



## NAS-TRACK Team Racing - Friday Night Series - Championship

Friday August 8, 2008

International Velodrome at Bloomer Park



### Overall Evening Results

#### **“A” Teams:**

1st	Team Blue	Tom Elias & Brendan Benson.....	93 points
2nd	Team Neon	Luke Canvader & Ronnie Sink.....	90 points
3rd	Team Pink	Cruise Bogedin & Randy Aardema .....	50 points
4th	Team Euro	Paul Heirtzler & Nick Laughton .....	-1 lap, 40 points
5th	Team Purple	Cody Brown & Chris Aten .....	-1 lap, 40 points
6th	Team Red	Matt Rose & Nick Console & Nick Bayma ..	-4 laps, 19 points
7th	Team White	Brent DeRosario & Blaine Benson.....	-6 laps, 2 points

*The most strategic NAS-TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS EVER!*



Starting at the end, no one was sure who WON the Championships until the Officials added up all the points. Our wonderful announcer thought she had it right, though never wrong (she says) the Official announcement came: '08 NAS-TRACK CHAMPIONS TEAM BLUE TOM ELIAS & BRENDAN BENSON

During introductions it was announced that Ronnie Sink, riding for the first time this year, had won the last 5 NAS-TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS. His partner Luke Cavender had won the last 3 NAS-TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS. So it was clear to everyone, the riders, fans and staff that TEAM NEON of Luke Cavender and Ronnie Sink were gunning for the victory and had history to prove they could win.

The unique aspect of the NAS-TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS is that each rider decides who they team up with - during the regular season the NAS-TRACK Chairman of the Boards makes the pairings. So the strategies of who would pair up with who began in earnest.



*Brendon Benson - Ronnie Sink - Luke Cavender - Chris Aten in Turn 2 of the 100 Lap Maidson*

Brendan Benson, who was paired up with Luke during the UIV 3 Day, finalized plans with his new partner Tom Elias. On paper they were a very strong team. Although Tom is new this year to track racing Brendan had the experience and both were coming on strong in both fitness and speed. Team Blue Brendan Benson and Tom Elias' strategy was simple - make it hard and fast - and don't let Team Neon out of their site, set up for the points sprints and win them.

Another past NAS-TRACK rider - Randy Aardema - returned from his new home in Colorado to contest the NAS-TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS. He had raced it several times and now wanted a win. He paired up with Cruise Bogedin who rode well in the UIV 3 Day and is even better now. Both being strong pursuit style riders - their strategy was go for a lap right after one of the sprints and steal the Championships.

The statesmen TEAM EURO of Paul Heitzler & Nick Laughton had raced NAS-TRACK RACE #5 together and felt they could be spoilers. Their strategy was wait for a slight hesitation in the packs speed and hammer over the top and go for points. They also knew they had to hang on during the fast chases so as not to lose connection with the leaders.

Team Purple Cody Brown & Chris Aten have been on an extremely fast learning curve. Both first year racers on the track. Both rode extremely good in the UIV 3 Day and both wanting to prove they could unseat Team Neon. Their strategy was stay near the front and let the battle play out between Team Neon and Team Blue and take advantage if an opportunity opened up.

Team White Brent DeRosario & Blaine Benson knew the night was going to be hard and fast. Both newcomers to Elite level racing and Blaine really only racing on the track in the last 2 months - they hoped to stay on the race leaders wheel and get lucky.

Team Red Matt Rose, Nick Console & Nick Bayma - yes, three riders on one team - sounds unfair. But let's take into consideration, Nick Console is just 15 yrs old, Nick Bayma's wife just had a new baby boy and Nick hasn't slept much in weeks and Matt Rose who has been coming on strong but didn't decide to start training until June. They were all pleased to have a third teammate so as to help spread out the suffering

they knew was to begin.

## *The RACE:*

The FANS knew this was going to be fun to watch and the first Madison proved them right. Team Blue won the first sprint followed by Team Neon. Team Blue won the second sprint followed by Team Euro. Team Blue was hitting on all cylinders. But then Team Neon won the third sprint followed by Team Blue. Then again, Team Neon won the final sprint of the first Madison followed by Team Blue. Team Blue = 34pts  
Team Neon = 32pts

The MISS & OUT was next. If Teams could get both of their riders into the points placings could change quickly. Although Team Neon Luke Cavender easily won the Miss & Out, Team Blue moved ahead in points because they came in second and fourth.

The Final Madison was going to decide the Champions. Team Blue continued their power by winning the first sprint followed by Team Neon. Team Neon was showing they were not sitting back by beating Team Blue in the second sprint. So it may sound like it was a battle only between Team Blue and Team Neon but nothing could be further from the truth. Team Euro kept going over the top and made the top teams really earn their points. Team Pink did roll off the front to take a lap but even Team Purple and Team Euro worked to bring them back. And then Team Pink made another big effort and it began to pay off. They hammered off the front gaining a quick ¼ lap, then a half lap and then a little more. All of a sudden Team Blue and Team Neon realized the worst was happening. They both could lose if Team Pink lapped the field. They knew there would not be enough time for anyone to gain back a lap if Team Pink gained a lap. The whole field was under pressure. Soon Team White and Red lost another lap even Team Purple and Euro were feeling the pain and lost a lap.



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*Tom Elias - Luke Cavender - Chris Aten (getting set to be slung in by team mate Cody Brown) - Nick Laughton*

Had Team Pink made the perfect move? It looked like it and then they hit the wall but only Team Blue and Team Neon caught them without losing a lap. So Team Pink had third place locked up and couldn't move up higher – but they could still help determine the winners.

Going into the final sprint worth double points Team Blue had 79pts and Team Neon had 70pts. Team Neon had to win the final sprint and needed Team Pink to beat Team Blue for second place in the final sprint. Team Neon convincingly won the final sprint worth 20pts giving them a total of 90pts. But Team Blue wasn't letting anyone else move ahead of them and finished off a strong second in the final sprint to finish with 93pts to Team Neon's 90pts.



## 2008 NAS-TRACK CHAMPIONS



**Team Blue: Brendan Benson & Tom Elias**

(Photo by Nick Bayma)

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