

What goes swoosh, snap, snap?

Ron Hinson going by you, snapping in to higher gears at the top of the course catching THE break. Matt already gave a great description of the course. I think its a real fun one despite the knee-breaking hills. Our race was a reverse of the 35+ race with all the real action taking place in the first 6 laps. Barney Baxter, Old Man, Ron Hinson, Chuck Jerabek, Mac Cannon and the rest of us (about 25 I think) lined up for what I knew would be a fast race. Baxter flew off the front from the whistle. Bernie Sanders (after winning the 55+ race earlier) took off after him with me in tow. We caught him about 2/3 of the way around. Le Duc shot off next with several of us in tow, and we pulled that back in. Then next lap a Hincapie rider blasted down the hill after the line, stringing us out. Mac countered, Jerabek shot after him. The group chased a bit then the rest of the big guys started shooting by. I was near the front (too near), and the last person to come from the back of the field for the break was Bob Black. Bob rides unattached and got stronger this year (3rd in TDM). I tried to latch onto his wheel on the downhill side but he had so much momentum that I couldn't close the gap. The group of eight rode away. Bernie Sanders and I took some pulls at the front but then I settled back to finish the last 20 min of the race and go for the field sprint. No one really wanted to chase except for Bernie. I tested jumping into the first uphill corner and got a big gap, and should have tried that again on the last lap, as I was able to open a gap, but it was a hard effort to maintain that gap with the climbs. On the sprint one of the Shields brothers jumped first towing 2 others on the left side before the last climb. I was on the right, jumped over to them but the 2 behind Shields snapped around before the top of the hill. I closed that gap but couldn't make a last pass for 10th, so pulled in an 11th place. Better than last year, but last year all I could do was sit in.