

August, 2008

Jared Mees Race Report...

Maryville TN , Bedford PA , Lima OH , Topeka KS , Frederick MD, and Grove City OH !

Hello race fans, it has been a little while since I got with you guys on the racing. I have been really busy racing, and trying to keep the ball rolling. Seems like the beginning of the season is going a little rougher than expected, but everyone has these times. Lets start with Maryville since I left off with Peoria the week before.

Maryville TN

Maryville was a brand new race track for all of us. We raced last year pretty close by in Bulls Gap TN, and it was a great turnout of fans and an awesome track, although the banking was not as much as Bulls Gap. I fast-qualified the race and was sitting on the pole for the heat race, and I had Joe Kopp in my heat. Before we went out for the heat race Joe and I bet a \$100 bucks who would get the hole shot. Well, I guess I have to say I owe Joe that \$100. But I hate to tell you Joe , I would rather owe it to you than cheat you out of it!!!! So I ran close to Joe in the heat, gaining some time in spots and losing in others. He won the heat and put me on the front row, so I guess I have to give him a thumbs up on getting me on the front row. Before the Main Event we made a gear change that had been borderline prior to the heat. So we were off to the Main Event. I came off the line and got into the back of Shaun Russell and that was pretty much all I remember. They say I restarted the race but I hit my head pretty hard and do not remember falling, restarting the race, or anything. I did pull off around Lap 5 or so and someone up above was making me pull in because all I remember is watching Coolbeth go across the checkered flag with the win. I got pretty banged up and hurt my right knee, which was the good one, and also hit my right shoulder. I must have taken a hard hit to my right side. For sure I high-sided off of Shaun Russell's back wheel. Being pretty banged up, I had to take it easy the whole week before Bedford and Lima .

Bedford PA

On our way to Bedford , which was another track that was new, I was looking forward to it because it was a PA race and that is where I am from. There was a lot of rain and the track was very soft. In practice it was a little sketchy, I qualified 3rd

and had Joe Kopp in my heat again. It seems like we cant get away from each other. Well, he got another hole shot so I guess its \$200 bucks to Mr. Kopp. I hope he takes credit cards. Just have to use it at the end of the month when it□s maxed out. Ha-Ha. I rounded up 2nd in the heat, and didn□t feel like I was on pace very well. Still was feeling a little sore and wasn't quite confident yet. In the Main Event, I was in the back row and I got a killer jump off the first start, but then there was a red flag. The second start wasn□t as good. I made a few passes and ended up 8th. Wasn□t where I wanted to be at all, but coming off last weekends fall, it could have been worse.

Lima OH

Off to Lima OH . We had to drive six hours to race the next day. We got a lot of rain over there but for some reason the track was very dry. Qualifying didn□t go that well for us, ending up 18th. I was in the third heat with Carr, Coolbeth, Wiles, Halbert and Eslick--it felt like a Main Event!! I got a decent jump and was running 4th behind Carr, working him pretty hard and I laid it down in turns 3 and 4, bringing out the red flag. I came off the back row on the re-start, ended up 6th and had to go to a semi. I was in the third semi. I got off the line in third place and made two passes and won the semi. I started to feel like myself a little bit. I was on the third row for the Main Event and had some work to do. I don□t think there is any kind of good start from the third row so I came off the line and made some passes and was trying to work Coolbeth the whole race. I ended up 10th. The weekend certainly wasn□t what I was used to. Throughout the week between Lima and Topeka I had a lot of physical therapy work on my right knee and shoulder. I cannot run on my knee so am bicycling and doing some exercises with the bands and so forth.

Topeka KS

Another new race track for us. This was a small race track for the 750ccs. Almost borderline too small. I didn□t get out in the first practice because something was wrong with the clutch so we missed it. The next round was qualifying and it counted. I needed to do a gear change and that we did. I ended up overall 12th. I was in the heat with Sam Halbert and Smokin Joe Kopp again. Well, this time neither of us got the hole shot so I guess it was split. Halbert was on the point with Kopp, then me. I was all over Kopp and Kopp was all over Halbert. It was a tough track to pass on and there was no passing in our heat race with the top three of us. I settled for 3rd and felt like I had good speed. I was in the back row for the Main Event. I got a good jump and was up to 4th out of the first corner and coming in three I stepped on the brakes and there was nothing there. I was forced to lay it down to avoid hitting someone. We couldn□t make the restart because we had no brakes and not enough time to fix them. I don□t know what the deal was, but we must have a monkey on our backs because we cannot catch a break.

Frederick MD

So we were off to Frederick MD the next day, a Hot Shoe event that I usually race every year. I was hoping to maybe break some of this bad luck. I was racing the Honda and the Harley today. The track was the best I have ever seen it. Practice went well. I won both my heat races and sat pole on the 450 and second off the pole on the 750. I got a good start in the 450 Main Event and Matt Weidman had a good drive from the outside and got me off the corner. I tried riding really hard and rode a little too hard and made some early mistakes that made me come up short for the win. I was a little bummed because my CRF 450 Honda was a rocket ship, but that is the way it works--in a 10 lap Main Event you do not have much time to do anything. We were off to the 750 Main , I grabbed the hole shot and led all the laps and brought home a win---Finally!!!!

It felt good even though it was a Hot Shoe event.

Grove City OH

Grove City was another new race track for us. There are a lot of new race tracks this year, but this was a new mile. We were doing a two-day event. Friday afternoon was practice and qualifying, and Saturday the heats and Main Event. The track was very long straight-a-ways and tight corners. The surface was pure sand. In practice it wasn't bad at all. I ended up overall 14th. I was in the third heat race with Coolbeth. The next day they lined us up and we were ready to pull the trigger. No practice, just line up and race. We got around four laps of our heat before the rain came down pouring. The red flag came out and stopped the race until the rain stopped, about a half hour. We lined it back up and I ended up with 2nd place behind Coolbeth. I felt pretty good, just was losing time in turns 1 and 2. The fourth heat race was also red flagged due to rain and it rained so hard that the race was postponed until Sunday when the fourth heat--on a complete re-start--, the semis and the Main Event were to be held. Sunday turned out to be a beautiful day. They gave us four laps of practice prior to the fourth heat. I was in the first round of practice so I knew it was going to be way different. I got the pleasure of watching the track break apart and get slower. With all the rain we got, it washed away the calcium which is what holds the track together. They made-do with what they had, which wasn't very much. I was on the 2nd row because our race had been red-flagged due to the rain. I came off to a good jump and rode around. It was a pretty sketchy race and we gave everyone some room, collecting a 5th place. It was pretty good and we felt like we were now going in the right direction. There were a lot of fans at Grove City , and in a way I was glad to get it in, but I hope next year, if we do go back, they can hold the track together. I think it could be one heck of a Main Event if the track can take it.

So that is what has been happening. Not the greatest news as is usually coming from our side, but, hey, everyone has bad luck sometimes and hopefully we've had our share and can move on.

We're off to Greenville this weekend and I want one of those guns. Smokin~ Joe got the best of me there a couple of years ago so I have some unfinished business there. Thanks a lot to all my sponsors for all their support over the years and this year, and to all of my fans. We will turn this around and get some of those finishes back that we are used to. Thanks again. Jammin~ Jared Mees.

Thanks again to all the people that support our program!

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