

Yetifan Interview with Justin Leov- Around 2009?

- 1) OK, so we know your name, tell us a little about Justin Leov, how you got started, and what makes you tick?

I'm born and bred in New Zealand, half Australian and 22 years old. When I'm back in NZ I live in Christchurch and live with my girlfriend Tory. I came from racing Moto when I was 9 years old and took up XC mountain biking when I started high school back in 1999. First year of downhill was 2000, on a clapped out XC bike converted to somewhat of a downhill rig. I've been downhill ever since.

2001-2004 spent riding European races and basing out of Morzine France for the summer session. Got onto a small Swiss team for 2004 and 2005. Had a great season in 2005 with multiple World Cup top 10's as well as a podium at the Angle Fire World Cup round. Finished World Champs that year in 13th and signed onto Yeti cycles at the end of the season.

2006 seen my first factory ride with the Yeti / Fox Racing factory team and was looking to be a great year. An unlucky crash at the first World Cup in Spain saw me sit out that weekend and a struggle to ride 100% at the next few World Cups. I salvaged the rest of the session with some solid Norba finishes and some top 15 world cups and went in for shoulder surgery in early December last year.

Glad to say 2007 and I'm all healed up and ready for a big season of racing. Glad to be back in the turquoise and amongst my team and team mates again.

- 2) Last time we spoke you at just got on the Yeti factory team, how has that worked out for you?

Great, I'm loving being involved with Yeti and Fox and working with the whole crew. My team mates are all easy going people as well as the people behind the scenes at both Yeti and Fox so all round it's a good place to be.

- 3) Before you got signed with Yeti, what bikes were you riding about on?

My downhill rig was a turner DHR and I rode that bike in 2004 and 2005 for a Small company called, "Suspension center" based out of Bern Switzerland.

- 4) Are you doing the full NORBA & world cup circuit this year, where are you aiming to be at the end of the season?

I'll be with Jared doing the full World Cup series this year. Mainly European races and some special events like Crankworxs in Canada as well as a couple of Norbas and Mountain States Cups in the States. I'll be aiming high this season so getting on top of that World Cup podium is the goal.

- 5) What are your personal MTB career highlight/s so far?

1st New Zealand National Champion 2004
9th World Cup Alpe d' huz France 2003
9th World Cup Schladming Austria 2005
6th World Cup Mounte Sainte Anne Canada 2005
5th World Cup Angel Fire USA 2005
7th World Cup Pila Italy 2005
13th World Champs Italy 2005
10th Sea Otter 2006
2nd Norba Sugar Mountain- Downhill 2006

7th Norba Vermont- Dual Slalom 2006
7th Crankworxs Garbonza- Downhill 2006
6th Norba Snowmass- Downhill 2006
4th Norba Snowmass- Dual Slalom 2006

6) So, where's your favourite 3 places to ride or race?

Mount Sainte Anne Canada -the long world cup course there.
Angle Fire New Mexico
Schladmig Austria

7) Your favourite bike to ride is a.....?

Yeti 303DH. I just can't stress enough how awesome this bike is...

8) What interests you outside of the Mountain bike world?

Moto, Mini bikes, BMX, hanging out with friends and chilling with Tory.

9)Which cyclist (in MTBing) do you admire the most?

You know I don't really have one person that I admire the most, all the top guys have qualities to their riding and riding style that are really cool but overall I respected them all and aspire to beat them.

10) Any sponsors or people you're obliged to plug?

Yeti Cycles , Fox Racing Shox , Shimano , Maxxis , DT Swiss , E Thirteen , Control Tech , Chris King , ODI , Topeak , Thomson, Bike HQ , Utopia , 23 Degrees and all my friends and family !

Thanks again, I hope you have a great 2007 season.