

Virginia Wealth Games

Masters RR 30 +

This ones got to be short folks. Out the door for vacation ;-)

Matt Mason and I made the trip to Rocky Mount Sunday morning to have some fun at the Commonwealth Games Road Race. Sure glad we did. The folks in Virginia sure got their act together. Every aspect of this event was well organized. The course was a hilly 10 mile loop that provided lots of excitement -- descents topping 50 mph, some nice grades to climb, and quiet country roads. We did five laps and then exited the course on the last lap to climb a short steep hill for the finish line.

They lined up the 30+, 40 + and 50+ guys together. I'd say we started with around 50 racers. A lot of them sure did look young! And fit! Only a few faces that Matt and I recognized. The ones we did we knew to be fast.

Matt and I decided we would mostly sit in on this one and use it purely for training. The pace didn't seem too hard. The winning move took place when we started the third lap on a long gradual hill. Five riders got free and would stay away. Roger Friend would win the day. Matt and I shared amazement sometime late in the race when we both realized the pack had been whittled down to fifteen riders or so. As we approached the end of the race Matt shared that he was going to go for the sprint win. I was meant to hold his wheel and get as much distance out of it as I could. Good plan except that I touched my brakes just before we made the left hander to start up the finishing hill and lost twenty feet off his rapidly disappearing wheel. I must say the lost ground was worth it just to have a better view of Matt soaring up that hill past all contenders. I've never seen anyone fly past other racers coming into a finish like that before! Unbelievable folks. Sure enough Matt won the sprint for 6th place. I managed to hold my own to earn 15th. Not sure where that put either of us in the 40+ division.

Put this race on your calendar.

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