

SPORTS

Teen motocross racer excels in Canada

Cole Hay of Ray in third full season

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

A teenage motocross racer from Ray is in his third full season competing north of the border after having won two divisions he competed in last summer.

Cole Hay, 13, who races in the Northwestern Ontario points series of the Canadian Motosport Racing Corporation, was the 2013 season champion for both the 7-11-year-old 65cc and 85cc classes. This year he is competing in the 12-16-year-old 85cc class, where he is first place after two racing weekends, and “super mini” class, where he is now in third going into today’s races at Atikokan.

“We have a track at home, and I practice there quite a bit,” he said. “It’s very physical – physically demanding – so I ride a bike and exercise and try to eat healthy.”

In addition to daily practicing, weather permitting, at the home track of about eight-tenths of a mile, Cole and his father, David Hay, who serves as the mechanic, noted they also head up to Emo to practice once a week during the racing season, which this summer includes two races at Emo, three in Atikokan and four at Kakabeka Falls near Thunder Bay.

Of the various expenses involved in a motocross racing weekend, David said it will cost \$200 in fuel to travel to Thunder Bay.

“I take care of all the motorbikes – go through



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cole Hay of Ray (48), shown executing a jump while competing in motocross this year in Canada, is in his third full season of racing at age 13.

them every time we race,” David said. “We have a fifth wheel that we travel in.... That takes time to get that ready.

“My wife makes all the food and prepares everything for that. It’s a family sport. That’s one of the biggest enjoyments we get out of it.”

Cole’s younger brother, Mason, 7, is in his first year of motocross racing.

On a racing weekend, David said the family heads up to the track on Friday, when racers are able to practice that evening, and stays overnight

night for the races on Saturday, before heading back Sunday.

“You meet a lot of nice people – the kids meet up with a lot of nice friends – so we get to spend time with all the people that we race with,” David said.

In addition winning the races, David noted that Cole’s starts have won him most of the “hole shots,” a point near the start where the first racer to reach will get a prize.

“He’s won seven of eight (hole shots) so far this year, and so they have a nickname for

him,” David said. “They call him ‘Cole Shot Hay.’”

On a race day, David said each class will have two races, in which Cole this year races a 2014 Kawasaki 85cc motocross bike in both classes, with the overall finishes combined to determine total points.

On just about every race weekend, David said someone will have a fall with a shoulder injury being the most common. He also noted Cole hasn’t had a fall yet this season, but two years ago sustained a concussion and knocked

himself out when he fell on a jump at the Atikokan track.

“As he’s raced he’s gotten more confident,” David said about Cole. “He doesn’t fall too much....

“You’ve got to ride within your abilities and not try to do too much. That’s when you get into trouble.”

Cole said he would like to become a professional motocross racer in the future.

“That’s what I’d ultimately like to do,” said Cole, who also noted he would like qualify for

the Loretta Lynn Amateur National Motocross Championships in Tennessee.

“That’s the biggest amateur national in the world,” he said. “You basically get there and (finish) top five or three and make a name for yourself. You pretty much get picked up by some big team and you get a contract to go pro, whenever you’re big enough on a big bike.”

This season, Cole said his goals are to win both classes in which he is competing in Canada.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be conducted by the Koochiching County Board of Adjustment relative to the following item on **Thursday, June 26, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.** in the County Board Room, Koochiching County Courthouse, International Falls, Minnesota.

A variance application received by **Mark & Pam Rooney** requesting a deviation from the required 50ft side property line setback in order to construct a 24 x 28ft detached garage. The parcel is located along County Road 1 (aka: Lindford Road) and is described as part of Gov’t Lot 2, Sec. 6, Twp 69N, Rge 26W, Koochiching County, Minnesota.

All interested parties are invited to attend the said hearing to be heard. If more information is desired, please contact the Koochiching County Environmental Services, ph.(218)283-1158.

June 10, 2014

Dale Olson
Zoning Administrator
Koochiching County

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