

**Johnny B. Truant:** Hey everybody. It's Johnny B. Truant for The Badass Project. I am here today with Todd Thompson. Todd is an adaptive motocross rider, and this is some seriously awesome stuff. We should put up some videos and so forth to see what it is that Todd does. We were just talking for a few minutes beforehand, and this is exactly what The Badass Project is all about. So, thanks so much for being here, Todd, I'm really looking forward to this interview.

**Todd Thompson:** No problem. Thanks for having me. I really appreciate it.

**Johnny:** Awesome. Okay, so your story as far as what I've read and we've talked about. You grew up riding motorcycles and started motocross and then had an injury and then had to pick it up afterward. Can you sort of give me the story of how you grew up with motocross and then what happened?

**Todd:** Yeah, basically my whole family growing up was into motocross. My grandparents started a motorcycle club here in northern California. So growing up, I actually got on a bike when I was two years old before I could literally ride a bicycle. So, motorcycles for me have always been in my blood and in my family and just around. There's never been a time in my life when I haven't been around them. Needless to say, I wanted to do it.

I grew up riding in the backyard and in the fields and stuff. By the time I got about five or six, I really started picking it up and wanted to pursue racing. My dad obviously was going to the races every weekend, so he loaded me up and set me free. Ever since my first trophy, I don't even know how I did the first time I raced, but once I got that first trophy and tasted just a small bit of success, I was hooked. It's something that's hard to explain just having something that has been in your life for your entire existence and it's all you know. It's something that never leaves you.

I raced a little bit and moved around. We moved to the Bay area when I was 10 and so I kind of lost it a little bit. Never quit, but just moving to a new area, you don't know the riding spots. You don't know anybody who has tracks or bikes or anything, so I kind of lost it for a while but got back into it once I got established in my town. I started riding again and really started pursuing it hard once I got old enough to start going to the tracks by myself and driving.

I raced the local scene for a couple years and did really well and then May 2, 1998, I was at a local race in the Bay area. It was kind of a weird day. Started out, I actually wasn't even going to go to the race. My dad called me from the track and was like, "Where are you at?" I said, "Well, I'm not going to go. I'm not

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feeling it. I just don't want to do it today." Which was weird for me because there was never a day I didn't want to ride. If I could ride every day, I would.

So, I got all my gear together. It was just one of those last-minute [things], just hurry up and go. I drove an hour and a half or so to get to the track. I got there and I missed my practice. It just wasn't a good day. It started out really weird. I didn't have a good vibe about it, but I'm a racer so, of course, I'm going to strap it on and go. So, I missed practice and got out there in the first moto and I think I fell down, you know, just a bad race. I got back to the pits and I was all pissed off and regrouped and went off for the second moto, and I was angry. I wanted to smoke them, you know.

So I got a good start and came down, there was this downhill drop, and I came down the hill right in front of my dad and he was cheering me on. There was this right hand corner. It was a night race. It was a right-hand corner and it was kind of poorly lit. I went off the jump and my foot slipped off the peg and just drove my foot right into the ground. I didn't know it at the time, but it basically completely shattered my tibia, my fibula and my femur right at the knee joint. Basically my whole entire knee joint was crushed. I looked down and my foot was turned around backward.

It was one of those things where I knew I was hurt. I just didn't know how bad. So, I basically laid the bike down and twisted it off me and I got my bearings of where I was because it kind of knocked me silly, you know. It hurt so bad. My dad was right there. He ran over and asked me what was wrong. I said, "I think I've busted my knee." I had no idea. I just knew it was broken because I couldn't move it.

Long story short, basically I declined a trip to the hospital in the ambulance because it was going to be like an hour and a half and I figured, you know, if I could just get home I'd be fine, you know. It was one of those where I just wanted to walk it off almost. I didn't drive. I was with my girlfriend at the time and my dad was in his truck obviously because we drove separate vehicles. The accident happened in Livermore, California which is just on the east side of the [San Francisco] Bay. I was living in Santa Rosa at the time, so we drove from Livermore which was about an hour and a half back to my hometown.

Well, before I could get to my hometown, I was losing consciousness because I was losing blood and it was so painful I couldn't even see straight. So we basically took a detour and pulled into the local hospital in Petaluma which is about half an hour from my house. They rushed me in and took some MRI's and

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CT scans and that's when we realized how bad it was. It basically completely blew out both balls of the knee from the femur where it attaches to the tibia and the fibula. The plateau was just completely shattered. So, they kept me overnight in the hospital there and then they realized that I needed a trauma surgeon because I was losing blood and it was starting to swell up.

