



SHIMANO



Race Update for May 2009

The season is well underway now and while I was hoping for a bit of a break as far as luck goes, it just didn't happen. I was pretty pumped after some good results in Sea Otter and I was really looking forward to the next two World Cups in France and Andorra.

I was feeling pretty good in La Bresse in France and was on a fresh track which finished right in the middle of the village there. I was struggling to get up to speed on the track... there was just something about it that didn't really suit me.

To make matters worse, about 10 minutes before my final run, it started raining really hard. I came down in the rain and managed to stay upright but compared to the guys who had dry runs, I just wasn't close. All the riders who went around the time I did had similar problems but I did get a good pic on littermag.com riding in the rain. It did stop raining about 30 seconds after I finished though.....

The next weekend in Andorra, I was feeling way better. I qualified in 23rd place which I was pretty happy with and I was confident I could finish in the top 20. For my final run though it just didn't come together. I made a few pretty small mistakes and although they only cost me a couple of seconds, that equates to about 20 places on a short, dry, fast downhill track. I finished in the 40's somewhere and began to wonder when my luck would turn.

The following weekend was the US Open in New Jersey. Things went a little better there for me. I had a pretty solid crash the first day of practice and banged up both my knees and wrist so I just cruised qualifying since it was pretty hard for me to even do a run. For the race, a storm came through about an hour before we started and since it hadn't rained all week, no one was quite sure what the track would be like.

Well, it was incredibly slippery but I managed to have a pretty good run but couldn't really pedal all that well with my beat up knees... I came down with the fastest time and by the time everyone else had finished I was 4th which I was pretty happy with considering everything. It was just good to be on the podium again and the result really helped with my confidence after the previous two races.

Since then, I have been back home just resting up. I have had a pretty easy week, just giving my knees time to recover for the next World Cup in Fort William (Scotland). I really like the track there and I know I can do well.

I did get a new bike this week which is working out really well and I have made some other changes which will hopefully help me find those extra couple of seconds. So far it's been a really testing season for me but I know that if I stay positive and keep at it, the results will come. There's still plenty of races left and things can only get better. A huge thanks to everyone for their support (you know who you are) and I'll let you know how it all goes.

Jared

Results:

For the final in La Bresse I finished 69th... not cool! Andorra I was 46th. For the US Open I was 4th in the DH and 6th in the new Indy Cross race which was basically a single slalom race about 45 seconds long. It was fun but dual slalom is waaaaay better.