



24/07/2008 - Birel Drivers Score Big Wins East & West

From Gatorz to the Rotax Summer Shootout, Birel-RotaxMax drivers score some solid wins

THREE OAKS, MI (July 21, 2008) --- As the United States Rotax Max Grand Nationals slowly approaches, more and more drivers prepare themselves by competing in several regional RotaxMax events such as the Gatorz Karting Cup as well specialty events such as the Rotax Summer Shootout. A large Birel contingent has opted to focus on Rotax races this season and the results have been nothing less than remarkable.

The most recent two Gatorz events have seen Birel drivers sweep the International, Masters, MiniMax and Club Max classes while this past weekend at the Rotax Summer Shootout many wins and podiums were logged.

The Gatorz Karting Cup event at Grange Motor Circuit had Wes Phillips (MRP/Circuit Group Birel) travel from NorCal to post a solid win in Rotax International followed by another Birel driver, Cory Pollock (DPK-Birel). Erik Von Zeipel (FTK-Birel) continued his hot streak in Rotax Masters, taking the win followed by John Crow (Birel) in 2nd. Michael Davis (Birel) also continues to accumulate race wins in the MiniMax class as he drove to yet another class win.

The next Gatorz event, this time at the long 1.8-mile track of Streets of Willow, continued the stroll of Birel racers logging wins and podiums in the largest Rotax series in the country.

Dylan Stalker (FTK-Birel) led from pole to take the Rotax International win over three more Birel drivers, Jacob Pearlman (DPK-Birel), Ari Baquet and Wes Phillips. In Rotax Masters it was Von Zeipel again taking the win, though he had some help in the last few laps from a train of Birel drivers, Ian Thomas and Paul Bonilla to close and pass Andy Seesemann (FTK-Birel) in the closing laps. Thomas would finish 2nd in front of Seesemann. Michael Davis (FTK-Birel) had already locked up the Gatorz championship but would again dominate in MiniMax, taking the top spot in a close .052-second win over Breanna Miscione. Lou Pagano (DPK-Birel) put in a solid performance in Rotax Jr. taking 2nd after scoring his first pole of the season.

"One thing is certain," said Marc Miller, director of Brand Development for MRP Motorsport / Birel. "Many of our dealers and their customers have embraced local and regional racing using the Rotax program and it has proven to be a great program. We look forward to seeing many of these drivers compete to place Birel on the top step of the U.S. Rotax Grand Nationals in September."

Many drivers and teams are already planning for the big event as several competed this past weekend at the Rotax Summer Shootout event in Shawano, WI. The shootout, intended as a warm-up and test weekend for the Grand Nationals had over 70 drivers competing.

In Rotax International, it was Zach Beard (MRP-Birel AMERICA) who laid down the fastest qualifying lap and took the top step on the podium in the final. Beard looks to be one of the favorites as part of the Birel program and will have '08 Challenge of Americas Rotax Champ and current #1 ranked Rotax Int'l by E-KartingNews.com, Wes Phillips, turning the wrenches for him. Jared Siegel (Pro-Karting/Birel) put in a solid performance to finish in 2nd place. Brad Theys (Pro-Karting/Birel) did double-duty on the weekend competing in both Rotax Masters and DD2. The young driver logged top 5's in both with a 2nd in Masters and 5th in the DD2 class. The man to beat in DD2 however was Derek Kozak (Pro-Karting/Birel) as the driver took the pole and pre-final win. Unfortunately the final did not go his way as a spin early on took him out of contention for the win. He would wind up in 3rd. MiniMax was all dominance from Dore Chaponick Jr. (Birel) as the pilot swept the category with the pole, pre-final and final. *One of the largest classes, Rotax Jr., saw a three-kart contingent from Team CIR/Birel run in the top 5 all weekend. Brennan Harrington, Mason Madej and Andy Dunne ran nose to tail for most of the race to finish 3rd through 5th in the final.*

With several regional Rotax Challenge series wrapping up their season championships over the next few weeks, the list of Birel/Rotax drivers logging race wins and championships continues to grow.

For more information regarding MRP Motorsport, Birel or the MRP-Birel AMERICA race program, call (269-756-9133) or contact us online at www.mrpmotorsport.com. Information regarding the Birel chassis line may be found at www.GoBirel.com.