



Article By:
 Rich Thurman
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SUMMER BREAK IS OVER ; ITS HAMMER TIME!

It looks to be a great season this year in the MSXC and I had a few questions for Shane O'Banion and Dustin Gibson.

Rich: Shane, What have you been up to all summer?

Shane: Early this year, about March, I started focusing on MX. I had planned on riding a couple outdoor nationals in the 450 class and also I turned 25 over the winter and wanted to go the Loretta's in 25 plus to get a trophy. The top 3 get trophies, 4 -10 get plaques. I have plaques, but I wanted a trophy and thought I had a good shot in the 25 plus class.



Shane O'Banion # 837 ; Ricky Carmicheal # 4; Charlie Mullins #112

I went to the regional qualifier in AL, and was doing great, but at some point the first moto, I got kinda squirrely going up to a big jump because they had just watered it. I let up and didn't jump the whole thing. When I got to the top of the third mound, someone landed right on the back of my neck and we flipped down a big hill. I knocked out some teeth, got some stitches in my face, broke my foot, and broke my back in two places. So, I didn't get to do any Nationals this year or Loretta's.

Rich: I knew you were a good at motocross and have raced at Loretta's a few times. I also know it can be dangerous. Glad your okay!

Shane: I spent my whole summer healing up, but I'm back to 100% now and feel as strong as ever. I've been riding and training a lot over the past three or four weeks and was getting ready for the Mid-South to start up. I got my Kawi dialed in and working great right now.

Rich: Now that you have healed up, graduated college and 'tied the knot' , whats your plans for the next few months?

Shane: I just got the call I've been waiting on for over a year now about starting on the Bowling Green Fire Department. It looks like my first day of training will be the day after the first round and will continue everyday for 10 weeks. So, I've decided to park the bike for a while and not take any chances on injuring anything until I've at least made it through training. I'm still going to continue training kids and riding some albeit very carefully over the next few months, but I won't be racing. If the weather is perfect and I do decide to go to a race this winter, I'll just be there to ride and see everyone.

Rich: Thats going to leave the door open for a new MSXC Champion this year. What do you do for kids?

Shane: I've been teaching kids one on one for about 7 years now. I started out teaching and training kids when I was in college just to make some extra money between races. At first, I had maybe one kid a week, but after while, the word spread and I had several kids per week. I ride with them and watch for anything that they are doing wrong or can use improvement and then we go from there and start learning how to do it right. I have a pretty good eye for details and a pretty good system from fixing bad habits too.

Rich: I don't doubt that a bit! Who would you like to thank?

Shane: Mid-South Motoplex, Gill Roofing, Carter Engineering, Fox, FMF, HBD Moto Grafix, Factory Connection, No Toil, Sun Star, Hammer Head, IMS, Works Connection, Pro Wheel, Braking, Cycra, EVS, Motorex, Ride Engineering, Renthal, Leatt, and Rekluse. They have all been great to me and I am thankful to have them on my side.

Rich: Dustin, What have you been up to all summer?

Dustin: Working, driving the truck!

Rich: Any racing?

Dustin: Yeah, The 24 hour race was awesome! We had John 'Junkyard Dog' Dowd, Geoff Braico from Australia, Jeff Cowan, Jase Lewis and David Lewis on our team. We got second overall and had a blast.



I also raced the Tennessee Knock Out a couple of weeks ago. That race is always fun. I like events like that. I have been trying to get a little practice in at 800 MX on Thursday nights.

Rich: That's Steve Ezell's track. The same guy putting on round 1 at White Plains. I also know a new Gibson family member emerged a few weeks ago.

Dustin: That's right, Presley Jo was born on August 16th. Do you know what historical event is on that day also?

Rich: Uh.... No.

Dustin: It is the anniversary of Elvis Presley's passing.

Rich: Was she named Presley after the King?

Dustin: No, we just liked the name. Same reason we named our other daughter Racie. She (Racie) is 18 months old now.

Rich: You've been a busy guy. What lies ahead?

Dustin: Well, of course I am racing the MSXC series in the AA class this year.

Rich: Its like your were born into the series. You've been racing it since you were about 13! Who's going to be mixing it up with and trying to finish you off?

Dustin: Ha Ha, Shane O, Dillion Phelps, Jeff Cowan, Fergi and maybe Austin Lee in the AA class.

Rich: Any other cool stops this fall?

In October, I am planning a ride in Maplesville. We camp and ride from our campsite to a nice prepped MX track on the first day, and the woods on day two. We are going to hit another MX track in Clanton on Sunday. That ride is always a blast!

Rich: Thanks pal and good luck to you and all the racers at White Plains this weekend! I will miss you guys. I will be racing VMX in Mo.

Dustin: That sounds like fun. Can I race an old Honda?

Rich: Sure, as long as its has about 4 inches of travel or less. Anyone you want to thank?

Dustin: Yeah, Gibson Trucking, Barry Heath Racing, Gill Roofing, FMF, KTM, KTM Hardparts and Moose.

Its Hammer Time!