

## SEPTEMBER 08, 2008 NEWS

### EKN Trackside: Rotax Max Challenge USA Grand Nationals - Preview

To close out the final four months of the 2008 season, a stretch of exciting and large events North America has to offer will take place. Beginning that run of big races will be the Rotax Max Challenge USA Grand Nationals presented by Mazda. Teams and drivers have already made their way to the USA International Raceway in Shawano, Wisconsin, site of this year's event in search of the Rotax Grand National crown and in addition to earn spots on America's Team to compete at the Rotax Grand Finals in LaConca, Italy at the end of November.

The town of Shawano has opened up their arms to welcome the nearly 200 drivers and their crews to the small city northwest of Green Bay. The USAIR facility is a one of a kind in North America that offers multiple configurations and challenging elevation changes. The course chosen for the Grand Nationals will be the 'Stars' layout with 17 turns at roughly 1.1-miles in length. The crew at USAIR have been working hard over the last half year to prepare for this week and are sure to be gracious hosts as they have in the past for the many other national events they have hosted.



With unofficial practice running Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, Tuesday will see no on-track action as the day will be reserved for scrutineering and the welcome banquet in the competitors village located adjacent to the circuit. Official practice will be held all day Wednesday with the six classes hitting the track from 8am to 5pm. Following a morning warm-up, Qualifying will begin at 10:30am with the first round of heat races to take place. Rounds two and three of heats will start off Friday with the Last Chance Qualifiers to run at the end of the day. Saturday will begin with Prefinals with the Drivers Presentation and the Finals to wrap-up the event.

eKartingNews.com will be providing the full Trackside Live coverage in what is known as the 'Rotax Week' on the leading karting site. Updates have begun already in the [Official Discussion Thread](#) and will continue throughout the week. Daily reports, results and photos will begin Wednesday with the 'EKN Top-Ten' following each session to begin toward the end of the practice day and continue on to the final lap on Saturday.

Alongside the eKartingNews.com coverage, the EKN duo of Rob Howden and David Cole will anchor the live broadcast throughout the week on RaceFanRadio.com. This will make the second straight year the two media outlets will join forces to cover the Rotax Grand Nationals with an unprecedented six days of live airtime schedule. Monday will begin the RaceFanRadio.com coverage with a RFR Happy Hour from 6pm-8pm (all times will be Eastern). Tuesday and Wednesday will be see a Morning Warm-up show from 10am to noon with RFR Happy Hour's from 6pm to 8pm. Thursday will begin the race broadcasts per the event schedule to air between noon-6pm with Friday and Saturday to begin sometime after 10am. A more detailed schedule will be released Tuesday.

With the overall event preview complete, we will now look at the six individual divisions set to battle in Shawano.

---

## Junior

With last year's champion Jose Zanella gone to Senior division, the Junior Rotax class maybe ripe for Jarvis Gennari to improve on his second-place finish in last year's Grand Nationals. Not far behind him was Justin Coplen, who also returns to the class and is looking to put an exclamation point on his Rotax season after a disappointing Challenge of the Americas campaign.

But he'll have a stacked field to take on – a field including Daniel Formal, Phil De La O, and Nicholas Neri - who finished in that order in the Junior Rotax class championship at the Florida Winter Tour. De La O also ventured west to the Gatorz Karting Cup, where he won in his second race with the series. One way or the other, Florida is providing several drivers at the sharp end of the field.

A wildcard may be Taylor Miinch. Miinch grabbed three Duffy's at this year's IKF Grand Nationals, and has been a front runner in the Gatorz Challenge of the Americas and Karting Cup all season. Miinch has also made a name for himself in Stars of Karting competition this season with a win in JICA at Shawano.

**Mason Madej and Andrew Palmer from the MRP series are running one-two in the Rotax Max Challenge USA Driver point standings, and Madej also has experience at Shawano, having finished fourth in the Rotax Summer Shootout.** The winner of that race, Sebastian Ordonez, will be in attendance, as will be the second and third place finishers from that race - Jesus Rios, Jr., and Brennan Harrington. Also add into the mix is WKA Manufacturer's Cup Series front-runner Zack Busch, who recorded four podium finishes including a win at a Grand National event at the Shawano facility in 2007.

