

30th Annual Tour de Moore Road Race

Greensboro Velo Club/Cycles DeOro/The Printery -- Masters 45+

The oldest DeOro Boyz lined up well represented among the field of 60 or so racers showing Gary Moore, Terry Lanier, David Pendleberry, Revon Johnson, Barden Cook, David Fuller, and myself. The only other team with equal numbers was the Raleigh All-Stars.

The pace started off easy enough for a mile or so until Gary grew anxious and launched the first of countless attacks for the day. I could pretty well fast forward to the last seven miles of the short 41 mile race by simply saying that despite a day of head-banging attacks the very aggressive race was groupo compacto at that point (minus more than a few dropped riders). It would also be safe to say that most of the serious horsepower was all but played out of the pre-race favorites by that time. Then came Terry Lanier.

Terry had stayed protected within the pack nearly the entire day and when he decided to roll off the front no one was able to respond. It was brilliant timing and a delight to see. Despite numerous efforts from Gary and myself to escape the pack it was not to be. Luck was not ours. Our hopes now lay in Terry legs.

Gary and I watched from front of the pack as Terry quickly opened up a 20 meter gap and then seemed to be sitting up! I was gasping for air but managed to scream out -- **GO!** Terry glanced back to see me flailing my arm pointing up the road. He dug in again and was soon joined by Raleigh All-Star rider John Allen and an unattached rider who I know to be an outstanding Time Trialer. The three riders put big distance on the tiring pack before anyone could regroup and organize a chase.

Despite more hard racing that saw a second group form up the road the three managed to stay clear to the line. It was close though. Tour de Moore finishes with a series of short streets and tight turns through a neighborhood before dumping you onto the long uphill drag to the finish line on Broad Street near Connecticut Avenue. This section has seen its share of crashes over the years. It's no place to lose your concentration. The three up break knew it would be close and ripped through those streets on the rivets of their saddles. John Allen lead them through the last turn and Terry nearly missed it! A wave of panic ran through him and the unattached rider on his wheel as they tried to regain the lost momentum and stay clear of the charging pack to the line. Terry would close the gap to Allen but not enough to contend the sprint. His second place finish is a well deserved career best on what is a true gem-of-the-south race.

As an aside note, I can't help but point out with considerable pride that three of the top ten Pro-1,2 racers were Masters we compete against throughout the season -- Darren Fuller, Pat Raines, and Paul Kovan. To quote David Grice "old men rule".