October 1st;

Wow! I have been awful of giving updates, and I appologize. I have some bad news, and some great news about current events in my life! It has been over 6 weeks since my last race...all because I am hurt again! Here is a HUGE needed update! Friday, August 22nd I race in Lebanon, OR for the Gene Romero Series. I felt great all night, and the track was awesome. For some reason I ended up with a back row start in my heat race. I made my way through the pack, and was actually able to take 3rd which gave me a front row start for my main. I worked hard for that, so I was happy I was able to pass nearly everyone. In the main, I got off to a pretty good start. I was running 3rd and thats where I stayed. I made a few bobbles as my arms got tired that sent me a little farther back, but it was nice to finish on the podium in front of a large crowd! The next day we headed a little bit south to a race at Cottage Grove, OR. This is my favorite track ever! Wellll, maybe not anymore! I felt sick this day after I ate lunch. It was over 100 degrees, so not the best weather to be feeling yucky in. In practice I went out and felt pretty good. I was smoothe and making good lap times. When I got ready to go out for a 2nd practice I started having a hard time breathing. I came back to the pits and was so nauseated that I had to lay down on the ground. The whole world was spinning and I just felt drained. I ate a little something and was feeling better after just relaxing for a little bit. In my heat race I got a terrible start! I just spun and spun. I worked my way up to 3rd, but tonight that put me in a Semi rather then straight in to the main. I was really frusterated with my start and having to ride a semi. My arm was already killing me because it was my 2nd race in a row. So in the Semi I was lined up on the pole. I felt pretty confident that I could win this race. Well, I got an okay start and was running 2nd. After the 1st lap I decided to set up the leader to make a pass on him. I dove it in hard to one, and turned sharp to come off the bottom of turn 2 and get a good drive. As I was coming off 2, my back end started coming around. I gave it more gas, and it wasn't the right choice. The next thing I know, I am sliding across the ground. It was a nice slide, but then the bike got away from me and I started doing huge side flip flops. As I was flipping I was thinking "head---shoulder---head---ankle." When I finally came to a stop I was amazed to find that the 14 riders behind me did NOT run me over! I was always taught to get your butt off the track when you go down, so I started crawling like a baby to the inside of the track. When I made it there I layed down and the EMT came to check me out. I knew right then that I had messed up my shoulder and broken my ankle. Everyone thought I was crazy! I was actually getting frusterated with those around me, because nobody knows my body like me. Everyone thought I was okay. Well, needless to say I rode all the way home, went to the ER and about 7 hours after my crash found out that I had a broken ankle and a seperated shoulder! Told ya so was my reaction! :] On Monday I was able to get in to see my Ortho Doctor. He is the best! I didn't even need new xrays for him to tell me I needed surgery. He said it was one of the worst breaks he had seen in awhile. At this point I was in a huge dillema. He needed to do surgery on Wednesday, but Wednesday was when I was interviewing to get my job back, and for a higher position! Well, my Doctor is so wonderfull, that he moved another patient and put me in for surgery the next day! So on Tuesday August 26th I went in and had surgery on my ankle. He was able to just do 2 pins and not have to put a plate in there! I was able to go to my interview on Wednesday as planned. Well, I interviewed less then 24 hours my surgery and was hired in the higher position as the Lead Teacher! So what this means, is that I now have my own classroom, my own 2 assistants, my own 40 wonderful children, and my own new responsibilities! So this is why I have been so busy! It has been nothing but a challenge and a joy since the day I started. I used a scooter to get around the classroom and crutches while at home. The kids thought my scooter was pretty cool, and I cannot tell you how many times the kids said "Teacher broke her leg on her motorcycle." They were proud of it. I have been so busy constantly. I put in extra hours ever day, and I cannot walk in to a store without thinking "humm what does my classroom need!" It has been 8 weeks now since my surgery, and tomorrow will be one week since I have been walking! I am still in a walking cast and have another 2 weeks until I am back to being just regular! My shoulder still bothers me, and I have been told it probably always will! I don't really want to admit it, and I am not sure if it will happen, but after this crash I have had second thoughts about Racing. For the first time EVER in my life, when I hit the ground my first thought was not "ahh I just ruined the rest of my season!"; instead it was "Oh my God! I start work on Wednesday! My job!". Racing is a huge passion of mine, but I have found a new passion that I love just as much. Children. They make my world go round, and the greatest joy is hearing a child yell "Teeeacccher" across the room! I am sure I will be back on a bike soon enough, but needless to say t he thoughts are there. I am sorry again for the lack of updates. I will try my best to keep everyone updated! Thank you to everyone for being such awesome fans!

