Former racer returns to Athens Orthopedic Clinic Twilight Criterium as vendors prepares for race weekend

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B- Roll Interview Clip

A banner for the 46th Athens Orthopedic Clinic Twilight Criterium hangs above the Silver Dollar Bar on Friday, April 17, 2026, ahead of the race weekend in downtown Athens. (Photo/Grace Park)

Former Twilight racer Luke Harris rode through downtown Athens on Friday afternoon with the UGA Cycling group, scouting the course a day before the 46th Athens Orthopedic Clinic Twilight Criterium begins its pro races.

"We are here doing a little fun ride and checking all the stuff out today," Harris said.

Harris came with the UGA Cycling group. He previously competed at Twilight with Kingdom, a cycling team. He expressed excitement and anticipation for the upcoming men and women pro races.

“I am excited for the big show Saturday night,” said Harris.

Luke Harris, far left, stands with the UGA Cycling group on Clayton Street in downtown Athens on Friday, April 17, 2026, ahead of the 46th Athens Orthopedic Clinic Twilight Criterium. (Photo/Grace Park)

Around him, the 46th Athens Orthopedic Clinic Twilight Criterium was still preparing for its first full night. Food court vendors were preparing to serve the Athens community.

Musicians ran through sound checks ahead of the ALL THINGS ATHENS concert on the Washington Street stage. The concert opened with Fawney Rig at 5 p.m. Other cyclists rode through the streets, some stopping to do tricks or browse the vendor tents.

Chloe Fynal, a server for Punta Cana Latin Grill, a local Dominican restaurant, mentioned how she wants to bring a “light of flavor” to Athens.

The event's professional races continue Saturday with the Women's Pro Criterium at 7 p.m. and the Men's Pro Criterium at 8:30 p.m.