

ALTERNATIVE SPORTS FEATURE

Local races motocross professionally



Zach Ames was three-years-old when he first set eyes on the rough sport of motocross.

Fourteen years later, seventeen-year-old Ames has placed in numerous top five national amateur awards, three World Championships at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, placed 8th in the National Arena



Cross Professional Series, and has raced professionally throughout the United States.

The skill involved is unquestionable.

Motocross racers must maneuver around bumps, position to balance their bodies to maximize speed, complete risky jumps and battle to ignore flying dirt and dust.

Marion County's Prospect, Ohio houses one of the nation's youngest, most talented motocross racers in the United States.

Zach races his 2006 Suzuki 450 four-stroke and his 2006 Suzuki 250F with a number of national sponsors backing him, including: F&S, No Fear, Suzuki, Spy Goggles, Alpinestars, Royal Purple, Fass Gass, DC Shoes, Dunlop Tires, Zing, Tech Care Suspension, Freze, Vortex Sprockets, Pro Circuit, Universal, EVS Protection, RK Chains, and many others.

The primary inspiration was derived from a race Zach and his dad attended when he was younger. Zippy (nickname given by his mom) thought: "I've got to do this!" Considering the dangerous nature of the sport, Zach says his

parents and friends "trust me, and know that *I know what I am doing now!*"

Zach shows that dreams can come true with encouragement, persistence, and determination. The confidence behind Ames is proved when he told us his biggest motivator is "winning" and that he "never doubts my [his] abilities." His favorite quotes are "never give up" and "win it or wad it!"

Other than motocross, Zach's favorite hobbies are "cars and girls!" He also snowboards in the winter. Sometimes Ames uses music as a motivator, preferring "everything but country and most rap." Ames likes rock music the most, including the alt-rock band Avenged Sevenfold.

In October, 2005 Ames placed 4th in the Toyota AMA National Arena cross in New York. Zach told us to watch for him again this fall.

"Starting in October I am goin' to be racing the National Arena Cross series again, and if y'all want to see me then, tune into the Speed Channel, and I'll be on there. My number is 8. And, ladies, if you read this, give me a call!"

—Written By Neil Shumate

Quickies

1st known MX race held in the UK in 1924

Motocross, originally called "Scrambling," by the French

Motocross derived from "motorcycle" and "cross-country"

Sessions are called "motos," two motos per session

Tracks can be 1-2 miles and hold up to 40 riders

Suzuki formed in 1909

Kawasaki formed in 1896

Honda formed in 1948

Yamaha formed in 1955

FIM (Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme) governs the sport

Two-Stroke engine, invented in 1860.

Used in some motorcycles, mopeds, lawnmowers, chainsaws.

Four-Stroke engine, invented in 1876.

Contains four steps: intake, compression, power, and exhaust.

Categories: Motocross (MX1/MX3), Motocross Lites (MX2), mini two-stroke, and supermini two-stroke

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