

Law Tigers Arizona Mile



The Law Tigers Arizona Mile Flat Track Races took place on May 13, 2017. Law Tigers is proud to be the title sponsor of AMA's Pro Flat Track Arizona Mile at Turf Paradise. This is their second year sponsoring and they plan to do so for many years to come. Law Tigers was also co-promoter to this event this year ~ providing organizing, billboards, TV interviews, and other promotional materials.

This year's Grand Marshal was Ari Levenbaum, enjoying his ceremonial laps on an Indian motorcycle.

Ari wants to thank local sponsor Buddy Stubbs of Buddy Stubbs Harley-Davidson motorcycles. A motorcycle racer back in his day, Buddy took a five-lap trip around the track during the opening ceremonies on his 1972 Harley-Davidson XR-75; just one piece of motorcycling history housed in his museum in the Phoenix dealership.

Additional thanks go to Ride Now Indian for their sponsorship, in conjunction with national sponsor Indian Motorcycle Corporate.

8000 attendees came out to enjoy a beautiful day at the racetrack. Temps were cooler than last year. This event has already become one of the top three races of the country for attendance, even though it is one of the newest.

Ari shared that, even though the Law Tigers are injury attorneys they also support & sponsor other aspects of the motorcycling community ~ including racing. They are committed to growing their involvement in the racing community. Their spon-

sorships include EnduroCross and Flat Track, and recently added a national sponsorship of Arenacross. Ari expressed the possibility that Law Tigers may partner with their affiliates in other states such as Washington, Colorado and other Law Tiger states to sponsor more racing in those markets.

Law Tigers Arizona has started sponsoring local flat track racer, Cory Texter Racing. He qualified for the races but unfortunately couldn't compete when technical issues arose with his bikes.

Ari wants to thank his partners Chris Morgan and Charlie Frank without whom this race wouldn't happen. They've worked together six years, having started in Pomona promoting the [now disbanded] half-mile flat track races there.

Extensive preparations of the track this year made it harder packed, and even faster and better than last year ~ making for some exciting racing. Indian Motorcycles won all three podiums spots again, dominating over Harley-Davidson.

To quell potential noise concerns from area residential neighborhoods (after all, motorcycle racing is considerably louder than horse racing) the bikes had to be outfitted with special mufflers to keep the sound down. Initial reaction to this was concern about a loss of power. But in an ironic twist, some of the racers actually reported improved performance of their machines.

Photographer Mike T of Shutterbug Photography captured the day for us to share with you. Here's what he had to say about his day at the track...

"Race day is always exciting, add a dirt flat track and some of the finest flat track motorcycle riders in the country and you're guaranteed a great day. Arrive early for the best seating to be sure not to miss anything. Trials start early and the action in the pits is constant. Walking through the pits you can see how the different teams prep for the races. There is a variety of teams from smaller family teams to large corporate teams. That is only the beginning for there are many things to do and keep the fans occupied between races. There is entertainment from local musicians, vendors, food and drinks and your fellow races fans to swap stories with. There is seating indoors at Turf Paradise and outside in the stands. Inside offers viewing race coverage on TV screens on your table and food and beverages are nearby and there is the advantage of air conditioning. Outside in the stands you are near the entertainment and vendors and have a more direct experience. You can hear the racers as they fly around the track powering through the corners their feet on the ground to help control the bikes through the curves. Dirt track racing is not for the timid. Unlike racing on pavement, the dirt is unpredictable at times just to keep things interesting. The races are short and fast paced, which keeps things interesting. All in all a fun time was had by all. So next time someone says, 'Let's go to the races', check it out."

Good advice!

Read the AFT press release on page 9 sharing some of the turn-by-turn action ...





Bryan Smith Takes Another Mile Win In Five-Lap Shootout With Teammate Brad Baker

Shayna Texter ends win drought in an AFT Singles thriller

PHOENIX, Ariz. (May 13, 2017) – The Indian Wrecking Crew once again lived up to its moniker in the fourth round of the 2017 American Flat Track championship. The trio of factory riders secured a dominant sweep of the AFT Twins presented by Vance & Hines podium at the Law Tigers Arizona Mile presented by Indian Motorcycle.

Leading the charge around Turf Paradise was reigning Grand National Champion Bryan Smith. Smith drew upon every last ounce of his trademark Mile magic to position his No. 1 Indian Motorcycle Racing backed by Allstate Scout FTR750 ahead of the identical No. 6 Indian Scout FTR750 of Brad Baker at the checkered flag by a scant 0.057 seconds.

Following two red flags and with the sun quickly headed to the horizon, the AFT Twins presented by Vance & Hines Main Event was reconfigured into a dramatic five-lap shootout. At the second and final restart, Baker again resumed his place at the front of the field and appeared well on his way to grabbing his first victory of 2017. However, Smith had other ideas, ducking down the inside at the opening of the penultimate lap and held strong from there.

“It was a little bit of strategy,” Smith said. “I just sat on Brad’s rear tire, and luckily it worked out where I got by him with two to go. I went on by him and had just enough where I was a little bit better, mostly off of (Turn) 2.”

The cagey performance was the 20th Mile victory of Smith’s career, good enough to rank fifth most in American Flat Track history. It was also his 28th overall AFT Twins win, which ties him with fellow Michigan natives Bart Markel and Henry Wiles for tenth on the all-time order.

“It’s pretty cool at 28 wins that I tied Bark Markel, the original godfather of the Michigan Mafia,” Smith said. “And it’s pretty special for me to be, I believe, the only rider to win a Mile on three different brands and tie his record. Hopefully next weekend I can break it.”

