

# **MANAGERS REPORT SPORTS**

**CODE: Cycling**

## **1. DETAILS**

1.1 **Date: 12 – 23 August 2011**

1.2 **Venue: Shenzhen, China**

## **2. RESULTS**

2.1

Team: The cycling team consists of 7 athletes, 1 manager and 1 coach:

USSA Cycling Team for WSG, Shenzhen, China.

### **Men:**

1. Christiaan Kriek (Maties)
2. Jos Le Roux (Maties)
3. Edward Greene (UCT)
4. Lance Muller (CPUT)
5. Jaco Steynberg (Kovsies)

### **Women:**

1. An-li Pretorius (Tuks)
2. Leandri Du Toit (NWU)

Manager: Francois Du Plessis (NMMU)

Coach: Andrew Smith (Maties)

2.2

### **Individual performances:**

#### **Achievements:**

1. An-li Pretorius: 8<sup>th</sup> Place in 122km road race
2. Christiaan Kriek: 9<sup>th</sup> place in 156km road race
3. Jos Le Roux: 21<sup>st</sup> place in 156km road race
4. Christiaan Kriek: 5<sup>th</sup> in mountain bike race
5. Men's team: 7<sup>th</sup> in 50km Team Time Trial

### **2.3 Overall**

The cycling team performed very well under very difficult circumstances. Three members of the team who had international racing experience did better than those who had not.

In the ladies race, Leandri Du Toit crashed out half way through the race, leaving her teammate vulnerable to attacks and no protection from other teams.

In the men's race, Jaco Steynberg crashed out within the first 6km after a New Zealand rider fell in front of him.

Both Du Toit and Steynberg were checked by the medical staff (x-rays etc). No serious injuries were sustained

2.4 **Number of medals**      0

2.5 **Personal Best Achievements**

Not applicable

## **2.6 Comments:**

The cyclist came into the games very well prepared with 100% commitment from all the athletes. It was however very obvious the difference between the athletes who had international experience to those who had not. Edward Greene, who won the USSA tour a month before and was in great form coming to Shenzhen, was rattled by the closeness of the bunch. That counts the same for Muller and Steynberg. Le Roux and Kriek who went to race and prepare for the Games in Belgium was very comfortable in the bunch, having experienced the type of racing in Belgium.

An-li Pretorius who also went to Belgium with her pro team, did exceptional. During the race she was perfectly placed and only on the very last corner, she was pushed out wide by the Korean team who sent two of their riders on the inside line and subsequently came in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. A teammate would have been a great advantage in the final stages of the race. Du Toit did very well up to the point where she crashed out. For any future games, a minimum of three ladies should be included in the team.

The men's race was held in extreme heat and humidity. In the first lap, a couple of riders broke away from the bunch. In cycling it is a common occurrence and the breakaway never last for more than 50-90km.

Team SA was not in the break unfortunately. The team did well to stay in the bunch for the better part of the race. As mentioned, Jaco Steynberg crashed out of the race after 6km after someone fell in front of him. Edward Greene and Lance Muller were eventually eliminated from the race after losing contact with the bunch.

With a three-man break surviving till the last lap, Jos Le Roux made an attack to try for fourth position. However with 100m to go, he was caught by the bunch, which passed him. Christiaan Kriek came in 6<sup>th</sup> place in the final sprint, giving him 9<sup>th</sup> place overall. The race illustrated once again how important international experience is on this level of racing.

Christiaan Kriek had a small crash at the very first corner of the mtb event. He lost a number of places and it was a battle of will to fight back to 5<sup>th</sup> place. A very credible result.

The men's team time trial was revelation in the level of commitment by SA team. Being the only team on normal road bicycles (no disc wheels, aero bars or time trial bicycles) they came in a very credible 7<sup>th</sup> place. The correct equipment for the event could have taken as much as 3-4 minutes off their final time over the distance. That could have placed the team in medal contention

## **3. TEAMSELECTION**

### **3.1 Selection procedures**

The selection of the athletes took place with the aid of a set of selection criteria as was prepared by the USSA Cycling exec and approved by Cycling SA.

