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USA Cycling Announces Team for World Championships

By Aurel Radulescu

On March, 2006, USA Cycling announced the team that will represent America in the 2006 Union

Cycliste Internationale Track Cycling World Championships. This event will be held from April 13 through April 16 and will be hosted in Bordeaux, France.

The team will be featured in 14 start positions for the 2006 World Championships, which was determined by performances from the 2005–2006 season World Cup events. This year's team members were selected, however, from the last USA Cycling track talent made up of cyclists who qualified at the 2005 Elite Track National Championships, reached a time standard at Los Angeles qualifying events and/or by a selection of the coaches.

The 2006 United States team features, among others, five members from the 2005 World Championship team, a UCI World Cup standings runner-up and the Pan American time trial champion.

Three time gold medal winner Sarah Hammer will be part of this year's team after taking a brief hiatus last season. Becky Quinn, who has won two silver medals in World Cup competition, will also be a member of the 2006 U.S. team and has shown strong performances throughout the year. Jennie Reed, who will be a part of the Women's Sprint division, has also been awarded two silver medals and will be an intricate part of the veteran competitors in this year's World Championships.

The men's division will feature nine cyclists that will be making their debut at the Track Cycling World Championships. These gentlemen, however, are no strangers to cycling with bronze medalist Michael Blatchford and Brad Huff, who was recently honored as the Tour de Normandie stage winner.

The 2006 United States Track Cycling World Championship team consists of a Men's Sprint division, which will feature Stephen Alfred, Ben Barczewski, Michael Blatchford, Gideon Massie and Christina Stahl. The Men's Endurance division will feature Michael Friedman, Bobby Lea, Brad Huff, Chad Hartley, Danny Page, Michael Creed and Taylor Tolleson. The women's division will feature the Women's Sprint, which will include Jennie Reed. The Women's Endurance team will be comprised of Sarah Hammer, Becky Quinn and Kristin Armstrong.

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Information, upcoming events, competitor biographies and other information relating to USA Cycling can be found online at

www.usacycling.org

. In addition, photos, an e-mail newsletter and recent event

coverage will be found here as released by the organization. Information will also be available for anyone wishing to compete in future USA cycling events and/or seasons.

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The Young Tiger Woods

By Jonathon Hardcastle

They've taken to calling Tiger Woods the "chosen one" and why not? At the relatively young age of 29, he has already put together a resume that can be compared favorably with the all-time greats of the sport . In 2005, he captured his 10th major golf championship, a total that puts him fourth in history in most championships won behind Jack Nicklaus, Bobby Jones and Walter Hagen. And to think that he has probably not even reached the half-way point of his golf career.

Among today's crop of golf professionals, Woods is the only one to rank among the list of top 20 major championship winners of all time, a strong indicator of his dominance in today's game. Culturally, Woods is credited with creating renewed interest and participation in golf, not only in the United States but worldwide.

So far, his life has unfolded like a fairy-tale movie. Why, even if it is only his life before the age of 20 that you consider, the movie would already be pretty good.

Consider the following.

Born on December 30, 1975, Eldrick "Tiger" Woods' early beginnings are well-chronicled by now. At just four months old, Woods guested on the Mike Douglas TV show to display his golf skills and his surprisingly natural golf swing. In 1984, he won his first world championship -- the 9-10 Boys Event of

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the Junior World Golf Championships — at the age of eight. He went on to win the Junior World Championships six times, including four consecutive wins from 1988–1991.

Woods continued with his winning ways in the U.S. Junior Amateur Championships, which he won in 1991, 1992, and 1993 and he remains as the event's youngest–ever winner. He then went on to become the only person to win the U.S. Amateur Championship three straight years. He won his first amateur in 1994 fresh out of high school, thereby also becoming the youngest to ever win the event. Before he reached the age of 20, Woods had won the USGA Championships five times. Many believe that he has already compiled the best ever under–20 career in golf history.

>From there, Woods went to Stanford University for two years, won one NCAA individual championship and then left college to pursue his professional golf career. And after that, the rest, as they say, is history.

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