## Junior Provisional Entry List

No.	Driver	Hometown	Series	Team/Sponsor
1	Jarvis Gennari*	Boca Raton, FL	South Florida	SSC East
2	Adrian Starrantino	Simi Valley, CA	Challenge of the Americas	Pitts Performance
3	Jeremy Kane	Lakewood, CA	LAKC, Gatorz Karting Cup	Full Throttle Karting
4	Zach Sharp	Camano Island, WA	Northwest Amsoil Kart Challenge	Cycle Barn NW
5	Louie Pagano	Santa Rosa Valley, CA	Gatorz Karting Cup	DPK
6	Andrew Hawkins	Jupiter, FL	North Florida	Advanced Karting
7	Harrison Bird	Simsbury, CT	Northeast	AutoTrader.com Team UK Racing
9	Brennan Harrington	Des Plaines, IL	MRP Series	Chicago Indoor Racing/MRP Motorsport
13	Keith Harris	Deerfield, IL	MRP Series	Chicago Indoor Racing
14	Justin Coplen*	Murrieta, CA	Gatorz Karting Cup	SSC Racing
17	Collin Robb	Rolling Meadows, IL	MRP Series	Chicago Indoor Racing
20	Taylor Miinch	El Cajon, CA	Gatorz Karting Cup	Miinch Motorsports
37	Daniel Formal	Palm Beach Gardens, FL	South Florida	Advanced Karting
45	Zack Busch	St. Charles, IL	Masters Pro Series, Franklin Motorsports	BTK Motorsports
46	Kristina Vorndran	Charlton, MA		SSC East, F1 Boston
47	Austin Tillery	Owens Cross Roads, AL	BTK	Bakers Creek Kart Club
48	Bobby Ross	West Palm Beach,	South Florida	Advanced Karting



*Jarvis Gennari came one spot short of earning the Junior crown last year  
(Photo: On Track Promotions - otp.ca)*

		FL		
51	Ryan Rupp	Stuart, FL	South Florida	Advanced Karting
54	Michael Johnson	Frankenmuth, MI		
61	Phillip Myers	Kingston, Jamaica	Jamaica	Franklin Motorsports/Merlin USA
71	Ethan Ringel	Windermere, FL	South Florida	Homestead Karting
75	Brandon Scheiber	Maple Valley, WA	Northwest Amsoil Kart Challenge	
76	Phil De La O	Peoria, AZ	Florida Winter Tour	Ariel Wuth/CMW Engines
<b>77</b>	<b>Mason Madej</b>	<b>Vernon Hills, IL</b>	<b>MRP Series</b>	<b>Chicago Indoor Racing</b>
93	Jerry Aguirre	Miami, FL	South Florida	Homestead Karting
96	Chaz Nagel	Azle, TX	Kam Karting @ NTK	Sanctuary of Speed Racing
99	John Gula	Spring Hill, FL	North Florida	Ocala Gran Prix
121	Andrew Palmer	Chicago, IL	MRP Series	Chicago Indoor Racing
127	Jesus Rios Jr.	Miami Beach, FL	South Florida	Homestead Karting
141	Andy Dunne	Westmont, IL	MRP Series	Chicago Indoor Racing
148	Shinya Michimi	Mason, OH	Franklin Motorsports	Franklin Motorsports/Merlin USA
156	Mark Pellegrini	Bridgewater, MA	Northeast	SSC East
310	Bristol Gunderson	Seaabrook, TX	Kam Karting @ NTK	San Yves/Nevosso Racing/Kart Nation
317	Nick Neri	Palmetto, FL	Northeast	OVRP
327	Jordan Jadallah	Hillsborough, CA	Northern California Rotax Series	Jadallah Racing
611	Sebastian Ordonez	Deerfield Beach, FL	South Florida	RDD Motorsports
991	Taylor Tzouanakis	Wauconda, IL	MRP Series	

---