Runner-up Baker said, “I wanted that win so dang bad. I don’t think I’ve wanted a win more in my life. This type of track is one I typically struggle at – one that’s dry, slick, one-lined – where you kind of have to go slow to go fast and ride with a lot of discipline.”

add'l pix from Mike T ~ [Shutterbug Photography AZ](#)



“I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t disappointed and angry. But they call Bryan the “Master of the Miles,” and he’s great at this. This is definitely a heartbreaker because I was the guy to beat all day... We’re on identical equipment so it’s not like I had any more horsepower than him or he had any more horsepower than me. It was all about who was the best rider, and today, Bryan proved his experience and craft on the Miles.”

Smith now sits perfectly even on top of the AFT Twins title fight with Jared Mees (No. 9 Indian Motorcycle Rogers Racing Scout FTR750) at 87 apiece. Mees retained a share of the points lead by furthering his season-long string of podium results with a close third.

Despite struggling with shifter issues, Mees managed to keep Smith and Baker honest throughout and finished just over a half-second back of the win.

“It was good for Indian Motorcycle, but we just didn’t quite have it today,” Mees said. “Honestly, we were third place all day... I was pretty much a sitting duck in third; we couldn’t really do anything. I was just grateful to get it into gear really quick off the line and kind of latch onto these guys. Brad had a helluva pace early on, but hats off to Bryan – he just put in a veteran move in on that last lap and a half and made it happen. I feel like Brad was probably the fastest, but Bryan out-schooled him.”

Thanks to the combined efforts of Smith and Mees early in 2017, the Indian Scout FTR750 has now opened its first full season of American Flat Track competition by claiming a victory in each Grand Slam discipline (TT, Short Track, Half-Mile, Mile).

Sammy Halbert continued to make his mark as the top privateer with a solid fourth-place run aboard the No. 69 Estenson Logistics Yamaha FZ-07. Halbert actually had to put in a charge just to snare the final qualifying position in the LCQ in order to advance into the Semis. But following that early scare, Halbert proved himself to be the only rider capable of reliably keeping the Indian Wrecking Crew in sight in Phoenix, even if only for a handful of laps at a time.

Jarod Vanderkooi (No. 20 Richie Morris Racing Kawasaki Ninja 650) completed the top five, finishing just ahead of the similarly mounted Briar Bauman (No. 14 Zanotti Racing Kawasaki Ninja 650) and Jake Shoemaker (No. 55 Weirbach Racing Kawasaki USA Kawasaki Ninja 650).

Harley-Davidson’s early-season woes continued at Turf Paradise. Jake Johnson (No. 5 Harley-Davidson Factory Flat Track Team XG750R) was the only rider among the firm’s trio of factory-backed talents to make the Main Event. To make matters worse, Johnson’s day then ended in a crash which brought out one of the aforementioned red flags.

**Texter Takes Title Lead With
AFT Singles Triumph**

Shayna Texter stepped forward to seize control of the AFT Singles class with a hard-earned win aboard her No. 52 Richie Morris Racing Honda CRF450R.

Texter was hounded throughout the Main by Tristan Avery (No. 16 Ron Ayers Honda CRF450R) and Brandon Price (No. 92 DPC Racing/Don’s Kawasaki KX450F), but proved almost impossible to draft by and even more difficult to stay in front of.

Texter said, “It was a long 15 laps. I just tried to stay smooth and make as few mistakes as I possibly could. I knew those guys were on me; I could see them in my shadow going down the back stretch. I just tried to be smart and keep them behind me.”

The narrow .041 of a second win was the seventh of Texter’s AFT Singles career and her first since the 2013 season. Her 2017 campaign is trending upward in a serious fashion; she’s now logged third-, second-, and first-place finishes in consecutive events.

“It feels awesome to get back up there – it’s been a rough couple of years,” Texter admitted. “I finally get to ride a motorcycle that’s stable and allows me to show what I have under the helmet. It’s really exciting to get back up here.”

The Law Tigers Arizona Mile [aired] on NBCSN on Thursday, July 27, at 10 p.m. ET/7 p.m. PT. For race highlights click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-PAGIT4c_E

American Flat Track power[ed] right into the second of its run of four Miles in four weeks with the Harley-Davidson Sacramento Mile presented by Cycle Gear on Saturday, May 20.

Fans can also keep up-to-date with race day action by following American Flat Track on Facebook (American Flat Track), Twitter (@AmericanFlatTrk) and Instagram (@AmericanFlatTrack).

Award Updates: AFT Singles
McElroy Packaging Lucky 7 – #52 Shayna Texter
Motul Move of the Race – #52 Shayna Texter

AFT Twins presented by Vance & Hines
Ohlins Fastest Lap – #1 Bryan Smith
McElroy Packaging Lucky 13 – #1 Bryan Smith

How to Watch: NBCSN and FansChoice.tv are the official homes for coverage of American Flat Track events. All 18 rounds, from the season-opening DAYTONA TT to the American Flat Track Finals in Southern California, will air in one-hour, tape-delayed telecasts on Thursday nights throughout the summer and fall on NBCSN, while FansChoice.tv provides live streaming coverage of American Flat Track events. FansChoice.tv also provides coverage of IMSA’s development and single-make series, and NASCAR’s touring and weekly series. Catch all the action at <http://www.nbcsports.com/> and <http://www.FansChoice.tv>.

About American Flat Track:
American Flat Track is the world’s premier dirt track motorcycle racing series and one of the longest-running championships in the history of motorsports. Sanctioned by AMA Pro Racing in Daytona Beach, Fla., the series is highly regarded as the most competitive form of dirt track motorcycle racing on the globe. For more information on American Flat Track, please visit <http://www.americanflattrack.com>, follow us on Twitter, like us on Facebook, live stream the events at FansChoice.tv and catch all the American Flat Track racing action on NBCSN.

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