The main selection criteria is the student's performance at the annual USSA Tour

As far as could be established, no South African was studying abroad.

### **3.2 Selection criteria**

After the Universiade, we realized that the selection criteria document should be amended. Athletes, who would want to compete at future student international events, must compete at the South African Championships. International experience should also be considered in selection of a team.

### **3.3 Selectors**

The team was selected by the USSA Cycling exec with consultation of Cycling SA

### **3.4 Management**

The team management of the cycling team was nominated by the USSA Cycling Executive and approved by the USSA NEC.

The original selected coach, Bradley Smith (UJ), had to withdraw from the team due to personal reasons.

**Appointed Managers:** Team Manager – Francois Du Plessis (NMMU)

**Appointed Coaches:** Andrew Smith (Maties)

#### **3.4.1 Recommendations:**

Based on the experience gained at the 2011 Universiade it is vital to better prepare the students for the form of racing that they will compete in. As mentioned, the selection criteria need to change to include compulsory participation in SA Champs due to the same race format. A squad (not final team) should be selected at least a year in advance and they should be given the opportunity to race as a team at national events.

### **3.5 Suggestions for 2013**

Based on the fact that the 2013 Universiade will be in Kazan, Russia, I would like to suggest the following methods of preparation:

- Finalize the team not later than end of April 2013
- Take entire team (including manager and coach) to Europe (preferably Belgium) to compete in at least 4 to 5 races as a team. The team should then depart to Kazan from Belgium. It would be the ideal preparation for the events in Kazan. Time spent in Belgium should be minimum of 10 days.

**Without this suggestion, we will not be able to compete against European countries that race internationally week in and week out.**

## **4. PRE-TOURNAMENT TRAINING CAMPS**

No pre-meetings or training camps had been held!

4.1 Dates: N/A

4.2 Venues: N/A

4.3 Costs: N/A

4.4 **Recommendations/comment:** See point 3.5 above!

4.5 **Suggestions for 2013:** See point 3.5 above!

## **5. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS (LOCAL)**

### **5.1 Means:**

Athletes, team managers and coaches travelled to the holding camp in Pretoria by means of airplanes, cars or mini busses.

### **5.2 Requirements:**

No transport was required for travelling to training venues whilst at holding camp. Only to the O.R. Tambo Airport.

### **5.3 Service providers:**

A transporting company was contracted by USSA to provide the service and it was executed quite sufficiently.

### **5.4 Flights:**

The flights being organized for all the coastal athletes, managers and coaches to get to Pretoria were sincerely appreciated.

### **5.5 Costs:**

The costs of all flights were paid by USSA whilst all other transport used to get team members to Pretoria was at own costs.

### **5.6 Recommendations/comments:**

Due to the nature of the sport, cycling equipment is rather heavy. For future games, allowance for extra weight will be essential. Neither the students nor management can afford to pay for extra baggage weight.

## **6. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS (AT EVENT)**

### **6.1 Means:**

The means of travel in Shenzhen consist mainly of busses.

With the event venue being close to the Village, cyclist rode their bicycles to the event. A pool vehicle was required at times to visit a bicycle shop. It was arranged via HoD and attaches.

Vehicles were provided for the road races and team time trial.

### **6.2 Requirements:**

The bus service provided by the organizers met all necessary requirements and no problems were experienced. Where necessary, it was used.

### **6.3 Recommendations/comments**

Transport was on time and very well organized.

## **7. ACCOMODATION&CATERING**

7.1 **Venue:** A brand new village was erected. It was suitable for all our needs. All necessary facilities were available

7.2 **General Facilities:** Excellent

7.3 **Location:** Close to competition venue.

7.4 **Services:** Good and fast and very friendly assistance received at most posts.