August 11th:

Once again, I have been terrible about keeping everything updated. I would have thought that with it being Summer and not working, I would have MORE free time, but I have been busy as can be! I have been Racing quite a bit lately. This past weekend was the BIG Race at Castle Rock. I wasn't planning on Racing the TT, but at the last minute decided to and was glad I did! I got a pretty bad start in the main, and had to come from behind. With about 3 laps to go I put a high low pass on the rider in front of me and was able to get past him. I was right up on the next guy, and I worked hard to set him up. I set him up in the same turn, and squeezed my way by on the inside. And when I say Squeeze by, that's just what I mean. It was soooo tight and almost no room that I had my elbows in trying to have no contact at all. It worked well. I got by him and then got the white flag. There was no time to catch up to the others. I ended up in 5th place and was happy with that! Saturday was the ST. I was VERY excited for this race! I was only allowed to ride in the 450 Pro class because I only have a Pro-Sport license. I felt awesome in practice. We did time trials and I qualified 20th out of 34. This gave me a front row start for my heat. In my heat I sat on the line and just spun. The guy on the back row even passed me up! Finally I got going and quickly made one pass and set my sights on my brother. I closed in on him, but couldn't make anything. It was a 6th place finish and I wasn't happy with that at all! In the Semi it was pretty crazy. On the first start I didn't get off very good, but we were in a big pack of about 5 riders. On the 2nd or 3rd lap my brother and another rider went down. We had a full restart and it sent both of them to the back row. On the restart I got a much better start and went around a guy in turn 1. I was running 3rd and really close to 2nd place. I was just making close and consistent laps. With 2 laps to go I ended up getting passed and that took me out of the final transfer position! I was bummed out, but very happy with how I rode. This Season has been hard, because tracks haven't been great, but when you put me on a nice smooth fast track I can run with the best of them! Previous to this past weekend, I had made the trip to Billings, MT and to Sturgis. I didn't race in Billings but enjoyed watching the GNC Race. I headed off to Sturgis in our motorhome and trailer with my brothers girlfriends family. Confusing, I know. But basically what that meant was I was Dadless and Brotherless AKA Mechanicless! It was an eye opening experience for me. I know a little bit about bikes, but not enough to do it all on my own. I had plenty of gearing changes and tire changes and jetting changes and it left me all confused. A big thanks to Willy Halbert for all the help! Anyway, I was so excited for the Short Track, but was left disappointed. The track was rough, and not easy for me to ride at all. I tried my best, but best just wasn't good enough. I ended up 14th in the Main Event. I started from behind, and that is where I ended up. I couldn't make my way through the bumps and just kept going backwards. We raced the 1/2 mile on Tuesday. It was AWFUL!! One of the worst tracks I have ever raced. In practice I pulled off because I didn't feel safe. I decided to go on with Racing and just not ride if it didn't feel safe. In my heat race I got a good jump off the line but then the bike just bogged and was so close to dying. I downshifted and was able to get going but by then they were long gone. I caught up to one rider and with another laps would have been able to pass him. In the main I got an okay start. On about the 3rd lap a rider went down coming off turn 4. I ducked to the bottom and got by about 3 guys. As the race went on I almost crashed about a billion times. It was very scary. The bumps were huge and the track was getting dusty. Two riders made the pass on me, and so I ended up 9th. Not great at all. I would love to go back again, but you kind of hope when you travel the distance you get nice tracks. So I was a little bummed about that! Previous to that trip we had just been Racing locally. I have rode well, but only had good finishes at Castle Rock. The arm just can't handle the rough stuff! I am sorry that my updates have been few and far between. I will try to update again soon. As for my personal life, I have been Nannying as much as possible and spending alot of time with my Gramma when I can. I go back to teaching in about 2 weeks and am very excited for that! I hope everyone is doing well!

