

Cole Crowley's Amateur Nationals Race Report

Hey everyone we went back to the Amateur Nationals and had an over all good time and we learned a lot, I would like to thank everyone who helped me get back there again I really appreciate it.

The first day was an indoor short track with a nice compacted dirt and around the size of Chowchilla. In practice the track was way different than any other track I have ever ridden and was very fun. I raced 3 classes - 250 modified, 450 dtx, and 450 modified. My first heat race was on the 450 dtx bike, I was really excited to race with people that I have never competed against before. So we all lined up with 6 people in the heat we took off and I had a last place start, I barreled in to the first turn trying to gain some ground and took over 5th place, then a few laps later I am right underneath fourth place and find myself pushing him wide. In the last lap I drive it in hard on third and manage to keep the 3rd spot, but still had to go to a semi because of all of the riders. Next was the 450 mod. class we all lined up and I had a fourth place start and I'm trying my hardest to keep up with the top 3 because the framers were dominating the field, then I find myself almost sliding out trying to drive it in hard in the last turn and hold fourth to the checkered flag. Next up was the 250 modified, I was a little worried because that class had the most riders out of any other class. So we all line up and we take off and imp dead last into the first turn, I struggle through the whole race to make a pass but become unsuccessful as the white flag is thrown out but in turn 3 last lap I sweep right under 5th to take 5th place.

Now for the semi's, this is one of the first times that I have ever had to do a semi. First was the 450 dtx class it was the first race but when I went to staging the guy marks my name off but doesn't call my name and I ask him, " isn't that my race that's is going to the line", and he said that it wasn't so I missed my semi and wasn't able to participate in the main event. My next semi was the 450 modified we all line up and take off I'm in third coming out of turn 2 and me and 2nd place are banging bars in turn 3 he gets the drive out of turn 4 and I chase him for the whole race until the white flag comes out I sneak by him in turn 1 and take second at the checkered flag. My last semi was the 250 modified, we all line up to take off and we go and I have a dead last start and end up passing 1 guy for the 5th spot and end up finishing 5th which is not a transfer spot for the main.

Now it is time for the main events. I did not get to race the 450 main because of the staging incident so the next main was the 450 modified, we all take off into turn one and I am 2nd to last from the back row. I pick up another spot coming out of turn 4 and am in third to last, right before the checkered flag I pass 1 more person and end up getting 8th. I did not get to race the 250 modified because I dint make the transfer spot so that was it for the first day.

The second day was a TT and I was very happy to ride another new track. In practice I had a lot of fun the track was great. My first heat race was on the 450 dtx bike, we were all lined up and ready to go and we take off and I got a dead last start I battled hard going into the first turn and stole 5th place position, I was spinning like crazy and it was very hard to pass the TT track was very narrow. Coming around on the last lap I almost pass 4th place but got the door shut on me and end up finishing 5th, which means I have to go to a semi. The next heat was the 450 modified and I knew that this was going to be a tough race because everyone had really fast bikes and I was on a borrowed bike. So we all line up for the race and we take off, I got a 5th place start and held it all the way to the checkered. The next race was the 250 modified (the class with the most riders at the nationals), we all line up for the race and are ready to go at the line only first place transfers to the main so everyone was aggressive off the line I got a 5th place start and half a lap in I'm in fourth, I was working really hard lap after lap to make a move on 3rd place but the white flag came out and made me try even harder but still could not get it so I ended up 4th.

Now I had to do some semi's the first one was the 450-dtx class. So we all lined up and I had the hardest people in my semi but that just made me want it more. Now we take off and I got a 3rd place start and 1st and second got a huge gap on me off of the start and I slowly start reeling them in lap after lap and then we were about even speed the rest of the race and I ended up 3rd so I made it to the main. Next semi was the 450 modified, we are all lined up and I get a 4th place start and was charging hard for a spot in the main. 2 laps into the race I pick off one guy and now I'm in 3rd, then over the jump I get a better drive and get into 2nd. I try and try and try to get around 1st but couldn't find a way and I ended up taking second place which still put me in the main. My last semi was the 250 modified and they were only going to take the winner to the main so I needed to win to be in the main. I got a 3rd place start and trying my hardest I finally get around second place after about half of the race and now I have to catch the leader. The white flag comes out and I find myself right behind the leader and I try inside, outside, and I try to drive it in on him but nothing works so I take second place which is not a transfer spot.

Time for the mains and first up was the 450 modified class. We all lined up and I was in the back row with last pick so I was in the dust. We take off and I'm in second to last off the start and I am pushing as hard as I can and slowly start picking off riders and by the end of the race I was in 9th place. The next race was supposed to be the 450 dtx race but do to rain the race was cancelled so we didn't get to do that main.

Now it is the third day and it is a half-mile cushion track with pee gravel dirt. Practice was insane I loved the pee gravel dirt it was so much fun and it was my first half-mile ever. The heats were ready to start and first up was the 450 modified, so I lined up and was ready but nervous because I have never raced a half-mile before. We star and I had a last place start, I couldn't make up any ground in the 4 laps so I ended up in last. Now I was up at the line for the 250 modified class, we all take off and I am in 5th but down the back straight away 6th place flies by me and I try to chase him down but with no luck take last place. The last heat race was the 450 dtx class, I really didn't want to get last this time so off the line I'm in 6th but I go passed 5th place on the back straightaway I hold him off to the end of the race and take 5th place.

Now I had to go do semi's so the 450 mod semi was up, we all line up and take off and I got a 5th place start and pass a guy going in to turn 3 to be in fourth place and I hold my position to the checkered flag but 4th place position is not good enough to make it to the main. Next was the 250 modified class, I get a 2nd place start and am right on first place, he gaps me a little bit and stays like that until third place passes me on the last lap and I take 3rd but they only took first place to the main. My last semi was the 450 dtx and I got a fifth place start and held it all the way to the finish and did not make the main. I did not end up making any of the mains on the half mile.

Now the last day was the magic mile with perfect dirt that ended up being blue groove. In practice I had so much fun experiencing the draft for the first time ever and second time ever on a mile. It was so cool because you got to go wide open around the whole track. My first heat was the 450 modified, I got a last place start and was trying to get close enough to get into the draft and finally did I passed fifth and kept the position all the way to the checkered flag. Next up was the 250 modified class I was hoping for a good race. I got a 4th place start and 2 laps in I drafted 3rd and took the position at the white flag I drafted second place and took second place at the checkered so I went straight to the main. Next was the 450-dtx main and I was pumped because I just made the main for the 250 modified with out a semi. So we all line up and I get a 3rd place start I battle with second place drafting back and fourth and he is ahead of me at the white flag but right at the checkered I beat him by half of a wheel thanks to the draft which put me straight into the main.

Now it was time for the mains and I'm very excited because the mile is outrageous. My first main is the 250 modified and I was at the line and I got a 11th place start I drafted 2 people about 2 laps in and was in 9th I held the position all the way to the checkered flag. Now for the last race that I will be doing back east the 450 dtx class, I line up with second pick on the back row and we take off I'm in 8th place I draft a guy down the straightaway and get into 7th then the next lap down the back straight away I used the draft to take over 6th place then in the front straight away right before the checkered I get drafted and end up in 7th place.

Over all I had a lot of fun at Duquoin Illinois and it was a great learning experience.

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