



# SPRAD TRACKS

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Tracks #16 October 31st 2003



Tracks Staff Photo

## Up Your Nose~ by 7 Spradley

September 20<sup>th</sup> CKMBC endurance racer Cameron Chambers made another trip to Oklahoma. Roman Nose Lake resort played host to the first annual "Up Your Nose" 24-Hour endurance race. Fresh off his World Championship win, Roman Nose would be Cameron's second 24-Hour competition. I made up Cameron's 3-person support crew along with Joel Kubitscheck, and his companion Jill Matsumoto. Event promoters, Candy Joubert, and Randy Burghart provided a well-worked 7.2-mile course, consisting of some tough climbs, technical rock descents, and one great view from inspiration point. The small man-made lake took on a circus atmosphere with the various tents, canopies, and the huge Red Bull arch that is showing up more frequently, as their support for extreme competition grows.

Cameron and I camped out Friday night at the Nose. Too early Saturday morning I stood and watched the mist sliding across the surface of the water. It twisted and spiraled upwards as it retreated from the warming shoreline, resembling ghostly wind devils dancing in the morning fog. The water was so calm and dark, it looked like a black linoleum floor spread out before me. As I stood there in my stocking feet, I resisted the urge to walk across it, and smiled at the irony of the calmness, considering the struggle to come. Cameron was already up preparing gear for the challenge. Across the lagoon, the sounds of a race event coming to life were drifting across the water. We decided to move our campsite closer to the event course for the next 24-Hours. Cameron and I did the dome tent-walking move we had perfected with Brad Cole's help in Colorado, an entertaining pre-race sight with an 8-man tent. After the dome was staked back down, I hooked up the B.O.B. (Beast of Burden) bike trailer and moved the rest of Camp LATR. Cameron attached his

number and set-up his customary supplies. Joel and Jill joined us minutes after we finished resetting the campsite, hmmm...

At high noon, the Solo competitors with 2 and 4-man teams and one lone Co-ed team ran under the big Red Bull archway heading for their bikes. At the scoring table local riders were speculating lap times. I heard one say a 37 to 35 minute lap would be smoking fast on this course. 33 minutes later Cameron and one of the 4-man team racers crossed through the transition tent for the first of many laps. The team rider handed off the baton to his partner, while Cameron handed off his empty water bottle. Little more was said about 35 minutes being a fast lap time. Two laps later Cameron completed the 7.2 mile course in an unbelievable 27 minutes and 26 seconds. That would claim the fastest lap award for the day as well as set an all time fastest lap time for the course.

Working as Cameron's support crew on a fast 7-mile course will keep you busy. Every 33 to 37 minutes there was something to do. This went on for hours! Chambers pounded out the laps stopping only long enough to replenish liquids and swallow a few energy packets. By 3 PM, people were coming by Camp LATR to ask if he ever stopped riding. Each time our answer was "Not really". By 4:30, Chambers had lapped all the other solo competitors at least once. Many he led by 8 or 9 laps only 4 hours into the competition. Finally at 6PM, LATR's long distance pedal pusher stopped long enough for fresh clothing and to break out the really nutritional snacks, cookies, chips, jerky, all your typical couch potato stuff. Guess it makes a difference whether you are eating them on the couch, or on lap 7 or 8 of a 24-Hour race.

The completion of the next lap signaled time to mount the headlights and prepare for the dark and spooky night rides. Earlier in the day I had ridden the course for pictures, I was looking forward to another trip after dark. Shortly after Cameron's 10PM stop, I mounted my Sugar and switched





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on 30 watts of dual beams to venture out onto the shadowy course. There were fewer racers circling the course than on my ride in the afternoon. Many of the solo riders had opted for some power napping, and some teams were also poorly represented in the witching hours. I sat in the dark on inspiration point watching threatening skies flash brightly in the distance. Time passed slower on the dark ridge than it had in the pits below. Finally, near midnight as the threatening skies drew nearer, Cameron provided the photo ops I was waiting for as he passed by. I packed the camera gear back into its carrier and headed on down the trail as a light mist started to fall.

