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Pro Sports Rider Mikey Avila Takes Solid 5th Place In Yavapai Downs

2009 AMA Horizon Award winner Mikey Avila rides to a strong fifth place finish, vaulting him to third place in the Pro Sports championship chase.

Prescott, Arizona, May 3, 2010: Hello everyone, this past weekend was round three of the 2010 AMA Pro Singles Championship, in Prescott Arizona and as my first mile as a Pro Sports rider, I was very excited about the event.

We arrived early on Friday to take a look at the track. It had really long straights and paperclip turns. It immediately had the team talking about gearing, but we felt that we were well-prepared for what we saw.

Early Saturday morning we headed to the track with the weather surprisingly cold and windy. But with that aside everything looked good. We went out for practice around 10:30 AM. The AMA gave us two extra un-timed practices to get use to the new track since it was new to everyone. There were a couple wrecks in the first session which was followed by some track maintenance. The surface was dry slick, and was starting to get dusty with low visibility in turns one and two. We struggled with our set-up all day, but we made some gear changes and suspension adjustments in between sessions and ended up qualifying 7th overall.

I was in heat two, lined up on the inside. I was able to find traction and came off the line in second behind Harley Dunn. Coming down the home stretch, Brad Baker and Michael Toon pulled out of my draft and passed me going into turn one. I was carrying a bit too much momentum and blew the groove and saw that Harley did the same. There was absolutely no traction up there, and I was just worried about staying off the ground.

After getting my composure back, I was back into fifth behind Chaz Springsteen approaching the white flag lap. Going down the back stretch for the final time we managed to catch Dunn's draft and sucked right in behind him. It was a three way battle for third. We were all nose-to-tail going through turns three and four. I saw Harley lose traction and start to spin up, and he never recovered and the bike came around. Chaz had nowhere to go and they stacked up and made contact. I also had no escape path and thought for sure all three of us were going down. But somehow I managed to keep it on two wheels. Then, when I recovered, I realized I was still fighting for position and I got back on the throttle. It was a drag race between Chaz and me and we were rubbing elbows side-by-side coming to the finish line. I barely squeezed by and beat him by two thousandths of a second, for third place.

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The main consisted of 12 laps with 18 riders. I was lined up fifth from the outside, in the same position as I was in for the heat. I knew that I was going to be able to get a good jump. The light seemed like it took forever to turn green. As soon as it did I dropped the clutch and was off the line in second behind Baker. I came off turn two a little low and was in the dry stuff and got all crossed up and lost a bit of speed but managed to hold second place.

I got a good drive out of four but I felt someone drafting me and before I knew it Carver and Springsteen drove it in below me and I was back to fourth. The dust was really bad in one and two, and made it hard to see the riders right in front of me. Coming into turn one I had once again ran it in too hard and drifted up into the marbles and slipped back to fifth as Crawford slipped by me. I saw that he was on the run as he made another pass into third. I had no drafting partner so I was running all alone in fifth place for the remainder of the race, and finished a solid fifth.

I was happy to have finished the race on two wheels and a decent fifth place. I definitely learned a lot this weekend and have already begun preparations to be ready for the double header at Springfield the end of this month.

Mikey Avila

Thanks to all of my great sponsors that helped me this weekend:

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