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NOVEMBER 2007
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2007

KHASHABI KICKS OFF

XDL



Darius wins it O.G. style.

Words John Zamora

Plus Abilla Banoczy, John Zamora



TOP OF THE WORLD
Big Joe does his best Titanic impression.



Kid Blake shows his disappointment after a poor run.

WHEN I COMPETE FOR XDL I FEEL LIKE AN ATHLETE—NOT A SIDE SHOW.

—Aaron Colton

XDL is the only traveling stunt-riding competition series on the planet, and it kicked off its second season at the scenic Queen Mary in Long Beach, California. With the historic ship serving as the scenic backdrop, competitors from around the country battled it out for the 15 qualifying spots to move closer to the finals.

After taking cues from fans and riders, organizer Randy Grube changed the format of the event from 2006 to make it more entertaining for the general public. New to the series was the Avon Tyres Freestyle Burnout, where competitors did their best to show off their wheel-spinning

skills. 2006 XDL Champion Aaron Colton took home a new set of rubber for winning with his amazing blaze of smoke and rubber.

The most entertaining addition was the FMF Racing Target Stoppie competition. Riders raced against the clock to hit several predetermined targets that included parking the rear tire on a wall, running head first into a wooden platform and finishing in a rolling stoppie while landing the rear tire closest to a bullseye. Again, it was Colton who had the winning run. He also took home the Chatterbox Circle Challenge by completing more wheelie rotations than any other rider.





THE RIDING AND THE ATMOSPHERE WERE GOOD—BETTER THAN VEGAS. I RODE CRAPPY BUT I JUST WANTED TO QUALIFY.

—“Luxury” Joey Sutterfield

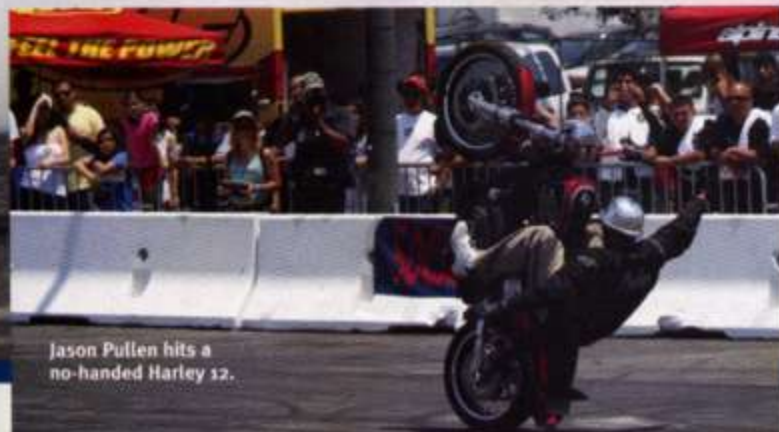


WE NEEDED AN EVENT LIKE THIS TO WEED OUT THE WEAKER COMPETITORS AND BRING OUT THE GOOD GUYS.

—Javon Stevens



It was a battle of the XDL beauties, too—catsuits vs. half-shirts. Too close to call.



Jason Pullen hits a no-handed Harley 12.



Darius shows sick style and a tight bike.

www.summerfestival.com



2007 XDL THE SCENE



I HAD SOME PROBLEMS WITH MY BIKE BUT I MADE IT HAPPEN AND HAD A GOOD TIME. DON'T EVER CHANGE THINGS BEFORE COMPETITION!

— Jason Pullen



MAD PROPS TO THE HUNTER FOR LAYING DOWN UNDER ME—HE'S THE CRAZY ONE.

—Eric Whitcomb



A LOT OF THE UPCOMING GUYS ARE GETTING OUT THERE AND TRYING TO GET A NAME GOING. IT'S THE BEST AND MOST SUPPORTED EXHIBITION THAT WE DO.

— Joe Dirty



XDL U.S. OPEN RESULTS

ROADLOK SECURITY INDIVIDUAL FREESTYLE

1. Darius Khashabi
2. Aaron Colton
3. Alex Flores
4. Lin Esbelom
5. Javon Stevens

AVON TYRES FREESTYLE BURNOUT

Winner: Aaron Colton

LOCKHART PHILLIPS SICKEST TRICK

Winner: Eric Whitcomb

SMF CYCLES/CRAFT HELMETS LAST MAN STANDING

Winner: Jason Pullen

FMF RACING TARGET STOPPIE

Winner: Aaron Colton

Sickest Trick is always a crowd favorite and nothing gets them more excited than seeing riders risk life and limb. Eric Whitcomb took the loudest applause and trophy for the Lockhart Phillips Sickest Trick by bunny-hopping over one of his colleagues who was lying on the ground.

Jason Pullen made a trip from San Francisco to show the Japanese sportbike riders a thing or two on his Harley-Davidson Sportster. Last-minute changes to the bike kept him from placing in the top 10, but he was still able to qualify for the finals. Pullen also managed to win the SMF Cycles/Craft Helmets Last Man Standing.

Individual Freestyle was the main event, with competitors having just three minutes to show their technical skills and variation. Darius Khashabi has flirted with the top

spot before, but minor slips in his previous runs have hurt his chances at a place in the Racing 905 Hot Seat. With a near-flawless run against stiff competition, Khashabi emerged victorious in the RoadLok Security Individual Freestyle competition, which earned him a \$3000 paycheck and a kiss on the cheek from a local lovely.

The XDL stunt-riding series continues to grow and develop with each event. Event organizer Randy Grube summed it up by saying: "I truly believe we achieved a breakthrough with the XDL U.S. Open. We were at an outstanding venue located in the middle of a large metro area and the competition was well received. I always envisioned stunt riding as being up there with a series such as AMA Superbike, and we are getting closer every time." 🏆