7.5 **Nutrition/menus:** Reasonable variety available

7.6 **Recommendations/comments:** A dedicated storage venue for equipment and bicycles is needed.

## **8. APPAREL (CONTINGENT AND COMPETITION)**

### **8.1 Competition Attire:**

The competition attire as ordered for the athletes were made to perfection. The athletes are very appreciative of the kind gestures!

### **8.2 Competition Requirements:**

The attire had been produced exactly according to the requirements for competition.

**8.3 Preferred manufacturer in future:**

The same company can be used in future, they also supply Cycling SA

**8.4 Ideal requirements (guesstimated costs):**

Should not change in the next few years. Only difference might be long sleeve skin suits.

**8.5 Contingent Attire:**

**Requirements:**

I really think that the needs and requirements of everybody in the contingent had been met to a great extent. The "formal" wear for the opening ceremony was very unique. Team SA probably looked the best from all the countries.

**Quality:**

The material was not ideal for the very hot and humid conditions.

**Quantity:**

The number of items, which were received, was sufficient.

**Clothing distribution and exchange process:**

No problems.

**Recommendations/comments:**

None

**9. MEDICAL**

9.1 **Services:** Professional and friendly assistance provided.

9.2 **Consultation:** Booking systems work well, although medical assistance was available at any time it was required (even late at night).

9.3 **Schedules:** Athletes/other codes noted names in the slots provided and were attended to as such.

9.4 **Physio's:** Well trained and professional.

9.5 **Recommendations/comments:** The ice bath was a brilliant idea, especially in the high heat and humidity the athletes competed in.

**10. COMPETITION MATTERS**

**10.1 Climate:**

Hot and extremely humid

**10.2 Facilities:**

Dedicated cycling course in the sports park. (Both for road race and mountain bike event) The team time trial was held on a stretch of highway that was closed for the event.

**10.3 Competition Schedule:**

The competition schedule was fine, however it would be a good idea to swap the TTT and the road race dates. Have the TTT first and later the week, the road race with the mountain bike race in the middle. It will give the athletes to settle and calm the nerves.

**10.4 Training venues:**

The training was closed for training and was only opened 3 days after arrival. Students were not allowed to train or ride around in the village. It was very frustrating. We managed to source indoor the trainers that helped with preparation.

**10.5 Organization:**

The organization of the presentation of the championships was excellent. However, the competition venue could have opened earlier.  
The 1000's of volunteers did a sterling job.

**10.6 Recommendations/comments:**

The experience gained in Shenzhen must be used in order to achieve better (medals) at future events. Continuity of management will help greatly.

**11.TEAM INFORMATION**

11.1 Photos: Attached are a few taken by the team management.

**12.GENERAL TEAM MANAGEMENT**

12.1 **Liaison with Head of Delegation and Chef de missions and team:** A friendly disposition and available policy were required. Priority was the athletes in all regards. Cycling was well supported by HoD and was much appreciated.

12.2 **Communication:** Good. The newsletter was an excellent idea.

12.3 **Hospitality & Logistics:** Cleaning staff was friendly and provided the necessary service as stipulated.

**13. COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTATION**

**13.1 Finances: –**

Due to the fact that all expenses were paid by the sponsor (SASCOC) no contributions were demanded from the athletes. Our sincerest gratitude are hereby forwarded to the sponsor and USSA for this fantastic gesture towards university sport.

The allowance to the management and athletes were very much appreciated.

**Income and Expenditure Statement:**

The hire of four indoor trainers was required. A deposit of Y1000/trainer and a further Y20/day/trainer

Slips: Will be provided at de-briefing

**Invoices:**

N/A

**Match Result Sheets:**

Will accompany report

**COACHES REPORT**

To follow

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

It is with much appreciation that cycling was invited to be part of the wonderful experience. For some of the students, it will be their only opportunity to represent their country. I strongly believed that the cyclist did their very best under trying circumstances and with more experience; I believe a medal(s) is in the pipeline at the next games, provided the students gain international experience.

**SIGNED**

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