

From: Jim Logan [<mailto:jimlogan@verizon.net>]
Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2006 11:02 PM
Subject: The Dirty Dozen - We (Lance and I, plus 130 others) did it!
Importance: Low

All:

RE The Dirty Dozen - The 13 steepest hills in Pittsburgh -
(<http://www.dannychew.com/PG%20DD%20Map.gif>)

I did it! From bottom to top on all 13 hills, bicycling non-stop in a straight shot on each. Pretty good for a 47 year old geezer for my first year. Lance did so to, but this was a second year for him.

A profoundly good day. 30 mph through the Liberty Tubes inbound is a cosmic experience. Getting encouraged and cheered by the best climbers in town when I rode and reached the top of Canton Avenue (the 37% grade cobblestone one) on the second try. Doing the honorable thing and falling on Canton on the first try when I didn't make it. Passing the wannabes that stopped, walked, or used side streets to rest. Cresting each hill. A bridge all to ourselves crossing the Allegheny (was closed in prep for the Pitt game) with 130 cyclists on it. Riding through the pain to the crest of the last (steep!) hill. Riding on multiple (all) roads (like Rt 51) as a road-hogging pelaton. Still being able to hammer at the end of the day. Being in the group picture on Mt. Washington. Working with Lance on the strategy on many hills. Feeling great all day.

Achingly beautiful cycling weather. Great karma. 130+ riders. Pittsburgh riding at its best. The one day of the year that Sycamore Street on Mt Washington is the "easy" hill.

Thanks to Lance, for helping me believe I could. That's two such events this year: The Nightmare Tour (<http://www.dreamrideprojects.org/Nightmaretour.html>) and the Dirty Dozen.

It takes preparation and training, but it's possible.

Jim Logan