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ENDURO RALLY TRIALS SUPERMOTO

# Motocross

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CAIROLI KO IN SOUTH AFRICA  
USA: STEWART'S MONOLOGUE  
FMX SPECIAL: NOT ONLY XFIGHTERS  
A MONTH OF SUPERMOTO

**HUBERT AURIOL** my Africa



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David Philippaerts,  
 (photo S. Gutierrez)

# STRONGER THAN EVERYBODY

They are the strongest of them all. Perhaps too strong. To the extent where this impertinent superiority becomes a double sided weapon: they are the only ones laughing, and the crowd is bored almost to tears. Stewart and Villopoto are so far ahead that the competitors start the race with the idea of fighting for second place, if they are lucky. That at the moment sounds like a victory

We cannot deny that the National Championship is going through a boring period that is slowly draining any interest there was. We cannot even avoid admitting that it is not Stewart and Villopoto's fault if they are

you find someone strong enough to worry these two American champions: whether you look for them in the GPs or in America, there is nobody around at the moment to challenge them. Without these two, it would really become interesting. The World Championship has experienced

How nice would it be if Villopoto and Stewart...

so fast. It is not just a problem of lack of competitors at their level in the AMA circus, because they would be strong anywhere. Where would

a similar situation with Stefan Everts, the over-all dominator even with two or three different displacements in the same times for a sea-



ROUNDS #6 #7 #8 #9 >>

FAST VILLOPOTO the National champion is a loaded gun.



son. Once the Belgian was no longer on the scene, the match opened up and it suddenly became entertaining again. This is not a situation that is likely to happen at present in America though, where there are always one or two riders who are far superior over the rest and not much of a battle is seen on track. First there was McGrath and Carmichael, now Stewart and Villopoto, little has changed since the beginning of the Nineties. We enjoyed a bit of war during Ricky's last seasons who was racing against Stewart and Reed, but who always came out on top reinstating himself as the number one, especially in the outdoor races where Stewart, Reed or Villopoto fall into oblivion or are considered to be duffers. We all know that, in time, it all gets taken to exasperation, on and off the track. And with regards to what happens on the National race tracks, the two riders in question have reached such a level of superiority that they are grazing perfection. And not a lot can be done about this. As usual, the sparks will only fly when the two champions meet on the same track and not in two parallel competitions. The appointment for this show is hence postponed to 2009 when Villopoto will move up from the Lites to the 450 class. It would be great if the Stewart-Villopoto battle could take place in Motocross and not only in Supercross next year. Traditional motocross track is the place where they can really challenge each other on a par level. But most probably Stewart won't race in the National in 2009 (there is no official confirmation, but the people around the rider and the L&M Team are giving

## The National regrets the Eighties, era of Ricky Johnson and company

he ruled the track. In the Eighties it was a completely different story, years in which, apart from Ricky Johnson who started in the same trend that then exploded with McGrath, there were totally unpredictable battles and winners. Thanks to this, that generation of riders remains in the hearts of the more mature fans, where all the names at that time were basically all just as famous. Nowadays, those who are not called ing hints that the bike #7 will only be starting in the indoor events) and this will deprive the outdoor races of important entertainment. Which would be a real pity. Unfortunately we know the dynamics of the States with regards to the outdoor competitions and the loss of interest by the industry. And we regret this as it is the real motocross fans who pay the real price for it.



BUBBA STEWART down on his side, Josh Hill getting crushed.

**The races**

In July there were four consecutive races at different locations, starting with one at the famous and renowned (for the quality of the circuit) Red Bud where the news of the day was, unfortunately, a horrific accident (which you can view on video on youtube.com) where Mike Alessi broke two scapulas, a rib and bruised his lung. The Suzuki rider had been second in the first heat and fell (following a

contact) on a high speed jump where he was then run over by at least six riders as he was on the ground. He was unconscious for some minutes and finished up his day in the hospital. Fortunately, the Californian will recover sooner than initially expected, and should be back to race, possibly before the championship finishes. He will unfortunately miss the train for the MXoN due to this injury. The second overall place in Michigan went to Andrew Short in front of Michael Byrne and Nick Wey. In the Lites, Villopoto saw Trey Canard finish behind him twice. Third place when to Martin Dav-

inished third overall. In the American "MX2" Villopoto repeated a double win, behind him Dungey came second twice and third overall for the second week on the trot, Metcalfe. To finish, the circus headed all the way back to the West to race in the Washougal circuit. The weekend was actually impressively repetitive in the bigger class with the top five riders occupying the same positions in both motos. Stewart was obviously once again the kind of the field with Short, Byrn, Cooper and Hill. Tim Ferry had a so-so weekend due to a not great shape (he felt sick right before the weekend) and Stewart