It was getting bad. Complications were bound to set in had I not gotten treatment quick. So they transferred me up to Sutter Medical Center in Santa Rosa where they had an on-staff trauma surgeon. He did an awesome job. I mean, Dr. Bennett put me back together the best he could. I'm confident that, regardless of the loss of my leg or not, he did the best he could do. My knee today is actually stronger than my other one believe it or not after the accident. I went to surgery. I think it was a 13-hour surgery. They took bone out of my hip and grafted it into my knee because there were so many little tiny pieces of shattered bone in there. I was in and out of surgery like five or six times because of the swelling and the infection and stuff like that.

I got hurt on May 2nd and May 16th is the day they decided to amputate it. So, for 14 days I fought and fought and fought, in and out of surgery every day. They had to do all kinds of weird procedures to try to keep the swelling down. I ended up losing blood flow to my foot because the artery that runs behind my knee ended up getting so constricted from the swelling that my foot basically died. So they went back in and tried to repair it and they just couldn't. So after 14 days of fighting it, the doctor basically gave me two options: keep fighting it and risk gangrene and risk infection and it going up to your hip and pelvis and end up dying basically was the worst outcome or they could amputate it below the knee, cut the infection off, you know and you pursue your life.

As a 19-year-old kid it's hard to lay in a hospital bed and wonder what that's going to be like you know. It was a tough decision but at the same time, I mean, I wanted to get better. I was sick of fighting. I was sick of laying in a hospital bed and losing weight. I'd lost like 40 pounds. I wasn't eating. I was basically overdosing myself on drugs. They gave me the little button and as many times as I could push that thing, man, I was just trying to lose myself in the whole situation. So, the doctor came in and gave me the options and told me he'd give me 24 hours to think about it. I didn't need 24 hours. I was done. I was done fighting. I wanted to just move on. So I weighed my options. I made sure, you know, that I was going to be able to recover. I mean, there are no guarantees obviously, but it was then and there that I decided I wasn't going to let this stop me. I had always been a competitor and I had always been an athlete and that wasn't going to change no matter what my situation.

**Johnny:** So it was because of vascular problems? Because when you said you shattered the bones, I figured, well like can't they put it back together? But it was just the veins?

**Todd:** It was actually called compartment syndrome. What that is, is when the muscle tissue and blood vessels have swollen so much that the skin is basically like a basketball, it can only get so big. Well, when it reaches its maximum, it starts constricting in on itself. So basically that's what was going on. It would be like holding your hand over your arm until your hand goes numb you know. It's the same thing. It's pretty common. I mean, amputation isn't. That was kind of a weird freak thing but it is what it is, you know.

**Johnny:** So you've had the amputation. You had to learn how to walk again and all this stuff. At this point are you even considering motocross or is this just like, "I've got to get out there?" And if you did consider it, were you like, "Well hell, that's over." I mean what happened there?

**Todd:** Well, it took me eight months to get fitted for the right prosthetic due to swelling, the injury to my knee. I had pins and screws going through my leg that had to heal, you know, the swelling of the prosthetic socket itself. There was so much edema in my leg that throughout the day my leg would swell and shrink so much. It was like a prosthetic wasn't going to work. So I had to wait before all that healing was done before I could even attempt to walk so I wheelchaired. I crutched. I hopped. I crawled. I did whatever I could to be mobile. I don't know if you've ever walked around on crutches for eight months, but it gets old, you know. So I basically begged my prosthetist to get me fitted with something I could at least hobble around on, and he was nice enough to get me set up.

Yeah, you basically have to relearn to walk. The human gait, they call it, is very precise. For people to be able to stand up and balance and stuff. It's actually really amazing learning that whole process. It's not like you just throw on a leg and you just start walking. To have a foot that's not there but it's underneath you, to know where it is at all times. It's like trying to get up off the couch when your foot's asleep and trying to walk. That's what it's like for me every day. I mean, I'm used to it now but people ask me what it's like, well, that's the equivalent. Trying to put your foot down and not knowing how much weight you have on it but then also trying to maintain that step. So for a few weeks, it took me a while to adapt to it and learn how to walk with the fit and the pain in my knee joint. It was really sore. So, it took me a while to learn to walk without a limp. It took me a while to learn my steps and not trip over myself. There were times when I would fall down

and crash and burn, but I knew that the entire process I was going through was going to be worth it in the end.

