



The Georgia Interscholastic Cycling League

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North Gwinnett Freshman, Lily Gowens, Wins 2016 High School Mountain Bike State Championship in Freshman Girls Division

Lily Gowens, a North Gwinnett High School student-athlete, won the Georgia Interscholastic Cycling League (GA League) Mountain Bike State Championship in the Individual Freshman Girls division, on Sunday, November 6th at Dauset Trails in Jackson, GA. The GA League *Peach State Championship* is the final race in a five race series which began on September 11th in Conyers, GA. Lily was at the top of the podium in all 4 of the previous races, and continued to race her way to the Championship on Sunday at Dauset Trails. Lily began racing with the GA League in 2015 as a member of the Prima Tappa Composite team, in the 8th grade Girls Middle School Advance division. Lily and her teammates on the Prima Tappa team were defending their 2015 Team State Championship, but fell to third place behind 2016 Team State Champs, Blankets Creek out of Cobb County, and Johnson High School in 2nd place.

Other students from the Gwinnett County area competed in the GA League State Championships, including the Mill Creek High School, who is in their first year in the league, and the Grayson Area Composite team. Nicholas Allen, a member of the Grayson Area team and Harbour Oak Montessori School athlete, raced to a second place state championship finish in the boys JV division on Sunday. 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](#).