TIM FERRY and, aside, Ryan Dungey.

contact) on a high speed jump where he was then run over by at least six riders as he was on the ground. He was unconscious for some minutes and finished up his day in the hospital. Fortunately, the Californian will recover sooner than initially expected, and should be back to race, possibly before the championship finishes. He will unfortunately miss the train for the MXoN due to this injury. The second overall place in Michigan went to Andrew Short in front of Michael Byrne and Nick Wey. In the Lites, Villopoto saw Trey Canard finish behind him twice. Third place when to Martin Dav-

**Alessi didn't appreciate night motocross**

los. The National then returned to Budds Creek for an event that, first of all, was much criticized for the decision of running the track backwards compared to the recent MXoN and also witnessed a worrying drop in the number of spectators. Regarding the first issue, there was a dangerous jump after the finish line that took a series of victims on the Saturday, and Ryan Villopoto publicly expressed his preference for the "of Nations" version of the course layout for the better and more natural flow. The spectator issue however saw a couple of hundred people on the Saturday, whilst on the Sunday there could not have been more than eight thousand in the crowds. The competition was rather tedious, with Stewart master of the race in front of Ferry and Short in both the heats. In the smaller class, Villopoto saw Canard and Dungey finishing second once each. The overall third place went to Metcalfe behind the Suzuki factory rider. The following weekend the AMA MX circus reached

gained even more distance to his teammate in the standing up to 145 points. The #7's will most likely accomplish the title mission in Millville this month. The 'big sleep' was broken in the Lites where the win didn't go to Villopoto (it's actually the second time of the season he doesn't take the first overall in the motocross outdoors series) but to the rising star Ryan Dungey who tied RV in the overall but thanks to the win of the second moto he also conquered the absolute win. Villopoto win moto one and in the second he didn't have a brilliant start, Dungey took complete advantage of it and charged hard to be then able to defend his lead when in the last couple of laps RV tried to make his move but didn't have success. The Lites in Washougal suffered the injury of Trey Canard in the end of the second moto while the Honda's was third and run into a lapper to crash hard (he went over the bars) and brake a femur. He got operated the very same day and will sit out for the time needed to recover and be ready for the 2009 season.



**FULL ACCESS**

**What has happened to Mike Brown? He has become for the fourth time the rider "Of Troy."** He left Europe, not without being a bit polemic as he usually is when he leaves any continent where he has raced to move to another, and is now back on the seat of a 250F making his debut in Lakewood with an overall ninth place. From then on we lost him in the shadows,



unusual his performance at Red Bud where he broke the two engines at his disposal.

**Sean Hamblin was rewarded for his performances in the top ten** on a completely privateer bike (it seems that the transfers were being paid by Jason Lawrence) and he has been



signed up for the rest of 2008 by Yamaha USA and will climb onto the factory bike due to the fact that Langston and Hepler are unable to ride and in view of the up 'n down results by Hill. Fate had it that after the official debut in Colorado (seventh and eighth in the two heats) he fell heavily on the famous Larocco's leap at Red Bud during practice on Saturday and dislocated his shoulder. He kept racing though and finished respectively 20<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Millsaps also bit the dust at Red Bud breaking his handlebar** (it was totally broken in two) and injuring his shoulder. He raced at Budds Creek finishing sixth in the first heat but he worsened his situation in the second heat and decided not to race for a few rounds starting from Unadilla and take some time to recover properly.

**Honda risked seeing its 450 team decimated with Andrew Short** who was hit hard in the face by a rock in Unadilla. If he goes out too, the whole factory team is in the clinic.