The question of did I ever think that my riding career was over? No, honestly I never did. I always knew that no matter what. Honestly Johnny, if I lost my leg and never been able to even wear it, I'd be out there on one leg. That's how much this sport means to me. When there's a threat of it being taken away, you tend to want to embrace it more and you tend to want to hold onto it more, and that's what I did. I was not going to accept defeat. I wasn't going to accept that this was going to be the last. Like I said, it was both the worst and the best day of my life, the day that I had to decide to amputate my leg.

**Johnny:** Okay, so I definitely have to come back to the best thing that ever happened to you line right there, so I'm not going to forget that. But as I'm listening to your story and you're going back to motocross and I'm putting myself in your shoes. I've broken one bone. I was doing an Olympic clean in the gym and I broke my forearm. Then going back to doing any lifting at all, but especially any Olympic lifts or anything where the weight was suspended over me, was scary because I thought, "Is that going to hold? Is the same thing going to happen again?" When you returned to motocross were you freaked out taking the jumps thinking the same sort of thing could happen again?

**Todd:** You know it's one of those things where, motocross, riding dirt bikes just as anything like driving your car, there's an inherent risk to everything. The first time I got on a bike back when I decided I was going to ride again and I strapped the helmet on, I'd ridden around fields and stuff before after losing my leg but nothing serious. When I decided to go ride, I was at so much peace with my situation and so comfortable that I was back where I belonged.

The threat and fear is always in the back of your mind, but the drive and the passion that I have to ride motorcycles overcomes that tenfold. I get nervous, yeah. I'd be lying if I said I didn't get nervous every time I ride, even today, but I think it's an anxious nervousness. It's anticipation. You're so amped to be doing what you love to do that you just can't wait. I don't want to say I wasn't scared because I kind of was. Like "Wow, what if I just bail and break my leg again?" Because the doctor did say, "Hey, if you mess this knee up again we're not going to be able to repair it. It's so damaged that there's no fixing it. We're going to chop it off above the knee and that's going to be that." So, that was in the back of my mind, but as soon as you put your helmet on and as soon as you get going again, you forget about it. It really is an amazing thing how it transforms you into

something or somebody that you just focus on what you've got to do and you just do it. You don't think about the risks or the possibilities.

**Johnny:** Do you have to learn to trust yourself again and ride because your balance is going to be different? The feel on that side is going to be different. I don't know if your prosthetic has something, if it's different so that you're able to sit on that peg or what? Was all of that a relearning as well?

**Todd:** Yeah, absolutely. Motorcycle riding, 90 percent of it is balance and strength coming from your core. So when you're weighting the pegs and doing the proper techniques that you need to do, it is difficult. The most difficult thing for me and still, to this day, is going from a seated to a standing position because my right leg is not as strong as my left. There are a lot of things that happen so quickly, you know lateral and all kinds of crazy g-forces and opposing [forces]. You have to be ready. I have to make sure my foot is planted on the peg before I go off a jump. If it slips off, I'm done. There's so much balancing, and knowing how much weight I'm putting on that foot is important too with all the other things that are going on within a split second. Yeah, I had to learn.

It took a while to get comfortable again, but riding bikes for me is so natural, it's so comfortable that when I get on my bike I don't think about the things I'm doing, I just do it. It's one of those things. I do a lot of hunting and fishing, and it's one of those things where when you're shooting at a target, you just put your gun on the target and you pull the trigger. You don't think about where your scope is or anything like that. So, it's one of those things where when I strap my helmet on and put my goggles on and I start my bike, I don't think about where my feet are. I don't think about where my hands are. All I'm focused on is just what's going on in front of me.

**Johnny:** Is your prosthetic adapted to motocross in some way? Because I know that people who run have the big spring and Warren Macdonald, who we were talking about before, he opted for really short prosthetics. I mean, they're really short and he just has like a cleat on it like crampons. I would think metal on metal, wouldn't it slide or anything like that?

**Todd:** Yeah, well I wear a tennis shoe in lieu of a motocross boot on my right side. I've worn boots before, and they're just heavy. It's just dead weight down there. So, I try to be as light as I can on my feet because I use my feet so much. As far as it being adapted to motocross, it is kind of special in a way because I've got a leather strap system that's got like a garter belt almost that goes around my waist that goes down to an elastic band with a strap that actually straps to my leg

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that holds it tight to my knee joint. So that way it's not dangling and trying to come off because one of the biggest things for me especially in my sport is sweat. I sweat a lot. It's a very intense, physically demanding sport. So when I sweat a lot, there's a lot of buildup of sweat down there and so it wants to slide off. So that garter belt system actually pulls it tight and gives me the positive reinforcement that I need to just not have to worry about. It's gotten to the point where finally my leg isn't a hindrance anymore to me. It doesn't bother me at all which is nice because I've struggled with it for years.