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June 29th:

Wow! I sure have been bad about writing updates! Mostly that is because of the rain outs we had, and not just doing much Racing. But this is in much need of an update, so here I am to try to remember as much as I can! Back in May I ran a race at Castle Rock. We had 2 rain outs prior to this, and I was really ansxious to race! It was the TT. I rode the Pro Class, and actually did better then I expected. I am still off the pace, but it is something that I am not sure I will ever be back at. I work out hard during the week, but it never seems to be quite enough to get that arm in shape to handle the TT. We ran a 15 lap main, and by the end I could barely hold on to the handlebars! I believe I finished up 7th place, and I was ahead of about 3 or 4 other riders. So I didn't get last, and I rode hard! It felt great to be back out on an outdoor track! I had missed it so much! Then on June 14th I tried a new race track that we had. It was a 1/2 mile...and it was scary!! Its nice to have new tracks, but this one was not safe in my opinion and not for me. It was very dusty, and it got really rough in turn 3 and 4. I raced my heat and finished last. I was happy to just get off the track safe! In the main I could not see anything going in to turn 1. It was so scary. I had no idea where the edge of the track was and did not feel safe at all. I made 2 laps and when the dust didn't clear at all, I pulled off. It has been awhile since I have not felt safe on a track, but I did the right thing and pulled off. Nothing to gain by riding on something I felt I was in danger on. They are going to put some more work into the track, and hopefully next time it will be a little bit better! My last day of work was June 5th. It has been pretty hectic since then! I worked every day of my first week off, doing extra babysitting/Nannying. That was nice, because in that week I had made enough money to pay for my plane ticket to Peoria, IL. That is where I have been in the past 10 days...well all over that area. I flew back East to help my best friend Brady Mueller out at some of his GNC's. He is riding the Basic Expert class. It was a blast! He did so well, and I love watching the 750's. In 10 days we covered about 7 different states! I got to see him race in Maryville, TN; Bedford, PA; and Lima, OH. He had a bad spill on the first night, but would have had podium, and he made podium at the last 2 races. It was so great to see him do so well. My favorite Joe Kopp did amazing as well! It was a blast just hanging back East and helping out. I am born to be a Pit Chick. I love the whole Racing scene, and cleaning leathers, taking lap times, wiping down bikes, making lunch, etc. Its the next best thing to actually Racing! I wish I didnt have to come home, and could spend the rest of the Summer on the road with him. It was such a great experience! I have a double header this weekend at Castle Rock, and I cannot wait to race! It has been WAYYY to long! Some other things in my personal life. My Grandpa passed away April 16th. He was one of my biggest fans. It has been rough, but I know he is always around. Today on the plane a ladies cell phone ringer was the sound of a train blowing a whistle. My Grandpa was a lover of trains, and in the poem I wrote for his Memorial Handout there was a line "Did you hear the whistle blow". So always in the smallest ways, I know he is here looking out for for me. I miss him, and the hardest part is thinking about my Indoor Races at Puyallup. Him and my Grandma were always there; bundled up in the grandstands. Its that vision that I miss the most, and makes me the most sad. Luckly, I have such an amazing family and we have all stuck together, and are doing as well as possible. I lost my "Saturday Night Grandpa" a few weeks ago as well. "Brownie" was a long time race fan, and one of my biggest fans. Over the past few years I had kind of made it my job to look after him, as his kids had removed him from their lives. He lived 3 hours away, so it was hard to do. Shortly after Daytona I got a call that he was in the hospital. I went and saw him the next day. I never imagined it would be the last day I saw him. He was such an amazing man, and I truly loved him like a Grandpa. I am putting on a small Memorial for him this Saturday at our races. Everyone has a Brownie story, and we all love and will miss him. So thats pretty much what has been going on. I will try to do better and keep this updated! I really hope everyone is doing well!!

