

DIRT RIDER MAGAZINE



The November 2008 issue of Dirt Rider magazine featured a 1 page article on Tamer Hooters team rider Antonio Balbi.

TEAR OFFS *the latest in the news*

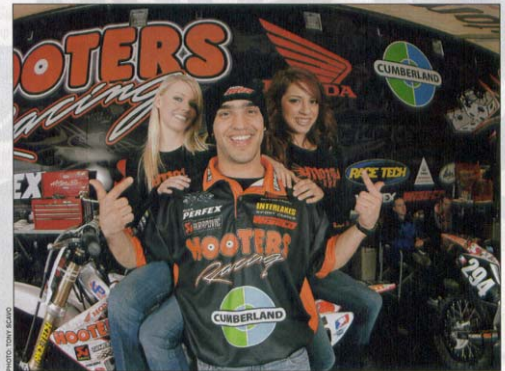
Dropping In On: Antonio Balbi
In today's motocross world of spoiled amateurs and rock-star pros, there are still some top racers out there who realize how fortunate they are to be living the life of a professional racer. Brazilian Antonio Balbi always has a smile and a minute for the fans who drop by the Moto XXX/Perfex/Honda team semi. And if he doesn't have time to be friendly, you can bet there's a 30-second card going sideways somewhere. If you never get a chance to meet Antonio in person, experience it here by reading his answers aloud with a big smile. You'll also have to speak with a Brazilian accent, because after five Brazilian championships, Balbi's only been racing full time in the States for two seasons.

Dirt Rider: You're obviously living your dream of becoming a pro in the United States. What advice would you give to those trying to become a professional racer like yourself?

Antonio Balbi: First of all, you have to believe in your dream. It doesn't matter how far away it is or how hard it could be to accomplish, you've got to believe and work. For me, it was a dream to come here. My family has no money at home. We're a third-world country and it was really hard to come over. If I had not believed that I could do it, I wouldn't be here. Second thing, everything happens for a reason. But you've also got to work hard. Work hard and go to school, I believe in God, and if you're doing your part, He's going to put you in the right line. I think that's true advice I'd give any kid. But believe your dream, that's the most important thing. Not just believe it, but also when it happens, go for it.

DR: Any advice to young riders on how to steer clear of trouble off the track?

AB: We're motocrossers. We have so much fun when we're at the track doing tricks and stuff on the bike, I think that's more than enough for adrenaline. We don't have to go and get drunk or get in a car accident



driving crazy. I think we have our own space here at the track to do what we do, and we're safe because we know what we're doing. We don't have to go looking for trouble. I think we risk our lives enough and should be good that way. [Editor's note: This interview was conducted before Jason Lawrence's 2008 trouble with the law.]

DR: What was it like coming to race in the U.S.?

AB: I came here alone. I had no friends and I had no one help me out. It's just like you have to be—how can I explain—you have to be simple. There are a lot of nice people in the world, and if it weren't for the help of so many friends, I wouldn't be where I am right now. I didn't ever think I was the big shot, you know, with my nose up. I asked for help. So ask for help. Sometimes you humble yourself, but at the end you gain a lot. I found a lot of nice people just because I'm always a simple guy and asking for help. At the end, people see you working hard and they say, "OK, let me give that kid some help, he needs it," and I think that's the way it should go. Don't wait for people to come and talk to you. If you think you deserve something, just go and ask. The worst that can happen is "no." Life gives you "no's" every day, so when you get a "yes" it's always good.

MEDIA HIGHLITES

- HOOTERS of Des Moines team visit during AMA Arenacross series
- HOOTERS of Rockford team visit during AMA Arenacross series
- CALLWAY Motorsports team autograph open house
- HONDA of Houston team autograph open house
- STORM Lake Honda autograph open house and area sales enhancement
- INTERLAKES Sport Center autograph open house and area sales enhancement