**Johnny:** I can imagine, yeah. I want to go back to what you said a little bit ago and this is something you alluded to when we were talking before and it's, strangely enough, something I've heard before on these interviews. You said that losing your leg was one of the best things or the best thing that's ever happened to you. What do you mean by that?

**Todd:** Well, there's a lot of things that I look at. I'm in the process of kind of going back through my memory banks. I want to write a book basically about my story. Obviously my story hasn't ended yet, it's just beginning. I'm going back into my memory and bringing up old thoughts and feelings and things that, you know, I went through that I may never have talked about or things like that. One of the biggest things for me and one of the ah-ha moments I guess you would say for me, I was 19 years old when I lost my leg. Laying in the hospital and wondering how this was going to affect me as a person, as an athlete. What's going to happen with my job? Am I going to even be able to do the things I used to do or am I going to be limited? I mean, I didn't know. I was naïve to being handicapped, disabled, any of that. When you're 18 or 19 years old and an athlete, you don't think about that stuff. You don't think about how am I going to get in and out of the shower? How am I going to drive my car? It's one of those things where I had to think about all that stuff before I made that decision and accept it. Because if I didn't accept it, it was going to be rough. And I think that's the biggest downfall for most people that get injured and are facing disabilities is that they don't accept the situation and take it for what it is.

The reason that I say it was the best thing that ever happened to me was because it changed my mindset. It changed me as a person. I took for granted a lot of things, you know, when I was younger growing up that I had or were given to me. I didn't come from a rich family. My dad's a contractor. He worked his ass off just to buy me a bike so I could ride. My mom was a stay-at-home mom for a long time. She raised my older brother and my two younger twin sisters so money wasn't, you know, I wasn't fortunate like a lot of other people are. But what we did have was my dad gave me everything I needed to be successful.

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Well, when everything is just kind of given to you, you kind of take it for granted. Well, now that I was out of a job. I'd just lost my leg. I had medical bills, over a million dollars in medical bills that I didn't know how I was going to pay because I didn't have health insurance. There were so many different things that I didn't even consider, and when all this stuff went down and I had to make that decision, I had to decide right then and there if I was going to allow it to get me down. Being a competitor, I turn things into not necessarily problems or obstacles, I turn them into challenges.

I'm fortunate now that every day I get to compete with myself. On or off the track, I get to wake up in the morning, you know, strap it on and get through every day as if it were another race or another competition because that's basically what it is. I'm fortunate also in the fact that I have a really good family around me. My mom and dad, they've supported me, and my brother and sisters, my entire family. It's amazing how people come together in a time of need to get you through it, and that's what keeps me going is knowing that I have a really strong support team behind me. So when I decided that this was it, that I was going to do it, I just kept my eyes forward. I changed my focus on what was really important in my life. Going out and partying and racing on the weekends, that wasn't necessarily as important to me anymore.

I look back on it and I wonder where would I be today had I not lost my leg? I have two beautiful children and a wonderful wife. Where would they be? I own my own business. I'm relatively successful in my own business. Where would that be? Would I be talking to you today? Those are the types of things that you've got to look at and you've got to go, okay, well, I'm in a really shitty situation right now and this is really, really tough, but, man, it's also a really great thing because I'm given opportunities that I would have never had, you know. So that's why I say it's one of the best things, well, it was the best thing that ever happened to me because it's allowed me to talk to you and to tell my story and to help other people overcome maybe tragic situations where they would be in my shoes and going "Well, what's left? I've got medical bills I can't pay. I just lost my leg. You know, I just lost my job. I mean, my life's over." It's not. It's not. It's just a beginning. It's a beginning of a new life that you have another opportunity and a second chance to do the things and say the things that you may not have ever said before.

It was a slap in the face, but it was also a life-changing, altering experience for me. People ask me, would I do it over again. I don't think so, but I mean I would do the same things. I would choose to amputate my leg. I would choose to go this path, you know, because of where I'm at today.

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**Johnny:** Yeah, that's not the first time that I've heard that which is interesting because you wouldn't expect that people would say that they would choose it. But yeah, everything you just mentioned, you know, none of that was obtained at the detriment of your motocross either. We haven't really talked specifically about that. Could you take me through what we were talking about before, might as well be transparent here about it, with the Extremity Games and the X Games and you're going to the X Games again this year. Just tell us about that.