Less than a mile down the trail and the mist had turned into a steady, light rain. I hide in the darkness of the trees listening to the rain spatter on the leaves above me. I knew it would be playing havoc on the psyche of riders that had been riding for 12+ hours. The rain subsided for a time, and I made my way on to a couple other photo spots. After capturing Cameron on film for the second and third time after sunset, I made my way back to camp LATR. Joel, Jill and I traded off sleeping and filling hydration packs throughout the rest of the night. Always in the distance, there was the sound of rolling thunder and the ominous flash of light.

As the morning light broke over the horizon, Cameron had a commanding lead. 10-laps ahead of his nearest competitor with less than 5 hours left to ride, his victory was certain. I made a run into Watonga for a bag of Sonic breakfast burritos for the team. As I returned, the morning light showed promise of more rain in the very near future. I pulled in at about 9PM as Cameron just pulled out on what was to be his final lap. The rain started to fall again, this time with more resolve than the sporadic showers during the night. As Cameron rounded the course the rain increased in intensity. The red Oklahoma mud was turning into wheel stopping mud pottery on the bike frames. Cameron completed the lap and stopped to devour a burrito or two.

While we ate, several riders that had started out onto the course returned carrying bikes packed with mud to the point of being un-rideable. With no possibility of any solo riders amassing enough laps to overtake Cameron, he decided to clock in for his final time. With a belly full of breakfast burritos, Chambers strolled down to tell the official scorers, 26 laps would suffice. Even with some valiant last lap efforts by the second place solo rider, they were. Cameron finished his second 24-Hour event with a 9-lap margin of victory on a 7.2-mile course. Covering nearly 200 miles in 24-Hours, backing up his T-Bird 12-

Hour and Trail of Tears wins, Chambers solidified his now almost legendary status with the Oklahoma endurance-racing crowd. As we packed up the gear, Cameron even indulged a few fans with autographs.

The Roman Nose, Up Your Nose, was the last event as a Team LATR racer for the Great Bend bicycling prodigy. Ten days before the event Chambers received a call from Subaru-Fisher Mountain Bike race team. The Gary Fisher mounted, Subaru sponsored team was rated as America's top-ranked mountain bike team in 2000 and 2001. With many World Championship wins and riders in 2002 and 2003, Team Subaru-Fisher is a powerhouse competitor in fat tire racing. The Fisher team has provided Cameron with one team issue bike at this time with another one on the way shortly. Chambers will be riding solo with full team support in October's landmark endurance event, the 24-Hours of Moab. A top finish at this event will almost certainly secure this Midwest Kansas rider a spot on one of the Nation's top teams for '04. As Team LATR bids a sorrowful farewell to our top competitor, we wish him all the endurance he needs to show competitors from around the globe what flatlanders are capable of. And remember Cameron, no matter what name is on your jersey, It's still not a ride until somebody bleeds. 7~



Jill proves all niters even make the support crew a little crazy  
Roman Nose photos by Joel Kubitscheck



<http://www.redbull.com/>



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**Dirt Bag**  by gerard arantowicz



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## Coming in Tracks #17

Review of the Celebration Ride at Doug Palen's. Great time, fun trails, a downhill that reminded me of the Dirt Bag above. If you can't wait for the coverage contact Doug for your own guided tour.

The long promised coverage and photo's from Palo Dura Canyon near Amarillo Texas.

More from Jess Wundren, a new Tech Tracks, and submissions from the guest eds.

As always, I welcome any comments, suggestions, or submissions. Tracks is done for your enjoyment so if you ain't happy it ain't right.

You just might not want to offer those comments or suggestions as I am getting up off the ground!

Special thanks to all the guest authors and photographers that have contributed material to the past publications. Keep them coming, Tracks will be even better in 2004!



For more information about CKMBC or mountain biking in the Midwest check out *Tracks Online* @

