

INDY MILE

Hi everyone! The Indy Mile is another one of those mile races that was on the circuit for years, but all of a sudden... it wasn't. I remember racing this track for Amateur Nationals back in those days. This year would be special because a lot of Europeans would be in attendance for the FIM MotoGP weekend. When I arrived here this time, I did not really remember it as being like it was. There was a lot more sand on it than I remembered. We had a threat of rain all weekend and it really did not look good... the track was soaked wet and dug up. They had a lot of rain the day before.

We got in really early and set up early. Practice was set for 4:00 p.m. and we were actually on the track around that time. I felt good in practice and qualified 7th in the first session and it held for the combined qualifying. I was in the second heat race with Chris Carr, Robbie Pearson, Jethro Halbert and Willy McCoy among others. I got off to a good start and was running third, battling with McCoy when I finally broke away from him and started to run down the leaders but came up short for a 3rd in my heat. Due to the threat of bad weather coming, it was decided to do away with the Semis and instead take to the Main Event the top five finishers in the heats.

The stands were full. It was the biggest crowd I have ever seen at a dirt track race. In the Main event I was running up towards the front but lost the leading group due to some battles with Joe Kopp, Sam Halbert and Shawn Russell. While doing battle, Sammy got into turn three too hot and went down, almost taking Joe Kopp with him. I was running 4th when this happened and was 4th on the re-start. Off the start I made a bad move towards the outside. I got passed and went backwards, but two laps later there was another red flag because Nichole Cheza and Jon Cornwell went down. They both were o.k. and walked away. At that time I was in the 6th spot. I got a great start and was 2nd going into the first corner. Kenny Coolbeth drafted me down the back straight and I was 3rd. I ran 3rd until the last lap coming off turn four for the checkered when Bryan Smith drafted me at the line. I almost had 3rd !!! I felt good the whole Main event and everything ran great.

I want to thank the people who put this race on and their sponsors, Lucas Oil. They did a heck of a job and there were a lot of new people there we can now call fans because they really loved the show. Steve Morehead and the AMA crew did a great job and everything went better than expected.

Thanks guys, and I'll see you at Topeka. Jammin' Jared Mees, # 21.

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