**Todd:** Yeah, two years ago, it's weird because I'm relatively new to the whole adaptive motocross. I mean, I've been racing motocross as an adaptive athlete for almost 12 years now not knowing that there were foundations and organizations out there that actually were specifically catered to guys like me. I'd go to the races every weekend and race against guys who have two legs and two arms that haul ass and 90 percent of the time I beat 'em. They wonder why the hell I wear a tennis shoe on my right foot, and I get kids coming up to me and telling me I lost my boot and all this stuff. It's funny to me. I get a kick out of it because it's a way for me to educate other people that hey, you know, there are guys like me out there that have the ability that may not be given the chance.

So, when I found out about the Extremity Games and the X Games which was actually through Adaptive Action Sports, I was stoked. I mean, I was so pumped that I was finally going to be able to race against other guys you know that are missing limbs and that aren't going to make excuses and have, hopefully, the same drive and willpower that I did. So, just on a whim, I went and registered for the Extremity Games in Michigan. They're held every year on Memorial weekend in Millington, Michigan at Baja Acres. I signed up and didn't know what to expect. I had no idea who was going to be there or where I was ability-wise. I know how I train, and I know how fast I can go, you know. I've always had the slogan in the back of my mind that somewhere, somebody's training and when you meet them, they're going to be you if you're not prepared. So, I use that as inspiration and motivation for myself to make sure I'm prepared to race anybody whether it's adaptive or not.

So, I went out there that I was pretty confident that I was ready. I knew how fast Chris Ridgway was, and Mike Schultz is no slouch either, but I went out there knowing I could beat those guys. The track was surprisingly big for an adaptive event. I mean, they didn't give us any breaks by no means. It was rough. It was big. It was long. They did a really good job in promoting and putting on the event. The Extremity Games Network is another foundation that actually puts on the Extremity Games. It's awesome because it gives us an opportunity to showcase

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our talents. It's weird because at a local race, normally the only people who are watching the race are usually just the parents and the friends of the people on the track, but when we lined up everybody from that event was watching. The track was lined full of people. That was awesome for me and I'm sure every other athlete there could speak the same thing.

It's cool to go somewhere and have that type of support. I mean people were cheering the first place guy and they were cheering the last place guy. There's so much heart out there and so much support out there for adaptive athletes as a whole. It's a really, really cool deal. So, I went back there and did really well. I got a silver medal at the Extremity Games which is basically the Olympics for adaptive athletes and then the same day they actually had the summer X Games qualifier there, and I ended up winning that. So, it was a good trip. It was really emotional for me because it was kind of closure. You know, the completed circle almost. For 12 years I'd been racing and riding hard and never really given a chance to showcase what I was really capable of doing, and finally I get a chance and I was able to take advantage of it. It was awesome to share that with my wife and my friends and my family back home.

It kind of kick-started a life for me that, you know, I'm going to see to it that I take full circle. The X Games for me is a really important event, but it's also a platform for me to display my message and get across that there are people out there like myself or even that aren't as able-bodied as I am that deserve an opportunity to showcase what they're capable of doing.

**Johnny:** So you got a silver in the X Games and you're qualified to go again this year. I think you may have a Rockstar Energy Drink sponsorship.

**Todd:** Yeah, I'm not sure (holding up a Rockstar Energy Drink can and wearing a Rockstar Energy Drink hat). This has Rockstar on it, right?

**Johnny:** Right, so that's all going well. As far as the X Games themselves, the Adaptive Division, is it the same track, is it different, how does that work?

**Todd:** Yeah, the X Games this last year was awesome. We were able to ride on the same track. The only thing they took out was the whoop section. The reason they took the whoop section out was because it's a bunch of rolling jumps really close together. For myself, I don't mind them, I can get through them, but for the limb difference, the paralyzed guys who are limited to sitting down only, there's too much up and down and too much compression on their spines to allow that, so they cut that part of the track out. The rest of the track, the big jumps, the

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huge up and down parastyle, in and out of the stadium, was all the same. They didn't groom it very much for us which was awesome because that's what we want as athletes. We don't want to be babied. We don't want to be coddled and "Oh, well, this guy's missing a limb, so we need to take these jumps down." No. I want to be able to ride the same tracks as these other guys.