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March 26th:

Time for a little update! 2 weekends ago, on March 15th I went to a race at a local Indoor called Oakwood. I had not ridden this track since before my accident, but its a track I used to really like. It gets really rough, but its fun and a very quick little short track. We went down for early practice, and really that was all I cared about doing. I was having major bike problems, that were very frusterating for me. I just feel like my bike is falling apart. It has served me sooo well the past 4 years, and now it just seems like there are problems after problems. The throttle kept sticking, and so we put on another one, but it was sticking a little, so I had to physically turn the throttle off. That was a little scary. I decided to just live with it, and rode my best. I got in only a few laps of practice because we were dealing with the throttle and then once again the bike just refusing to start (we still don't know why it's doing that!) All the racers talked me into Racing, and the Pro's got together and decided that they would rather have lots of laps then race for money. So we got to have 2 heat races, and 3 main events. The last main event was 25 laps! We just lined up wherever we wanted, and pretty much just more practice but with a little more competition. I just rode consistent and smart laps. Never got last. In the 25 lap main, I rode until my arms were tired and I was getting crazy and then took a slow lap, and started again. It was so much fun. What people don't realize is that I live in a place where practicing is unheard of. There is not an unoccuppied peice of land anywhere near me. For me to even go trail riding, I would have to drive over an hour. I wish so badly I had a track in my back that I could turn laps on even just once a week. For me, the only practice I get is what they give me at the races I am at. I would say its a disadvantage, and always leave me wondering the big "what if?" So it was alof of fun just getting to ride around and practice! We sent my suspension off to Davey Durelle, so I am not Racing this weekend at the TT at Oakwood. Not sure when my next race will be. I assume it will be on April 12th at Oakwood. I am excited for more lap times! Right now we are trying to get some plans sent for travelling this Summer. I really want to do the Dayton Hot Shoe as well as the Winchester Hot Shoe. I am not sure if those wishes will come true, but its what I would love to do! Other then that, it will just be local Racing. I will be watching at Springfield Memorial Day weekend, and that will be fun! I am still loving my job as a Pre-School Teacher. Every day I find another thing to be greatful for! I had to give up my afternoon Nanny gig with my baby girls because the Dad's hours changed and I couldn't get there in time. So now I am working for another family 2 nights a week. Its not the same, but no matter what my baby girls will always be my baby girls and I will always be their Nanny Amy. Nothing can change over 3 years of working for them! I am almost done with my Family Support Services Degree, and will continue working at the few classes I need over the next few months! I hope everyone is doing well. I want to give a big THANK YOU to my Sponsors who made Daytona possible for us, and who every day help a young girl reach her greatest dreams! I will write more soon, and should have pictures up soon as well!

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March 5th:

I am back...well almost! I am actually sitting at a lay over in Atlanta, GA and will be home later today. I had some flight troubles as the weather was bad in Atlanta, so I had to reschedule my flight. I am really bummed that I wasn't able to stay for the Grand National's, but I guess that's what the "real world" is all about! I had a lot of fun in Daytona, and learned so much. I will admit, my results were nothing near where I hoped they would be; but there is always room for improvement. Our trip started out here in Atlanta where my parents picked me and my best friend Brady up from the airport. We headed on the 3 hours drive to Nesses, SC so the boys could do some practicing. After no sleep on our red eye, we hopped in the back of the van and was hoping to catch some Z's! It was FREEZING in Atlanta, and the back of the van felt the same, so maybe an hour or so of sleep was all I got. We made it to Nesses, and the boys practiced for probably 4 hours or so. I helped out with bikes, and just watched. Really fun. We then headed on down to Savannah, GA for the open practice. I was VERY excited for this! I went out in the first group of practice, and got to go about 15 laps. It was a lot of fun. Track was great. I came off the track and we made some gearing changes. We went to start up my bike for my next practice, and it wouldn't start! After about 6 bumps, we were finally able to bump start it. I pulled up to the practice line and it just died. So needless to say, my night was pretty much over. My brother thought that maybe the valves were a little tight because it was a fresh motor. So they tore the bike apart, but found nothing. When they put it back together it started though, so that was good. I was able to get out for a few laps in the final practice of the night. I was just happy to get my bike running, and to get the feeling of a "big track" back in my system and get a good starting place for gearing. We headed to our hotel and got a decent night's sleep. Friday was the Savannah Hot Shoe. I knew that this was my best bet to do well, as the track was up my alley. I felt good in practice. Ran good times, and felt great overall. In my qualifying heat race I got a bad start, and then missed a shift. It really put me behind. 4 laps is not much time to make things happen, but I ended up passing one rider that was in front of me, and then got another guy right at the line. I took 5th in my heat. It was good enough to put me on the front row of the heat race. I knew I needed to do something off the line in my heat, but just couldn't make it happen. It wasn't the getting off the line that was hurting me, it was the shifting. I really was struggling with making my shifts and going forward at the same time. I rode hard and passed a rider or two. I ended up 7th out of about 12 riders, but that just wasn't good enough to make the main. Had to get 4th to make the main. I was happy with how I rode, but still disappointed. Being the very realistic person that I am, I knew that Volusia was going to be tough on me, and my chances of making a main wasn't the best one. We drove all night from Savannah to our hotel just outside of Daytona. I was able to sleep some which was nice, since we didn't get to our hotel until about 4 am. We got up in the morning and drove in to Volusia. This was a Pro-Am event today. The track was terrible! In practice I just tried to save my arm and stay away from all the bumps! I got into a head shake a few times down the front straight, and that was not fun. The bumps in turn 3 and 4 were so bad, that going into 3 the handle bars were almost vibrating right out of my hands. In my qualifying heat I got another pretty bad start. The shifting just killed me on this trip! I need to go to an open field somewhere and just practice speed shifting or something! In my qualifying heat I was running 4th or 5th, when I got a head shake. At that point I was going to pull off the track. I wasn't sure if you could still go to the heat if you got a DNF, so I just rode smart laps, and tried some different lines. We did a little work on my front end for the heat race. In the heat I had a back row start. I got off okay. In the first turn I got kinda pinched off, and I just wasn't as aggressive as I should have been. I beat one or two people, but still not good enough to make the main. It really didn't bother me too much, as I didn't feel safe on this track at all! Looking back now, I shouldn't have rode in the first place. My arm was already tired, and I still had two more races to go! Volusia didn't get much better for me. I struggled the next 2 days. Dry slick and rough just aren't my thing I guess? I actually was slightly intimidated by the track, which really is never good. I didn't feel safe. Head shakes reallllllly scare me, because its that sense of having no control. I rode hard, but just didn't get the results I would have liked. I wish that I had a track at home I could ride one once a week or more. I can tell its probably a huge disadvantage. I am spoiled with a very smooth Castle Rock race track. Rough just doesn't really exist here. And I saw what happened when I was thrown into a new situation...it wasn't good. I learned so much on this trip, and I know what I need to work on. I think that trail riding would really help me. I have some off weekends coming up, so maybe I can head out to the woods and do some riding! I wish I had better news to report, but like I said before, I did something I never thought I could do again. If you would have asked me 5 years ago if I thought I would ever get to race in Daytona, I would have told you that you were crazy! Yet, there I was...and it was so much fun! So there is my Daytona update! I am not really even sure when our next race is, but I am already itching to ride. I think I need to be adopted by someone who has a track in their back yard for the Summer! That would be like a dream come true! I hope everyone is doing well!! I will write again soon!

