



## Daytona Opens the 2013 Flat Track Season

AMA PRO FLAT TRACK GRAND NATIONAL SEASON OPENS AT DAYTONA



The 2013 AMA Pro Flat Track season got off to an action-packed start March 14 and 15 in Daytona Beach, Florida. Featuring the best flat track racers in the world, the season opener gave fans two incredible nights of two-wheeled racing at its finest.

Victorious on March 14 was California's own Mikey Rush who skillfully piloted his Honda to take the Grand National checkered flag in what proved to be an impressive showdown between several top riders.

"I love Daytona and it has always been extremely special to me," said Rush with a big smile. "I won here in my rookie year in 2007 and that was a great feeling. Tonight is every bit as good, if not better. I got hurt pretty bad at the Springfield Short Track last year. Now I'm on top of the box and I'm stoked."

Defending Grand National Champion Jared Mees got out front early in the main event only to surrender it to Brad Baker on the second lap.

Baker looked well on his way to victory as he pulled out to nearly a one second lead. However, Rush had other ideas. Systematically he began charging up through the field, picking off riders one by one. On lap 8, he moved passed Mees for second place and began to reel in Baker. By lap 18, the young Californian made his move for the lead and held off the charging field.

Taking second was Brad Baker, followed by Jared Mees, Henry Wiles and Brandon Robinson.

On day two, the action was equally as spectacular. This time out it was Kenny Coolbeth, Jr. who grabbed the lead at the start. But on lap 2, Brandon Robinson put his Kawasaki in front and never looked back. After 24 nearly perfect laps, Robinson earned his first Grand National victory.

"This is a dream come true," said the Oxford, PA resident, who overcame career threatening injuries in 2009 at the Indianapolis Mile. "Ever since I was a kid, I've dreamed about winning a National. All the hard work I put in this winter paid off. The end of the race seemed to last forever. I saw the five-lap board and couldn't believe there was that much still to go."

When the double checkers came out, Robinson's lead had grown to over a second and was his largest lead of the night. "My entire team just worked extremely hard to make this happen for me and I can't be more

thankful for their support,” said Robinson.

Finishing behind Robinson was Brad Baker, Bryan Smith, Jake Johnson and Mike Rush.

With two races complete in this year’s AMA Pro Grand National Championship, the top ten in points are:

- |                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| 1. Brandon Robinson    | 42 |
| 2. Mikey Rush          | 37 |
| 3. Jake Johnson        | 30 |
| 4. Henry Wiles         | 28 |
| 5. Brad Baker          | 26 |
| 6. Jared Mees          | 25 |
| 7. Matt Weidman        | 25 |
| 8. Kenny Coolbeth, Jr. | 23 |
| 9. Jethro Halbert      | 22 |
| 10. Bryan Smith        | 19 |

## AMA PRO J&P CYCLES PRO SINGLES



The J&P Cycles Pro Singles class in Daytona on March 14 saw rookie Kyle Johnson, powering a Boughner Racing Kawasaki KX450F, finish on top of the podium. Last year’s winner Stephen Vanderkuur was forced to leave the race after an early mechanical problem which left the field wide open. Mike Poe had maintained

the lead until the final laps when Johnson was able to make the pass for the win. Jason Isenock was also able to make a pass on Poe capturing second place. For Johnson it was not only his first pro race appearance but also his rookie season victory. He is from Illinois 18 years old and began competitive racing with hill climbing. Quickly realizing he wanted more, he focused on flat track. We are sure to see more of Johnson in the coming years.

Night two brought us another first time Pro Singles winner. Jake Constantine, piloting a Honda CRF450R, won his race by over 2 seconds. He ran a flawless race from pole to the checkers and he never saw a competitor’s rear tire because he led the entire race. The 22 year old Constantine was overjoyed with his first time victory after travelling from New York down to Daytona. Constantine sponsored by All Phase Masonry & Chimney and Matt’s Cycle Center. Ryan Wells and Mike Poe (Round I- third place finisher) crossed the line just under two seconds apart.

Leaving Daytona, Jake Constantine is the point’s leader with 34. Having a pair of third place finishes, Mike Poe sits in second place - just one point behind Constantine. Kyle Johnson and Ryan Wells are tied for third place, one point behind second and two points behind the leader, with 32 a piece. Jason Isenock rounds out the top 5 with 27 points. The J&P Cycles Pro Singles series will be intriguing to watch this season with two rounds swept by two rookies; it is anyone’s championship to conquer.