

**Nature Valley Grand Prix Organizers Launch Track Event  
Minnesota Fixed Gear Classic, June 7-8, 2008, Blaine Minnesota**

Minneapolis, MN (April 25, 2008) --- The organizers of the Nature Valley Grand Prix, the top ranked race on the National Racing Calendar, have agreed to host a track race before their event. The track race, named the MN Fixed Gear Classic, will be held on June 7 - 8, with the Nature Valley Grand Prix following on June 11 - 15.

“Partnering up with this major road event is a great opportunity to get serious media attention for track racing, something that our sport desperately needs,” noted Bob Williams, National Sports Center Velodrome Director. “We have commitments from some of the world’s premiere track cyclists, including several Beijing hopefuls. We are especially excited that Roberto Chiappa, the perennial Italian National Champion and former World Champion sprinter, will be taking part in our events. He will bring excellent form with him, coming off a first place sprint effort at the LA World Cup and a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish at the recent World Championships.”

The track races will take place at the National Sports Center Velodrome, just north of Minneapolis. The track is an Olympic standard 250m structure built by Ralph Schurman in 1990 and is part of the world-class National Sports Center campus. “Our track has, arguably, the best racing surface in North America and will likely be one of the last afzelia wood tracks ever built. The 1992 Olympic trials were hosted here, as well as the 1999 and 2000 EDS Cups and 2001 Elite Nationals. We hope to bring this beautiful track back into the national spot light,” Williams added.

The Nature Valley Grand Prix is the center of a frenzy of media coverage and hopes to bring track racing into the same spotlight. Both days of track racing will be webcast live, with Saturday's racing on [www.myfox9.com](http://www.myfox9.com) and Sunday's on [www.nscsports.org/velo](http://www.nscsports.org/velo). Track race highlights will also be included in the TV program aired on Fox Sports Net and on Versus in August.

“We have a unique opportunity to reach the broader cycling audience. On Sunday, June 8, the NSC velodrome is the destination for the MS150, a huge, two-day recreational ride with over 3,500 participants. These people, who are largely unaware of track racing, will be delivered right to our event. They are very influential throughout the cycling community and will be great messengers to help spread the word about track racing if we can put on a good show for them,” David LaPorte, Nature Valley Grand Prix Director, noted

In addition to building the sport of track racing, event organizers are working to raise funds to support a major re-construction effort for the NSC Velodrome, a wonderful, one-of-a-kind structure. The racing surface is in excellent shape but the substructure is constructed of untreated pine and only has 3 - 5 years of life left. Event officials hope to build a national event to position the track to raise the money for an upgraded substructure. “Riders from outside of Minnesota can help us in the quest by attending and thus building the national profile of our event. We are excited to have the support of the world track community in improving this unique Velodrome,” Williams continued.

The racing program will include a mix of sprint and endurance events. There will also be an invitational flying 1 lap attempt (men/women) to establish a track record for this effort. The purse for the 2-day event is approx. \$5,000. Rain date is Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Host housing and low-cost dormitory housing at the National Sports Center are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Learn more at [www.nscsports.org/velo](http://www.nscsports.org/velo). Rider inquiries should be directed to James Tainter, rider liaison: [jtainter@nscsports.org](mailto:jtainter@nscsports.org).

## Planned Race Events

### June 7

Women 1 Lap standing TT  
Men Flying 200 M TT  
Women 1 Mile Sprint heats , 6 laps  
Men Chariot heats  
Women Miss and Out  
Men 50 Lap Points Race  
Women Keirin heats  
Men Miss and Out  
Women 1 Mile Sprint Final  
Men Chariot Final  
Women Keirin Final  
Men 12 K Scratch Race Final  
Women 10 K Points Race

### June 8

Women Handicap heats  
Men 1 Mile Sprint heats  
Women Miss and Out  
Men Keirin heats  
Women Chariot heats  
Men Miss and Out  
Women Handicap final  
Men 1 Mile Sprint final  
Women Chariot final  
Men Team Sprint TT  
Women Team Pursuit TT  
Men Keirin final  
Women 12K Scratch final  
Men 20 K Pts /Madison