



Junior Spotlight: Justin McQuerry

by TRP Staff



placing in those events?

JHM: Day 2 of the Primavera at Lago Vista- 8th / Walburg Classic-5th / Spring Classic at the Driveway-7th

TRP: When did you start riding? Can you tell the story?

JHM: I have been riding as long as I can remember. I really don't know how I got started, but I remember having a green tricycle that I rode when I was really young. The next step up from that is to go to two wheels so I guess I just gave it a try. After a while my dad bought me a mountain bike and I started to ride out at Cameron Park, the local trail system. I did a lot of riding with the Waco Bicycle Club (WBC), and the members have taught me most of my skills in mountain biking. Then my dad got me a road bike and I rode around Lorena a lot and I did several rides with the WBC on Saturday mornings.

TRP: When did you start racing? Why?

JHM: I started racing mountain bikes in 2005. A lot of the members from WBC like racing and they encouraged me to go out and try it. I raced mountain bikes until January of 2009, when I had a major crash while out riding on the local trails with a friend before the start of the spring racing season. The crash caused me to tear my rotator cuff in my right shoulder which required surgery to repair. After having surgery; I was riding my dad's trainer until I was healed enough to ride my bike on the road. I was riding my road bike a lot to stay in shape, and just because riding is so much fun, I decided to race on the road. I figured that since I still wasn't well enough to ride mountain bikes at the time, road racing would be a good substitute. After my first road race, the Mineral Wells Summer Time Trial, I was hooked.

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TRP: What kind of bike do you ride? Any interesting equipment on it?

JHM: I ride a Dawes Lightning 1200. I have got a set of T2 Profile Design clip-on aero bars for time trials and triathlons. Also, both of the tires on my bike are not the stock ones because I exploded the stock tires.....on a trainer.

TRP: Have you tried other two-wheeled sports?

JHM: Mountain bike riding and racing, track riding and I plan to race in the Superdrome sometime this year, a little bit of BMX in my backyard, triathloning, and a little bit of motorcycle riding.

TRP: Do you participate in other sports?

JHM: Yes, cross-country during its season, basketball, and track and field. I think cycling is WAY more fun than all of those sports combined, though.

TRP: Where do you go to school?

JHM: I go to Lorena Middle School.

TRP: What grade are you in and what's your favorite subject?

JHM: I am currently in the 8th grade and my favorite subject is math.

TRP: What do you think of school?

JHM: I like it, it is fun getting to learn new things. I just don't like it when teachers have to dumb stuff down for people that don't care for school and are there just to play and goof off.

TRP: What do you see as your future ... what would you like to do after graduating from school?

JHM: Whatever I end up doing, I would like my job to have to do with bicycles or the sport of cycling. I would be happy if I'm designing the newest frame for my own company or if I am directing the Tour de France.

TRP: How many days a week do you ride and how many hours do you put in?

JHM: I ride anywhere from 4-6 days a week and I get about 5-7 hours of riding time.

TRP: Do you have a formal coach? If so, who is it and why do you have one?

JHM: Yes, my coach is Stefan Rothe and I have him as a coach because my dad thought that I was at a point in my cycling where my dad could not teach me much more about cycling and that a coach would help me improve my speed and improve my overall cycling skills.

TRP: As a Junior Racer, what do you think could be done to increase the sport's popularity among young people?

JHM: I think that if high-school cycling leagues and teams reached the popularity level as football or baseball there would be a high-school cycling team in every school or school district, an increase of junior cyclists would be noted. Also, if cycling events were more publicly broadcasted, people would realize that there IS such a sport as bike racing.

TRP: Tell us about your first Race?

JHM: My first mountain bike race was in 2005 at Flatrock Ranch. We arrived late so I just rode up with this group of guys that looked about my age. Just as I took my foot off the pedal, the official started us. Although I was late and I had no idea what I was doing, since it was my first race, I still had a lot of fun.

My first road race was because of my major mountain biking crash. Even though road racing came to me by default, I love it and will continue to race for a long time.

So, my first road cycling race was the Mineral Wells Summer Time Trial. We arrived at the race site about 20 minutes before my scheduled start time. After getting all of my gear on I headed over to the start line and I got there with about 2 and a half minutes until my start, not bad timing. Unfortunately, since it was my first USA

TRP: Give us your full name and your nickname.

JHM: My name is Justin Harrison McQuerry and I do not have a nickname. I am 14 years old, but my racing age is 15 because I have a November birthday, and I am a Type 1 diabetic. I was diagnosed with diabetes on July 10th, 1998, when I was 2 and a half. Although I have diabetes, I can still do any sport I like and it does not slow me down one bit.

TRP: Where do you live and how long have you lived there?

JHM: I live in Lorena, TX and I have been living here for the past 12 years.

TRP: Do you have brothers and sisters – if so, who are they and what ages are they? Do they ride?

JHM: I have one sister, Jenette who's 12, but she does not enjoy riding as much as I do, although she used to race mountain bikes.

TRP: Does anyone in your family race?

JHM: My dad occasionally tries to race track at Cat 5. He says that a calendar is more appropriate to time him than a clock, though.

TRP: What team do you ride for and for how long?

JHM: I ride with Team Type 1 and I have been riding with them since late August of last year - about 6 months.

TRP: What were your last three events and your