

# Michael Kirkness Report:

## ***“Galesburg, Fourth; Peoria, Ninth; Indy... Not So Much”***

Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of August was the short track at Galesburg Illinois, which always runs the night before the Peoria tt National.

It attracts a lot of national numbers that always put on a great show.

This year was no different. They got a lot of rain the night before which made the track soft and rough, however they did a great job keeping the surface tilled up all night.

I found myself in the semi, after a poor heat race performance, along with Mees and Jake Mataya, we all made it to main but would have back row starting spots.

I made a lot of changes to the bike before the main event as I had not been happy with my set up all night, and it really made a difference. I quickly made my way to the front and ended up finishing the night in 4<sup>th</sup>. A lot better than where I had started.



We packed up the van and headed over to Peoria around midnight to try to get some sleep before the early start the next day.

After top five finishes at Peoria for the last two years, and it being my favorite track on the schedule I was really looking forward to the tt this year. I had high hopes for a strong finish but as has happen often this year I couldn't get my ass into gear. I qualified on the front row and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in my heat behind Mees and Kopp, and ahead of Chris Carr. Which put me on the second row for the main event.

In the main I headed towards the front for a few laps then was passed by Kopp, Russel and a few laps later Coolbeth, finishing in 9<sup>th</sup> at a track where I really expected to be at the front.

The track was a little dry and slick this year, but it was the same for everyone.

It seems every year there I always end up battling with Carr, 08 I was 5<sup>th</sup>, he was 6<sup>th</sup>. Last year I was 4<sup>th</sup> he was 5<sup>th</sup>. This year I was 9<sup>th</sup> he was 10<sup>th</sup>... Maybe he likes watching me go around that track.

This weekend just passed was the Indy Mile. The track there is a lot of fun and there is always a big crowd on hand, being as the Moto GP is right down the street the following day.

I rode hard all night in Indy, but had a few issues. I struggled to get the gearing right and dropped a cylinder in the second qualifying session.

I battled for the lead the whole race during the semi but put myself in the wrong place headed to checkers and miss played the drafting game, finishing 4<sup>th</sup>, one spot out of the main.



That was the first main event I have missed this year, and I did not like the feeling at all.

I'm busy getting everything ready for Springfield at the moment and really looking forward to a big weekend of racing.

*Thanks again to everyone who helps out and thanks for reading.*

**Micko #87**