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Motocross

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Sport
 MX1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP:
 DAVID IS MAGIC!
 WEC: SURPRISE PICHON
 SUPERMOTO: X GAMES

Interviews:
 STEFAN EVERTS
 ANTONIO CAIROLI
 SAMULI ARO

Brief:
 VITO IPPOLITO

Test
 YAMAHA YZ F250-450
 HUSQVARNA WR - TE
 XISPA X250R

REED
SUZUKI
 the first impressions

THE MOTOCROSS OF THE FUTURE: SRB AND LUONGO TALK

CONTENTS



34 Blu Jap



62 Red plate



114 Samuli Aro



126 SuperX

BRIEF

Vito Ippolito **28**

RACING ZONE

Yamaha YZF 250-450 **34**
Husqvarna WR-TE **44**
Xispa X250R **52**

SPORT

In Loket David Philippaerts takes back the MX1 red plate. Interviews to Stefan Everts, Tony Cairoli and Wolfgang Srb. US National: James Stewart and Ryan Villopoto new champs. **60**

Sixth round of the World Enduro Championship in France: surprise Pichon. Interview to Samuli Aro. **104**

Supercross XGames in Las Vegas: Jeff Ward king for a day. And much more... **124**

REGULARS

7 editorial - 9 columnists - 14 special guest - 16 MOTOCROSS racing point - 18 US racing point - 20 ENDURO racing point - 22 RALLY racing point - 24 SUPERMOTO racing point - 26 medical corner - 138 once upon a time.

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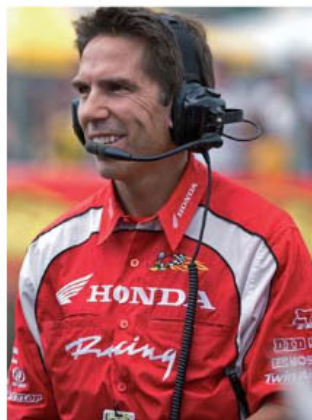


Jonathan Barragan.
(photo S. Gutierrez)



STEEL CITY ON SATURDAY

The Outdoor Championship is suffering from a drop in crowds this year, which perhaps does not come out of the blue. During August this was blatantly clear at Millville (the location where the two titles were won) where there were visibly less spectators and the championship is now searching for a new format in order to regain interest and crowds. One of the latest stunts they pulled was to reschedule the races on the Saturday. The last race of the season, held in Delmont, Pennsylvania, was a trial run for this experiment.



Albertson first!

To buffer the absences of Davi Millsaps and Ben Townley Honda USA engaged the privateer Jimmy Albertson, 19 year old from Missouri, for the last three rounds of the National. Jeff Alessi was also fighting for this privilege, but the better results achieved by Albertson led the team managed by Eric Kehoe to choose otherwise. Unfortunately the long-awaited debut at Millville on the red factory bikes did not come off due to an accident where the rider injured his shoulder just a few days before the tenth round of the outdoor season. Everything has therefore been postponed until Southwick or Steel City.

PATTERSON BACK AT THE LEAD

Yes, but just in one overall race in the Women's American Championship. The many times winner of the US championship has finally won an "overall" in Washougal where she succeeded in beating a very strong Fiolek (who raced with a broken wrist!), finishing equal second. In the championship, before the two final rounds, Fiolek is at the lead with 187 points ahead of Patterson (153), Sarah Whitmore (139) and Tarah Gieger (124).

PUERTO RICO TEAM

This year a couple of extra Americans will arrive at the Nations this year with the Puerto Rico Team. Besides Tarah Gieger who is back on form, Donington will also welcome Zach Osbourne who will race alongside Gino Aponte to defend the colours of the Caribbean island.



Villopoto on a 125?

He really thought about it when he asked Mitch Payton if he could tweak up a 125cc and use it in the last race of the National 2008. A rather amusing idea if you think that Villopoto has always been racing, throughout his career, on 4-strokes except one race at Mammoth Mt. where he competed on a 125.

Of Troy out

It all happened at Millville where the blue Lites team did not turn up due to team member injuries and misfortunes. Ryan Morais and Tyler Bowers were, as we know, out of the race for physical reasons, but Jason Lawrence had been suspended by AMA, whilst for Mike Brown things got confused for a moment considering that when the ex Honda Cas Team rider got back to the States and tried his luck in the Lites with the Of Troy Team, he then signed up with KTM to race in the American enduro. The debut came at the end of August at the WORCS Series Race in Monticello, Utah.



FIO-BREAK

The super nice new star of American women's motocross had quite an unlucky summer in which, after the good results in the Women's World Championship and in the local American Championship, she fractured a wrist and then (while she was riding alone) she fell on a triple jump and broke the neck brace and seriously injured a shoulder blade. Obviously she had to forget the XGames and is trying to get back into shape for the final competitions in the American and World Championships.

STEWART JUST IN THE SX? AND ABOUT ALESSI?

The Kawasaki rider has not yet confirmed his plans for 2009 with regards to the National, but it seems certain that he won't be racing in the Outdoor Championship. Roger De Coster seems to be of the same idea, as he recently declared in the US magazine Cycle News #34 from which we quote his words: "... Stewart won't be racing in the National next year, therefore there is a chance for Mike Alessi to win the title". If Mike signs back with Suzuki, we have to add, as there have been rumors he got into a deep and long negotiation with Ktm to race the MX1 class at the GPs in 2009. It might be surprising to see the older of the Alessi brothers leaving Suzuki after just a season but with Chad Reed getting in a few things are changing and that might hurt Mike's position, and he might be seriously tempted to leave. If he is considering the GPs for real that would represent another terrible blow for the outdoors series in US. Stay tuned for more in the next issues.



It's Nations time!



The most exciting moment of the year that also coincides with the start of the usual duels between American fans and those from the rest of the world has come. What counts is that interest is high in every corner of the globe, because there is no race quite like the Mx of Nations. And America wouldn't dream of

not going, strongly backed by a new AMA that clearly knows the importance of taking part in the biggest motocross event on the planet. Some people tried to ruin in the party a few years ago by attempting to convince (from the USA obviously) the Federation, the fans and the whole environment that team races were not so important for the United States. This was all purely for selfish business reasons which aimed to keep their riders at home and knock

the image of the MXoN, whilst boosting that of the domestic outdoor events. And they say that American patriotism is exemplary. Do us a favour... thank goodness for people like James Stewart, Ryan Villopoto and Tim Ferry and a above all Ricky Carmichael who, a few years ago, stood up and said: "We have to go to the Nations". Exactly! Because if you really love motocross, you cannot dream of missing the Nations.



COOL