

PULSE



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INSIDE ↓

THE PULSE

The Motocross des

Nations

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2019 BMW ADVENTURE LINE

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2019 BMW ADVENTURE LINE

BMW Motorrad has made massive improvements in the motorcycle market over the last few decades, largely due to an increased demand in the adventure bike category. Therefore, the German manufacturer is placing even more attention on their own stable of adventure bikes for the upcoming year. The R1210GS has served as a staple in the market for many years and continues to lead the way at the top of the food chain, accompanied by the smaller F-series GS models to further support their domination of the field.

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2019 BMW ADVENTURE LINE

In 2019, BMW has taken it upon themselves to advance the category even farther, employing one of the most radical overhauls of their adventure line since its inception. The new R1250GS and the R1250GS Adventure replacing the top of the line R1200 duo, and a new F850GS Adventure heading the F-series family.

So, what exactly qualifies the 2019 iteration of the F850GS to earn the name 'Adventure' in the title? Visual changes include a more stunted, stockier fender above the front wheel with a taller, adjustable screen rounding out the cockpit. The front cowl of the bike is also a little bit wider, making it a little more stable in the process. Additionally, there's a significantly larger fuel tank, assumably a couple of gallons more than the current F850GS, accompanied by an extended fairing that provides added protection as well as a slightly different look. The engine is cradled by a crash bar and there's also a cylindrical, steel luggage rack at the back of the bike, completing a fairly radical overhaul of the physical makeup of the machine. As far as what's underneath the cosmetic exterior, there's no official information from BMW, although there's been some heavily rumored specs floating around the internet. A parallel 853cc twin boasting a completely new design, unrelated to the previous F800, that has been borrowed from the F850GS that was revealed a year ago will be the star of the show -- producing 95hp at 8250rpm with premium fuel and 90hp at 8000rpm on regular fuel.

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On the other hand, one thing that hasn't changed between bikes is the pressed-steel chassis from the previous models; nonetheless, the F850GS is going to feel bigger. As previously stated -- the tank is oversized, the bars are two inches wider than the current model, and the screen is more than five inches higher at a total height of 58 inches. Although the top speed marginally drops from 130mph to 122mph, it's a practical adaptation that improves the feeling of the motorcycle. >>



2 0 1 9 B M W A D V E N T U R E







**2 0 1 9 B M W
A D V E N T U R E**

Obviously, the difference in measurements also translates to a difference in weight -- the F850GS topped out at 505lb with a full tank of fuel whereas the Adventure version stands at 538lbs with a full tank. Coincidentally, that's the same weight as the 2018 version of the R1200GS, but that's soon to change with the 2019 model and the upgrade to the R1250GS.

As the name implies, the capacity of the boxer twin is being increased in the 2019 model, rising by 84cc from 1170cc to 1254cc for the upcoming year. Naturally, the power will be boosted from 123.3hp to 134hp, peaking at 7750rpm in the same fashion as the current model. The new engine will feature much stronger low-end performance due to a variable valve timing system (the first on a BMW motorcycle), changing valve timing and overlap as revs rise to improve emissions and low-end torque without demoting peak performance.

Just as is with the smaller bike, the largely new engine will be bolted to the practically identical chassis, retaining most of the same dimensions at the current RS1200GS. The 2019 model is the same exact length as the existing edition, while the Adventure version is merely .6 inches longer. Additionally, the wheelbases remain unchanged at 59 inches for the GS and 59.8 inches for the Adventure. Inherently, all of these modifications are going to add more weight to the new model as well. Both models gain a total of 11lb, bringing the R1250GS up to a total of 549lbs. The Adventure is heavier, mainly in part due to the bigger fuel tank (more than 2.5 gallons larger), tipping the scales with a full tank at 591lbs.

The official reveal of the bikes is just around the corner as they're set to debut at the Internot show in Cologne at the beginning of October along with the remainder of BMW Motorrad's 2019 lineup.



The Motocross des Nations first appearance on American soil took place back in 1987 at the ever popular Unadilla, following a six-year streak of consecutive wins for the United States which dated back to their inaugural victory in 1981. Thirty-one years later the world famous race has returned stateside for the fourth time to Buchanan, Michigan, stowed away just above the Indiana state border on the outskirts of Southbend. It's commonly referred to as RedBud City due to the many trees of the same name that line streets and has been dubbed by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA community.



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The facility is a mainstay on the Lucas Oil Pro Motocross calendar, hosting the National each and every year on Fourth of July weekend, drawing legendary crowds dedicated to the spirit of motocross and the patriotism of their dear country. RedBud is known for the droves of crazed fans that line the fences surrounding the track and the party animals that fill the B Lot, as well as the picturesque motocross facility that serves as the perfect theatre for a race of this magnitude. It's known across the United States and abroad as America's track and it certainly seems that way on

the first weekend of July -- red, white, and blue blankets the hill-sides and surrounds the podium in the form of flags, hats, onesies, bikinis, signage, and everything in between. It's one of the few podiums throughout the year where it's difficult to hear yourself think, let alone hear the competitors on the microphone. There couldn't be a more perfect location for the 71st running of the Motocross des Nations; the American fans are starved for success and are eager to support their team to their maximum potential whereas the rest of the fans around the world want to cross RedBud off their bucket list.