I actually just got back on Monday, I went to Florida, to Daytona, and raced there. It wasn't an adaptive event. I just went there to race and ended up getting 9th overall which was, in a way for me, disappointing, but that track was gnarly. I mean I feel like I got hit with a baseball bat right now. I mean, I'm sore. But it's awesome to be able to get to ride on the same tracks as you see the guys on TV ride and to be given that opportunity, that same opportunity without any limitations because that's what we want. We don't want to be limited in anything we're doing. You know, give us the same shot and let us prove that we can do it.

**Johnny:** Yeah, I was just talking to a guy named Chris Finn yesterday actually and he coaches the U.S. Power Soccer team. So, basically this is guys who use power wheelchairs so they're in all sorts of conditions. Some of them have like zero mobility other than like a little bit of movement in their hands. And he said what's really cool is you get these people out there who maybe their parents or family have been kind of nervous about them doing things and just let them bang out and fall over and run into things. He said it's amazing because you realize they're not as fragile as people think and then it translates over into every aspect of their lives because it's like, "Wow, there are things I can do that I never thought I could do before." It sounds like what you're talking about.

**Todd:** Right, yeah, I mean I have a handicapped placard that I don't even know where it's at. To be honest with you, I haven't used it in 10 years. When I go to the grocery store, I park in the back of the parking lot because I don't need it. You know, I can walk. Every facility on my body works. I just happen to be missing my leg. I don't consider myself handicapped or disabled. That's not even a part of my vocabulary and that's how I want it to be, and that's how I want others in my same situation to think. It empowers you when you have that mindset that "You know what? I'm sorry, but yeah, I may be losing my leg but I'm still better than you." It's how you have to be. That's part of being a badass I guess.

**Johnny:** That's outstanding. So on that note, I don't think I could think of a better possible way to wrap it up. I guess we'll sort of end on that but I just wanted to give you a chance. Is there anything I didn't hit that you really wanted to say out there to sort of badass land.

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**Todd:** You know, I just want everybody to realize and know that there are a lot more adaptive athletes and people out there that are looking for opportunities. Myself, I'm fortunate to have a really good team behind me. I've got a long list of people I'd like to thank if that's alright, but before I do that, just realize that the guy sitting next to you or the person that's walking down the road, everybody's got their deal.

If everybody just took the time to reach out and understand each other's situations, the awareness and the notoriety and everybody's sense of their surroundings would be way better. I mean, for us to have the opportunity to race on national, live TV in the summertime is awesome, but I want something bigger. I want us to have our own league. I want us to have places and people behind us that believe in the cause, and it's not to get rich by no means. Anybody watching this that thinks that motorcycle riders get rich, yeah, there are a few of them that make good money, but I don't do it for the money. I do it because it's absolutely a part of my DNA. There's nothing out there that gives me the adrenalin and the challenge and the drive that motorcycle racing does.

So, just be aware of people out there that might have disabilities or handicaps and make sure that you acknowledge them. Because more than likely they're doing things that you probably didn't think they were capable of doing, like you had said. And I think that's a wonderful thing. Like I said, there's a lot of people out there that have given up on themselves and I wish I could talk to them because I could change their life.

I could change their life by showing them what I can do and by showing them what they're capable of doing. With the right help and coaching, anything's possible. The human body is a wonderful thing and it's capable of amazing feats. It's one of those things where you just can't give up on yourself. If you don't give up on yourself, nobody around you is going to give up on you either.

I'd like to thank some of the people that stand behind me in my racing. Yoshimura. They help me out with my bike. Rockstar Energy obviously. Dragon goggles, VP Racing Fuels. There's a local company here in my hometown, Mary's Pizza Shack. They're such awesome people. They heard about what I was doing and they stepped up, and they're some of my best friends now so I really wanted to thank them a lot. Answer Racing gives me my gear and some clothing and stuff. CDG Technology. My buddy Manny Ornellas. He does an awesome job with helping me travel and getting me to things I need. He's sort of like my manager, so I'd like to thank him. Power Curve Performance Products.

They do all my graphics and all my stuff on my bike and keep my bike looking really good. Alpine Stars helps me out with my boots. Leatt neck braces. Probably the single best innovation in motocross racing in the last 20 years is the use of neck restraint systems, and Leatt does a really good job of that so I'd like to thank them for their help. My wife, my kids, my family, The Badass Project. Everybody out there who wants to step up, just do it. Don't worry about anything other than what you're focusing on, and don't sell yourself short.

**Johnny:** Fantastic. Great, well, thanks again Todd for being here for The Badass Project. This is awesome. Just love it. This is Johnny B. Truant signing off with Todd Thompson for The Badass Project.