

Cycle Week notebook: Hoffman wins after forfeit

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Port Orange's Nicole Hoffman received some unexpected good news Sunday.

Hoffman was declared the winner of Friday's UltraLight SuperBike sprint race after James Hillis forfeited for using illegal equipment.

"It's turned out to be an awesome weekend," said Hoffman, who works as a hospitality coordinator at NASCAR. "I don't know when I've had one any better."

Hoffman, riding an Aprilia RS250, thought Hillis might have had an illegal bike, but she didn't file a protest in the required 30 minutes after the race.

"I kept thinking about it all weekend," she said. "I finally went to the mall to do some shopping just to get my mind off of it. But once I got to the mall, I knew I just had to get over here and find out for myself."

Hoffman approached Hillis and he said he had already forfeited for using the illegal bike.

She now takes home the first-place plaque and the extra championship points.

"It would have been great to win it on the track, but a win is a win," she said.

- Bill Lumpkin

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