AMERICAN FANS ARE STARVED FOR SUCCESS AND ARE EAGER TO SUPPORT THEIR TEAM TO THEIR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL



In the seventy year history of the event, the United States is the winningest and most successful country with a total of twenty-two victories to their name, but the last time they stood on the top of the podium at the Motocross des Nations



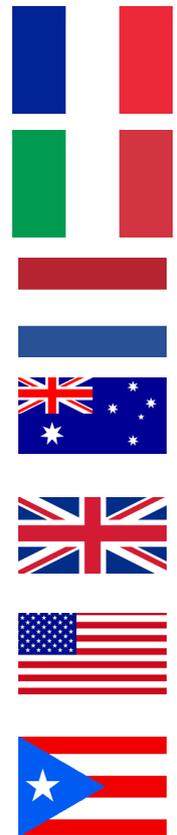
and hoisted the Peter Chamberlain Trophy was back in 2011. They did so in Saint-Jean-d'Angély, France with Blake Baggett, Ryan Dungey, and Ryan Villopoto at the helm. At that time, the American riders still carried an air of invincibility likened



to the glory days of David Bailey, Rick Johnson, Jeff Ward, and company in the 1980s and early 1990s. From 1981 to 1993, Team USA went on a thirteen-year win streak that still stands as the longest consecutive winning record in the history of the event. 2011 marked the end of a seven-year win streak and the American's have yet to find their way back onto the top step of the podium, but things were a lot different then. Ricky Carmichael, James Stewart, Ryan Villopoto, and Ryan Dungey intimidated the competition with their superstardom and trounced the competition with their skills on the track. In the third and final moto at Saint-Jean-d'Angély, Villopoto actually slowed down just before the finish line so that he and Dungey could cross the finish line in tandem, celebrating the victory with pumping fists as they rolled past the checkered flag.



In the meantime, France has taken the reigns as the most dominant country of the current decade. Les Bleus have taken the Chamberlain Trophy for four consecutive years in drastically different conditions, led by the consistent charge of Gautier Paulin. Although the United States serve as the winningest country in the history of the event, there couldn't be a better script in place for them to make a return to the top of the world. For the first time in multiple years, fans and pundits alike feel as though the best possible team has been selected for the event, featuring both of the current Lucas Oil Pro Motocross National Champions. Regardless of the outcome, the 2018 Motocross des Nations at RedBud will go down in history as one of the biggest and baddest motocross races ever featured on American soil.





FINISH





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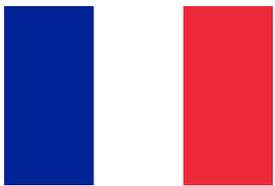
THOR

MONSTER ENERGY

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FRANCE

The first time that France won the Motocross des Nations took place back in 2001 in Namur, Belgium with a team that consisted of David Vuillemin and Yves Demaria. Although France has been featured as the host country of the event on multiple occasions, they struggled to find success throughout the first fifty years of the competition. All of that has changed recently after Gautier Paulin, Dylan Ferrandis, and Steven Frossard took first place at Kegums, Latvia in 2014, marking the beginning of an impressive winning streak that has spanned the last five years. It's still a far cry from the American's thirteen race record, but there's no doubt that the French riders have been the class of the field in recent years. They weren't the most outstanding bunch or riders at RedBud this year, but they were extremely solid and consistent, limiting their mistakes in order to put themselves on the top step of the podium yet again. Gautier Paulin has been the staple of the team and the only rider that has been continually present in their five



FAST V2 TWO FACE MX437



The **LS2 Fast** full face MX, off road motorcycle helmet- Built in our own factory, and perhaps the best value in a lightweight, full face motocross helmet. **LS2's Fast** is a technically advanced weapon for serious off road riders. The shell is made from **LS2's** proprietary Kinetic Polymer Alloy (KPA). This innovative material is ultra-light weight and offers a bit of energy absorbing flexibility, but with a penetration resistance that rivals high-end composites. The wide eye port accommodates most major brands of goggles. Intake and exhaust ports ensure plenty of ventilation to keep you cool, whether during a long moto, an enduro, or a long day on the trail. 3 shell sizes and a reinforced double D-ring chin strap makes for secure, comfortable fit. A multi-density EPS safety liner offers state-of-the-art energy absorption. The **Fast** uses our Emergency Release System cheek pads, making it easier to remove the cheek pads if a rider takes a serious fall. Our cheek pads are contour cut out of high quality foam using **LS2's** 3D laser technology for all day comfort and not hot spots. The comfort padding uses a technical fabric that is breathable, hypoallergenic, and is fully removable and washable. LS2 designers at our HQ in Barcelona, Spain worked with our professional riders from Dakar, World Enduro and motocross to build a pro-level product at an affordable price. The **Fast** offers everything you need in a full face off-road helmet, whether for MX, Enduro, Trail or UTV, at a price that will stun you. Meets or exceeds DOT and ECE 22.05 standards.



GAUTIER_PAULIN_MXON_18



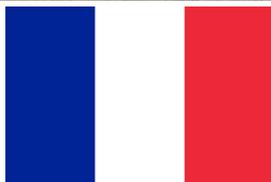
DYLAN_FERRANDIS_MXON_18



JORDI_TIXIER_MXON_18



previous victories, assuming the role of the team leader behind their manager, Pascal Finot. They received a lot of criticism for leaving American based rider, Marvin Musquin, on the sidelines, but they made it clear after three motos at RedBud that they picked a winning team. They are one of the few countries that can afford to pass on one of their best riders and have the means to replace an injured rider with a serious contender -- that's exactly what happened when Romain Febvre turned up injured and they had to replace him at the last minute with former MX2 World Champion, Jordi Tixier. In 2017, France chose former motocrosser turned enduro racer, Christophe Charlier, as their MX2 rider and they still won handily. It seems as though Les Bleus can do no wrong in recent years and there's a definite shift of power occurring within the worldwide scope of motocross racing.

