

June, 2008

I always like to keep in touch and always fill you in with my new ventures. Summer is starting up, can you tell? I used to think of summer as the free three months by the pool. Now when I think about summer, I think Endurocross!

That's right the first round has already snuck up on us. It starts exactly one month from now in the New Orleans arena in Las Vegas.

Before I get ahead of myself here allow me tell you about my latest trip. It consisted of two entirely different events. One was the first three rounds of the 2008 National Trials Season held May 24-26 in Canon City, Colorado. The following weekend I was to compete in the Idaho City two-day qualifier, May 30 and June 1. I borrowed a KTM 300 from my dad's friend Rich Mathers for this event who I would like to thank at this moment. It was a trip that only my music and I traveled. All 3544 miles of it, round trip.

I arrived in Colorado two days early to acclimate to the climate and the new bike. I was signed up to ride all three days in the Pro class in only my second year of trials competition. Although there was one concern, I had no minder. With some input from my sponsors and close family friends I made the safe decision to drop down a class and ride Expert. I finished **2nd**, **3rd**, and **3rd** respectively.

My reasoning behind this class change goes way back to my broad goal of the year, to have an injury free season. This is a vital year for me and I want to show my potential by having my name up front every weekend in whatever race or event I take place in. So with that goal in mind I considered that a successful weekend!

I arrived in Idaho City Friday morning and rode around a little, went through the long line for sign up and impounded my bike **READY** for tomorrow. Or so I thought. You see this was my first Qualifier. Hell this was my first Enduro and I didn't realize how much more I needed to get done the night before. My morning was a scramble but realistically that's what I should have been eating. I was a minute late to the start, which were an automatic sixty-point handicap and an obvious rookie mistake. After five tests and a hundred miles of some awesome single track I finished the day **2nd** in the E3 class and **7th** overall. A good result and an easy learning experience. On the second day of racing my true love came to me...three turtledoves, haha. Just kidding, actually with an idea of what I was getting into. I was able to come up with a little better result. Still **2nd** in E3 but **3rd** overall. With an end result of **4th** overall on the weekend. Not too bad for the rookie. The next day I received a phone call from Mark Weir of the AMA saying I was chosen to represent the U.S.A. on the Junior Trophy team in this years Six Days. Graciously I declined the invitation as for the year my main focus is on Endurocross. Also while I was gone my dad traded my trials bike for a brand new 08 SX, which I will be practicing on and possibly riding in Endurocross. Next week I head down to Casselli's for some practice and some suspension tuning with Trail Tricks.

Thank you everyone for your support and an awesome trip.

Colton Haaker

