

https://www.swnewsmedia.com/conquering-the-hill-climb/article_99d2242a-9ef6-5211-b820-e299897f88b3.html

Conquering the hill climb

Eric Kraushar
Nov 21, 2016



The state champion middle school mountain bike team from Chaska/Chanhassen, from left, Ben Sampson, Carter Braa, Victor Bolz, Hayden Van Der Meide, Wyatt Betlock, Karis Plath, Chase Kolbow, and Ben Casey.

Submitted Photo

It was a stellar year for the Chaska/Chanhassen High School Mountain Bike Team. The race days were beautiful and the team had its best season ever.

Blake Wosje, 10th grade, ninth in state.

Madeline Pernat, 12th grade, fifth in state.

The team hopes to continue to grow and expand for next year. The tentative schedule puts the first race Aug. 26-27, 2017, in St. Cloud.

If you are interested in joining or just want to find out more about the fun, check out the website at ccmtbike.shutterfly.com, or if you want information regarding the Minnesota State High School Mountain Bike League, go to minnesotamtb.org.

Eric Kraushar

Growing to 44 riders this year, from seventh to 12th grade, the team attracted riders from the two local high schools as well as Southwest Christian High School and even a few riders from Eden Prairie High School.

Each of the races brought podium finishes for riders as well as the team as a whole. Races began early September in Austin, and continued through October with races in Rochester, Duluth, River Falls (Wis.), and Mankato.

The addition of a race at Spirit Mountain in Duluth this year was both challenging and exciting. The fall colors were fabulous for spectators and the course brought new challenges for many of the riders.

The Chaska/Chanhassen team finished strong and had top riders in many age groups. The middle school team made a great showing this year at each race and finished first in the state overall.

Chanhassen High School also rode strong finishing fifth in state.

Individual riders that finished at the top of their age groups this year include:

Ben Sampson, seventh grade, seventh place in state.

Carter Braa, eighth grade, fourth place in state.

Karis Plath, eighth grade, fourth place in state.

Samantha Klepperich, ninth grade, fourth in state.