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FSU Cycling Team Wins UF Crit

by Bryan Dersine, March 2, 2009

This past February the FSU Cycling Team consisting of myself, Chris Mojock, Clayton Anderson, Brad McDonald, and Jack Tomasetti entered the Men's B Criterium race of 29 riders composed of teams from UF, Clemson, USF, Alabama, and Georgia State.

After a few laps into the race it was clear that the UF team, along with a solo rider, Ben Grier from Clemson, would be the attackers of the day. FSU team strength, however, was more than we have ever had.

While McDonald, Mojock, Clayton, and I maintained our positions in the middle of the peloton, Tomasetti led off several times to place in the sprint bonus laps, called "preems".

But, Clemson's Grier would build up a minute gap over the rest of us in the field of riders. The other teams would not pursue closing the gap, so out of frustration we sent Mojock and McDonald to the front. Within three laps they were able to bring back Grier. There were also several small attacks by other UF riders, but none of them lasted more than a quarter lap.

The course has the length of two city blocks, and the width of one city block. McDonald rounded the final two corners and then pulled off and out of the way. From that point it was about 200 yards to the finish — the beginning of which slopes down, and the later half raises uphill to the finish line. I was the last lead out for our sprinter, Mojock, so I pulled down the final hill and half way up the slope to the finish, launching Chris to a stunning victory. He won it by length of at least a bike and a half.



Getting into sprint formation on the second to the last lap are, from left to right: Bryan Dersine, Chris Mojock, and Brad McDonald. On the final lap Brad pulled the two around the final corners. Dersine then launched Mojock for the sprint victory. Photo by Landon Stafford

We then rolled as a team in a victory lap to the applause of family and other fellow teammates. Looking back on our strategy, the key was that we worked as a team. We knew what each other was thinking.

Editor's Note: Bryan Derstine is the president of the FSU Cycling team. If you are interested in FSU Cycling you may reach Bryan at: bddd06@fsu.edu.

Over the last three laps Tomasetti attempted a breakaway, but even with our FSU team blocking the front, by the second to last lap it became apparent that Tomasetti was fading. We realized this and shifted back to save ourselves for a sprint finish. By the final lap we were able to form into a lead-out formation of McDonald, myself, and Mojock — Mojock being the designated sprinter.

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