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### Marin sends 17 high school mountain bikers to nationals

Staff Report  
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Marin Independent Journal

It's officially a banner year for Marin high school riders in the NorCal Mountain Biking League, as the county sends 10 varsity riders and seven junior varsity and sophomore bikers to the USA Cycling mountain bike national championships in Granby, Colo. Competition is Thursday through Sunday.

San Rafael High's Will Curtis and Redwood's Davis Bentley lead the pack, as both figure to be in the hunt for a national title in Category 1 under-19 division. In Category 1 under-17, Marin Catholic's Tony Smith and Redwood's Bjorn Fox should be in the mix, while Drake's Lauren Caitlin looks to challenge for the title in Category 1 under-19.

Other Marin varsity riders competing at nationals are Riley Predum (Drake), Nick Newcomb (Drake), Will Patterson (Branson), Joe Yoham (MC) and Max Houtzager (Redwood). Junior varsity riders include Alec Kassin (Drake), Roman Brockley (Drake), Bobby Zidek (MC) and Sven Beer (Branson), while the sophomore division riders going are Mitch Calder, Tommy Breeze and Sofia Hamilton, all from Drake.

Julia Violich, who coaches several of the Marin riders, was very optimistic about the group's chances at nationals.

"Many of the kids that I coach in Marin are putting it all together. They are training hard, eating right, going to bed early and focusing on the competition," Violich said in a press release. "It is appropriate that Marin, specifically Mt. Tam, the birthplace of mountain biking, is now the breeding ground for

the next generation of top mountain bike cyclists in the country."

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