**Thabang Hendrik Katees**

Thabang Hendrick Katees (aged 26) was born in Pretoria and matriculated at Malatse Motsepe High School in 2010.

During his schooling years, he worked at De-Wildt on the weekends, offloading and loading bikes for riders who trained in the bush, on the mountain and in the rivers. His big break into motorcycling (which actually happened because of his bicycle) came when he assisted a motorcyclist by videoing him riding whilst balancing on his bicycle. His talent was spotted and in June 2011 the Nomadik sponsors came to De-Wildt and selected Thabang as one of six off-road motorcyclists to participate in a training programme for new riders.

In early July 2011, Thabang was selected to be a Nomadik development rider.

He relocated to Johannesburg, where he finished three years of study under mentorship at the Panacea Pharmacy to become a qualified Pharmacy Assistant whilst riding in the Motorsport South Africa (MSA) developmental programme.

The MSA approached Yamaha in 2016 to request that Thabang be included in their factory supported team as his talent and skill had reached the level where a next step was required.

Thabang became part of the Herbalife bLU cRU Yamaha Racing Team in 2017.