

**ABI SMITH****Road Cyclist – EF Education-Tibco-SVB**

Junior National Hill Climb Champion and Junior National 10 Mile Champion

**Date of birth:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002

**Lives:** North Yorkshire

Abi is a road racing cyclist and one of the UK's most promising youngsters. Born into an active family, Abi spent her childhood chasing her brother and doing lots of outdoor activities. She got her first bike at the age of 4, and things progressed from there. When her brother started to do triathlons, obviously Abi wanted to get involved too – so 8 years in a row of the Yorkshire Regional Triathlon and she made it onto the podium! After catching everyone after being at the back on the swim, and then losing gains on the run the realisation hit that cycling was her strongest discipline so she started to enter a few local bike races.

In 2018 Abi entered her first National Youth Road Series event, the Youth Tour of London. After surprising everyone, including herself, Abi placed top 10 on all four stages, including a 2nd place on the final stage after initiating a breakaway. It was here that a British Cycling scout was watching, and she was invited onto the junior academy programme – the rest is history.

Abi won the women's Junior National Road Series in 2019 – her first year as a junior – and rounded off the season with a 34th place in the Junior women's road race at the Road World Championships in Yorkshire. Being selected for this international race is one of her biggest achievements to date, as she'd only been cycling 'properly' for just under a year.

Like most athletes in 2020, the season was mostly a write-off, however Abi still managed to seek out success to win two national accolades – the Junior National Hill Climb Championship and the Junior National 10 Mile Championship.

In 2021, Abi took home a win in the Women's CiCLE Classic. Having stepped up from the junior ranks and finished school, Abi is excited to focus 100% on her training and develop her skills out on the road. Abi is now a key member of the EF Education-Tibco-SVB and despite some niggling injuries at the start of 2022 she is excited to bring home some great results for the team.

Abi describes herself as an all-rounder, although her sustainable power is definitely one of her strengths. This could potentially lend itself to time-trialling in the future so exciting to see how her career evolves.

Off the bike, Abi is writing a regular blog for Voxwomen about her stories and experiences of the season.

**Key Results**

2021	GP de Plouay	16 <sup>th</sup>
2020	National Hill Climb Champs	1 <sup>st</sup>
2020	National 10 Mile Champs	1 <sup>st</sup>
2019	Junior National Road Series	1 <sup>st</sup>

