

Colton Haaker: Two Top-Five Results at Rounds 3 & 4

September 13, round three of six in the Lucas Oil Endurocross visited Florence, South Carolina where I celebrated my 19th birthday. Excited to race on my birthday, I finished one spot out of the podium, coming in fourth. Without riding since Oklahoma, I fought the bike for most of the night and struggled with arm pump by lap four in the main. Excuses, excuses... At the time I was extremely disappointed I really wanted to be on the box for my nineteenth. Yet on the upside I secured third in points and hell it's only been my third race on a "big bike".

With two weeks until Denver I was able to visit southern cal to pick up a practice bike from KTM. I soon found out that the borrowed practice bike ran much better than my own and that I would make it my race bike. I practiced my starts with Moto Doc and discovered an all-new technique that later would prove efficient.

I flew out to Denver a few days early to practice and straighten out all the kinks from South Carolina. Javier from Trail Tricks drove out and a big thanks goes out to him for testing with me prior to the event. Taddy and his team had the same thoughts and were present at the same track that Friday morning. We both had our chance to strut our stuff and surprisingly there was not much separating us. I was glad to see him back in action and his face looked well. A successful day of practice left me confident and comfortable with my bike. Also excited I was debuting a possible new sponsor, MDK!! We tricked the bike out with stickers...and now we were racing.

Thanks to my starts with themotodoc.com I grabbed the holeshot and ran away with the six-lap race. My first heat race win yet! I took that confidence into the main and nearly was the only other rider to grab the holeshot other than Huffman. Sitting in second I got bumped around a bit and dropped behind Dietrich and Taddy to fourth. I battled hard with Geoff Aaron on lap two and three and nearly moved into second when Taddy stalled his bike. Riding at 110% I suffered with arm pump by lap four again. I just really get excited in the mains and would most likely see an improvement if I slowed it down a tad, letting the race come to me. I believe that time and experience will help that and we may possibly see a new Colton in Ohio. I plan to limit my mistakes and let the race come to me. We'll see how that goes...

Everything that I have hoped would happen this year, has been. I remember when I went and saw an Endurocross. It was the year Knight won and I was some kid walking around with a blow horn and a cowbell, wearing a headlight, handlebar's, handgaurd's and a rear fender attached to a construction hard hat. The headlight even turned on and I remembered running down the stairs above the podium trying to get a pair of Knight's goggles after he won. I didn't get his attention, hard to believe. I've come a ways since then and I always give in to some kid wanting a pair of goggles.

Thank you to everyone that has been behind me the past few years to help me get to this point. I know that a lot of times people forget those that helped them get to where they are now to have the sponsors that they now have. But I'm going to try and keep that in mind no matter how far I take this.

Thank you to my Mom and Dad, my Grandma, all my dad's crazy friends in the LADB that I learned a lot from over the years, Mandy and Adrian from Lewisport for being like a second family to me, Kip and Cody Webb for always putting up with me when riding trials, Brad Baumert at RYP for my awesome summer in 07, and more recently, Eric Perronard.

Also thank you to all my current sponsors: Lucas Oil, KTM, One Industries, Alpinestars, Scott, Bridgestone, G2, Motion Pro, Fastway, Spider, themotodoc.com, Trail Tricks, Lewisport, and my Family.

Thank you I wouldn't be here without you.
Colton