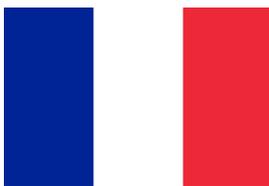


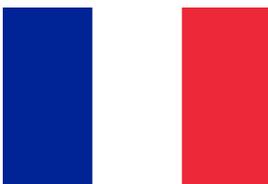
GAUTIER PAULIN

Gautier Paulin is the only rider on Team France that has earned the opportunity to hoist the Peter Chamberlain Trophy in five consecutive years at the Motocross des Nations, etching his name into the scrolls of French motocross legend. The towering figure has an intimidating frame and an imposing style on the track, fighting for each and every position until the flight of the checkered flag. Paulin brought a veteran level of consistency to the team this past weekend in RedBud, braving the challenging conditions brought forth by Mother Nature to come away with 2-3 moto scores on his Rockstar Energy Husqvarna. He finished second overall in the heavily competitive MXGP class, stocked with all of the heavy hitters of the event on the fastest bikes. Paulin's resilience and determination were tested on multiple occasions throughout the weekend, but he never faltered. The Frenchman didn't have the most successful year on the MXGP circuit by his standards, but he always finds a way to step up and take things to the next level for his country. His consistent podium finishes spearheaded France's charge to their fifth consecutive Chamberlain Trophy, as he often dug deep in the late stages of motos in order to salvage a couple extra points. In the final race of the weekend, Paulin was entrenched in an epic battle with nine-time World Champion Antonio Cairoli as the two battled for the overall win, but he remained composed and unaffected. He logged consistent lap times and made steady progress in the late stages of the race, finding an extra gear when his opponents were struggling. Paulin willed France to their fifth consecutive Motocross des Nations win by clawing his way onto the podium after dropping back to 6th position in the final moto, showing why he's the only rider that has consistently represented the team five years running.

DYLAN FERRANDIS

Dylan Ferrandis decided to make the move across the Atlantic and pursue a racing career in the United States with the Star Racing Yamaha team a couple of years ago. The longtime MX2 competitor made his AMA Pro Racing debut in 2017 and has since found his way to the podium in both supercross and motocross, proving his technical ability on the bike as well as his potential to grow into a future champion. Ferrandis was featured on France's 2014 Motocross des Nations team when they won in Latvia for the second time in the history of the event, earning the accolade of the Best Young Rider in competition. The Yamaha rider has spent the last two years competing on American soil and has become somewhat accustomed to the tracks, the culture, and the style of racing that is present in the Lucas Oil Pro National series, as exemplified by his multiple wins on the circuit. His multiple years of experience and his comfortability with the circuit played into the hands of the French team at Red-Bud, allowing Ferrandis to score solid results in the MX2 division. His finishes were somewhat limited and restricted by small mistakes in the treacherous conditions that were present throughout the weekend, but he still eeked out a 3rd place overall result in the MX2 classification. The Yamaha rider's ability to log consistent results and the way that he regrouped from small mistakes was the difference in finishing on the podium and standing on the top step of the podium. A 7th place in the first moto and an 8th place in the second moto didn't reflect his true speed and potential on the day, but he fought his way through small crashes and goggle issues to put France on top for the fifth consecutive time.





JORDI TIXIER

Jordi Tixier wasn't the first choice for Team France to carry the flag in the Open class at the 2018 Motocross des Nations. The former MX2 World Champion has struggled to find the same level of success on the world stage since winning the title in 2014, making French fans wary of his potential on a foreign track in a high-pressure scenario. Romain Febvre was the team's first choice, but the former MXGP World Champion suffered a broken rib as well as a concussion in a practice crash at the beginning of September, forcing him out of contention for the Motocross des Nations at RedBud. Therefore, Pascal Finot turned to Marvin Musquin to fill the spot, but the Red Bull KTM rider was already committed to taking a small vacation following the resolution of the 2018 Lucas Oil Pro Motocross season and has decided to focus his attention on getting ready for the Monster Energy Cup. Therefore, Jordi Tixier was thrown into the fire and chosen to represent Les Bleus in the hope that he could be the final piece of the puzzle to earn the country's sixth Chamberlain Trophy. The KTM rider didn't set the world on fire in Michigan, but he did exactly what his team needed in order to get the job done. A miserable second moto that was plagued with crashes, goggle issues, and a mechanical failure forced France to use their dropped score and put all the pressure on his shoulders for the third and final race, but he delivered. Tixier fought his hardest after starting way down the order in 15th position and held onto the spot, playing his part in France's outright victory.







ITALY

In the seventy-one year history of the Motocross des Nations, Italy has only won the event a total of two times, mainly due to the contributions of Andrea Bartolini and Alessio Chiodi. The last time that the Italian national anthem was played on the podium took place in Bellpuig, Spain in 2002, only a couple of years before the emergence of Antonio Cairoli. At that time, Cairoli was cutting his teeth in the Junior classes of the Italian Motocross Championship, but it wasn't long until he graduated to the world stage. The nine-time Grand Prix World Champion is one of the most popular motocross racers in the world and has made a name for himself on the MXGP circuit over the course of the



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**ANTONIO_CAIROLI_MXON_18****MICHELE_CERVELLIN_MXON_18****ALESSANDRO_LUPINO_MXON_18**

last two decades. He's widely regarded as one of the best and most accomplished motocross riders of all time, but he's never been able to lead his team to a Motocross des Nations victory. Cairoli has always been one of the most successful individual riders at the event barring some intermittent bad luck and uncharacteristic results, but he's lacked the teammates to really put forth a charge for the Chamberlain Trophy. The 2018 Motocross des Nations at RedBud were a different story as Michelle Cervellin and Alessandro Lupino rode their tails off in order to challenge France for the title, but the Italians came up just short and were forced to settle for second place overall.



ANTONIO CAIROLI

There was no certainty whether or not Team Italy would decide to compete in the 2018 Motocross des Nations after their unofficial team leader, Antonio Cairoli, suffered a scary crash at his home GP at Imola one week prior to the worldwide showdown at RedBud. The Italian experienced a slight injury to his hand when he was flung from the side of the track and braced his fall atop the tarmac that lines the Imola road racing circuit, leaving the future of his season in question. Nonetheless, Cairoli proved through grit and determination why he's a nine-time World Champion and made the voyage across the Atlantic to Buchanan, Michigan. Although he's one of the top riders in the world, Cairoli is in the latter years of his career and it's uncertain how many more Motocross des Nations he'll have the opportunity to race, therefore he took the opportunity with his trademark smile. The KTM rider is a pivotal part of Team Italy as he's one of the most successful individual riders in the history of the event and harbors the ability to pull holeshot and win motos. The peak of his success at the Motocross des Nations came in 2012 and 2013 at Lommel and Teutschenthal when he won every single moto that he contested, cementing his title at the time as one of the best in the world. Cairoli's most recent World Championship came in 2017 and he was one of the only riders that regularly challenged Jeffrey Herlings for the title and race wins throughout the 2018 season. There were droves of American fans that were most likely seeing him in the flesh for the first time and it was incredibly clear to them why he receives all of the praise that he does when he went out and yarded Ken Roczen in the MXGP qualifying race. The two riders started nose-to-tail on the opening lap and Cairoli methodically inched away at the front of the field, eventually winning by more than twenty seconds. He didn't encounter the same good fortune on Sunday as he slid out after challenging for the holeshot in the very first corner of the opening moto, but a spirited charge brought him back to 6th place, only a couple of seconds behind the top five. Cairoli wore his heart on his sleeve in the final moto and battled through vision issues after dumping his goggles, but a slight mistake ended up sealing Team Italy's fate as he finished in 4th position behind France's leading rider, Gautier Paulin.

