said. "We protected and defended each other. The support of the women around made it possible to continue despite tough competition and my injuries."

But aspiring women cyclists should not let this deter them. Davis and Maxon are intent on "keeping everyone happy" during workouts and daily rides.

"I don't want anyone to feel dropped," Maxon said. Being "dropped" is when a cyclist is left behind because other riders are in better shape.

"We have to be cohesive as a team," Davis added. "It's important for people to train as a team and function as a unit."



Photo by Michael Shindler