



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY WELCOMES RACE FOR THIRD YEAR

Stage 5 - Solvang Individual Time Trial (Friday, Feb. 22, 2008)

Stage 6 - Santa Barbara Start (Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008)

MEDIA ALERT

For Immediate Release

JANUARY 23, 2008

LOCAL MEDIA CONTACTS: Laura Kath, 805-344-1717 or laura@mariahmarketing.com

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GENERAL INFO: www.tourofcalifornia-solvang.com or www.amgentourofcalifornia.com

HEALTH NET PRO CYCLING TEAM TO DO "RIDE-BY" VISIT OF SOLVANG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT 9:30AM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2008

~ Pro Riders in Solvang for pre-season training camp; preparing for Tour of California.

WHAT: "Ride-By" Health & Safety Event for Local Schoolchildren as part of the educational curriculum of the *Amgen Tour of California* (ATOC).

WHO: Professional cyclists from **Health Net Presented by Maxxis Pro Cycling Team** will ride up on their bikes and meet with 200+ students in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades to provide personal insight about cycling, health benefits, bike safety and their experiences. The event is coordinated by 6th grade teacher/cyclist John Padfield (serving as volunteer Director of Education Outreach for the ATOC Solvang Local Organizing Committee)

WHERE: Solvang Elementary School Parking Lot, 565 Atterdag Road, Solvang

WHEN: Wednesday, January 30, 2008, 9:30-10:00AM

WHY: In preparation for the *Amgen Tour of California* professional cycling road race, a specially developed classroom curriculum is being distributed to fourth- through sixth-grade instructors and students in the 12 California "host" cities selected for the 650-mile race scheduled for February 17-24, 2008. A free English & Spanish booklet given to students provides information about the state of California, including targeted lesson plans that use cycling as a means to teach core subjects such as math, science and geography.

MORE: The Health Net Pro Cycling Team Presented by Maxxis is in its sixth year of professional racing. The Oakland, California-based team, the winner of four consecutive NRC team titles, returns one of the strongest racing cores in North America and will be led again by team captain and super-domestique Tim Johnson and individual NRC champion Rory Sutherland in 2008. www.teamhealthnet.com

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NOTE: GREAT PHOTO OPS/INTERVIEWS WITH CYCLISTS & ORGANIZERS AVAILABLE