

POST'S
GUIDE
to the
PAN AM
GAMES



CYCLING (TRACK)

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

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NATIONAL POST

Venue

Cisco Milton Pan Am/Parapan
Am Velodrome

Venue acronym

MIV

Landmark status

Low

It reportedly cost \$56-million to build the velodrome, which sprouts from the rural edge of a sprawling Toronto suburb. The wood was imported specifically for the track, with a team of German specialists hammering every unvarnished plank of Siberian spruce into place by hand.

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Other events at venue

None

Transit options

From Union Station, in Toronto, look for the 21B bus to Milton. Exit at the Derry Rd. and Thompson Rd. S. stop. Take the 400 MIV special. (via [TO215 route planner](#)). If public transit is your best option, make sure you set some time aside: The official Pan Am trip planner suggests this journey will take more than two hours.

For exact directions, try:

Triplinx.ca

[TTC trip planner](#)

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Schedule

July 16 Various races, including men's and women's team sprint finals.

July 17 Various, including women's team pursuit, women's keirin and men's omnium finals

July 18 Various, including men's sprint final.

July 19 Various, including women's sprint, men's team pursuit, men's keirin and women's omnium finals.

[See the full competition schedule at the Pan Am website](#)

How the sport works

On a bicycle with one gear and no brakes, riders race on a wooden track with steep banks the height of a two-storey home. The high

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slopes in Milton bank at 42 degrees, which is a bit like riding on the wall of a cereal bowl. Women and the men will be competing in five different disciplines in Milton: sprint, keirin, team sprint, team pursuit and omnium. Team pursuit is the one where the riders start on opposite sides of the track and try to complete 16 laps faster than the other team. Sprint is the three-lap dash. Keirin is the one with the dude on the motorbike setting the pace for the pack. Omnium includes multiple disciplines.

As for the high-banked track itself: “It feels like, ‘hang on a second, this is a circus trick, right? How do you ride the wall like that?’” said Curt Harnett, the

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three-time Canadian Olympic medal winner.

Teams/Nations competing

Almost a dozen countries took home at least one medal from the Pan Am Games in 2011, but two countries dominated: Colombia and Venezuela combined to win eight of the 10 available gold medals. Canada took home one gold medal, in women's team pursuit.

Canada's team

Women

Omnium Jasmin Glaesser,

Coquitlam, B.C.

Sprint Kate O'Brien, Calgary;

Monique Sullivan, Calgary

Keirin Sullivan

Team pursuit Allison Beveridge,

Calgary; Laura Brown, Vancou-

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ver; Glaesser; Kirsti Lay, Medicine Hat, Alta.

Team sprint O'Brien, Sullivan
Men

Omnium Rémi Pelletier-Roy,
St-Augustin-de-Desmaures, Que.

Sprint Hugo Barrette, Cap-aux-
Meules, Que.; Evan Carey,
Victoria; Joseph Veloce, Fonthill,
Ont.

Keirin Barrette; Veloce

Team pursuit Adam Jamieson,
Toronto; Eric Johnstone, Calgary;
Sean MacKinnon, Hamilton;
Pelletier-Roy; Ed Veal,
Queensville, Ont.

Team sprint Barrette; Carey;
Veloce

Tournament format

The competition formats vary depending on the discipline.

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Results from 2011 Pan Ams

1. Venezuela: 5 gold, two silver
2. Colombia: 3 gold, two silver, three bronze
3. Cuba: 1 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze

Why it's worth watching

Television does not do justice to the speed at which these cyclists can move, tailing each other, separated only by centimetres as they race the steep embankments. The velodrome is one of three internationally sanctioned covered venues in North America, and while the field at the Pan Am Games will not be the best in the world, it is still a high level.

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Competition outlook

Men

No Canadian man touched the podium in Guadalajara, just as no Canadian man has touched the Olympic podium since Harnett — Canada's chef de mission for the Pan Am Games — won a sprint bronze in 1996. Still, it might be worth watching for some of the stories to unfold. For example, spectators of a certain vintage might enjoy watching what Ed Veal, a late-blooming 38-year-old team member, can do against riders half his age.

Women

Jasmin Glaesser, a 23-year-old from Vancouver, is the only member of the 2015 team with a Pan Am Games medal already stored

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away in her trophy case. She won gold as part of the Canadian entry in team pursuit four years ago. Glaesser lived in Seattle, was born in Germany and received her Canadian citizenship a month before winning that gold medal in Mexico. That seems like good timing.