

Rock Hill

Road Race and Crit

For the part of what you guys didn't see I'll just let you know here briefly.

Sat. I bridged to that break containing Blair after Satterfield and Blair had put the pack on the rivet. This is always a time to be alert, for the winning break forming...after it's been hard and a strong selection is made.

I was in the right place at the right time and could just see John Atkins get ready to go and when he did boy did he go. I sucked his wheel all the way to the break and had to sit on for about a lap to recover. John went right to the front and started pulling hard. I recovered and started pulling through. Everybody, but 3 riders were pulling, even Creed. Cannon was the only 45 plus in the break. Delta had two, one was pulling their sprinter sitting on. Creed became to sit on too, as John did the heavy pulling. John took a prime too by soloing for 1 lap, he was head and shoulders above us. No one else dared attack. Although I thought about it.

I sat on Creed and waited for him to go in the sprint, but he got boxed in. I sprinted by him at the end, but didn't go soon enough to win. John won w/ the Delta Indiana guy second. I was third.

Sunday, I sat in most of the first lap, till a break with Atkins and Pat Raines went, I went too, but it was too early and the pack shut us down after less than a mile. B/C of Matt and Dave's work I was able to rest up and eat in the back most of the first lap.

I missed my feed...Too fast....Rodney gave me his fluid, then we slowed down, I moved to the front, then it got fast, breaks started going. I sensed a VW guy readying for an attack and got in position to go w/ him. We bridged up to the guys up front. VW guy died, another attack went with Atkins and Charlie Brown, Barney Baxter and a few other guys, I reached them with ease. Creed drug a few others up to us when Atkins saw this he put his head down and we were off. I pulled hard and fast on the downhills to extend our gap and tried to hang on with the climbs. I went backwards every uphill but maintained contact.

Creed was suffering on the climbs too.

W/ DeOro, S/B and the Ral. Allstars all blocking we put the pack out of sight quick.

But then with still over 25 miles to race, Atkins attacks the break! Baxter was with him, Brown and I bridged and we dropped the other 4 riders in the break. Atkins sat on not wanting to leave Creed. We worked and put the other 4 out of sight, but Atkins started attacking us after sitting on. After some hectic and really hard chasing we came to a truce. Wait for Creed to regain and no more attacking.

We regrouped but Atkins kept attacking. I finally convinced Creed that since we still

have 20 Kilos to cover that we need to stop Atkins from attacking. He had a word w/ Atkins and John promised me he'd behave. Baxter and Brown started yelling at each other at one pt. too. I told them to knock it off, we all have to work together. Baxter being the only 45 plus in the break refused to work much though. So the disfunctional break continued to the line.

I was 7th wheel in the last kilo and felt good. I was on Atkin's wheel. I knew he'd jump early and he did going in the gravel on the inside to surprise everyone, I barely squeezed by as Creed tried to shut the door on me, I shouldered by Creed and closed up on Atkins. We had sev. bike lengths on the rest of the break. I knew I had it won, b/c I knew the finish having won there before. I came around him with 150 meters to go to win by 2-3 bike lengths.

It was surprising easy, considering I did not think it would be possible for me to win until the last 100 meters.

That's my story from the front, I hear it was equally chaotic in the field.

Mg