

Hello everyone,

I will write the race report from our stage race in France this weekend. It's been a frantic bit of racing the last two weeks. The team is spread all over the US and Europe. I don't have a lot of details since I'm not at all these races so here are the numbers.

Last weekend Lawson, Anders and Stuart raced in Switzerland in a big, international stage race called Pays de Vaude. It started with a prologue TT which Lawson won. That set the tone for the race. Anders and Stuee were both good too. In the first road race all efforts went to keeping Lawson in the yellow. They were successful and Lawson finished tenth on the stage. The next stage was an individual TT which Lawson won again, increasing his lead in the GC by a few seconds. It's tight at the top. Second place was a Danish guy who was third at the world championships last year. The last stage was off the charts hard. It was mountainous, raining and cold. Half way into the stage two got off the front with one being Lawson. In retrospect, maybe not a great thing to do. Several riders high in the GC made it up to them. This left Lawson isolated and vulnerable. Anders and one other bridged up to what was left of the leaders as they attacked Lawson. In the end a couple of the GC guys gapped Lawson. He ended up sixth, I think on the stage but dropped to 3rd overall. Anders was ninth on the stage and moved up to twelfth overall. Still a great race for the US national team.

Cameron and Brendan McCormack, our 15 year olds, raced the Killington stage race in VT against a much older field. They were good each stage but their lack of experience and depth meant that they were there to learn. In the final GC, Brendan ended up eighth and Cameron twelfth.

This week Anders, Stuee and Lawson are in Germany at the Trofeo Karlsburg, another big international race. In the first stage a thirty man group cleared the field with Anders and one other national team guy but no Lawson. Knowing this was it, Lawson bridged solo to the break. Once there Anders and the other national team rider drilled it to increase the gap for Lawson on other potential GC riders. Lawson ended the stage tenth with a blown Anders two minutes back but ahead of the field.

The second road stage, again had a break with Lawson making it. I think Anders was in the group again, this time with another national team rider. Here is where it gets a little fuzzy. Lawson won the stage but I don't know how and now he has the yellow jersey.

This morning was the time trial. Lawson, as is normal this season, won his second stage and increased his GC lead. I don't know what his gap is but his form sure looks good. There is an afternoon stage today and another road race on Sunday and that's it. I'll let you know how it plays out.

Lastly, Austin Boswell is racing the Mt. Hood Cycling Classic in the senior men's race. He is alone there so it will be a good test to see where our newest team member is, form wise, sixteen days before nationals. The first stage was a hilly road race where Austin finished third in a small group. The second stage was a time trial. Austin finished second on the stage and moved up to second overall, only six seconds out of the lead.

The last stage finishes with a sixteen mile climb which Austin is excited for. He loves the climbing. Again, I'll let you know how it plays out.

Thanks for reading,

Toby