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February 26th:

Tomorrow I head off to Daytona! I have never been so excited in my life! My parents and brother left Sunday around 10 am, and just got into Atlanta, GA where they will be picking Brady and I up from the airport. They are happy to get to relax for a whole day, and get 2 good nights of sleep! I am all packed and ready to go. I know that I will have a hard time sleeping tonight from all the excitement, and I am sure tomorrow at work will go by extra slow. But I can't wait! So once again, stop by at one of the Hot Shoe Nationals and say HI to me! I would love to meet you!! Thanks again for everyone's continued support. Those of you who have followed my story through out the years, know that I once gave up on my dream of Racing at places like Daytona and being a Pro again. I am so proud of myself for overcoming my fears and not letting doctor's control my life. Nearly 6 years later, I am back; and there is no giving up this time! See you at the races!

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February 18th:

Hi everyone! I have been busy getting ready for Daytona! My job is on Mid Winter Break this week, so its nice having the extra time to get things together. I am SO excited for Daytona, and cannot wait until next Wednesday when we fly out. My Dad and friend Chris Fitzhugh made my bike all pretty last night with some new graphics, and stickers, and such. I just wanted to say hello, and again let everyone know that I am headed to Daytona on the 27th, and will be competing at Savannah, GA and Volusia, FL for the AMA Hot Shoes. Please stop by the pits, or catch me in the stands, and introduce yourself. I love to meet those who support me and check out my website! See you in Daytona!

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February 3rd:

Yesterday I had a race at the Puyallup Fairground's for the Puyallup Indoor. It is my final race there this season because we will be packed up for Daytona at the race on the 23rd. I felt good coming into the races today. I got really stressed at the start of the day. I work signup, and was a little late getting out of there to get changed for practice. And then on the way there, a reporter from a local newspaper wanted to talk to me, and was leaving shortly, so of course I talked to her. I then got all dressed and was ready to go, and came upon the fact that once again I can no longer start my bike! This is EXTREMELY frustrating for me. Because we just got the motor fixed up and rebuilt, there is so much more compression then I ever remember. Which obviously means it was in need of some TLC! I felt alright in practice. Other then my Dad had geared it taller, and I couldn't slow down in the corners. We made a gearing change and then I felt much better! I spent 15 minutes in the pits just trying to kick the bike over. I just couldn't make it happen. I am at a disadvantage because I can't touch flat footed, so its hard to get a good kick. Especially when its tough. I plan on spending some time in the garage in the next few weeks and making myself be able to start it. I really just don't like the fact that I can't! Anyway, in my heat I was on the wall (that's what happens when you draw a 196) We had 2 restarts. In the first one I went in hard and my brother went down in front of me and I ended up stalling it. Complete restart. Then again right off the start 2 riders got together and went down. On the final start I got a good jump, but got pushed high in the first turn. That put me back to last. I was able to make one pass during the race and was right with the pack. I ended up 5th which gave me a back row start for the main event. In the main I got off to an okay start. I was giving it my all, but let myself be somewhat intimidated. A rider went down coming off turn 4, and it set me back 2 positions. I was working on a rider really hard, but was struggling getting by him. I had a drive on him going in one lap, but I knew I would end up stuffing him out of the way and all that was crossing my mind was "DAYTONA! BE CAREFUL!" and so I backed out, and waited for him to make another mistake. I drove it in under him and made the pass. All of a sudden it was like the race was over. They shorted us laps. I was very bummed, because I was making up time on the other riders. Everyone was pretty confused, but it was jut a mistake. I think I ended up about 10th, which isn't good at all. But I don't really know. I rode well, but I just needed some more time! I am actually realllly happy that Indoor Racing is over for now! The next time I race will be in Savannah, GA! I cannot wait! My parents and brother will be driving back starting on February 24th. I fly out with my friend Brady on the 27th. I am so excited! I hope everyone is doing great. Send me an E-Mail if you are going to be at the races in Savannah or Volusia and hopefully I will have to opportunity to meet you. Thanks for the continued support!