MICHELE CERVELLIN

Michele Cervellin was able to draw from confidence inducing season in the MX2 World Championship in order to put together some impressive rides at the 2018 Motocross des Nations. The Yamaha rider earned a new contract with the SM-Action Yamaha team after earning a 7th place result in the overall championship standings, despite missing a total of three rounds throughout the season due to injury. The Italian was quite the surprise in the MX2 division throughout the weekend of racing at RedBud Track and Trail, finishing 5th overall in the class with combined moto scores of 10-14. The Italian showed impressive speed as well as terrific technique and ability in the sloppy, sandy conditions in order to assist the Italians in a surprise podium finish. On Saturday, he did his job accordingly by finishing 4th in the MX2 Qualifying Heat, affording the Italian team the first gate pick heading into Sunday's all-important motos. Cervellin's best result on Sunday came in an unlikely scenario as he actually performed better in the deep talent pool of the MXGP class, earning a top ten finish against the world's best racers. The Yamaha rider battled as hard as possible from the gate drop to the checkered flag, starting the race in 8th position and eventually finishing in 10th position. Although he dropped a couple of positions, he did exactly what needed to be done and limited the amount of 250cc machines ahead of him on the field, as well as limiting the amount of 450cc machines that he let past him throughout the course of the race. It's expected and accepted that one of the MX2 results will be dropped at the end of the three motos and that's exactly what happened, but it's worth noting that if all six scores counted, the Italians would have been crowned champions for the third time in the history of Motocross des Nations.





ALESSANDRO LUPINO

There are certain riders that seem capable of turning it on for their country at the Motocross des Nations and in the last couple of years, Alessandro Lupino has seemed to find that little bit of extra motivation. The Italian was featured on the team last year at Matterly Basin and ended up pulling out a 4th place finish in the MX2+Open race, contributing to a 4th overall in the Open class after the end of three motos. The Kawasaki rider hasn't had the most electric season on the MXGP circuit, finishing the championship back in 13th position at the end of the season, but he seemed to use that as a little bit of extra incentive at RedBud for the seventy-first annual Motocross des Nations. Lupino's 6th place result in the MX Open qualifying race would've been strongly welcomed by a handful of other countries, but it was actually the worst result of the team which serves as a testament to their immaculate consistency throughout the weekend. Nonetheless, he received an excellent gate pick for the second moto on Sunday and took full advantage, starting out front until a crashed forced him to the back of the pack. Lupino dug deep after picking himself up off the ground and clawed his way all the way back to 12th position, but the damage was already done at that point. Despite his incredible 5th place result in the third and final moto, Italy made one too many mistakes between their MXGP and Open riders to come away with the victory, albeit they finished a very close second. Nonetheless, Lupino impressed a lot of people and most likely earned tons of new fans throughout the weekend after running in a podium position for more than half of the race.



NETHERLANDS

The 2018 Motocross des Nations at RedBud Track and Trail marked the eleventh time in the history of the event that the Netherlands have made it onto the overall podium, but it must have been a bitter pill to swallow for Glenn Coldenhoff and Jeffrey Herlings. The Dutch have been searching for a well-rounded third rider that would give them an opportunity to challenge for the Chamberlain Trophy and they found their candidate this year in the form of Calvin Vlaanderen, a young South African rider of Dutch descent and the lone representative of the Factory HRC team in the MX2 class this year. The conditions throughout the weekend at RedBud were practically tailor-made for Team Netherlands; drawing a strong comparison to the overcast skies, muddy pits, and sandy soils of home. Although there were only a couple of different spots on the track where extra sand was added to the fray, persistent rain in preparation of the event changed the track



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**JEFFREY_HERLINGS_MXON_18****GLENN_COLDENHOFF_MXON_18****CALVIN_VLAANDEREN_MXON_18**

prep and forced a lot of the sandy topsoil to overflow onto the circuit. Therefore, America's track actually harbored a striking resemblance to one of the many practice tracks that the European riders use for testing and training throughout Holland and Belgium, putting Team Netherlands in their comfort zone. There was a longstanding narrative involving Herlings and Tomac in the buildup to the 2018 Motocross des Nations, but that only seemed to add fuel to the fire for Herlings as well as his compatriot, Coldenhoff. It's been quite some time since such a dominant performance has taken place at the Motocross des Nations and it could be the first time that one particular country swept all three motos and still failed to win the event.



