

## Savannah Georgia March 4<sup>th</sup>

The first race of the year for me was in Savannah Georgia, which was part of the AMA All-Star series. First two rounds of practice went great for me. I only made a slight gear change before race time. For my heat race I had a pretty good jump and ran into turn one about mid-pack. Going into one however another rider pushed me up high above the groove and I slipped back to last. I put my head down and worked my way up to second, but I was one out of qualifying as they only took the winner. During the semi, I got a mid pack start again as the track was really tough for me to get off the line. I worked hard with passing riders and made my way up to second again, which was enough to transfer. The main event I was really excited for as I felt like I had the speed to come from behind to at least podium. I had a second row outside starting position and I was ready to go. I got an awesome start going into 1 from the 2nd row and was setting up going into 3. However another rider drove it into 3 a little too hard and couldn't make it stick. They ran right into me and drove me all the way off the track. Luckily for me when we hit the grass I didn't crash, but unfortunately my night was over. I came back onto the track a straightaway down and man was I bummed. I pushed really hard to catch the pack again and I was right on the guy ahead of me going across the line. It felt good to be able to catch slowly back up, but it was a very frustrating night for me as the first year here I got 2<sup>nd</sup>, last year I got taken out in the first turn, and this year I got ran off the track in turn three. Luckily there is always next year and I can race another day. Next up Volusia Speedway

## Volusia Speedway March 6<sup>th</sup>

The next race on my schedule was Volusia Speedway. I was really excited to be here again as I have two race wins and a 2<sup>nd</sup> under my belt here. During practice the track seemed good. It was getting rough like it normally does and it was defiantly getting slippery. Everyone seemed to have the same speed and no really stood out. I made only a gearing change from the last race and I was ready for the heat. Off the line I got the hole shot going into turn one. I knew I had tough competition behind me because almost everyone in my heat made the race at Savannah two nights before. I exchanged lead changes with Hayden Gillim once, but I lead a smart race and went onto win the heat. Next up for me was the main event and I was on the pole as I had the fast heat of the day. I got off the line in about 5<sup>th</sup> and I knew I had my work cut out for me. I slowly started picking off riders until I got up to second behind Hayden Gillim. We had an awesome race going, but I knew time was running out if I wanted to win. I started studying him and was realizing he couldn't get through the center of the turns like I could, but every time I would get the drive I couldn't make it stick off the turn. However on the last lap coming out of four I made the pass stick and went onto win the race. It felt unbelievable as it was my first win without my Dad or Grandpa by my side. Next up Daytona Grand National

## Daytona Grand National March 10<sup>th</sup>

Daytona has always been a tough race for me. It's always really slippery here and I don't seem to ever be able to find the traction that I need to make it. This year during

qualifying the timing wasn't working, so none of the riders knew where we stood until after all of the practice and qualifying was over. It was really frustrating as no one knew what changes to make on the track or off to better themselves. I qualified for the program however I missed making the main in the heat and semi. My night was over, but I was one step above last year as I failed to qualify for either night here years past.

Daytona Grand National March 11<sup>th</sup>

The second day at Daytona the track was in better shape. There were no holes on the track like the night before and my favorite a groove was starting to form. I started off the night qualifying better than the night before as I had a second row start for the heat versus a third row. I got off the line pretty good, but I just couldn't seem to make up ground. In the semi I had a good starting position and I felt like I could make the main. I got off the line really well, but when I drove it into turn one the leader crashed right in the center of the turn pushing me up high. When I went up high the riders that went below the rider all went by me. I passed some riders, but not enough to make it into the main event. I felt bummed for not making the main, but I am happy that I have made some progress compared to the years past. Next up Neeses, SC Matt Smoak/ Randy Texter Memorial

Neeses, South Carolina March 19<sup>th</sup>

My next race since the national in Daytona was in Neeses, South Carolina. Practice went well for me however the track was really slippery right from the start. It was really hard to pass and you had to be really smart out on the track to make your moves. My first heat race was just a pro support class and in my heat they pretty much had all of the pros that came down from Pennsylvania in one. I got off the line in about 7<sup>th</sup> and was able to work my way up to 4<sup>th</sup>. I was right on the 3<sup>rd</sup> place rider who was on a framer. I couldn't seem to get off of the turn as fast as him to make the pass, so I had to settle for fourth. My next heat race of the night was the big memorial race. I wanted to make sure I got a good start to make sure I was on the front row for the big 25 lap money race. I got off of the line in 4<sup>th</sup> and I worked my way up to 3<sup>rd</sup>. I was following Jason Griffin all race and was trying really hard to make a nice clean pass on him as we both had transfer spots to the main. Finally coming off of 4<sup>th</sup> he slipped a little and I was able to get up into 2<sup>nd</sup>. I only had two laps to catch the leader and I closed the gap some, but not enough to win the heat. During intermission they decided to prep and water the track to get it good for the mains. However everyone failed to watch the weather and right before mains started the rain and storms came in. Paul at Neeses had to call it a night and the riders voted on calling it a race by heats versus coming back Sunday and starting the day completely over. I ended up finishing with combined heats a 7<sup>th</sup> in open pro and a 3<sup>rd</sup> in the memorial race. Next Grand National Race is DuQuoin Short Track April 16<sup>th</sup>

Special thanks to all of my sponsors, fans, family, and friends for the support. I feel like its going to be a great year and I can't wait to get back to racing!

Best wishes,  
Shayna Texter



Photos Above By: Jim Grant at JGPhotowerx, John Blackstock, Mia Moore, and Jodi Lewis