

SA DIRT BIKES

Race Team

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SA DIRT BIKES MX RACE TEAM STARTS WITH SUCCESS

With the first round of South Australian MX State Titles held on the weekend at Murray Bridge the SA Dirt Bikes Race Team has started well. Fielding three riders this year, Steve Pontin KX450F, Jake Thomas KX85 B/W and Josh Watson on a KX85 have all started their title chase in good form.

Watson the youngest team member rode well all day and had some great battles with the front runners, even after crashing and having to come from behind in moto 3. Watson finished the day with a 3rd overall, unreal result for him as it's his first year riding the KX85 in this class full time.

Watson said "Today was good and I rode as hard as I could, I actually thought the track would have got rougher, which would have suited me more, but it just didn't".

Watson has made sure his time spent in Victoria racing will work to his advantage as the series goes on, as the competition is so much tougher and tracks are much harder.

Thomas who this year has stepped up into the big wheel class, where he's the youngest racer, was in for a big shock when for the first time in his racing career he was faced with a full gate of 40 riders. It was an awesome sight to see a gate full and Thomas handled himself very well after getting boxed in the first corner in all three motos. He worked hard and made his way through the riders to finish 12th overall for the day.

Thomas said "The first corner was just chaos, with banging everyone and just trying to keep the bike upright. I need to work on those starts so I can try and avoid the first corner chaos".

He'll be working hard on his starts and getting out the gate in a better position to avoid getting boxed in the first corner for the next race. We all know he can do it and he's sure to come through better as the series goes.

Pontin's start to the year was one he'd hope he doesn't repeat again that's for sure, even though he finished 3rd overall for the day. He got off to a great start in moto 1 until the race was red flagged after 2 laps, when coming back in he had a huge hole in the clutch cover and no oil left in the motor. It happened in the first corner when he and another rider came together but didn't know he'd done any damage. So while waiting for a restart he swapped to his practice bike and raced that for the first moto. Second moto saw him on the ground a few times but still managing to be battling up the front, just doing it the hard way. In the last moto it wasn't much better with being caught up in a first corner crash and being dead last. It made for good viewing as Pontin charged all the way back up to 3rd on the final jump.

Pontin said "Gee it was hard, it was just one of those days, but I still came away with 3rd, so if that's the worst it gets for the year I'm happy to take it. Thanks to my dad and Pete Hoey who worked flat out on the bike inbetween motos making sure it was ready to go".

Pontin is bound to come back next round and be on the number 1 spot, which is what we are aiming for that's for sure. With only a few weeks before the next round, 23rd & 24th May Mount Gambier, all the boys will be training hard to step it up.

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