

Winston Salem Race

February 26, 2006

I'll recap as much as I can remember about our Master's race in Winston on Sunday. We had a windswept course as well, but with a 1/2 mile loop and much less than 1/2 the distance we were all able to finish. Mark Griffin, Richard Melencio and I [Gary Moore] lined up with a pretty strong looking group, including the team from Hickory that made a strong showing in Greenville SC on Saturday. One of their riders is Chris Thomas who used to ride for Squaddra Vecchio in Charlotte.

After a couple of laps a group of about 5 of us formed off the front and started building a gap. One of the riders kept pulling through hard and a couple wouldn't pull very hard especially in the wind. We kept that up for about 6 or 7 laps before the pack reeled us in. After that Chris Thomas attacked, followed by one, and shortly after, another rider. I had just been thinking about what a good time to attack it might have been, but was still trying to recover from being in that first break. Those three built a gap that continued to grow. Mark tried once or twice to bridge across, but to no avail. The Hickory team kept at least two riders at the front and not many others would try to force the pace, with many riders content to sit on a wheel into the wind.

About 1/2 way through a few other riders attacked and built a quick gap, Richard made a good attack with no one on his wheel and bridged to that chase group. I got on the front with some of the Hickory team then and started riding slow and wide through the corners. But a couple of laps later Richard was back with us and the chase group hadn't gotten too far, but still had a gap from the field.

Thomas Craven then made a good attack over to the chase group. I saw him catch and then break from them. Looking like he was chasing 4th position with strength. With about 3 or 4 to go Mark said let's go and he and I broke from the front and got away, chasing the chase group which still had 5th place available in it. We caught them in about 2 laps, leaving 2 to go. Mark had enough left to sprint hard and I think he got second in our group, giving him 6th place. I passed one man in the finish straight to grab ninth place.

Then I lined up for the Cat. 3/4 race, feeling a little tired but wanting to give it a go. Again a break of 3 men got away and built a good lead. With only about 12 laps to go the field was starting to fall apart from small attacks and I flatted the rear tire. I wasn't able to get a new wheel on fast enough and lost my free lap. So I just went to the back of the field and finished that race.

Gary Moore