PEEL DISTRICT CYCLING CLUB

U19 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

JACKSON BROWN

MONDAY 25th

Arrived at Victoria airport via aero plane. After franticly getting all the luggage we headed shepperton bound in a 12 seater mini bus piloted by the one and only matt poyner. It was a fun bus trip with all us u19 boys playing some intense games of I spy to pass the time by fast. We arrived at our small apartments buildings at about 2.00 pm Melbourne time and started to unload and unpack our prize possessions for a intense week of riding our bicycles.

We finished the afternoon off with a 30 km ride witch was about 50 laps of the small but pretty lake outside the apartment complex this was quite frustrating. But what ever king Darryl Benson says that is what we did. We finished the evening off with a meeting in Darryl and matt’s room to get info on what we were to expect in the morning.

TUESDAY 26TH

Early and cold start on the first day in shepp with a ride out to the time trial course, which was situated in dookie about 30 km out of shepperton. We departed at 08.00 and began our cold ride out to the course. We got out there had a small brief and set off. Checking out the course seeing were all the bergs corners and downhill’s were so we could strategically plan out our national time trial as best as we could. After riding the TT course that was 28km in length we rode back into shepperton, which gave us 81km for the day. We finished off with us boys going in for a quick brew down at the local coffee shop BG coffee, this became a little bit of a ritual after a few days of intense riding. When we got back to the apartments we “vegged” out on the couch for three hours and then began preparing for dinner so we could rest for the following day. Note every night finished with a meeting in matt and Darryl’s room

WENSDAY 27TH

Again after coming to a group agreement the night before the group decided to head out and ride the TT course again one more time before D day. So once again we shammed up with the temps pushing the 3-degree mark and all 12 very very chilly cyclists headed out for the TT course once again. When we got to the course we chucked our disk wheels on and our deep dish wheels for the front to get a good feel for the wheels on the course (I was very careful with mine seeing how they were phils wheels ☺ ) we all did our different pre race hit outs buy ourselves and then rolled back into town for a brew before going back to the apartments. The rest of the afternoon consisted of checking and cleaning bikes for the first big race of the week.

THURSDAY 28TH

Ok this is were it gets interesting as 12 cold and on edge riders got into matt’s mini bus with matt up front cracking a joke and not one sign of laughter from inside the bus, the air was incredibly intense. We sat through a 15 minute bus ride out to the small town of Dookie. We got out of the bus and went and sat down inside the Western Australia tent. We began to sham up with a hour and half to go till race time. Be and fellow friend Nathan Lyons went for a small warm up on our TT bikes down the road and then came back to find our rollers set up ready to start a hard warm up on. So I was warming up minding my own business on the rollers when suddenly the rider in front of me bike falls over. I don't know what I was thinking but some how forgot that I was on rollers. And me being me I went for the catch. It got messy :/ !! Crash, next minute im on the floor. I pick myself up off the floor and to continue to warm up. Fully unaware that I had totally smashed my new TT helmet to bits :( . 5minutes from the start my dad and me find out the TT Helmet is ruined and decide to race tape in together. This did not impress the race officials. With 15 seconds to go dad sprints across to the tent and grabs me a WAIS tt helmet to wear 5,4,3,2,1 still no tt helmet -1-2-3-4-5 Dad whacks the helmet on me and does the buckle up on my skin, me screaming and 10 seconds down on the start I set off!! 42 minutes later with a average speed of 41 kmh I cross the line happy but sad the TT is over,

FRIDAY 29th

Today was a rest day, did NOTHING AT ALL basically was a couch potato watching the 5 channels we had on the TV at the time. Went for a small roll down to the local brew shop and got my self a nice long Mack. But much to my disappointment when the cup hit the table that it was not at all a long Mack but a double shot espresso. I held my tongue and just drank it. Early to bed tonight because we were in for a world of hurt in the morning.

SATURDAY 30TH

The day off the road race !! once again in matt poyners mini bus in complete silence. Some listening to there music and some sleeping what ever they were doing it was to try and ease the adrenalin pumping through there body. I was very nervous on the trip out I was over thinking every thing way to much but this was a underestimation. We once again all got out of the mini bus. Some sitting in it for a extra 30 mins to try and stay warm. I didn't play around I was kitted up straight away and rolling down the road for a pre race warm up. 40 minutes later we all lined up for the road race. 94 nervous u19 men all were wanting to win this bike race. RIDERS AWAY the cycling Australia official yells. And from this point on nothing else mattered. I was just focusing on what road lied ahead. First lap down the back straight the whole race is in the gutter, apart from the 10 riders rolling through further up. Every rider was battling to sit a wheel in the peloton

Not ever have a felt such a pain . we managed to keep it together for the first lap with only 8 or so riders dropping off the back of the group . second lap this was were the race got torn apart , once again we are sitting a nice pace with the whole race in the gutter, I am sitting in a very comfortable spot in the pack . then suddenly bang !! crash !! 5 or 6 riders go down about mid field blocking up the road for the 40 riders behind. Some riders used this to an advantage and attacked. This is were my national road race was ruined , there ended up being a group of 8 of us rolling turns to catch back on. This was no use when you have 60 riders up the road rolling at 50 kmh. by the 7th lap there was half of the field pulling out. But not me I was determend to finish this race . so there I find myself 20 minutes down of the main group coming for the last lap ! and then one of the cycling Australia officals decides to send me in for the finish in dookie ! ohhh no . so there I find myself at the finish of the national road race with a DNF next to my name along with 60 other riders .

SUNDAY 31ST

Not such an early start to today’s racing. There were to heats for the criterium. And luckily enough for me I was in the second heat leaving at 9.30 am. Which meant a well earned sleep in ! when after getting up at 7.30 and chilling out for an hour before getting in our kit. Me and fellow room mate trent rolled down to the course in town about a 10 minute ride from the apartments. We rocked up at the course around about 9.00 giving us a fair amount of time to warm up. So we jumped on the rollers and began our warm ups . when 9.30 came around there was 50 once again nervous u19 men wanting to make the cut of top 25 out of 50 so that they could make the final. As the race started I found out quite fast that this course would be working to my favor with lots of fast and sharp turns. After 25 minutes of racing and a average of 44kmh it came down to a bunch sprint with myself claiming the win and Trent claiming the silver. With great relief that we were going to get to ride the final we headed back down to the apartments to cool off till 12.00 when our final was on . after chilling out in the hotel room for 1 hour we decided to head back down for the final. sp all of us u19 riders from WA rolled down to try and get a victory in the final for the criterium. As one more time the course offical said riders away 50 fast young men hit the circuit for a world of hurt. Our final was 30 mins with a lot of riders falling of and getting dropped. It came down to about 36 riders for the last lap . as I came into the first corner for the last lap BANG !! some one down in front of me . having no were to go I unfortunately had to ride straight into the fence. With me cursing and going ballistic I tried to get back onto the group so that I could be in the final sprint but this was a no go . as I crossed the finish line by myself behind the group I said to myself . wow for a first time away I think I have done really well !! so that crit wrapped up the weekend of racing with us flying out at 4.00 pm on Monday.

This was a very pleasant and good learning journey for me and I could not of done this without the help of Peel District cycling club . big thanks goes out to my Mum and dad , Kelly and Daniel Gray from Kd cycles and also every one at peel that helped me along the way !!!