

# ***Mikey Martin Race Report: Springfield TT & Mile***

Hey everyone, this last weekend was the double header at Springfield Illinois, a TT on Saturday and Sunday was the Mile. The TT was the first day, and the TT is my favorite track to ride. I was so ready and so confident I could do well here. The team owner Dick Weirbach recently bought a new stock 09 crf 450 that was my choice on the TT. We met at the track on Saturday morning, unloaded and started working on the suspension since it was a new bike we had a lot to do to it. There were a few hours till practice and I was getting anxious. Finally I hear the horn I started heading up to the line for the first practice. I was 5<sup>th</sup> to go out, I fell back a little to give myself some room to do some fast laps without anyone getting in my way. I felt really fast since this was my first time on this track. I knew what I needed to do to go fast, so the next practice was time qualifying; I knew what I needed to do go faster. I felt really fast and I qualified 8<sup>th</sup> I knew I could have done better, but there were some spots that I messed up a little. I was still happy it put me on the front row. I'm in heat race 2 and very excited. Dick and I walk up to the line with the bike. All the mechanics walk off the track I'm sitting on the line. Everyone is ready to go, the light goes green!! I'm 3<sup>rd</sup> into turn one with JD Beach leading and James Rispoli ahead of me. I was sticking my wheel in on James every turn to see if he would make a mistake. Finally coming out of the right hander I got a good drive and went on the inside of him, mean while JD is pulling away so I put my head down and pushed. There were only 6 laps so I didn't have enough time to catch him. I thought the main is going to be the time to catch him if he's in front. When I came in my team was excited and happy, we put the bike on the stand and ran to watch my teammate Mike LaBelle in the next race. He came from way back and was picking people off every lap he ended up 7<sup>th</sup> and made it straight to the main. Our whole team was happy we were both in the main event. There was an intermission for about an hour before the main, and that hour felt so long. In that time they let spectators in the pit, my teammate and me were signing autographs the whole time, so it went by a lot faster. Finally we hear the horn, look at each other and said this is it. We headed out to the line me and Dick and Mike and Ted, Ted is the second owner of the team. We had a quick speech on the microphone then went straight to the line. Everyone lined up and started their bikes; the mechanics ran off the track. Yellow, Yellow, Greeeeennn!! I got a great start and found myself in second behind JD again. I stayed with him and tried not to make any mistakes. I felt Brad Baker and Jeff Carver pushing behind me. All I can do is ride my own race and don't make mistakes. JD started pulling away on about the 9<sup>th</sup> lap out of 12. I started pushing really hard but JD was just too fast. He didn't pull me anymore in the race we stayed about the same distance. On the last lap I'm still in second, in the last turn I made a tiny mistake which let Jeff Carver find an opening on the out side of me. I ended up 3<sup>rd</sup> I was happy I got my first podium in my first year of Pro Singles. My dad and team were excited and happy.

## ***Day 2***

Springfield Mile, I have always wanted to ride the Springfield Mile. I was so excited to come out here and ride. I was nervous to ride this track everyone was saying its wide open the whole time so I didn't know what to think. Before the first practice my teammate and I was talking about being drafting partners so we could get fast lap times and get a good qualifying spot. Were in the first practice, first lap I'm thinking to myself I'm actually on Springfield mile. The first practice I was just getting used to the track and finding fast lines. My teammate is really fast on miles so I took some of his advice he gave me before we went out for qualifying. I felt really fast I did exactly what Mike said to do. I qualified 13<sup>th</sup>, I thought it was good since that was my first time on the Springfield Mile. I was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> heat race of the pro singles and had to start on the back row. Light goes green; I got a bad start and was in about 13<sup>th</sup>, I couldn't find anywhere to pass since everyone in front of me was 5 wide into the corner. I just pushed and found a really fast line on the out side; I was passing 3 people per lap. About halfway through I was in 7<sup>th</sup> and saw the top 6 in front of me, I just pushed and pushed and on the last lap coming out of turn four I passed 3 riders. I was so happy I got 4<sup>th</sup>, that draft works really good to pass. I made it to the main but I was on the second row. The main is finally here I'm on the back row and I know what I have to do to get top 5. The light goes green, I get a great start coming out of turn two I was in about 5<sup>th</sup>. I kept charging and I was in about 4<sup>th</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> lap it felt like I was down on horsepower. I fell back to last a weld on the header pipe broke and I wasn't getting any power. I just rode out the rest of the race hoping I didn't mess up my motor, but it was less and less on horsepower every lap. Finally checkered flag, I was so disappointed but knew I could have done great. Bikes break it happens. Good job to my teammate Mike LaBelle for finishing in the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot.

## ***Mikey Martin 91Y***

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