

MSU - Bicycling & bicyclists 5-9-75 MSU VERTICAL FILE

# MSU Cycling Club hosts race

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Described by one cyclist as both the "most punishing" and "most fun to watch" type of bicycle race, MSU's Cycling Club and local area merchants will sponsor the eighth annual MSU Criterium Saturday on West Circle Drive.

The races, totaling seven in all, will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will be sanctioned by the Amateur Bicycle League of America (ABLA). MSU's Dept. of Public Safety will close the circle for the race.

A "criterium" is a race that is held on a course about one mile in distance which, by definition is to include one or two tight turns.

The finish line of the race will be set up near the front of the Union Building. Both the Senior One and Two division competition, which features the fastest and most experienced cyclists, is scheduled to begin at noon, in a combined race.

The senior division races will total close to 35 miles in distance. This varies in the mid- get, junior and women divisions

where the distances are considerably shortened. Each race may have up to 30 riders.

The races are opened only to members of the ABLA. Most participants are expected to be from local area clubs, with some cyclists in the senior divisions coming in from Detroit, Ann Arbor, Ohio State University, and Chicago.

Last spring the Senior One division race was won by MSU's Roger Young, brother of women's world cycling and skating champion Sheila Young. Roger, a sophomore and

former member of the 1972 U.S. Olympic Cycling team, is currently on tour throughout the country and Europe and it is not known whether or not he plans to return to defend his title.

While the races are run under amateur standing, winning cyclists will be able to receive "merchandise" awards. The winner of the senior division one race will be awarded a \$200 bicycle frame. Awards will also be given in the other divisions. The total prize list is estimated at \$750.

Steve DeHart, registration co-chairman and treasurer of the MSU Cycling Club, said there was one casualty last year.

"A duck got run over," DeHart said. "This race isn't exactly violent, but it is punishing for the competitors and probably the most fun kind of cycling race to watch.

"There's some battling for position when the racers accelerate out of the corners and the average speed of the race is much higher than that of a point-to-point road race."

DeHart added that the race offers spectators a chance to see the competitors more than once and at various places in the course, compared to the road race.

MSU will be represented in senior two competition by Cycling Club members Dan Ruffe, senior and president of the club, sophomore Rick Oberle and brothers Rob and Bill Copland, both MSU alumni.

Senior Three competitors include DeHart, a sophomore, Joe Stephansky, a graduate student and sophomore Wolfham Meingast, one of the best bicycle track sprinters, who is also a member of Detroit's Wolverine Cycling Club.