

The 1<sup>st</sup> day at Greenville is always a bit nerve racking, but you gotta to do it. Some of the reasons are as follows, and in no specific order: cold, many guys, some new faces, the same ugly ones (just kidding). But really the race is always fast and always has a great turnout, with this one starting out with around 60-70 guys. Some heavy hitters were noted before the race like John Patterson, the new kid (Jason Sprouce). I don't think this Jason guy is from planet Earth; he is just a *machine*...very strong. More importantly, we had the Cycles De Oro team represented by: Rodney, Michael, Matt, Mark, Rich, David, and me.

The race started off pretty fast with some attacks by the likes of John Patterson and Jason, along with some others. All the guys played a smart race by not chasing everything down and conserving as much for the end and hoping it would come down to a field sprint, with all of us chipping in the end to help Matt get a win. By lap 3 or 4 two guys got away and built up an advantage of 20-30 seconds and were eventually joined by two others making a 4-man break. Now the urgency was there and Mark, Michael, and David did some work to help bring it back a little. By lap five the break had held their advantage and Rodney crashed hard, as I watched from behind. Luckily, he was fine, but took him -and me - out of the race. Rich also was part of this (not hurt) and never integrated back into the field. Eventually on lap six, desperation took over for Mark, Michael, and David. The 4-man break eventually succeeded for the day, with Matt finishing 13<sup>th</sup>, and David, Mark, and Michael finishing strong as well.