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Armstrong, Seehafer Earn Top Podium Spots at Nature Valley Grand Prix

**--TEAm Lipton Wins Time Trial, Criterium, Road Race and 1st and 2nd in
General Classification at NVGP --**

Minneapolis, MN (June 18, 2006) —TEAm Lipton's Kristin Armstrong and Kori Seehafer finished the five-stage Nature Valley Grand Prix in first and second positions on the podium, respectively. A complete eight-rider squad of TEAm Lipton athletes worked together on each stage to achieve their goals. Due to their numbers and strength, TEAm Lipton dictated the outcome of the National Calendar event by winning the time trial, Mankato road race in a 1-2 finish and a dramatic photo-finish win in the criterium.

"In each of the stages, TEAm Lipton riders executed their race tactics to a T(ea)," noted director sportif, Thomas Liese. "This race had over 150 starters, and we made it so difficult in the crosswinds and headwinds, we whittled the field down to fewer than 50 finishers." The other teams really don't like us much right now, Liese joked.

With a win in the first stage time trial, Armstrong gained only seconds on Webcor's Christine Thornburn, who would be her closest competitor all week. It wasn't until the stage three Minneapolis downtown criterium where Armstrong gained time bonuses, did she build up a bigger lead over Thornburn. However, in the most grueling event of the week, the Mankato road race, Armstrong was able to counter-attack Thornburn's attack, to win the stage in a dramatic solo finish and to build over a minute lead in GC. Armstrong's move also set up her TEAmate, Kori Seehafer to sprint for second in the stage, moving Seehafer into third place in the overall general classification after the fourth stage.

On the last day of racing, TEAm Lipton wasn't content in settling for first and third in GC. With great tactical riding and demonstration of camaraderie from TEAmate Kristin Armstrong, Seehafer was able to build enough of a lead on Thornburn to put her in jeopardy of losing her overall GC position.

"I'm so pleased at how all my TEAmates contributed to this overall win and that Laura Van Gilder had a stage win and that Kori was on the podium in both the road race and taking second in GC," noted Armstrong. "It was a total TEAm effort, from all the riders our tremendous staff and our sponsors who make it possible."

Armstrong is the current U.S. national time trial champion and will be racing to defend that title on July 6 in Seven Springs, Pennsylvania. "I'm feeling on form now to have a good run at nationals."

Upcoming Races for TEAm Lipton:

Fitchburg Longsjo Classic: June 28-July 2

U.S. National Championships: July 6-10

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