**Jeff Alessi is without a bike.** His contract has expired (and it seems complicated by some controversies) and the brother of the more famous Mike is looking for an engagement. There is talk on the GP circuit of his contacts with various



**FULL ACCESS**

teams. If it doesn't find anything in the States, Jeff is fully prepared to race in the World Championship.

**Jason Lawrence has reached his objective of being expelled from the competitions,** at least that is the impression he gave with his superior attitude regarding civil society rules. The Friday evening before the race at Red Bud he was arrested for fighting (it seems over a girl). He spent the night in jail and the following day AMA did not allow him to race for having repeated this behaviour (three weeks before) in Texas (he had done car tricks with his mechanic's rental vehicle ending up in the hands of the police) which cost him a threat of a 25 thousand dollar fine by the American Federation if he didn't behave properly for the following twelve months. The fine has immediately paid and the money was devolved to the tournament's mobile clinic, whilst Lawrence is now suspended from the AMA competitions until the end of the season (he is in for the non-ama sanctioned X Games). At first there were even rumours about him being kicked off the team but eventually he seemed not to be losing his ride as well as he lost ... the right to ride. Well Jason...nice job!

**On July 21 AMA announced** it has legislated regarding the noise levels at professional MX and SX races with the choice of complying with the phonometric limit of 94 decibels imposed by FIM. This regulation will come into force next year but it won't involve the smaller competitions. We hope that in the States they find a way of conducting stricter controls and do not allow the teams to adopt noisier bikes in the races than is actually permitted, which it seems is common practice in American competitions... and not only (see MXoN 2007).

**Really smart white graphics on Stewart's Kawasaki** specifically designed for the evening competition at Lakewood so that the rider for the... greens would be easily recognizable in the dark (as if he really needed it, out there alone leading the race by a mile).



TREY CANARD

**BUCHANAN (USA) JULY 6, 2008**

**AMA MOTOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 6 OF 12**

1. Stewart KAW 1/1; 2. Short HON 3/3; 3. Byrne SUZ 4/4; 4. Wey KTM 5/5; 5. Summey YAM 9/7; 6. Alessi J. HON; 7. Albertson HON; 8. Ferry KAW; 9. Alessi M. SUZ; 10. Cooper SUZ; 11. Balbi HON; 12. Blose M. YAM; 13. Hill YAM; 14. Boni HON; 15. Hamblin YAM; 16. Sipes J. SUZ; 17. Rookstool HON; 18. Tobin HON; 19. Laninovich KTM; 20. Clark HON; 21. Blose C. HON; 22. Gibson KAW; 23. Hadsell HON; 24. Bright HON; 25. Charbonneau HON; 26. Renner KAW. **Lites** 1. Villopoto KAW 1/1; 2. Canard HON 2/2; 3. Davalos KTM 6/3; 4. Grant HON 5/4; 5. Izzi SUZ 4/5; 6. McFarlane KAW; 7. Chisholm KAW; 8. Cunningham HON; 9. Metcalfe KAW; 10. Sipes R. KTM; 11. Moss YAM; 12. Lemoine YAM; 13. Weimer HON; 14. Dungey SUZ; 15. Kiniry HON; 16. Reardon HON; 17. Hahn T. KAW; 18. Tickle YAM; 19. Goerke KTM; 20. Hibbert YAM; 21. Brown YAM; 22. Brayton KTM; 23. Hahn W. YAM; 24. Hackley KAW.

**BUDDS CREEK (USA) JULY 13, 2008**

**AMA MOTOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 7 OF 12**

1. Stewart KAW 1/1; 2. Ferry KAW 2/2; 3. Short HON 3/3; 4. Hill YAM 4/6; 5. Byrne SUZ 7/4; 6. Cooper SUZ; 7. Wey KTM; 8. Albertson HON; 9. Alessi J. HON; 10. Carpenter P. HON; 11. Skinner HON; 12. Balbi HON; 13. Thomas HON; 14. Hillisaps HON; 15. Boni HON; 16. Willard YAM; 17. Rookstool HON; 18. Carpenter J. HON; 19. Morrison KAW; 20. Lewis HON; 21. Laninovich KTM; 22. Sipes J. SUZ; 23. Vuillemin SUZ; 24. Boughten YAM; 25. Marsack HON. **Lites** 1. Villopoto KAW 1/1; 2. Dungey SUZ 3/2; 3. Metcalfe KAW 5/4; 4. Davalos KTM 10/3; 5. Cunningham HON 7/5; 6. Sipes R. KTM; 7. Izzi SUZ; 8. Canard HON; 9. Weimer HON; 10. Brayton KTM; 11. Chisholm KAW; 12. Lemoine YAM; 13. Tickle YAM; 14. Hahn W. YAM; 15. Grant HON; 16. Hahn T. KAW; 17. Kiniry HON; 18. Morais YAM; 19. Moss YAM; 20. Hibbert YAM; 21. Brown YAM; 22. Ritter SUZ.

