

Michael Akaydin
Honda #918 at
Daniel Boone MX
July 2007



MICHAEL AKAYDIN #918

The Thunder from Up Yunder!

Our September Rider of the Month is 21-year-old, Michael Akaydin, #918, from Louisville, Kentucky. Michael's first riding experience was on a four wheeler at only three years old. But, at 4, "I smartened up and got a PW instead," Michael says. He says that his dad always had an interest in motocross and wanted his sons to do it as well. So, he started he and his three brothers racing all at the same time in early 1993.

His first race was at Daniel Boone, where he ended up

7th in the 50cc (4-6) class. When asked what he remembers most about that day, he says "My mom actually ended up winning the Women's class, so she got a trophy that was bigger than me!" Of course, he was hooked after that first day and hasn't stopped since.

Along with the competitiveness, "I love the feeling you get when you rail through a turn like you're a slot car, or jump something that other people don't want to jump," he says about what he likes most about

motocross. When asked what his most memorable racing moment was, there were two that came to mind. "Making the night show at Supercross, in St. Louis and Detroit, and lining up with the the likes of Reed and Windham," says Michael.

But, as any racer would tell you, there is always room for improvement. As far as his long term goals for motocross go, he says he would love to be able to race the circuit with some level of support and see what he can do. "It would be cool to be able

to pass Villopoto on the rear wheel, maybe I'll shoot for that!" he says, laughing. Some of his favorite tracks include Red Bud, Motoland, and Budds Creek, because they are big, wide, sandy, and have huge jumps. "And they get rough like none other," says Michael, of his favorite aspect of the tracks.

Michael's family is still very much a part of his racing career. He says that his family financially supports him, as well as his parents always encouraging him to try his hardest. But, he and his brother do all the maintenance and work on their bikes. Currently, Michael is going to Pro-Am races and trying to get back his Supercross license.

September also happens to be his birthday month, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MICHAEL!

MORE ABOUT MICHAEL...

BIKES: '08 Honda 250 & 450

CLASSES: 250 & 450 A/Pro

FAVORITE LOCAL RIDER:

"Clay Woeste, he's kicking butt as of late."

FAVORITE PRO RIDERS: Ryan Sipes & Andrew Short

FAVORITE MUSIC: Mainly Rock, but he listens to a lot of different stuff.

OTHER HOBBIES: Road bicycling, BMX, mountain biking, soccer, rope swinging, and training by running and doing push-

ups.

SPONSORS: FCA MX, S&S Powersports, Fly, Factory Connection, Scott, Ozzmods, Silkolene, Wiseco, Suspension Plus MX Training, Unbound/Loco MX, Scott Hall Imports

SOMETHING MOST PEOPLE

DON'T KNOW: Even though he races pretty much every weekend, he is still going to U of L full-time on a full academic scholarship studying Mechanical Engineering. "Also, I can ride my bike with no handlebars." (laughs)

By Maggie McManus, contributing writer for KYMotoX.com
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