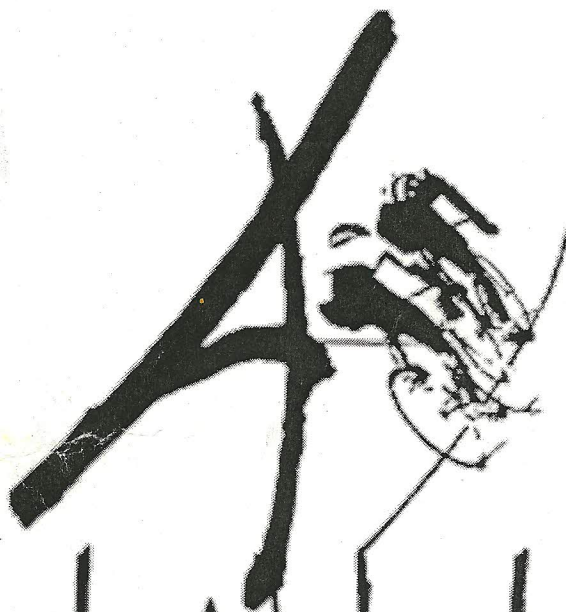


Greater Houston Cycling Foundation's  
Youth Cycling League



Alkek Velodrome  
Houston, TX

19008 Saums Rd.,  
Houston, TX 77084

Coach: Carl Jones

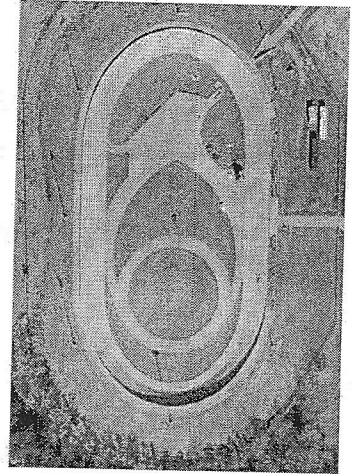
[beabike@juno.com](mailto:beabike@juno.com)

Special thanks: Bike Barn Katy

## Alkek Velodrome Background

Greater Houston Cycling Foundation's Alkek Velodrome is located at Cullen Park in West Houston. Union Cycliste Internationale, the international governing body of cycling, has certified this 333.33 meter banked cycling track.

The Alkek Velodrome opened in 1986 for the U.S. Olympic Festival. It is one of two velodromes in Texas and one of 21 in the United States. The Alkek Velodrome has hosted numerous national championships and international events. The Alkek has attracted up-and-coming cyclists from around the country and is the home track for a masters world champion, former and present US national team members, and numerous junior and senior national champions. The Alkek Velodrome continues to have one of the finest track cycling programs in the country.



## A Brief History of U.S. Track Racing

Track racing in the U.S. dates back to 1891. Track cycling racing was the number one spectator sport in the U.S. and the center of the sport was in New York City at Madison Square Garden. 24-hour marathon velodrome racing came to the U.S. from Europe, but this type of racing suffered a setback in 1889 when the State of New York passed a law prohibiting riders from racing for 24-hours straight. With this turn events, the first modern day *Madison* race was held in 1899. The Madison, named for the venue, was a contest for two-man teams; riders rode 12 hours each over a 24-hour period.

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century permanent, quarter-mile tracks, constructed from sand and gravel were all over the U.S. Some areas of the country hosted more than a dozen of these outdoor tracks. During the 20s and 30s, six-day racing grew into a popular form of entertainment. The portable indoor tracks used for these events were a steep 55 degrees, and were only 150-160 meters long. The Alkek, by comparison, is only 33 degrees at its steepest. The bikes used today in track racing are very much like the bikes used during the early days of track racing. Today, track racing is not only unique to Texas; it is a specialty within the sport of cycling. Even though road and mountain biking has increased in popularity, track racing continues to be an important part of cycling in the U.S.

The Alkek Velodrome goal is to encourage individuals to participate in the lifetime sport of cycling and to utilize the skills and experiences gained at the velodrome whenever and wherever the cyclists may choose to ride.

