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Wednesday June 24, 2009 saw mini roadracers from across western Canada converge at Race City speedway to become officially licensed to participate in Round #3 of the 2009 Honda CBR 125R Challenge.

With the CBR 125R's sponsored by Alberta Honda Dealers Riverside Honda, St Albert AB, and Rocky Mountain Powerhouse Honda Calgary, along with Honda Canada, Parts Canada and the members of the AMRA. 10 Canadian Mini Roadracers joined the grid for round #3 at Race City. Each rider haven proven at Wednesday's training sessions they had the skills to pilot the machines around the undulating curves and straights of the 2 mile racetrack.

17 competitors qualified for Sunday's main event, 9 were new to the highly competitive field. Looking over the entrant list many of the names are familiar to followers of the Canadian National Mini Roadracing Series: Steven Nickerson Hamilton, ON, Bodhi Edie Warman, SK , Geoff Gerbrandt Martinsville SK, Karl Robitaille Ste-Julie, QC ,Christopher Mah Edmonton, Ryan R. Appenrodt Quesnel, BC, Dylan Jones Delta, BC, Ryan Roche Pickering, ON, Jay Fox Calgary, AB, Vincent Tighe Calgary, AB, Chris Wilson Airdrie, AB, Kelsey Giacchetta Calgary, AB ,Leah Vignale Kemptville, Kim Young Jae Mississauga, ON, and Samantha McManus Calgary, AB.

After Sunday afternoon's main event, the Honda CBR125R challenge racers moved 800 meters to the home track of the Alberta Mini RoadRacing Association to set up for Round #4 of the series. After a second practice session Sunday evening, the first session on Friday night, the racers lined up for a technology free qualifying session. 16 racers lined up according to the final results of the afternoons race to run 8 hot laps for Monday's main event. For the riders who were used to the larger tracks the 'mini track' was another challenge to overcome. Tight racing, tire to tire, elbow to elbow, was the name of the game for this evening's session. Mini racers, with a strong background in tight racing seemed to have the advantage going into Monday's main event.

Round #4 was scheduled to run at 12 noon. An early morning practice session awarded the diligent CBR competitors' another look at the quick corners and shorter sweepers of the Varsity Chrysler Speed Park track. The racers formed up, officials took there positions and the green flag dropped to the roar of 15 spec Honda race machines. Nerves were held in check as the first corner was clean, then the second into a straight allowing for slight separation of the riders into a left handed sweeper and a tight hairpin. Early leaders Steven Nickerson Hamilton, ON, Bodhi Edie Warman, SK and Geoff Gerbrandt set the pace for the rest of the pack. With the home track advantage Edie and Gerbrandt soon pulled away from the pack with several bike lengths between themselves and third place. While the race winner seemed predetermined the fight for third was highly contested, with several racers in contention for the coveted bronze position. After a few intense laps the racers sorted themselves out with Steven Nickerson Hamilton, ON holding onto third. Edie earns himself valuable first place points and the series lead by 8 valuable points going into Round #5 at Mosport June 16-19.

After the Honda CBR 125R Challenge racing continued at the mini track for Round #3 of the Canadian National Mini RoadRacing series. Even though the 'official' racing was done for the CBR contestants, the day wasn't done for them. Jay Fox AMRA President and Youth Mentor took all interested kids under his wing and made sure that they were able to participate in the rest of the day. Representing the eastern provinces were Karl Robitalle, Ste-Julie, QC and Raphael Archambault, of St. Colomban Qc. who both competed in the spec Thunder Class, 125 cc dirt framed motorcycles with street tires, and the open Formula classes on converted Honda RS80 machines. Both youths represented themselves and eastern Canada well earning valuable National mini roadracing points.

Coming up for many of our western mini roadracers is Round #5 of the Honda CBR125R challenge at Mosport Int'l Raceway, Mosport, ON. AMRA Team Leader President Jay Fox broke all expectations as he supplied an additional ten racers to the track, bringing the grid to seventeen for Round #3. Fox is looking to keep this streak going by bringing as many eligible riders as feasible to Mosport. While organizers are busy working out the logistics of this venture Fox is at the track training and recruiting racers. "We need to bring our kids out east" states Fox. "This will be another great experience for all of them. One of our strongest skill sets we bring to the plate is our ability to adapt to new facilities. In our regular mini roadracing series we race at seven tracks-so if you want to compete you have to adapt. While my wife, Bernedette and I are at Mosport we would be interested in talking with local organizers about the possibility of bringing our national mini roadracing series out east"

Special Thank You to our supporters Alberta Honda Dealers Riverside Honda, St Albert AB, and Rocky Mountain Honda Calgary, along with Honda Canada, Parts Canada , AMRA members and the CNMRA.