

# About The Keirin

Keirin racing originated in Kokura City, Japan in 1948. It has since become a Japanese social institution attended by around 57 million spectators every year. It is also Japan's most popular sanctioned betting sport with Japanese Keirin fans placing bets amounting to 1.15 trillion Yen annually. In regard to public perception, Keirin compares most closely with greyhound or horse racing in the west. Races are held nearly every weekend at 50 tracks throughout Japan, with professional keirin racers competing to advance through the six different ranks(categories) over the course of their keirin racing career. American riders have a strong history in the Keirin event, with no less than 4 different riders being invited to compete in the international Keirin series in Japan since 1981. Pennsylvania native Marty Nothstein won 2 World Keirin Championships in 1994 and 1996 before going on to become Olympic Champion in the Sprint competition in 2000.

# The Riders

**1** **David Espinoza**  
**'Goliath'**

Helmet Color: **White**  
Presented by: **Merial**  
Hometown: **Miami, FL**  
He is undefeated in our Keirin at the DLV winning in 2009 and 2010, but we'll see if he's still got it this time around. A lightening fast finisher up the home stretch, so look for the last minute surge

**2** **Stephen Hall**  
**'Sugar Steve'**

Helmet Color: **Black**  
Presented by: **Outback Bikes**  
Hometown: **Perth, Australia**  
Son of a fantastic Australian bike racer, this is Steve's first trip stateside and his first bout on the DLV. More of an endurance rider, he still packs a mean punch in the shorter races.

**3** **Matt Robbins**  
**'Rockin' Robbins'**

Helmet Color: **Red**  
Presented by: **Starlight Clothing**  
Hometown: **Chattanooga, TN**  
2013 DLV Rookie of the Year showed us last year what he could do, and now he's ready to take on the big guns. He's got some bazooka's under those sleeves, so his competitors better watch out.

**4** **Matt Diefenbach**  
**'Bald Assassin'**

Helmet Color: **Light Blue**  
Presented by: **Maxxis Tires**  
Hometown : **Pottstown, PA**  
The perennial bridesmaid at the Masters World Championships, this cagey veteran is ready to wear the veil and become the bride, marrying himself to the top step of the podium.

**5** **Kevin O'Donnell**  
**'Celtic Thunder'**

Helmet Color: **Orange**  
Presented by: **OZ Pizza**  
Hometown: **Atlanta, GA**  
Over the last several years Kevin has been knocking on the door of greatness, and his opportunity has finally come this season. He's come in guns a blazin' so far this year, so he'll one local rider to watch.

**6** **Joe Marshall**  
**'Nitro'**

Helmet Color: **Green**  
Presented by: **Batdorf & Bronson**  
Hometown: **Atlanta, GA**  
Nitro Joe has a need for speed. A great 2013 campaign saw Joe breakthrough the competitive barrier with against the best rider, so we'll see if 2014 will see further improvements.

**7** **Joe Eldridge**  
**'Smokin'**

Helmet Color: **Orange**  
Presented by: **MF Eldridge Accounting**  
Hometown: **Atlanta, GA**  
Smokin' Joe is a diabetic, pro bike racer and co-founder of Team Type 1/Team Novo Nordisk, the only pro team to include riders with type 1 diabetes. He's a class act, and on the attack.

**8** **Chaz**  
**'THE CHEETAH'**

Helmet Color: **Pink**  
Presented by: **Parks Law**  
Hometown: **Atlanta, GA**  
C-H-A-Z, CHAZ CHAZ CHAZ is how his chant goes. A man of mystery, an enigma if you will, Chaz The Cheetah is Atlanta's finest who is not afraid to mix it up with the big boys.

**9** **Mikey Waine**  
**'The Duke'**

Helmet Color: **Purple**  
Presented by: **Ethic, Inc.**  
Hometown: **Douglasville, GA**  
At just 16 he was the 2013 DLV Rider of the Year, he has a huge future ahead of him and he'll show you the speed that he's got in his young legs when the bike comes off.

**10** **Nathaniel Rowe**  
**'The Rebel'**

Helmet Color: **Dark Blue**  
Presented by: **Snyder Cycles**  
Hometown: **Atlanta, GA**  
Building on some solid race seasons, Nathaniel's 2014 campaign has been off to a great start as he is currently leading the Rider of the Year competition.

**11** **Valentin Todorow**  
**'The Matador'**

Helmet Color: **Brown**  
Presented by: **The Marlay House**  
Hometown: **Atlanta, GA**  
Originally starting out as a star in the Little 500 in Bloomington, IN Val is bringing his heat to the track. Look for the aggressive attacking style to jump out from the back of the pack with the torpedo attack.

**12** **Chad Conley**  
**'Unbreakable'**

Helmet Color: **Grey**  
Presented by: **Faster Mustache**  
Hometown: **Atlanta, GA**  
Originally starting out as a star in the Little 500 in Bloomington, IN Val is bringing his heat to the track. Look for the aggressive attacking style to jump out from the back of the pack with the torpedo attack.