

Elite, novice BMX riders compete in SLT



2012 BMX Olympic bronze medalist Donny Robinson (No. 10) competes in South Lake Tahoe on Aug. 13. Photo Copyright 2016 Dale Roberts

By Dale Roberts

California Points Qualifier at Bijou Bike Park proved South Lake Tahoe is an up and coming venue in the world of BMX racing.

More than 300 riders from all over the state competed in the fast-paced, high-action cycling event on Aug. 13.



Crashes are fairly routine in BMX races. Photo Copyright 2016 Dale Roberts

The main event of the day was the Tangent Pro-Am series with a \$2,000 purse attracting top pros, including 2008 Beijing Olympic bronze medalist Donny Robinson.



Youngsters get an early start in the Strider race. Photo Copyright 2016 Dale Roberts

The riders raced in elimination heats with as many as eight on the track at a time. Shoulder-to-shoulder they sped around banked turns, over rollers, and flew off tabletop jumps. Each heat lasted 30-40 seconds, with the following heat starting as soon as the previous riders crossed the finish line.

The action only slowed down to clear the track of crashes, of which there were many.



A BMX rider has his eyes fixed on the next feature. Photo Copyright 2016 Dale Roberts

BMX attracts riders of all ages, some as young as the “Diaper Derby” riders of 2 and 3 year olds on their Strider bikes, to athletes in their 50s; all separated into corresponding age groups so everyone races against their peers.

Of the pro-am riders, Jordan Miranda of Bakersfield took the top spot. For a complete list of results, go **online**.