

**Mikey Avila, #33e**  
[www.mikeyavila.com](http://www.mikeyavila.com)  
[mikey@mikeyavila.com](mailto:mikey@mikeyavila.com)  
Cell: (559) 977-2203



**Marketing Contact:**  
Slideways Motorsports  
[fast@teamslideways.com](mailto:fast@teamslideways.com)  
415-531-6851

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## **Pro Sport Mikey Avila Seconds His Second, 2010 Top Rookie Award Within Reach**

*Mikey Avila #33e, scores yet another second place finish in his impressive rookie year, now solidly in possession of 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the series.*

### **Canterbury Park, MN. Saturday, Sept 11, 2010**

This weekend we made the six hour drive to Canterbury Race Park in Minnesota. It was the first time in 13 years they have held a National event on the mile oval. I was excited to get on the track and redeem myself after last weekend's disappointing finish.

I went out for practice on the new track and the gearing felt close, but I was still a couple of tenths off the leaders so we made some minor adjustments and went out for the qualifying sessions. However, we struggled as the track evolved, and I ended up 11th overall in qualifying. I was not content with my times, but knew our way out, as we went the wrong way with setup, so we did a 180 and went the opposite direction with the gearing before the heat races.

I was on the outside of the front row and got a decent start and was fourth coming out of turn two behind Callies, Baker, and Carver. Baker got out in front, with Carver following. After I passed Callies I successfully made a move on Carver going into turn one on the outside, and started to run down Brad. It felt like we had pulled away from Carver, but with two laps to go he draft passed me going into turn one and then quickly chased down Brad who had previously held a several bike lead. Carver stretched his lead and gapped us. I was in third right behind Brad on the white flag lap and I waited til we came back to the finish line to try and use the draft to my advantage and make the pass right at the checkered flag. I backed off some going into 3 so I could get a run on him coming off the corner. I got right in his draft and pulled out at the line but came up short by .060 of a second. It was a good race and I was confident with the bike setup for the main, and knew I was going to be the guy to beat.

For the main, the track lost its cushion and had a slippery little groove on the bottom and some pot holes coming out of the corners. I had talked to a couple of riders who rode the semi's so I somewhat knew what to expect. We all came off of the line somewhat even, and it was a dogfight going into turn one. I got bumped a little and pushed wide, and was in sixth coming out of turn two.

I followed Carver and Baker up high going into three chasing the cushion, wide-open-feet-on-the-pegs and made a couple passes. I saw that Carver was in the lead and slowly pulling away. I passed Chaz Springsteen going into one and was right on Brad the next lap, and coming out of two he spun up a lot and I drove right past him on the inside, carried my momentum and made the pass down the back straight.

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Carver had a comfortable lead over me, but I put my head down and started to make a charge, but we were so even that I couldn't make up any ground, and he couldn't pull away. With about five laps to go I slowly started to make up ground after a little mistake he had made. I finally caught his draft as the laps were starting to wind down, and I closed down the gap between us.

On the white flag lap I thought I was close enough to make a pass at the finish, but I got a little excited and spun up the rear tire off of two and lost my drive out of the corner. He pulled away and I wasn't close enough to make it happen, and I crossed the line one second behind him. It was a good race and I was so happy to put Mack Daddy Racing on the box again. I'm still looking for my first win of the season, and with two races remaining, I think it can be done. I have learned a ton this season and I finally know what it takes to run up front in this ultra-competitive class!

Thanks to Shawn, my mechanic for working his butt off this weekend to get me on the podium! And thank you to all of my sponsors and supporters because without you, I wouldn't be where I am today:

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