



A Youth Bicycle Race - May 25-27, 2018

Welcome to the 2018 edition of the Hayman Classic, a truly special event.

Comprised of four races over three days, it stands almost alone on a yearly cycling calendar that caters overwhelmingly to adults. What makes the Hayman Classic distinctive is that it is open only to young cyclists, meaning those aged 13 to 19.

More than that, the races are designed to give them a European-style experience of riding in groups or alone over courses that challenge their skill, strength and stamina against top juniors from British Columbia, Canada and the United States. For coaches and trainers, it's a chance to take the measure of the next generation of cyclists.

For Ron Hayman, the former Olympian and pro racer behind the Hayman Classic, it's an opportunity to nurture and encourage young riders, but more important to give them a chance to compete, to have a "real-world experience," as he puts it. Too often, he says, young riders devote hours and hours to training but rarely if ever have the chance to succeed – and fail and learn – from a hard-fought race. The Hayman Classic helps to fill that void.

So here are some of the key points of the competition:

*** Morning of Friday, May 25.** The first event is a time trial in which riders compete to have the fastest time over a set course, which in this case runs over some 11



kilometres from Okanagan Falls to the parking lot at Painted Rock Winery. The final section up Smythe Road to Painted Rock features stinging grades of 16 to 18 per cent.

*** Afternoon of Friday, May 25.** The second event is a multi-lap circuit race around the track at Area 27, Canada's hot new motorsport speedway southeast of Oliver. Nestled among vineyards and hills, this track dips, rolls and climbs over 4.8 kilometres of impeccable asphalt – no potholes here. Area 27 was used last year for the first time by the Hayman Classic. It garnered rave reviews from cyclists.

* **Morning of May 26.** In this event, riders will compete in a criterium on Riverside Drive in Penticton. A criterium is a race in which riders are repeatedly challenged by tight turns over multiple laps of a fixed course. The turns are a true test of a rider's ability to brake and accelerate around corners in a pack and at high speed.

* **Morning of May 27.** In the final event of the competition, riders will take part in a road race over multiple laps of a course with punishing climbs and sharp descents through and around Oliver.

* There will be winners in each of these four events. But one of the special features of the Hayman Classic is that it is also a stage race, meaning the finishing times in the four events are added together to give each rider an overall time for the full competition, and the best of these will also be honoured.

* This year, for the first time in its four-year history, the Hayman Classic has been added to the national junior race calendar. This is a significant development for the Classic which can now boast of being one of only three events on the junior national race calendar. The others are the Tour de la Releve in Rimouski, Que. and the national championships.

* Elsewhere on this page, you will find some biographical information on Ron Hayman, as well as an edited transcript of an interview with him in which he talks about his many cycling triumphs and the importance of building the sport through youth training and competition.

* For media who require visuals, there is an excellent video by photographer and film-maker Chris Stenberg that features interviews with some of B.C.'s best young cyclists.

* All of this material – press releases, video, interview, bio information – may be used free of charge.

I'm here to help. My name is Peter Maser and I can be reached at 250-328-4616 or maser1952@gmail.com. Don't hesitate to call or email.