JEFFREY HERLINGS

Jeffrey Herlings, the self-proclaimed fastest motocross racer on the planet, made one of the most convincing cases for his claim yet at the 2018 Motocross des Nations. The 2018 MXGP World Champion introduced himself to American fans last year by racing at the final round of the Lucas Oil Pro Motocross Championship, finishing 1-1 on the day after incredibly impressive rides from the back of the pack. He won seventeen out of the nineteen MXGP rounds that he contested this year and stood on the podium in all nineteen, winning sixty-two out of the seventy-seven motos that he contested in the 2018 season. American fans got another taste of his incredible racecraft first hand as the KTM rider found himself on the ground in the MXGP qualifying race on Saturday. Herlings remained unphased as he picked himself up off the ground, stopped in the mechanic's area for gloves and goggles, and proceeded to fight back to an eventual 3rd place finish from absolutely dead last against the world's top talent in motocross. His ability to find new lines, aggressively adjust his body weight to assist the movement of the bike, and his combination of composure and aggression is second to none. Herlings has found a way to push the envelope without forgoing consistency and it's almost unbelievable to witness firsthand. In the first race on Sunday, the KTM rider put himself at the front of the field in the flash of an eye and it appeared as though he would check out on the competition, but a slight mistake on the first lap made things a little more interesting. Herlings was quick to remount his motorcycle and rejoined the race inside the top five, starting a methodical and maniacal charge to the front of the pack. He forced his way past Gautier Paulin and Jorge Prado and eventually won the race by a whopping 25 seconds, setting up the Netherlands for a strong finish. In the third and final moto, Herlings gave his teammate the inside gate pick and therefore started the race back towards the bottom end of the top ten. It didn't phase the Bullet as he aggressively carved his way forward, settling into second position to finish the last race with a Netherlands 1-2.



GLENN GOLDENHOFF

Despite a 7th place overall finish in the 2018 MXGP World Championship, Glenn Coldenhoff looked like an absolute world-beater at the seventy-first annual Motocross des Nations. The Dutch rider rose to the occasion in a big way throughout the weekend, oftentimes setting the pace in practice sessions as well as winning all three of the motos that he contested. Coldenhoff surprised a lot of people with a holeshot and a moto win in the MX Open division on Saturday, but the surprise factor was far removed from his performances on Sunday for the final motos of the weekend. The KTM rider only managed two podium finishes throughout the entire year of racing in the MXGP World Championship, but his confidence and determination seemed unphased by that statistic. Coldenhoff was electric out of the gate all weekend long, either pulling the holeshot or starting in second position in all of his motos. Once he hit the front of the pack, it was game over for the rest of the competition as he utilized his incredibly smooth riding style and unparalleled technique in order to dominate the challenging RedBud circuit. It was apparent that his confidence grew throughout the weekend as he decided to jump the world-renowned Larocco's Leap for the first time of the entire weekend on the parade lap of the final moto, continuing to do so all the way until the final lap. Coldenhoff made winning look effortless, taking advantage of the favorable conditions in order to put Team Netherlands on the rostrum for the eleventh time in the history of the event. Despite the team's shortcomings in terms of the Chamberlain Trophy, Coldenhoff wore the biggest smile of any rider due to his incredible individual performance and he carried his light carefree attitude around the entire weekend. The Motocross des Nations is the biggest race of the year and the stakes don't get much higher, but Coldenhoff behaved as though he was on the gate for a local race in Holland and he rode like it, too.





GALVIN VLAANDEREN

Following a breakout year in the MX2 division, the South African turned Dutch rider Calvin Vlaanderen appeared to be the secret ingredient that the Netherlands were missing to get their hands on the Chamberlain Trophy. The HRC rider finished 6th overall in the MX2 World Championship and collected a total of eight podium finishes throughout the season, including a win at the Indonesian GP. Vlaanderen was the second fastest rider in the MX2 Free Practice at RedBud and battled back to a 12th place finish in the MX2 heat after a poor start, but things didn't go to plan for the twenty-one-year-old on Sunday. He started within the top ten in the MXGP + MX2 moto, but his result was heavily affected by an unfortunate mechanical failure as well as a couple of mistakes. Vlaanderen was forced to ditch his goggles in the middle of the race and soaked up loads and loads of roost throughout the moto before the eventual mechanical forced him to DNF. Unfortunately, he suffered somewhat serious damage to his eyes in the midst of the first moto carnage and it was unsafe for him to return to the gate for the second moto, leaving Team Netherlands with two eligible riders for the remainder of the event and undroppable score of 36th place.



AUSTRALIA

Team Australia was one of the major surprises of the 2018 Motocross des Nations, fostering a team of young and upcoming talent led by newly signed Geico Honda's Hunter Lawrence. Miraculously, they led the points after moto two mainly due to the Honda rider's heroic rides in the opening two motos, most notably finishing 2nd behind Glenn Coldenhoff in the MX2 + Open race after charging through the pack. It was going to be tough for the Aussies to come out with a podium finish with their best rider on the sidelines for the final moto and the situation was made worse as Kirk Gibbs got stuck in a massive pileup on the opening lap of the race, condemning him to an eventual 33rd place finish. Nonetheless, the Australian's did their country proud as there were no expectations of them being contenders preceding the event and they were extremely satisfied to come away with a fourth-place



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MITCHELL_EVANS_MXON_18



KIRK_GIBBS_MXON_18



finish. There was a lot of drama in preparation of the event with the Team Manager Michael Byrne and one of Australia's most successful motorcycle racers, Chad Reed. The former AMA Supercross and Motocross Champion felt that he deserved a spot on the team in exchange for what he's given back to the sport of motorcycling in his home country and thought it would be a rightful sendoff to his motocross racing career to do it in front of the American crowd where he's built his career over the past twenty years. Nonetheless, the Australian team snubbed Reedy and decided to invest in their future -- in hindsight, it doesn't seem like they made the wrong move.



HUNTER LAWRENCE

Hunter Lawrence really showed the American fans what he's all about at the seventieth annual Motocross des Nations at Matterly Basin last year, riding his heart out and fervently challenging Zach Osborne for the honors of the best MX2 rider at the event. Osborne was practically unstoppable throughout the entirety of the 2017 AMA calendar year, winning both the 250SX East Regional Championship as well as the coveted 250MX Lucas Oil Pro Motocross Championship, but that meant nothing to the young Australian. Lawrence was one of the most impressive riders of the entire weekend in Great Britain and ended up taking the individual overall in the MX2 division with a total of 12 points to his name, beating Osborne by just one marker. His performance at Motocross des Nations last year garnered some attention from Geico Honda and the youngster signed a contract with the team to compete the AMA Pro Motocross and Supercross series from 2019 and beyond, starting a new chapter in his racing career. The 2018 Motocross des Nations were the first opportunity of American fans as well as supporters around the world to witness Lawrence on the new bike on one of the country's most famous facilities and his debut certainly didn't disappoint. Despite an underwhelming year in the MX2 World Championship where he finished 9th place overall, Lawrence was able to replicate his performance from last year and staked his claim as the fastest MX2 rider in the competition. Although he got second in the classification behind Jorge Prado, the Geico Honda rider overcame a pit stop in the first race and salvaged an 8th place result before logging one of the best rides of the weekend in the second moto. He started outside of the top five and continually pushed forward until the checkered flag, charging forward with unrelenting drive and determination to a 2nd place finish. Lawrence was engulfed in a heated battle with the likes of Ben Watson and Prado in the late stages of the moto, but he put his head down and pressed onward in the final stages of the race, making a pass for second position on the penultimate lap. His results were enough to temporarily place Australia at the top of the standings after two motos, but it wasn't enough for an overall podium.



