

# Hincapie eager to race here

## This year's national championships to include two handcycling events

By Ann Green  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Greenville's George Hincapie will be among dozens of the top American professional cyclists competing for Stars and Stripes jerseys this summer as the national championships return to Hincapie's adopted hometown for the fourth consecutive year.

The Greenville Hospital System USA Cycling Pro Championships will include an individual time trial championship Aug. 29 at the Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research near Mauldin and a road race

championship Aug. 30 on a course that includes circuits in downtown Greenville and across Paris Mountain.

Hincapie, the Tour de France stage winner and two-time winner of the national pro road race championship, announced his plans at a media conference Tuesday as part of National Bike Month.

"I'd better get on it and try to win again this year," said Hincapie, noting he last he won the Stars and Stripes jersey of a national champion in 2006.

Race officials said that Dave Zabriskie, winner of the pro time trial champi-

onship all three years that it has been held in Greenville, is expected to come back to try for four in a row.

Two races for elite handcycling competitors are being added this year. These athletes will compete on the time trial and road race courses. Their races are part of the U.S. Handcycling Series Presented by the Paralyzed Veterans of America and will be warm-up races for the World Championships this fall.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the pro road race championship. That event was held in Philadelphia for 21 years before Greenville snagged it in 2006 and added the individual time trial component for dual national championships.

"It's a pretty major accomplishment for Greenville to attract the event," said Chris Aronhalt, executive director of the championships.

Roughly 200,000 spectators have lined the race routes over the past three years in Greenville, Aronhalt said. In addition, the Palmetto Peloton Project has raised more than \$400,000 for cancer research and health initiatives with its Stars and Stripes Challenge for amateur riders, he said.

Maps of the race routes and online registration for volunteers, needed for both days, will be posted at [www.usacyclingchampionships.com](http://www.usacyclingchampionships.com) along with information on race times and other race events.



KEN OSBURN / Staff

George Hincapie discusses his plans for this year's USA Cycling Professional Championships.