



THE VONLINGERS #118 & #218

This month we decided to interview two brothers who are very well known around the Kentucky motocross scene. Matt and Luke Vonlinger, from Stanford, Kentucky, both race the Pro classes and are currently trying to move up to the next level. Although they appear like your typical motocross racers on the surface, these brothers have a lot more to offer.

How old were you when you first started racing?

Matt: I started riding at 3 and racing at 4. I rode a Suzuki quad for a while.

Luke: I was 4 when I started riding and racing at 5.

What was your first bike?

Luke: PW50, a pink one.

Matt: We had matching pink ones actually, with lightning bolt graphics.

How did you get started racing?

Matt: Our dad used to race.

Luke: Yeah, our dad.

What was your first race?

Matt: Mine was probably at Daniel Boone. I think I stopped 6 times the first lap to talk to my mom.

Luke: My first motocross race was at Boone. I have no idea how I did.

How was your first race experience?

Matt: My mom was on the side cheering me on and I kept stopping to talk to her.

Luke: I honestly don't remember it. I've been to too many races since.

What's your favorite track?

Matt: Muddy Creek.

Luke: I'd have to say Ballance.

What makes that your favorite?

Matt: There is always a lot of competition there, the dirt is good, and the track is run real well.

Luke: I always ride good there. I like it when it's fast, rough, with ruts, and not a lot of jumps.

What do you like most about the sport?

Luke: Keeps family close.

Matt: Winning. Also, you get to travel a lot and meet a lot of different people from all over.

What is your most memorable racing moment?

Matt: Probably Loretta's in '04. I got 8th. It was the first time I had ever made it.

Luke: I'd have to say last year ('07) at Loretta's. I got sixth in Motocross B Stock. It was the first time I ever did good there.

Who helps you out the most?

Matt: My grandparents and parents. My mom makes us eat right and cleans everything up and my dad stays up until 2:00 every night working on bikes. Also, Casey Floyd. He is a Fox rep who gives us all our graphics (Turn One) and gets us all our sponsors. And Matt Rankin, he's my mechanic. And Jerry and Julie at Legends Motorsports

Luke: Pretty much the same thing. Also, One Vision Motorsports. Joe Wesley comes to all the races and helps us out with everything.

Is there anything that most people don't know about you?

Matt: I go to Western full time and am majoring in Marketing & Business.

Luke: I don't really know anything about myself. I consider myself pretty normal.

Do you have anything on your brother?

Matt: He sleeps with the same blanket every night, no matter where he is.

Luke: He's scared of the dark.

Talk about how the family is involved, and how they support you in the sport.

Matt: My dad obviously is the financial backing for everything. Even my grandparents are involved. They come to almost every race and make a lot of sacrifices. They could be going on vacations, but they plan that for Loretta's, Florida, and Texas. They never complain once.

Luke: Most of our family calls after the weekend to see how we did.

Matt: Yeah, even our distant family is real involved. The past two years at Loretta's, our family has flown in to watch us. We wouldn't be where we are without them.

How old are you?

Matt: 20

Luke: 18

What classes do you ride?

Matt: Lites A, Open A, Collegeboy

Luke: Lites A, Open A

What is your long-term goal in MX?

Matt: Mine is to qualify for an outdoor national next season. I'm getting my points to get my Motocross license now.

Luke: To be successful. I would like to make a career out of it.

What bike do you ride, currently?

Matt: '09 Kawasaki 450

Luke: '08 Kawasaki 250 & 450

Who is your favorite pro rider?

Matt: I would say Doug Henry and Jason Lawrence. Jason's wild and he could be as good as Carmichael and all those other guys if he would put in the effort they do.

Luke: Mine from a long time ago would be Steve Lamson and recently, Carmichael.

Who is your favorite local rider?

Luke: My brother is the person I like to watch the most. Also, Trevor Windgassen, an 85cc rider.

Matt: Luke and Ty Bowling, a 50cc rider.

What is your favorite music?

Luke: Lil' Wayne.

Matt: Rap, Lil' Wayne. Luke likes country better than rap. (joking)

What other hobbies do you have?

Matt: Training, playing basketball, pit bikes, doing all kinds of wild stuff, like jumping off roofs into pools and stuff like that, Playstation 3, and cooking.

Luke: Playing basketball, pit bikes, pretty much just hanging out.

Sponsors?

Matt: Legends Motorsports, Shift, Fox, Turn One Designs, One Vision Motorsports, Pro Circuit, Works Connection, Pirelli, DP Brakes, Scott, Liquid Performance, Motul, Tarter Gate.

Luke: Gateway Cycles, Fox, Turn One Designs, One Vision Motorsports, Pro Circuit, Works Connection, Pirelli, DP Brakes, Scott, Liquid Performance, Motul, Tarter Gate. Gateway Cycles.

Parents thoughts on child being involved in rough and tough sport.

Mom: As a mom, it's scary. But, it's been a good family sport.

Dad: It's just been good for us because we started racing when they were 5 and they're both teenagers now. Most parents don't know where their kids are at on a Friday night. I know it's a dangerous sport but I'd rather have my kids racing out on the track than out partying with their buddies. We have met some awesome people that we wouldn't have met had it not been for motocross. But, it's nerve wracking for everyone involved.

Mom: Yeah, but the reward of seeing how far they've come in their racing career is awesome.

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