

While *SNAP* Test Lab member Vaun Stout couldn't make it down to test the Profile, he did find the time to have a few words with Profile's rising star, Mike Hammond. If Mike keeps riding the way that he has been, it shouldn't be too long before he's up in the pro class.

Name: Mike Hammond

Age: 19

Sponsor: Profile Racing

Co-sponsors: Pro Racing, which is a uniform company out of Chicago that is getting into BMX. Play Clothes helps me out a lot, UGP for pads, plates, hats, and clothes, J&R Bike Shop gives me really good deals, Ecko Helmets, Standard Bykes, Mega, and I won a free pair of Vans at the Enduro contest.

Tell me about turning Superclass/A Pro

"I think that I'm doing pretty well and I think that I have to. I want to do really well in that I don't want to be a decent Expert, turn Pro and then be nothing. I want to be around for awhile, not as long as Gary Ellis, but I want to be around for awhile."

Do you feel that you're ready to turn Pro soon?

I want to turn as soon as possible. I've only

missed making one main since I turned Superclass and that was at the ABA Grands where I raced really poor. I've been racing Pro Open and at Tampa I made it out of my motos on the second day and I was really psyched on that. I've been beating people, but I've got to get more consistent in the motos.

Tell me about working at Profile.

I've been working at Profile for the past year, and then I recently started riding for them (he previously rode for Cyclecraft). They're really helping me out. I can't thank them enough for helping me and believing in me. They let me help design my bike which was the best thing for me. I work there everyday from 7:30 to 4:00, then after that I go home and try to ride.

What do you do when you're not riding?

Lately I've been staying home. I don't really like the people around me, so I stay home or call Bill Yates up and go do gates at his house. I love doing gates, I could do gates ten times a day. I never get sick of doing gates.

Tell me about the Florida BMX scene.

Racing in Florida is really good, especially now because a lot of the pros are starting to race again. The races are bigger than nationals, plain and simple, there are so many people that are into the State season there. You can race so many different places because there are four tracks that are less than an hour and a half from my house (in St. Petersburg). The worst thing about Florida is that it's all sand, so there's no trails to ride. In the state there are only three places to ride. The Pits (in Pensacola), but I've never been there, Zellwood, which I love, but the jumps are pretty small, and then Brennan Brown's place, Grease Monkey in Orlando.

So do you ride all year round?

That's a misconception about Florida. We don't ride because we're wimps (laughter...) it's so darn hot. It's so hot that you can't ride... you're pouring sweat off of your body. We try to ride

when we can and there's no trails, and you don't want to ride the track all the time

because that's boring. Everyone who doesn't live in Florida thinks that we can just ride.



When did you know that you wanted to be a pro someday?

At the first National that I went to I saw the pros, watched how they rode, and that was just what I wanted to do someday. I've made a promise to myself that I'm going to try for a full year — train and race and if I can make enough money to live off of, then I'm just going to keep racing. That's my goal for '95, just race as much as possible and see if I can make it as a pro.