



The Georgia Interscholastic Cycling League

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Columbus High School Athlete, Gabriel Mendez, Wins Back-to-Back High School Mountain Bike State Championships in Varsity Boys Division

Gabriel Mendez, a Columbus High School student-athlete, won the Georgia Interscholastic Cycling League (GA League) Mountain Bike State Championship in the Individual Varsity Boys division for the second year in a row. The GA League *Peach State Championship*, held this past Sunday, November 6th at Dauset Trails in Jackson, GA, was the final race in a five race series which began on September 11th in Conyers, GA. Gabriel stood atop the podium in all 4 of the previous races, and continued to race his way to the Championship on Sunday at Dauset Trails. Gabriel began racing with the GA League in 2014 with the Columbus team, when he won the State Championship in the Freshman Boys division. Gabriel has raced the last 2 seasons as an Independent Rider.

The Blankets Creek East team of Cobb County took the overall Team State Championship with Johnson High School placing 2nd and the Hall County Prima Tappa Team coming in third. Molly Hayes (Johnson HS) won the individual State Championship in the Varsity Girls division. For a complete list of current individual, team, and series results from the Georgia Interscholastic Cycling League 2016 season, log on to: <http://georgiamtb.org/events/2016-results/>.

Close to 400 other middle and high school students, from across the state of Georgia and South Carolina, competed in the 2016 *Georgia Peach State Championship Race*. The GA League began its season on September 11th by doubling its participation numbers for the second season in a row. Over 400 registered student-athletes, 150 coaches, and 29 teams from across the state, and 2 in South Carolina, participated in the 2016 season. The Georgia League, a mountain biking league for middle and high school students, was recognized in June as one of the fastest growing leagues in the Southeast by its umbrella organization, the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA). NICA also recognized the GA League for leading the way in female student and adult recruitment through its [Crank Sisters](#) program.

The Georgia League is a 501c3 nonprofit organization currently operating under the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) umbrella, providing exclusive mountain biking programs for middle and high students. The Georgia League is one of nineteen leagues in eighteen states overseen by NICA, established in 2009, with over 10,000 student-athletes and 3,700 licensed coaches participating across the nation. The Georgia League is open to all Georgia students, regardless of ability, believing that cycling is about lifelong health, not just today's win. Scholarships and loaner bikes are available to students in need. For more information about starting a team in your area, League Sponsorship or Volunteer information, or for more information on the Georgia League, visit www.georgiamtb.org or connect with them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/georgiamtb>, on Twitter at [@gamtbleague](#), or on Instagram at [georgiamtbleague](#).