



Dynamic 15-Rider Roster Announced for Lupus Racing Team

ATLANTA (January 14, 2016) – The Lupus Racing Team, a second-year UCI Continental team, has confirmed a roster of 15 athletes representing five countries for the 2016 professional road cycling season. Eight of the riders are new signings, with an average of 24 years of age.

The most experienced rider to join the Team will be a key leader for UCI stage races, Jure Kocjan, a 31-year-old from Slovenia. Entering his 12th year as a professional road cyclist, Kocjan raced in 2013 for Euskaltel - Euskadi, a WorldTour team. Moving to Team SmartStop in 2014, he won the sprint classification jersey at the Grand Prix Cycliste de Saguenay (UCI 2.2) and the Larry H. Miller Tour of Utah. He also won a stage of the Tour of Utah (UCI 2.HC) last year, wearing the leader's jersey for one day.



Nicolae Tanovitchii is a 22-year-old from Moldova, who moves from Jelly Belly presented by Maxxis. Tanovitchii finished third in the general classification and was named Best Young Rider at last year's North Star Grand Prix (National Racing Calendar). At age 20, he captured the U23 Moldova Individual Time Trial National Championship.

Additional new riders include Chad Beyer (USA), Marcos Lazzarotto (Brazil), Bryan Lewis (USA), Jonah Mead-VanCourt (USA), Barry Miller (USA) and Nolan Tankersley (USA). Beyer was a guest rider for the Lupus Racing Team at Tour of Alberta (UCI 2.1) in 2015. A former WorldTeam rider with BMC Racing Team (2009-11), he earned 18 Top 10 finishes last year.

Seven riders return to the U.S.-based squad, who accounted for 49 Top 10's last season: Winston David (USA), Oliver Flautt (USA), Matthieu Jeannes (France), Evan Murphy (USA), Michael Olheiser (USA), Michael Stone (USA), and Thomas Vaubourzeix (France).

Olheiser finished fifth overall in the USA Cycling Professional Individual Time Trial National Championship last year. Vaubourzeix joined Lupus Racing Team last July, finishing eighth on general classification at the Tour of Qinghai Lake in China (UCI 2.HC) and sixth overall in the King of the Mountain classification. He was third in G.C. at the 2014 Tour of Qinghai Lake.

"It is great to have such an international roster of talented riders for our second season at the UCI Continental level. The riders bring a great deal of strengths that will give us the flexibility to build aggressive rosters from one-day races to week-long stage races. The younger riders will definitely rely on the leadership of veterans with WorldTour experience, Jure (Kocjan), Chad (Beyer)," said Sports Director Phil Cortes. "We are all about aggressive racing, supporting our partners, and we are here not just for a solid 2016, but for the long haul."

All riders will join Cortes in Georgia Feb. 4-10 for the official kick-off events for the 2016 season. A Team Presentation event will be held in Atlanta on Feb. 5, hosted by Peachtree Bikes in north Buckhead. Winter training camp will commence in Pine Mountain, Ga. the next five days for the team to acclimatize to new equipment and personnel.

2016 Lupus Racing Team Roster

Name (age*)	Hometown	Twitter
Chad Beyer (29)	Scottsdale, Ariz.	@thachad
Winston David (28)	Greenville, S.C.	@winstondavid87
Oliver Flautt (22)	Atlanta, Ga.	@OliverFlautt
Matthieu Jeannes (28)	Saint Yvi in Brittany, France	@MatthieuJeannes
Jure Kocjan (31)	Naklo, Slovenia	@JureKocjan
Marcos Lazzarotto (25)	Bento Gonçalves, Brasil	@marcoslazzarotto
Bryan Lewis (25)	Roanoke, Va.	@bryanlewis13
Jonah Mead-VanCourt (19)	Ithaca, N.Y.	@jmead_jonah
Barry Miller (27)	San Francisco, Calif.	@barrymiller
Evan Murphy (27)	New York, N.Y.	@rualrite
Michael Olheiser (40)	Huntsville, Ala.	@trainhard4life
Michael Stone (24)	Monroe, Ga.	@mikestone21
Nolan Tankersley (20)	Erwin, Tenn.	@Rollen_Nolan
Nicolae Tanovitchii (22)	Chisinau, Moldova	@Nikolai5593
Thomas Vaubourzeix (26)	La Croix Valmer, France	@VaubourzeixT

* ages as of January 14, 2016



Follow the Team

Web: LupusRacingTeam.com

Twitter: [@LupusRacingTeam](https://twitter.com/LupusRacingTeam) (#LPRpurple)

Facebook: [LupusRacingTeam](https://www.facebook.com/LupusRacingTeam)

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About Lupus Racing Team

The Lupus Racing Team is owned and operated by Cycle Culture, Inc., a 501(c)3 Georgia business with offices in Atlanta and New York. This is the fourth year Cycle Culture has operated a cycling team, and the second consecutive year the team will compete internationally as a UCI Continental squad. The Team partners with the [Georgia Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America](#) to raise awareness and improve funding for an illness that affects 55,00 Georgians and 1.5 million Americans. Lupus is a chronic, autoimmune disease that can damage any part of the body, for which there is currently no known cure. Learn more about the Team, beneficiary and sponsors at LupusRacingTeam.com. Follow the team on Twitter ([@lupusracingteam](https://twitter.com/lupusracingteam)) and Facebook ([LupusRacingTeam](https://www.facebook.com/LupusRacingTeam)).

About the Lupus Foundation of America, Georgia Chapter

The Lupus Foundation of America is devoted to solving the mystery of lupus, one of the world's cruellest, most unpredictable and devastating diseases, while giving caring support to those who suffer from its brutal impact. The Foundation leads the fight to improve the quality of life for all people affected by lupus. The Georgia Chapter is the only statewide resource for the 55,000 Georgians living with lupus. The impact on the patients and families served and empowered by the Georgia chapter is compelling. In 2016, the Georgia Chapter will host eight educational symposiums and workshops, including the first programs in Tipton and Kennesaw. There are more than 30 statewide support groups for people with lupus, and the Georgia Chapter holds the country's largest Walk to End Lupus Now with 14,000 walkers raising more than \$600,000 in 2015. Ninety percent of every dollar donated funds essential education programs, patient support, advocacy and awareness in more than 120 counties across the state. For more information, visit LupusGA.org, and follow us on Twitter [@LupusGeorgia](https://twitter.com/LupusGeorgia), Facebook at [facebook.com/LupusGeorgia](https://www.facebook.com/LupusGeorgia) and Instagram [@lupusgeorgia](https://www.instagram.com/lupusgeorgia).

Photo courtesy of Brent Asay-Tour of Utah

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