

Springfield TT and Mile:

Old News? You might be wondering why it has taken weeks for me to get this race report out. It's been over two months since the last AMA National in Daytona. I should have been prepped with quick-witted remarks and racin' quotes. Not this report. This ones all business. If you've seen the results from the Springfield TT you saw that the results were pending due to technical review of my frame. The technical review is complete and my frame has been ruled legal. I wanted to wait to write this until I had the official results. With the result now official I left the Springfield weekend with the Grand National Championship points lead.

Springfield TT is a racers race. You want to win the TT I'll let you know the secret, grab more throttle than the 80 other riders and it's yours. I was able to qualify 3rd which put me on the pole for the 3rd heat race. I nailed the holeshot, something I've been working on since Daytona, and ran a smooth 10 laps to win the heat. The heat win earned me a front row start for the national and a trip to the dash for cash. In the dash I was again able to nail the start and run consistent laps for the win. The dash wins are so important because they pay points towards the Grand National Championship this season. The dash showed me two things. First I proved to myself that I could run the pace that I needed to win the national. Second it showed that Henry Wiles could run that same pace.

To say I was a little jacked up for the main would be an understatement. I have been really focused on fixing my starts and all my work is paying off. For the third time tonight I nailed the holeshot. On the exit of turn two Wiles snuck up the inside and put me back to second. Being a past winner of this event I knew that I needed to make something happen early while the track was still fresh. On the start of lap two as we entered turn one Wiles made a slight mistake and I was able to take over the lead. For the next four laps I held a small gap on Wiles as we started to separate from the field. On lap 6 a rider crashed and brought out the red flag. I did not want to see that as I was in a great rhythm. On the re-start Wiles again took the lead from me. I kept the pressure on and two laps later I made another pass for the lead. I held the lead until lap 15 when Wiles made a forceful pass on me on the exit of turn two. I can't blame him for his aggression, as I would have done the same thing, this is profession racing. This turn was eating me up all night and I left a small opening on the inside and it cost me. For the next 10 laps I chased Wiles around but could not get the lead back. Another 2nd place, another great battle.



The Springfield mile is a turner's race. The mile requires being graceful, smooth, smart, and most important having a very fast motorcycle. It's the flip side from the TT. That is probably the reason nobody that has won the Springfield TT has ever won the mile. It seems like as you age you get better and better at the miles.

I defiantly find myself feeling more comfortable racing the miles. I started the day by qualifying 8th. Not bad as this was my first time back on a H-D XR 750 in three years. I followed up my qualifying run with a second place in my heat. The second in the heat put me on the front row for the main and in the dash again. I'm the only rider to have qualified for every dash this season. I placed second in the dash behind Bryan Smith but was awarded the win when his fuel failed post race inspection. Two dash wins in one weekend really helps with the points. I was excited for the main as I felt I had a good horse and a chance to win this thing. In the main I got off the line about 6th and ran from 4th to 7th place. With 4 laps to go Larry Pegram crashed and brought out the red flag. The winner was going to be decided by a 5-lap shootout. I was in the lead draft in 5th when the red lights came on. On the restart everyone knew it was go time. As we headed down the back straight I drafted around the outside of Jared Mees and into 4th place. As we leaned in for the turn I felt Jared's front wheel rubbing on my left arm. He barely bumped me but I guess at 110MPH on the dirt at max lean angle it doesn't take much to put you down. Just like that my race was over. I was very lucky to get off at that speed and not even have a scratch on me. I was bummed because this is the best I have felt on a mile. The upside is that with two 2nd place finishes a 4th and this 13th on the mile, combined with all my points in the dash's I have a two point lead in the Grand National Championship points. We have some regional events coming up in the next few weeks. The next national will be June 20 in Bulls Gap Tennessee.



Thank you for the support,

JR Schnabel #33