

Sports

Grandjean set for World Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships

Print Page

By ZACHARY JENNINGS
zjennings@palltimes.com

Published:
Wednesday, July 11, 2012 3:51 PM EDT

PORTLAND, Ore. — How does a New Haven native make her way to Veszprem, Hungary?

Susan Grandjean found an unusual way.

From Aug. 20-25, the 38-year-old will compete in the World Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships in Veszprem, Hungary.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the event, but Grandjean and her two teammates are the first U.S. team to compete at the international level.

So what is mountain bike orienteering?

MTBO is a mountain bike race, but no one tells the racers where to go. No specific course is carved out. The riders are provided topographical maps that they can't open until the starting whistle blows.

Marked on the maps are checkpoints, called "controls," that the riders must find in a specific order. Along with the map, the riders are given a compass. GPS is strictly against the rules. Whoever finds every control in the correct order first wins.

Basically, it's the speed of a race combined with the intelligence of navigation.

Grandjean learned in April that she'd have the chance to compete at the world championships. Considering her experience in both mountain biking and orienteering, she jumped at the opportunity.

"My favorite sport is mountain biking, and my other favorite sport is orienteering," Grandjean said. "Those are the two sports I love. I thought I could put those together, so I applied and I was selected."

• *For the full story, see Thursday's edition of The Palladium-Times.*

Copyright © 2012 - The Palladium-Times

[\[<<\] Return to Home](#) | [\[x\] Close Window](#)