**NEW BERLIN/UNADILLA (USA) JULY 20, 2008**

**AMA MOTOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 8 OF 12**

1. Stewart KAW 1/1; 2. Byrne SUZ 2/3; 3. Cooper SUZ 5/2; 4. Ferry KAW 3/6; 5. Balbi HON 8/4; 6. Hamblin YAM; 7. Short HON; 8. Boni HON; 9. Albertson HON; 10. Wey KTM; 11. Hill YAM; 12. Carpenter J. HON; 13. Morrison KAW; 14. Sipes J. SUZ; 15. Blose C. HON; 16. Marsack HON; 17. Summey YAM; 18. Alessi J. HON; 19. Charbonneau HON; 20. Willard YAM; 21. Ainsworth KAW; 22. Carpenter P. HON; 23. Gills SUZ; 24. Renner KAW; 25. Tobin HON; 26. Kendall HON; 27. Dowd SUZ; 28. Clark HON; 29. Laninovich KTM. **Lites** 1. Villopoto KAW 1/1; 2. Dungey SUZ 2/2; 3. Metcalfe KAW 6/4; 4. Izzi SUZ 8/5; 5. Grant HON 3/2; 6. Goerke KTM; 7. Moss YAM; 8. Canard HON; 9. Sipes R. KTM; 10. Davalos KTM; 11. Hahn T. KAW; 12. Cunningham HON; 13. Chisholm KAW; 14. Lemoine YAM; 15. McFarlane KAW; 16. Weimer HON; 17. Brayton KTM; 18. Kiniry HON; 19. Brown YAM; 20. Nicoletti KAW; 21. Hahn W. YAM; 22. Morais YAM; 23. Borkenhagen HON; 24. Tickle YAM.

**WASHOUGAL (USA) JULY 27, 2008**

**AMA MOTOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 9 OF 12**

1. Stewart KAW 1/1; 2. Short HON 2/2; 3. Byrne SUZ 3/3; 4. Cooper SUZ 4/4; 5. Hill YAM 5/5; 6. Albertson HON; 7. Alessi J. HON; 8. Ferry KAW; 9. Balbi HON; 10. Laninovich KTM; 11. Wey KTM; 12. Collier KAW; 13. Hamblin YAM; 14. Blose C. HON; 15. Summey YAM; 16. Sipes J. SUZ; 17. Carpenter P. HON; 18. Brown KAW; 19. Clark HON; 20. Rookstool HON; 21. Siebler HON; 22. Bright HON; 23. Partridge HON; 24. Summers KTM; 25. Fitch HON; 26. Carpenter J. HON; 27. Metzler HON; 28. Davenport KAW.

**Championship standing** 1. Stewart p. 450; 2. Ferry 305; 3. Short 290; 4. Byrne 280; 5. Alessi M. 221.

**Lites** 1. Dungey SUZ 2/1; 2. Villopoto KAW 1/2; 3. Grant HON 3/4; 4. Metcalfe KAW 5/3; 5. Sipes R. KTM 4/5; 6. Weimer HON; 7. Izzi SUZ; 8. Kiniry HON; 9. Goerke KTM; 10. Chisholm KAW; 11. Cunningham HON; 12. Davalos KTM; 13. Moss YAM; 14. Nicoletti KAW; 15. McFarlane KAW; 16. Hahn W. YAM; 17. Brown YAM; 18. Hahn T. KAW; 19. Hibbert YAM; 20. Tickle YAM; 21. Borkenhagen HON.

**Championship standing** 1. Villopoto p. 438; 2. Dungey 329; 3. Metcalfe 267; 4. Weimer 229; 5. Izzi 211.