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January 20th:

Last night I raced at the Puyallup Indoor. My bike is getting the motor rebuilt for the races in Savannah and Volusia, so I was aboard my brothers YZ450 tonight. I raced this bike 2 years ago, and really liked it, so I was excited to try it out again. I went out in practice and was struggling coming off the corners. The tire would just spin and then all of a sudden it would hook up and send me right to the wall. A little scary. I asked Dad to lower the air pressure, so he did that and also softened up the suspension a few clicks. It worked better in the next practice, but still was shooting me to the wall. I love his bike going into the corners. Its easier to lay over then my Honda, but coming off the power is so different that my lack of throttle control doesn't help the situation. :] In my heat race I told myself I was going to be aggressive. I got a pretty good start, but backed off way too much when 2 riders got into eachother. I was running 4th right with the guys, when the guy in front of me went down. I went way wide to miss him and almost went down myself. I was able to take control and finish the race in 3rd. That gave me a front row start for the main event. I was on the wall for the main. 2 guys jumped the start, so they got put on the back row. It was the 2 guys on the inside of me, so this gave me much more confidence with only 4 of us sitting on the front row and the rest in the back. I charged into the first corner and was running 4th. Coming off turn 4 a rider went down and I went way wide to avoid him, but it put me into 3rd. I ran 3rd for about 2 laps before a rider came by me scaring me quite a bit as he ran over my foot. I tried to just stay calm knowing that there was a pack of wild racers chasing me down! I ran 4th until probably 1/2 way when another rider made a clean pass under me. I hung right with him. Lap after lap I could feel my arms getting a little tired. I kept waiting for the white flag to come out! As we were approaching the white flag another rider got underneath me coming off 4. I was so relieved to see that white flag! I finished the race in 6th. My best finish this year. I was really happy with my ride. After the race we realized they ran us 12 laps instead of the usual 10. No wonder my arms were shot! Just this Season is the first time I could even handle a strong 8 laps without needing to give my arms a break! So I was happy. I rode my little bootay off on a bike that wasn't mine. I was proud of myself for hanging in there even when I was nervous and being aggressive. That is definitely an improvement! I am hoping to have my bike back for the race in 2 weeks so I can get one last race in before we head to Daytona. I cannot wait for Daytona to be here! I have been training extremely hard at the gym, and it feels great! I wanted to say a HUGE thank you to those from the Puyallup Races who have donated clothes, toys, blankets, jackets, school supplies, etc. to me for the Pre-School Program that I work at. The Flat Track Family truly is amazing. Thank you guys for all the help and support. My kiddos truly benefit, and that is what is so important! The best to all!

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January 12th:

