

JARED MEES REPORT --- SAN JOSE CA, INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP, MARCH 26 and 27, 2010

Well here we are at the 4th Annual San Jose Indoor Concrete Race. This race has been getting pretty hyped up over the last couple of years. Last year we did really well, winning both the Dash for Cash and the Main Event.

Since they usually have an open practice on Thursday, I flew in on Wednesday and they were having a few riders come in and lay some rubber down that day. So I went over there right from the airport, meeting up with Jake Johnson and Johnny Lewis. We laid down some rubber with our 450s and had some fun. The next day was the open practice, with a lot more riders there.

On Friday we had a little practice but also the East Coast vs. West Coast Shoot Out. We ran three races and had a lot of fun. The end result was: myself, Joe Kopp, and Sammy Halbert, both Coasts being well represented.

Saturday was race day. I went for practice twice, just wanting to make sure the tires and the set up were right. They felt great. Time Trials were next. These things can make or break your night in a heartbeat. Do one lap fast as you can go with no screw-ups. I had always gone out in previous time trials feeling I could go faster. I was near the end of the list for the trials, which was kinda cool. I went out and put in a really good lap, I thought, but feeling I could have pushed it harder. Turned out it put me at the top of the charts. The night had started out well

In the First Heat, among others, I had Sammy and Jake. Got the hole shot and put in some laps, until lap 6 when we were lapping some riders. Lap riders can also make or break your night as well. Remember, we are running 450s in 1st gear around this little 7-second lap-time track. So things can happen very quickly. I won that First Heat and was on the pole for the second round. Things were looking good until I tried beating the starter and jumped the light. I was to the back row! I don't know what I was thinking because all I had to do was let the clutch out and was guaranteed the hole shot. I got off the best I could and on the first corner was 5th, starting to make my way to the front. I got around Kayl Kolkman and Chad Cose and came up on Sammy Halbert. I was able to get a wheel underneath him and make him bobble but it also did the same to me. So I ran him back down and tried it once more and still couldn't shake him. On the last lap, going into turn 1 there was a lapper who held Sammy up and I was able to stick it underneath him and we got tangled together with Sammy going down.

I finished 3rd which put me on the back row inside for the Main Event. Sammy wasn't happy with what happened but it was one of those indoor tight bar-banging kinds of racing. We had a lot of fun putting on a great show for the fans, doing a few East vs West Coast Shoot Out races as well throughout the night. The fans got their money's worth in that one.

For the Main Event I was on the back row inside. I knew Jake was going to be quick, starting on the pole. I got off to a good start and coming into turn 3 I was going underneath Lewis who was on the outside of Stevie Bonsey. It seemed like at the last second Lewis wanted to dart underneath Bonsey and I was right there and clipped Lewis' foot, sending me down along with Lewis who got into Bonsey and there was a big pile up. Complete re-start. Got off the line so-so from the back row, was running about 5th and got around Brad Baker and then Cose. Was running 3rd and Bonsey crashed right in front of me, almost taking me out as well. I was 2nd now and Jake was straight away—gone! I tried to put in some hard laps but it is hard to pace yourself and keep calm in there to knock down smooth laps. I started to reel him in a little bit until we got into some more lappers. Jake seemed to get through them a little cleaner and faster than I did. I started to spin it up badly off the corners. Jake won it and I was 2nd with Cose joining us on the podium.

I had a lot of fun, putting in more laps probably that week in the indoor track than I did at the Springfield Mile! I was glad to see my friend Jake win the race if I couldn't have.

A big THANK YOU to Rod Lake for having this race, bringing us all out to put on a show. This race is like a "happening thing" around there. Thanks also to Craig Rogers and Rogers Lake Racing for the use of the bike to ride. I had a blast and can't wait until next season. The whole night of racing, from Vintage to the 230s to the Pro class was solid-packed action. It's like a fist fight in a phone booth. LOL.

Until next time.

Jammin' Jared Mees

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