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News

January 23, 2011

Kenda Pro Cycling took a gamble on Jim Stemper, a transplant from the GEARGRINDER Elite Team (our feeder team) in 2010 and it paid huge dividends. Stemper not only proved his worth, uncanny strength and dedication, but he grabbed an overall win at the Tour of America's Dairyland and a stage of Super Week to boot. Jim became a highly sought after commodity for 2011, and KPC was determined to keep him in our stable. So, the contracts are signed and he is back in pin-stripes for another year, now as an experienced pro. KPC took some time to ask him some questions, and here is what he had to say:

You chose to return to KPC. I am sure you had other offers, why come back?

I have a good working relationship with my bosses, and that is important to me. I was raced a lot and received great feedback from Frankie to help me get better, and I trust that he has my best interest in mind. I made friends with riders and we really started to come together in the second half of the year, I would like to see that continue into 2011. So, there are a lot of things I have going with this team, and to start over somewhere else would have to really be giving me an opportunity that was worth it, and my opportunity with Kenda is equal to or better than with any other US domestic team. So I figure that, and the fact that I like it here, was a good reason.



The team's administration was extremely pleased with your performance and professional demeanor in 2010 and thought getting you back would be a fight. Was the choice to return difficult?

There is always a choice to be made. I made one before my first year as a pro and remember it stressing me out a bit. Again I was faced with options and a choice this year, but as I noted above, there were a lot of things in favor of Kenda that I knew were fact, while things that seemed to be in favor of other options could only be speculation. So I went with what I knew to be solid.

Who do you like better, Frankie or Chad Thompson? Frankie or Chad Hartley? Why?

Woah! Could this be a turf war for my approval?! Doubt it, that hasn't happened since I told my kindergarten class I had a trampoline (a lie). Clearly I like Frankie better than Chad Hartley, I

and any of the top 3 spots on the stage. Miyazawa had already collected 2 wins and several time bonuses, and sat in 4th on GC prior to the race start, only 14 seconds off of McCann. With the assistance of Rapha-Condor-Sharp and very hard work from the team, Miyazawa was neutralized. Jonny Sundt ended up in the final break and responded well to Andreu's order to drive it to the finish. Despite being within the field's reach several times, Sundt smashed the pace to keep it away and received a 5th place on the stage for a birthday gift. A job well done by Sundt and Burdzilaukas, who snagged the field's top spot at the finish. Phil secured 2nd on the GC, too.



An excited KPC team after TdT!

"This was a great start for us." claimed the team's Director Sportif, Frankie Andreu. "We are the first US Domestic Pro Team to earn an International UCI Stage Race podium in 2010. Now, hopefully we have race organizers' and sponsors' attention. I am proud of these guys and what Inferno has built for them." Team GM, Chad Thompson's opinion was similar. "I am so proud of these men. It was our first race. We came to win, but everyone does. We finished on the podium of a major international event. Great job guys!" Be sure to check out all of our great TdT photos at our Facebook page! The team's next stops will be at Sunny King Criterium (NRC) and the Tour of the Battenkill (UCI 1.1) in mid-April.

March 12, 2010

A camp retrospective. Camp has now come and gone, and what an event. Kenda's team pre-season training camp was held in Macon, GA from February 26 through March 6 and was attended by Inferno's full athletic and support staff, along with many sponsors. The camp did not disappoint. "The aim was to completely change in 2010." stated Chad Thompson, the team's founder and current General Manager. "We started by targeting a roster that would not only get us back to our winning ways, but far exceed them. Once we attained this completely, we chased down an experienced and well respected Director to lead them. That was obviously Frankie Andreu. The chemistry between the new roster, it's staff and new found leader in Andreu was evident on the very first day and throughout the entirety of camp."



First team ride - Credit Rick Tillery

Camp was filled with WN Systems bike fits, too many bike builds to count, keeping the team's mechanic, John Columbus, quite busy. Joining John's side to wrench was Out Spokin's, Josh Bogg's, and SRAM's notorious [Merlyn Townley](#). Fitting was performed by team veteran, Jim Baldesare and long-time team supporter, Eddie O'dea of 55nine Performance. The vehicles were loaded to the gills with Thule racks, and the trailer designed and fitted by Inferno's Bruce Thompson, and sponsor/rider, Mario Mazza. Photos were taken by Ohio's own, Blair Fraley and the Social Media was handled by Inferno's newest staff member, Rick Tillery.



2010 Team - Credit Blair Fraley

The team had early morning meals, 4-6 hour daily rides, bike fits, custom shoe fitting from Lake's main man, photo sessions, team dinners and nightly meetings (where most team issued gear was handed out). The team's Director, Frankie Andreu, met with each individual to assign their personal race schedules through June and chatted about desires and expectations. Most of the guys were honored and excited to even be in the same room as this American cycling icon, let alone working with him. The team's physician, Dr. Jason Brayley, met with each rider to discuss medical history and the importance of TUE forms, followed by legal and contract discussion with each rider by Dr. Bruce Thompson. Each rider even found time to see the team GM, Chad Thompson, regarding their role on the team and what they envisioned from their end. Every member seemed extremely excited and motivated throughout the entire camp.

The team will head home directly from camp, with 9 persons leaving for the Tour de Taiwan, only 3 days after their return. The Tour de Taiwan will not only mark the largest and most prestigious event in Inferno's history, but also Kenda Pro Cycling's first of the year. Wish us luck!

February 25, 2010

It is the eve of our 2010 Pre-Season Training Camp presented by Thomson, and a lot is going on here at Inferno, home of KPC. Luca Damiani is still in a paperwork battle for his Visa approval and has been delayed. He is still set to make the later portion of camp, and we thank all of you that have lessened his Visa cost burden. We have sold a little over half of what is needed to cover his costs entirely, so please go [here](#) and get yours now. We need to sell 100 more to cover all of the additional and unexpected rush processing fees.

Be sure to stop by and see us if you are in the state of Georgia. We will be in Macon for 10 days, but also have some special events elsewhere. Saturday, February 27, will have Frankie Andreu and company at the SEEME Bike Show in Atlanta. We will be parked at the 55nine Performance booth, so stop on by. The following day is scheduled to have Andreu and Thompson meet riders at Out Spokin' Bicycles to ride to Life Time Fitness with patrons for the Life Time Fitness Sunday ride (Mountain Brook facility in Woodstock, GA). We will be at the bike shop prior to the 1 PM ride that leaves LTF. This is your chance to ride with Frankie, as well as meet some of the team and staff, who will be spending the morning with Andrew Smith, LTF Eastern Endurance Head Coach, performing VO2 testing and body analysis for professional racers at the gym. There will be a short Q&A following the public ride at approximately 4 PM. See you there!

February 6, 2010

Want to ride with Frankie Andreu or some of the KENDA Pro Cycling presented by GEARGRINDER pros? Well, you can, for free! On Sunday February 28, 2010, Andreu, team GM, Chad Thompson and some of the KPC riders will be at the Life Time Fitness Mountain Brook facility in Woodstock, GA. The riders will be undergoing VO2 Max testing by Andrew Smith, Endurance Coach for Life Time Fitness in the morning, and then will join Andreu and the public for the 1:00 PM Sunday ride that leaves the Life Time building for a 35 mile session. All are welcome and there will be Q&A with Andreu and the team following the ride. For details, please visit our Facebook page and go to events tab. See you there!

February 2, 2010

Help KPC and Luca Damiani win races in 2010! The US Consulate in Milan, Italy has denied Luca Damiani a traveler's Visa today, citing possible immigration risk as the reason. Luca has raced in the states for 3 years and is a very proud Italian, who has no intention of ever changing