

International Cycling Classic and Superweek Pro Tour 2009 Report #3

Day 2- Humboldt Park Criterium

The course proved to be a tough one, with a 180 degree turn to an uphill. If you were anywhere near the back, it was a tough go to stay in the group. This is why I stayed near the front and kept on the offensive. I wasn't feeling well so when the group of 4 went up the road, I was unable to make the junction. I chased for a few laps by myself, but the gap had increased to 30 seconds. I settled back into the group and positioned myself for the group sprint. The last couple of laps it was really fast. Riders at the front kept the pace high so they wouldn't lose their spot at the front. The finish was slightly downhill and sweeping left. Having a slightly smaller gear than everyone (Junior Gears!) I punched it all the way to the line. I finished 14th in the group, and 18th on the stage.

Day 3- Whitefish Bay Classic

This was my best race of the weekend. It sported some fresh pavement, long straight-aways, and one particular rough left hand turn. Josh can attest to that! Early in the race I was feeling out some lines, but I was at the back of the group. After about 10 laps of gassing it on the corners to stay intact, I moved to the front and stayed second wheel for the majority of the race. I tried attacking, but it wasn't ideal because I was near the front and everyone saw the move. I was racing really well, and felt good. One rider attacked and got a good gap up the road. I went to the front and welded that gap no problem. The last 3 laps were ridiculous. The Beans and Barley team, which consisted of three riders, drove hard at the front. I stuck to them and sprinted it out for a 6th place finish. It was a great experience at these races and I had tones of fun. Thanks to Josh Gillingham for taking me to Superweek and being a great mentor during the whole event.

Brody Pasciullo