Last weekend (Saturday January 5th) I had a race at our Puyallup Indoor. I have really struggled this season on the Indoor Tracks. It more comes from my lack of aggressiveness and fear of the other crazy riders! This year it has been a massacre out there, and I have done my best to avoid it. I felt really good in practice this time, and I was able to make my bike work like I haven't all year before. I went out in one practice and started from the back, and made probably 6 aggressive but clean passes. It really boosted my confidence, and I told myself I needed to step it up on the track! In my heat race I let myself get intimidated off the line, and backed off a little. I came off in last but was all over the 2 guys in front of me. They were going at it pretty good, and I was just sitting waiting for them to knock eachother down. Instead, they came together I smacked into one of their back wheels and it sent me straight for the wall. I then charged and caught back up, but definitely not enough laps left. I would have to try it from the back row in the main! In the main, I charged off the starting line and into the 1st corner. I was on the back row and came off with I think 2 guys behind me. 2 laps into it a rider went down coming off turn 4. The flagger was pointing to go around him, but I saw the riders were going under him, well I got all mixed up and I went around and I definitely should have went under him! I got passed right then. I stayed right with them. I then took a quick look back and saw a rider right there, well that was a BIG mistake (and I know better too!!) and that rider went under me in the next corner. Looking back slowed me down just enough! I stayed right with him, and we had a good race. But in the end it still wasn't good enough. I ended up 8th. Still not what I am looking for. I was happy with how I rode, because I was cutting quick and smooth laps. I just need to get in there off the start and be aggressive! I won't be Racing at the next one unless I borrow a bike because we took my bike apart to get the more freshened up before Daytona. Which reminds me! I got my plane ticket! I am flying into Atlanta with my best friend Brady (who has his own website now www.RacingBrady.com) and then my parents will be picking us up and driving to SC for my brother and Brady to do the practice there. I decided not to do it, because 3 races in a row on my arm is going to be tough, and I didn't want to add another day to it. It would have been nice to get some outdoor track time, but not worth it in the long room. We will do the practice in SC and then head to Savannah, GA for a Hot Shoe. We then head to Volusia, FL. I will get to do 2 of the races there, and still seeing if I can find a flight out late enough to where I can race on Monday. I have to be back to work on Tuesday morning. So we will see. But I am VERY excited! If you will be attending any of those races, let me know, so I can stop by and say hello! I hope everyone is having a great 2008!

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January 2nd:

This is my first entry for 2008. If you are a regular reader then you will notice that my website is completely updated and re-designed! I know that in 2007, I really let my website get away from me. I can promise you that it will not be that way this year. Thank you to those who have E-Mailed me looking for an update and to make sure I was still alive, and those of you have cornered me at the race track wondering when I was going to update my Journal! It is those loyal fans that remind me of how lucky I am to be involved in this wonderful sport! 2008 is going to be a great year for me. If you have followed me throughout the years, then you will know that I have returned to the Pro Racing Ranks. This year I am going to Daytona...not to watch...but to Race! I am going to try to do as many of the AMA Hot Shoes as possible, and travel as much as I can. I do not know how long I will be a Professional Flat Track Racer, but I know that this year I am going to give those boys hell, and I am going to live out the dream I have had since I first realized Flat Track was my passion. My goals for this year are to be competitive at the Pro Ranks. I have struggled all Winter on the Indoor tracks, but I know in my heart that I have what it takes to be competitive on the big/outdoor tracks. I am going to work hard on and off to track to be the best racer I can be. I am not looking for fame. And I am not looking to make money. I am looking to fulfill my wildest dreams! It will all start in 2 months at Savannah, GA for the first AMA Hot Shoe of the year. I cannot wait! On the personal side, many of you know that the reason my website didn't get the attention it needed this year was because of how busy I have been. I am teaching Pre-School for low-income family, and it is like a dream come true. Children are my biggest passion next to Racing, and it is so nice to be able to wake up every morning, and go to sleep every night knowing that I have the opportunity to change the world through the 40 little kiddos who walk in and out my classroom door. Because of my teaching job I am blessed to have Summer's off, as well as a few built in breaks. The only trouble with that, is I don't have vacation time. So its going to be a chore figuring out how to even get the time off for Daytona...but I will be there! I also am back to Nannying for my 3 Little Girls in the afternoons. This means, that I am working close to a 50-55 hour work week every week. I also am going to school to earn my Family Support Studies Degree. Also, its good to know that I am still undergoing bi-weekly Bowen Therapy with hopes of continuing to get a little more movement in my arm that has the nerve damage. Also, I am very involved in Promoting Flat Track at the local level. I am managing 2 difference website, I work signup, and write up results and keep points. As you can see, I am one busy girl! Thank you to everyone who has followed me over the years. I love my Flat Track Family with all my heart! Good luck to everyone in 2008! Please check back regularly, as I PROMISE that my website will stay updated! Thanks again!