MITCHELL EVANS

Mitchell Evans earned his spot on Team Australia this year due to an incredible second place finish in the Thor MX1 Championship, finishing behind veteran and multi-time Motocross des Nations representative, Dean Ferris. The Australian has shown immense speed throughout the year, appearing in Superpole eight out of nine times with a total of two Superpole victories to his name. He was one of the few riders that was able to keep the eventual MX1 Champion, Ferris, honest throughout the season and he logged a total of four podium finishes throughout the season at the ripe age of eighteen years old. Dean Ferris would've been the easy pick to represent Team Australia at RedBud, but the Australian SX Championship posed a scheduling conflict, therefore allowing Evans the opportunity to represent his country at the seventy-first Motocross des Nations. It proved to be the right move by Michael Byrne and the rest of Team Australia as the teenager showcased some impressive speed throughout the weekend of racing, helping Australia to fourth place overall as a result of all three races. He pulled a decent start on the edge of the top ten in the second moto and overcame a minor tip over in order to come away with a tenth place finish, finishing between Justin Barcia and Max Nagl (two riders with loads of experience at the event). At that point, his top ten result was enough in addition to the rides of his teammate's to put Australia at the top of the results sheet heading into the third and final moto, but a mixed bag of results in the final moto left them off the overall podium. Nonetheless, Evans rode his hardest in the final moto and circulated in 10th position for the majority of the race, but he decided to send Larocco's Leap and came up a little bit short, blowing out his rear wheel. For the remainder of the race, he rode smart and easy as he was able to nurse the bike home for a 14th place finish, securing Australia's 4th place overall.





KIRK GIBBS

Last year's iteration of the Motocross des Nations at Matterly Basin featured the same overcast skies and miserable weather as RedBud this year, although the conditions of the track weren't quite as similar. Anyways, Kirk Gibbs proved his ability to rise to the occasion in adverse conditions as he ended up 6th overall in the Open division in 2017 with a total of 24 points to his name. The Australian finished 5th in the MX2 + Open race and beat his young and upcoming teammate, Hunter Lawrence, quite handily with an extremely impressive ride. It undoubtedly boosted his confidence to see the forecast for the 2018 Motocross des Nations at RedBud, but the weather didn't work as much in his favor this year. Gibbs admittedly struggled with the outside gate picks on the final day of racing and that really caused Team Australia some trouble in the final moto as he was involved in a first turn pile-up that ruined their chances at the overall podium. Gibbs showed his potential to finish close to the top ten in the opening moto with a 14th place finish, but the first turn crash forced him into a 33rd place result in the final moto, therefore serving as Team Australia's dropped score.





GREAT BRITAIN

Team Great Britain's success at the Motocross des Nations dates way back to the inaugural running of the event in Wassenaar, Netherlands in 1947 when they became the first country to win the Peter Chamberlain Trophy. It was then that they asserted their dominance for the upcoming years of competition, winning a total of fifteen times in the next twenty years. In the early stages of the Motocross des Nations, Great Britain was practically as dominant as Team USA throughout the 1980s and early 1990s. It took a total of twenty-seven years until the Brits stood on the top step of the podium again at the world-renowned event, breaking the thirteen-year win streak of the Americans in 1994 with Rob Herring, Paul Malin, and Kurt Nicoll. Twenty-four years have since passed and Great Britain have yet to make their way back to

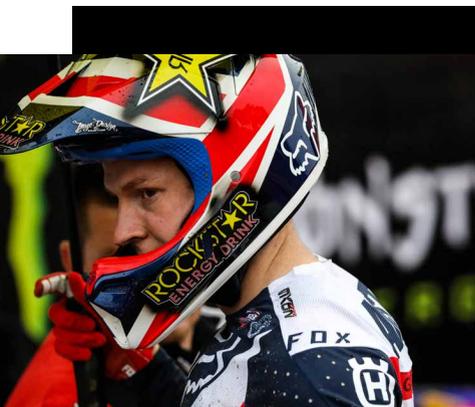
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the top of the rostrum at the Motocross des Nations, stagnating at a total of sixteen wins in the history of the competition. At one time, they were the cream of the crop in the world of motocross racing, but they haven't been able to recreate the magic they once displayed in the early days of the contest. Last year in Matterly Basin was almost their year as Max Anstie spearheaded the team with a brilliant pair of 1-1 finishes, but it wasn't enough as they ended up third overall. Regardless, it was a successful weekend for the British to end up on the podium in front of their home crowd, but they weren't able to repeat the same feat this year at RedBud.



