

Michael Kirkness, #87 Lima Report

Paducah, Kentucky.... 1st

Friday the 18th of June was the annual running of the Jimmy Greif Memorial Race held in Paducah, KY.

The half mile cushion track was in excellent condition and made for some great racing all night.

In the first heat race the locals showed me around the track and I finished third, we made a few changes to the bike and they were all for the better.

Jeffrey Carver and myself had some great battles through the night, he led the dash for cash until we came out of turn four on the last lap and I got a big drive up the inside, we tangled handlebars a little but I got the win by half a wheel and got to take Mrs Greif on the victory lap.

I won the open pro am and the open pro as well over Carver and Chase Sconyers



Lima, Ohio... 16th

When Paducah was over we loaded up the van to make the seven hour drive to Lima Ohio for the half mile Grand National on Saturday night.

The track was deep and rough all night and I think everyone was struggling with set up.

I was 11th fast after qualifying was done and had a front row start for the second heat.

I got good start and ran with Smith for the first five or so laps, Halbert had checked out and Mees was slowly inching away from us in 2nd. I was in a transfer spot until an extremely poor last lap with a bad drive out of two and a wide line through four saw me passed at the line by less than a wheel length, by fellow Australian Luke Gough.

I was on the pole for the semi and was very confident that I could get the job done. I led the first lap but by the end of the eight lap semi I dropped back to 3rd and took the last transfer spot for the twenty five lap Grand National main event.

The main went similar to the rest of my night, I was there making laps but was not setting the world on fire.

I was 16th and all by myself trying to figure out a few things when I think I may have bumped the shifter into high gear unknowingly, the engine felt dead and slow and I pulled in at lap eighteen.

I wasn't having a very good night and could never make the bike do what I wanted it to do, we will do some testing and be back ready to rip in two weeks time at I96.

While I have not been a top five contender as I want to be, we have made all seven nationals this year, so that is definitely a positive.

Thanks to everyone for all the support and I believe we will have the Suzuki back close to the front here in the very near future.

Micko #87