

# Dutch Team to Compete this June in New London's Whaling City Cyclone

NEW LONDON, Ct — Members of a Dutch combine bicycle road racing team will compete at the Fort Trumbull race course this June 13 in the annual Whaling City Cyclone. These up-and-comers ride on separate teams at home, but are joining forces in a national combine team to test their legs against those from the same country that produced Greg Le-mond and Lance Armstrong, both multiple champions of the Tour de France—the most prestigious bicycle road racing event on earth. Learn more about these adventuresome Dutch challengers in their individual stories below.



Dutch Whaling City Cup Race team members, from left: Jerry Kallenfels, Bob Verkooijen, Eddy Oomen (Team Manager), Jan van Vliet, Mick Kallenfels, Robin van der Lijn, and Thomas Polak.



**Jerry Kallenfels** — I am 23 years old and the brother of Mick Kallenfels (below). I have been racing for ten years. The last few years I won four cyclo-cross races on a national level and I was elite champion of Zuid-Nederland 2008 in cyclo-cross. Also I was 10th on the National Championship Cyclo-cross (under 23) in 2007 and I am a good criterium rider. As a junior I raced a few worldcup races. As an elite I raced a lot in Belgium and in Holland ,of course. In Holland I race some one-day Classics every year. My profession is Landscaper and I do that 24 hours a week. My further interests are music and fishing (I saw you have a great lake over there), and my dear Crista. The club where I am riding for is Jan van Arckel and they are sponsored by Rabobank. My goal is cycle with fun and get the most possible out of it on my own way. I don't know anything about American racing, other than the professional racing. But I am looking forward to experiencing some myself!



**Mick Kallenfels** — Hello. I am Mick Kallenfels, the brother of Jerry. I am 20 years old and have been racing for the last ten years and I like it very much. My results over the past few years are not that special, but I am content with them. I have raced in many countries—in Germany, France, Austria, Spain, and Belgium. All of those races were UCI competitions. The best place in one of them was seventh. That was in Starverloo-Romse. And last year I also was third in a criterium. My other interests are my girlfriend, Denya and I also video-game very much because that's the only way I sit still. I have already done my college and my profession is welding and construction work. My team is the same team as my brother: the Jan van arkel cycling team. The main goal in cycling for me is to become a professional. I don't know anything about American cycling and I am very curious about the way they do it on the other side of the ocean.



**Thomas Polak** — I think I started racing my bike when I was five or six years old. I'm 19 now. I started with what we call in Holland a "fat-tire-race," which means a race on normal bikes, not racing bikes. When I was young I won a lot of races, but when I got older it became harder and harder to win. My last victory was in 2008. I won the last stage of a five-day race in Belgium. Last year was the first year I met "the big guys," men from 18 and up. It was a tough year for me, with a lot of hurting legs. This year I started well and I can feel that I made a lot of progress last winter. I'm really exciting for the trip to the USA. I have cycled in different countries such as: Belgium, Germany, France, Austria and last year in French-Guyana (South America). I am looking forward to seeing what the level in the USA is. My father had cycled in Texas and Philadelphia and told me that the Americans ride really fast so... I'm warned.



**Robin van der Lijn** — Hello, my name is Robin van der Lijn and here are some facts about me: I am 23 years old, my profession is car mechanic, and my cycling team is Jan van Arckel. Cycling is a very big hobby for me and I have done it since I was 12 years old. It is a long time ago that I finished a race as winner, but the last years I was riding for some big teams—VanVliet, Asito, and Line-Lloyd—and the races were very hard. When I was a Junior in 2005, I was National Champion of Holland and have I raced the World Championship in Oostenrijk. I have raced in Germany, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium, France, Austria and Holland. Racing in America is for me a grand adventure and I'm looking forward to it.



**Jan van Vliet** — I am 18 years old and started with cycling when I was ten. My first bike was an old red bike of steel. I started with a cycling club called TWC Pijnenburg in Tilburg—that's a town in the south of Holland. When I became a Junior i went to a Belgian team where I rode some nice races in Spain and France. Now I am a Beloften (under 23) and I ride on the same team as Thomas Polak, WV. Schijndel. I'm most proud of my results in a classic race in Holland where I finished third. I won some races when I was young (11-14 years old). By the time I was 15 and 16 year old, I only won some training races. As a junior I never won a race, but I rode some nice ones! I am in my second year of school, learning to be a sport teacher. I have never been in North America, so I know nothing about what the level is from the riders there. I hope that I have a nice time in America, can ride some nice races, and see the beautiful landscape!



**Bob Verkooijen** — I'm 27 years old and started cycling at the age of eight. For nice years I've been cycling in the Elite amateur category. My home team is WV-Breda and my best results are two second places and two times third in criteriums around the church. I always give my best in every race and most of the time I finish the race in the top ten. I am a postman for 40 hours a week. I'm also two times Dutch Champion of all the postmen in Holland! To the question why I'm cycling is very simple. I love cycling and that's also the reason why I can give my best in every race. Normally I'm cycling in Holland and Belgium. For me it's the first time that I'm going to compete in cycling on an other continent. So I don't know what to expect. I think it's going to be hard. Since Lance Armstrong won the Tour de France seven times, American cycling is very much in the lift. But I'm going to give my best shot. For me it's all an exciting challenge.