

## Getting prepared for Saturday

### Riders come out for media day at Budds Creek MX Park

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Thursday was filled with some early dirt and racing as many professional riders came out for media day at Budds Creek MX Park in Mechanicsville in preparation for Saturday's Budds Creek Motocross National, which is Round 4 of the 12-race Lucas Oil AMA Pro Motocross Championship.

The event will kick off at 1 p.m. Saturday.

All of the pro riders at media day did live interviews and then went for a 40-minute ride on the track where fans got to see some early action that they will see in two days.

First-year pro Tony Archer, 17, of Waldorf will make his debut at the huge race at Budds Creek and is glad to represent Southern Maryland.

"It's great to meet the best of the best out here," said Archer, who races for Team O'Neill with teammate William Duffy of Annapolis. "It's always cool to see a lot of the top riders and I'm going to ride as long as they let me, but I'm ready."

Duffy, who is in his second year at the pro level, said that it's been busy two days prior before the big race.

"We're trying to get our bikes ready for Saturday," Duffy said. "It's very hectic, but it's fun to sit back and relax today and meet a lot of the riders and take your mind off some things."

Like many racing teams at Budds Creek, on hand was the Joe Gibbs Racing Team, also known as JGRMX Muscle Milk Toyota Team. It was founded by Coy Gibbs, the son of the NFL Hall of Fame head coach Joe Gibbs, winner of three Super Bowls with the Washington Redskins as well three Sprint Cup championships as a team racecar owner.

Josh Grant, a member of the Joe Gibbs team from Anaheim, Calif., is currently sixth place in the 450 class going into Saturday.

"My focus is to get on the podium and break through that point," said Grant, who is in his second season with the team. "I just want to put two good motos together. Last week at High Point, I had a flat front tire, which stopped me from getting to that point. This weekend I want to focus on my start. The 450 class is a big steppingstone."

Grant added that this week leading up to Budds Creek he did cardio workouts such as jogging and riding to keep fit in preparation for the race.

Justin Brayton, Grant's teammate, punctured his lung and broke two ribs before the first round the motocross season.



"I'm excited about this weekend," said Brayton, whose coming into his second race of the season. "Budds Creek is a fresh start for me and riding for Muscle Milke is great, the guys in the organization support me a lot. The facility here is very nice and it's really fun to ride. It's always good to come early and talk to the press and get accumulated to the track.

Joe Gibbs team manager Jeremy Albrecht is geared up for this weekend and was very familiar with the environment.

"We've been coming down here for years," said Albrecht, whose team is based out of North Carolina. "We're preparing for the mud Justin and Josh are going to go out and ride today. The fans are always great here, so we're excited."

Tickets for the event are \$30 for adults and \$5 for children (6-12) when purchased on [www.buddscreek.com](http://www.buddscreek.com). Prices go up \$5 the day of the race.

