

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

w/ SHANE O'BANION

By Rich Thurman
Photo by Sandy Carter



I have spent a little time over the last few years getting to know some of the racers and their families. Shane O'Banion has a fun crew that are at every race and do their best to help him run up front. They are a blast to hang with and seem to keep me laughing the whole time!

Age: 24

Hometown: **Campbellsville, KY**

Married or Single: **Married**

Bike: **KTM**

Achievements: Finished 4th overall at Loretta Lynn's in 250 B stock in 2004, Won the Lites Pro-Sport class at the Southeast Regional in 2008, Won the Victory-Sports Indoor Motocross series in 250 Lites Pro and 450 Pro in 2007-2008, Won KY State Motocross Championships on 50's, 65's 85's, 125's, B and A classes, Finished 2nd in Heavy A in the Mid-South Cross Country Series in 2009-2010, Finished 13th Overall at the 2010 Titan GNCC.

Favorite Food: **Country Ham**

Last movie you paid to see: **Little Fockers**

First Bike: **PW50**

First Race: Motocross in Bardstown, KY, there were about 30 kids there in the 50 class and I got second. Ryan Sipes won and lapped me.

Tell us about your early years riding/racing: I starting racing

motocross when I was 5. I just raced local tracks until I was 7, and

that's when Dad started taking me to bigger races like Loretta Lynn's, Ponca City, Mini O's and Mega Series races. I usually did pretty well at all the qualifiers; I have made it to Loretta Lynn's every time I have tried, but I always seemed to have bad luck once we got there.

When I was 9, I quit riding motorcycles and started racing BMX. I did pretty well at that too, I won a few state championships in my age division and did ok at the national events. I did that until I was about 13, then I got a YZ85 for my 13th birthday and I have been racing dirt bikes pretty much every weekend since then.



Who did you battle with the most in the last season? Myself mostly. I didn't plan on racing last year because I broke my neck at the end of the 2008-2009 series and hadn't been riding any because I didn't have but about 30% of the feeling or strength in my right arm. I got like 200th at round one, but as the season went on I got stronger and stronger. Once I got to where I could keep up, Darin Downs and Dustin Gibson were who I had to battle with.

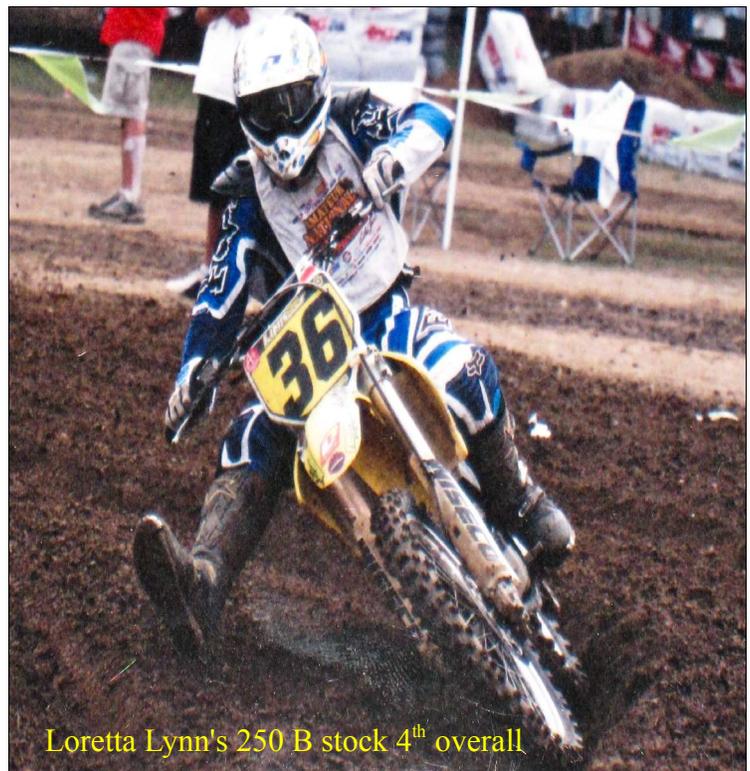
What are you doing this summer? I'll be racing the GNCC's in XC2 on team R2W. This will be my first time doing the GNCC's so I'm pretty excited about it. When I'm not racing the GNCC's, I'll be racing motocross so I can make enough money to get to these off-road races.

You have run the #837 for many years it looks like. Any special significance to it? No, not really. Right before my first race I had to pick what number I wanted to be so we went to the local motorcycle shop. When we got there they only had a few numbers that would fit on a PW so I just said "I want that one, that one, and that one" and since then I have always been 837.

You also have a few guys at every race helping like Eric Gill and Big John. Whats that like? It's great to have guys like that to support me. We just have our own little routine or job that we do on race day and it seems to work. Eric just does too much to mention, I couldn't do it without him, and Big John is my gas man. My wife, Heather, is there with the goggles and water, and always cheering me on. I usually have Paul Spurgeon, or Heather, on the pit board. I really do have the best pit crew out there.

What lies ahead? Hopefully finish out the Mid-South series as the overall champion, and have a strong, healthy year in the GNCC's.

Who would you like to thank? My wife, Heather, My dad, Eric Gill, Pro-Action KTM, Greg Tucker, Mansfield Chevrolet, R2W Racing, FOX, Sun Star, FMF, Rekluse, Cycra, Breaking, No-Toil, Motorex, HBD Grafx.



Loretta Lynn's 250 B stock 4th overall