

The Biker: Luger Regan Lauscher

BY KRISTEN ODLAND, CALGARY HERALD AUGUST 18, 2009



When she isn't sliding down the track at Canada Olympic Park, Regan Lauscher loves riding motorbikes.

Photograph by: Stuart Gradon, Calgary Herald

All it took was one day of motorcycle school and two-time Canadian Olympic luger Regan Lauscher was hooked.

"I remember the very first day we even got on them," recalls the 29-year-old, taking a breather between summer training sessions. "You have to just balance them, you aren't even allowed to turn the motors on. You just push them, just so you know how much they weigh, how they handle. Even just doing that, it basically reminded me of the feeling I got when I first started luge. I was really excited and I couldn't stop smiling, laughing and giggling.

"They warned everyone that not everyone feels comfortable in traffic right away. But I was searching for a higher gear to go faster my first ride out.

"I loved it. Instantly."

A few years ago, the Red Deer native randomly stumbled upon the idea of riding a motorbike to ease her daily commute to and from training at Canada Olympic Park. Her older brothers and dad had been into biking, so she was already comfortable around bikes. Now, eager to test-drive one--she

decided to enrol in a motorcycle training course. Not long after graduating, Lauscher was in possession of a shiny new Honda CVR 600--a "crotch rocket"--which she bought from Blackfoot Motorsports.

"I've always been a person to try something once," she said.

But with less than two years' worth of kilometres on the clock, Lauscher awoke one morning to find the bike missing. Her heart skipped a beat. After looking up and down the street, she realized it had been stolen.

"It was like I had a missing dog or missing child," recalled Lauscher, whose second-place finish at a World Cup meet at Lake Placid in 2004 was the best ever time by a female Canadian luger. "I had a picture of my bike and I actually went door-to-door, three or four doors down and across the street, (saying), 'This is my bike and this is where I live. Have you seen it?'"

"My eyes were tearing up. It was devastating."

While she recently bought a road pedal bike, she still hasn't found a suitable replacement for her motorcycle-- or a hobby that gives her the same thrill.

But she knows it won't be long until she hits the road again.

"You know how everybody's sort of opinionated about motorcycles," said Lauscher. "My grandparents would be like, 'Well maybe it's a good thing that it was stolen.' I thought maybe with just a little bit of time, I won't miss it anymore."

"But every single time a sport bike, any motorbike, goes by me, I look. I know I still want to get another one."