MAX ANSTIE

Max Anstie was the star of the show last year at the 2017 Motocross des Nations, shocking the world with a couple of first-place finishes against the world's best riders on home soil. Although Team Great Britain didn't share the same fortune of finishing on top, the Rockstar Energy Husqvarna rider was able to carry the team to a podium finish in front of a massive crowd that withstood miserable weather conditions to support their team. Anstie's results last year at the Motocross des Nations rightfully improved his confidence for the 2018 iteration of the event at RedBud, especially considering the weather forecast for the weekend was looking rather similar. Despite an underwhelming season in the MXGP World Championship where Anstie only managed to finish on the podium on two separate occasions, he was looking primed to assist Team Great Britain in a second consecutive podium finish. Anstie showed decent speed in the Open class heat race, but a poor start held him back from a better finish and he was forced to take the checkered flag in 9th position, eager to improve for Sunday's races. He hit the track for the first time in the MX2 + Open category, and his result was heavily affected by a poor start as well as the treacherous conditions. The Husqvarna rider battled his way from 13th into the top ten in the early stages of the moto, but a slight mistake on the fifth lap dropped him back to 17th place and ruined his chances of a positive result for the team as he was only able to fight back to 13th place. In the third and final moto, Anstie showed the same speed and form that put him on top of the world last year in Matterly Basin, showing a high level of comfort in his riding as well as limiting his mistakes. He was running the same pace as eventual 3rd place finisher, Gautier Paulin, but he was forced to fight back from a 9th place start, therefore holding him to a 6th place finish at the checkered flag.



TOMMY SEARLE

Although Tommy Searle was featured on the Great Britain squad that made it onto the podium at Matterly Basin last year for the Motocross des Nations, he didn't ride anywhere near his full potential as he stepped down to the MX2 class. He finished the day with a DNF and a 15th place and he could've potentially spurred Great Britain to their first win since the 1990s if not for some unfortunate circumstances, but it only set him up for redemption in 2018 at RedBud. The Kawasaki rider immediately caught the eye of the American fans in the MXGP heat race on Saturday, holding Eli Tomac at bay for the majority of the twenty-minute moto until the American's bike broke, eventually earning a 5th place finish. It was the same story again in the opening moto on Sunday as Searle appeared to be in his best form of the entire season, thriving in the adverse conditions of western Michigan. He started the race in 7th position and quickly worked his way forward to the edge of the top five in a matter of just two laps, continually keeping Tomac's Kawasaki behind him all the way until the waning laps of the race. He moved up to 4th position after Hunter Lawrence decided to make a pit stop and he had his sights set on the podium, but an unlucky mechanical failure late in the race forced him to DNF, finally letting the 450 Pro Motocross Champion into 4th position. It's not easy to say whether or not Tomac would have made the move if Searle would've stayed on track, but if the rest of the race is any indication, the British rider was safe in 4th position. Miraculously, he went out in the final race with a bone stock motor and finished 10th position in the heavily competitive MXGP + Open class, salvaging a solid result for his country that tied them for 4th overall.





BEN WATSON

Ben Watson was one of the perennial contenders in the MX2 World Championship throughout the 2018 season, oftentimes challenging for the podium on his way to a 4th place overall result in the points standings, therefore earning his spot on Team Great Britain's Motocross des Nations team for the first time in his career. Enduro skills run in the blood of the Watson family as his older brother, Nathan, is a Factory Red Bull KTM rider competing in the World Enduro Super Series. It's not as though the conditions were so poor due to the weather at RedBud that the track resembled that of an Endurocross circuit, but the same skill set that makes for fast times in an enduro setting can often translate to wet weather riding and mucky, sandy conditions. Watson's weekend didn't start as he hoped considering he finished 7th in the MX2 Qualifying Heat, but he was determined to leave it all out on the track on Sunday. The MXGP + MX2 race was over before it began for the young British rider as he found himself in 20th position on the opening lap, heavily affecting his vision as well as his ability to come through the pack on the underpowered 250. Watson did his best to fight his way forward and toughed it out for a 15th place finish, but he was determined to end the weekend on a high note. He took advantage of the inside gate pick in the second moto and came out in 3rd position before taking place in one of the most intriguing battles of the entire weekend, battling it out with the likes of Jorge Prado and Hunter Lawrence in an 250cc duel for the final two spots on the podium. Watson got the short end of the stick and ended up finishing in 4th position, but it was still an incredibly determined performance nonetheless as he logged Team Great Britain's top result on the underpowered MX2 machine.



USA

It's difficult to assess the last time that the expectations were this high and hopeful for Team USA at the Motocross des Nations. In the days of David Bailey, Ricky Johnson, Jeff Ward, Ricky Carmichael, James Stewart, and the Ryans, it was almost a guarantee that the Americans would find their way to the top step of the podium, but that hasn't been the case lately. When it was announced that the 2018 Motocross des Nations would take place at America's favorite track, RedBud, it was almost immediately concluded that this would be the year that Team USA got their hands back on the Chamberlain Trophy and broke France's winning streak -- but that's not even remotely close to what happened. In recent years, there has always been a long list of excuses to explain their shortcomings -- they didn't send their best team, it's an unfamiliar track, they had to travel to Europe, etc...Well, none of those excuses are relevant this year and American fan's and team members alike are left scratching their heads as to what happened. A

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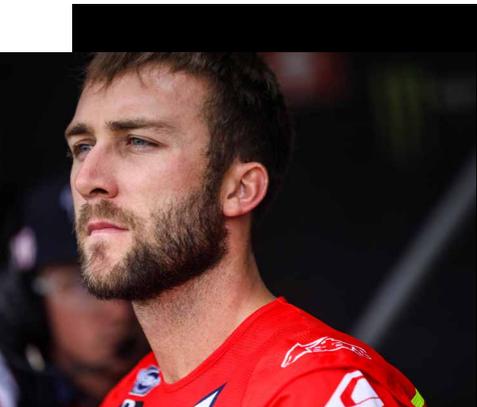
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podium finish would have at least been a consolation prize for the droves of fans that made the trip to RedBud to sport red, white, and blue and cheer on Team USA from the fences, but they didn't even manage that. It wasn't quite as bad as last year in Matterly Basin from a purely statistical standpoint, but considering that this event took place in their own backyard, it certainly wasn't any better. It's a difficult situation for the American riders to be in because the expectations are so high as the winningest country in the history of the event that anything short of a win is a failure, but perhaps it's time for expectations to be tempered. The European riders have made massive strides over the past decade and the current crop of American competitors doesn't have the same mental advantage as they once did, not even on home soil. Bad luck, poor starts, and a plethora of other problems played into America's 6th place finish, but they ultimately got beat by the better teams this year at RedBud.



