

# SPORTS

## CU club triathlon team grabs the national title in California

By MIKE SANDROCK  
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A strong performance in the bicycling leg of the collegiate triathlon championship gave the CU club triathlon team the national title.

The 18-person CU squad won the Triathlon Federation USA Collegiate National Title Sunday at Lake San Antonio, Calif., beating several larger California teams. CU was led by Adam Hodges, third overall for the men, and Patricia Rodriguez, fourth for the women. There were roughly 1,000 racers.

"We're really excited," said CU triathlete Erin Collins, a junior journalism major. "We were pretty confident we could win, but there were five California teams gunning for us."

One of those was "a huge" University of California-Santa Barbara squad, which had "Beat CU" written on its swim caps. "They really had it in for us," said Collins. She said CU used strong biking legs to beat Santa Barbara by 12 minutes.

The competition consisted of a half-mile swim, a 20-mile bicycle ride and a 4.5-mile run. All 18 team members

raced, with the times of the top three females and males added together for a total team score. CU's total was 10 hours, 42 minutes and 32 seconds, breaking the course record by 24 minutes.

"The weather was really warm and the water was really cold," said Collins. "And it was a very hilly course for the biking and running, like Flagstaff Mountain. Racing at sea level really helped us."

Other scorers for CU were Scotty Scott (10th, 1:38.32); Ian Ramsey (18th, 1:42.06); Danelle Ballengee (fifth, 1:53.52) and Kate Hyland (10th, 1:59.31). All are CU students.

Ballengee also took part in the Half-Ironman race on Saturday; her first-place finish in the 20-24 age bracket qualified her for the Hawaii Ironman in October.

The CU triathlon team meets Saturday mornings for team bicycle rides and Sunday mornings for team runs. Club members train on their own during the week. The club is looking for a sponsor and wants to expand its roster in the fall. Anyone interested in joining can call coaches Kevin King (545-5255), Steve Brawley (443-6281), or Collins (541-9875).



CU triathlon team member Erin Collins (right) applies a race number to teammate Chris Ramsey during the national championships in Lake San Antonio, Calif.