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LOCAL

Lake Travis bikers win THSMBL state title

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Published 12:01 a.m. CT May 22, 2014 | Updated 7:07 p.m. CT Sept. 26, 2018

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The Lake Travis mountain bike team celebrates its second consecutive Texas High School Mountain Bike League state championship in Troy. *Austin American-Statesman*

Lake Travis mountain bikers raced to their second straight Texas High School Mountain Bike League state championship at the Tangle in Troy Race on May 4 in Troy.

The race was the last as part of the five-race season in the league, which is scored throughout the season to determine a state champion.

Lake Travis riders raced in dedication to Ken Parmerter, one of the founding coaches of the Lake Travis Mountain Bike club program. Parmerter died on April 30 after cardiac arrest during the swimming phase of a triathlon.

The memory of Parmerter swept the race venue in Troy. Red and white bands with *"This Ride's For You Coach Ken"* circled racers' wrists. Cavaliers marked "KP" on their legs and arms and stickers plastered their helmets.

Lake Travis riders rode with determination on a hot and breezy Sunday, on a difficult course which featured steep climbs and tight single track. Every rider contributed to winning the state title, with Austin High coming in a close second individually.

Individual state champions are based on a rider's scores over their top four of five races, and Lake Travis produced two: freshman Bradyn Lange, a standout at the junior varsity level, and Garret Jeter, who wore the freshman division leader's jersey for all five races.

Final overall results included several top five podium finishes: Danielle Cogburn, (4th junior varsity), Wes Fig (3rd junior varsity), Connor Depew (3rd freshman), Tor Lundstrom (5th varsity) and Katelyn Pervis (3rd varsity).

In 2012, Danielle Cogburn was Lake Travis' only girl riders. Two years later, seven girls rode for the Cavalier team.

“The idea of racing a mountain bike can be intimidating, especially coming onto a state championship team,” said coach Catherine Jackson. “However, the girls will tell you they all have different levels of skills and it’s about much more than racing. Within our team, new students feel a strong sense of camaraderie and discover new friendships. There is no other high school sport where the coaches are able to ride with their athletes and be role models for the sport. It is truly a unique experience.”

After two years at the top, what is ahead for the Cavs?

Seniors Cogburn and Katelyn Pervis move on after this season. Others who graduate in June are Tor Lundstrom, Ryan O’Deens, Jeremy Polanski, Sam Rogers and Eric Parks.

“It is both sad and gratifying to say goodbye to our wonderful seniors, some of whom have been with us all three years,” said coach Kelly Heath. “They were instrumental in our team’s success, both on and off the trail. Fortunately, given the strength of our younger riders and the incoming crop of current 8th graders, the team is in a prime position to defend its title again next year.”

Lake Travis Middle School students can join the mountain bike club directed by Travis Butler. Wayne Fig will launch a Hudson Bend Middle School club next year.