

RC Scale Aerobatics

Day One: In the Books

Dawn Patrol—7 a.m. All the early morning fog is burning off, the dew-covered grass is starting to dry up, and it's time to pull out all the stops and let it all out. This is the chance to set the bar as high as possible and fight it out to make the final cut on Wednesday night at the Horizon Center in downtown Muncie, Indiana.

The first rounds of the week went very well. Everything flowed nicely and the line bosses were really keeping things running well. Allan Ecklund and Stan Stockman are really hustling! Not to mention Phil Vance and the rest of the crew. Everyone is really working hard.

I had the honor of judging the first round of Unlimited. Twenty-two pilots, running roughly 10-15 minutes per flight,

makes things quite long. We anticipated the round lasting about five hours. We started at approximately 8 a.m. and the last pilot exited the box around 12:35 p.m. Whew! My neck is killing me!

But, the good part is, all that hard work and participation from the pilots, callers, scribes, and workers really paid off and Unlimited was able to fly three rounds. Everyone is flying very well and I'm not seeing any horrible flying. Everyone is at the top of their game.

In Unlimited, we have Jason Noll in first place after three rounds followed by Kurt Koelling and David Moser in second and third places respectively.

In Advanced, we have a dead tie between Brian Luckett and Seth Arnold. If you wanna see a dueling match, watch

these two guys fly. It's pretty neat watching them fly against each other. The competition is incredible.

In Intermediate, we have Brendan Jones leading the pack after fighting his way from second into first after four rounds. He is followed by Tony Fandino, Alex Porter, and Justin Hildebrandt. Tight race! Last time I looked, there are no more than 100 points separating first place and fifth place. It's really good flying happening over there in the "Kiddie Pool," as many of us have coined it.

Sportsman is a tight race and there are many new faces. I didn't get a chance to see the scores, but I've been told that the race is good and things are flowing well over on that flightline.

—Mike Bargman



Unknowns!

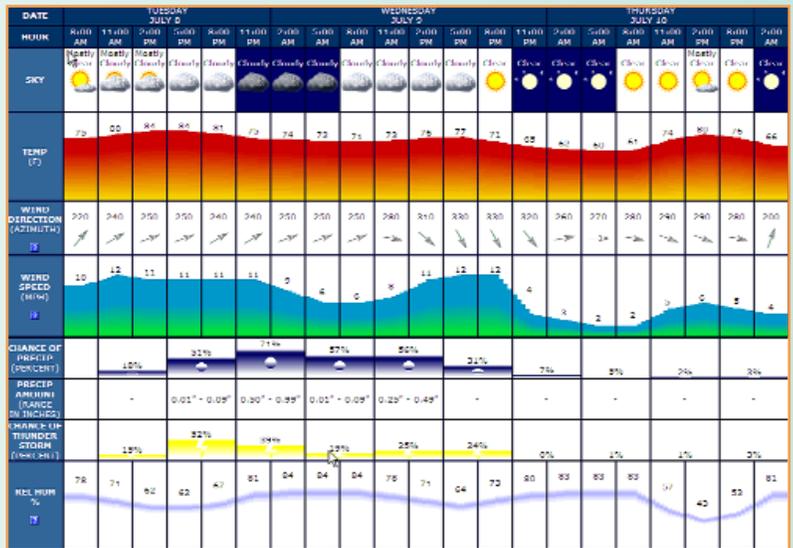
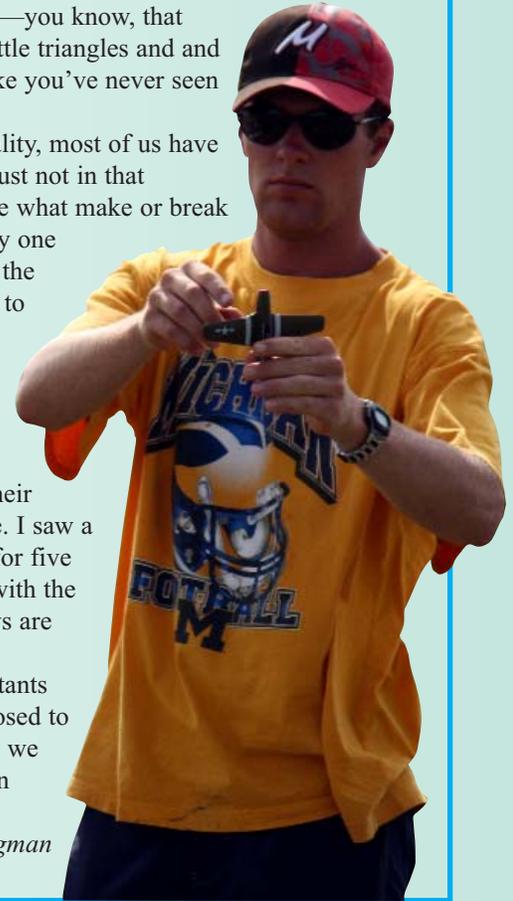
Anyone who has flown any IMAC contests knows what an Unknown is all about—you know, that dreaded piece of paper with little triangles and and loopy things that you feel like you've never seen before? Yeah, those ...

We all fear them, but in reality, most of us have flown all of the maneuvers, just not in that particular order. Unknowns are what make or break a contest for a contestant. Only one Unknown will be dropped for the finals, so it's best for the pilot to fly that round to the best of his/her ability.

As I left the field, the swarms of pilots disbursed with stick planes in hand rushing to sit and memorize their Unknowns as soon as possible. I saw a couple of pilots look at them for five minutes and fly it unassisted with the stick plane. Unreal. These guys are pros!

Good luck to all the contestants Tuesday. The weather is supposed to be questionable, but hopefully we can get at least a few rounds in before it rains!

—Mike Bargman



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Deryck Taylor and Wayne Matthews of Team Jamaica are sharing the same aircraft



