

Brothers on top of bike world

By Colleen Winter, SPECIAL
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BARRIE - The Disera brothers, Peter and Quinton, started this year's mountain biking season at the top of their game and if their current results are any indication their wheels of success have kept on turning.

After five Ontario Cup races both are ranked first in their age divisions, U17 and U15 respectively, on the Ontario Cup Mountain Biking circuit.

While many riders would be happy with that accomplishment, the Ontario Cup series is only part of a training regime designed for something bigger.

At the Canadian Cross Country Mountain Biking Championships in July, held in Canmore, Alberta, the older Disera raced for the first time on one of the projects for the Ontario Team. The mountainous terrain held a few surprises for him even outside the warnings of bears in the area.

"There's stuff out there where you had to drop your butt way back or you were going over [the handlebars]," Peter said, comparing it to Hardwood Ski and Bike where he trains as part of team Hardwood. "Even on the steep stuff here I never have to get off my seat."

As part of the under 17 expert men division the course consisted of three 6.7 kilometre loops.

"There was a long climb at the start and when it descended it went and went until a gruelling climb at the finish," Peter said.

It was the perfect kind of race for Peter who thrives on long, flowing downhill where the less he uses the brakes the better.

He spent the race battling for first with Marc-André Fortier of Quebec who he previously beat in the Canada Cup at Hardwood Hills.

After getting tangled with some junior riders on the course, Peter finished second, twelve seconds behind Fortier and five minutes ahead of third.

On a shorter 5.6 kilometre loop the younger Disera had his own challenges when he competed as the sole representative from Ontario in the Iron Lung Grand Nationals.

"It was hilly and the single track was really fast," Quinton said.

As a twelve year old he competed in the Alberta Cup in the under fifteen division and finished third.

There are still plenty of races left in the season, including the provincials held at Highlands Nordic in September plus the Wednesday Night series at Hardwood and Thursday nights in Bracebridge.

It's a schedule that leaves many competitors in their wake, but the Disera's live for it.

"I still love it," says Quinton, who has one or two rest days a week. "It's about getting out on the bike, not about the training."

Peter will be in the under 19 category next year which means he can compete in World Cups provided he makes the national team.

"[My strategy] is to sit on Mark's wheel," he said, referring to Marc-Antoine Nadon who is one of the leading riders in his age division next year.

Regardless of strategy, the World Cup level will be a huge jump in competition.

But with his results this year and the core group of riders Disera trains with in Ontario that is where he plans to be.



Brothers on top of bike world. Peter (left) and Quinton Disera are each ranked first in their age divisions on the Ontario Mountain Biking circuit with Peter having recently placed second at the Canadian Championships held in Canmore, Alberta. *Colleen Winter photo*