ELI TOMAC

There was an underlying narrative in the leadup to the 2018 Motocross des Nations that dated back to last year's showdowns at Ironman MX and WW Motocross Park between Eli Tomac and Jeffrey Herlings -- who is the fastest man on the planet? It was supposed to be an epic battle between the current Lucas Oil Pro Motocross Champion and the current MXGP World Champion, but the battle never transpired. Both riders were able to set some of the fastest lap times throughout the various races that they contested, but they never actually found one another on the track. One of Tomac's main issues from Saturday's racing to Sunday's racing was his starting position, regularly emerging from the first corner outside of the top ten and therefore forcing himself to charge through the field. In the MXGP Qualifying Heat on Saturday, Tomac was fighting his way back from a bad start when he encountered an electrical problem with his Kawasaki at the bottom of Larocco's Leap, forcing him out of the race. Ironically, it's the second and only other time this year that he's suffered a mechanical failure and it happened at RedBud...again. He had the speed to challenge for the podium on Sunday in the first and last moto, but Tomac didn't do himself any favors out of the gate. He started the first race back in 9th position and rode his hardest to come back for a 4th place finish, but the 14th place start in the final moto was too much to overcome. Tomac pushed himself into a mistake as he attempted to fight his way towards the podium, eventually finishing in 7th position. It's bizarre to think that the best rider in the AMA Pro Motocross Championship didn't manage to finish on the podium at any point throughout the weekend at RedBud, but that's exactly what happened at the seventy-first annual Motocross des Nations.

JUSTIN BARCIA

Although Justin Barcia has never been featured on a winning team at the Motocross des Nations, it was the fourth time that Bam Bam has represented Team USA in the event. The New Yorker always seems to step it up for the occasion and rides with undying passion and determination when called upon by his country, wearing his heart on the sleeve of his jersey at all times. He has had a strange season which started with a massive career resurgence under the Factory Yamaha semi, due to a fill-in ride that started at the beginning of the year in the absence of Davi Millsaps. Barcia has turned his career around in the 2018 season by returning to the old form that earned him a couple of 250SX titles, finishing on the podium at multiple supercross and motocross rounds throughout the year, including 3rd overall at RedBud. The Yamaha rider ended the 2018 Lucas Oil Pro Motocross season with a bang as he dominated proceedings at the Ironman National in sloppy conditions, piecing together 1-1 moto scores in order to take the overall victory. It appeared as though things would work in Barcia's advantage as the skies opened up over RedBud in the days preceding the event, but it didn't work out in Team USA's favor as it leveled the playing field for the European riders as well. Barcia was one of the silver linings for the team on Saturday, performing well in the Open Qualifying Heat on as he rode smoothly and comfortably to a 2nd place finish behind Glenn Coldenhoff. He salvaged a decent gate pick for the main races, but he wasn't able to find the same good fortune on Sunday. Poor starts, small mistakes, and a flat tire on the final lap put a damper on his day as he struggled on his way to 9-13 moto scores.





AARON PLESSINGER

In terms of results throughout the 2018 Monster Energy Supercross Championship as well as the 2018 Lucas Oil Pro Motocross Championship, there was no better choice for Team USA's MX2 rider than that of Aaron Plessinger. The Ohioan had the best season of his professional career thus far, winning two titles in the same manner as Zach Osborne last year. Plessinger went 1-1 earlier this year at RedBud on Fourth of July weekend and is a highly accomplished rider in every potential condition. His GNCC background makes him one of the most seasoned mud riders currently competing in AMA Pro Motocross, whether it be the 250 or 450 class. It was the Yamaha rider's first time being selected for the team and he stuck to his word from earlier in the year by dying his hair to resemble the American flag. It was clear that Plessinger was fired up for the race as it seemed to be the perfect storm -- the Motocross des Nations taking place only hours from his birthplace in Ohio, a track where he went 1-1 earlier this year, and lots and lots of rain. He got off to a flying start in the MX2 qualifying race on Saturday as he battled tooth and nail with the Dylan Ferrandis and Hunter Lawrence, leading until the halfway point of the race when he swapped up the face of the big uphill double and flew off the side of the track. Plessinger was able to remount his YZ250F rather quickly and rebound for an eleventh place finish, but he showed his potential to run up front at the top of the MX2 class. He pulled a decent start in the opening moto on Sunday, but a couple of tip-overs relegated him to an 18th place finish. Plessinger made marginal improvements in the second race with a 16th place finish, but it was a longshot from what he and his country were expecting before the race.



PUERTO RICO

Team Puerto Rico were undoubtedly the fan favorites at the 2018 Motocross des Nations, even if they were considered the B team and took the backseat to the likes of Tomac, Barcia, and Plessinger. Regardless of racing accolades and winning potential, fans from far and wide showed up at RedBud Track and Trail to get one last look at Travis Pastrana on a motocross track, especially considering he was riding an RMZ250. In fact, Pastrana was such a draw that there was a sign in Buchanan a couple of miles south of the track that read “Welcome Travis Pastrana!” It’s clear who the fan favorite was at the 2018 Motocross des Nations. In addition, Kevin Windham decided to come out of retirement for the once in a lifetime opportunity to race in front of the home crowd at one of the biggest events in American motocross history, sporting a beard that would make the guys in ZZ Top jealous



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and a beer gut that would make anyone in the crowd at a ZZ Top concert jealous. The final addition to the team was Ryan Sipes who has become America's jack-of-all-trades in the past couple of years, competing in Flat Track, GNCCs, Supercross, Pro Motocross, and Enduro. It ended up being a relatively disappointing weekend for Team USA as they labored to a 6th place finish, but the fan-favorites stole the show on Sunday morning with a win in the B final, transferring to the three main races in the process. It gave all of the fans in attendance something to cheer about in what was a somber day for American motocross, further cementing the legend status of all three riders that put it on the line for Team Puerto Rico.



TRAVIS PASTRANA

Can you think of any other rider in the world that would try a backflip on the parade lap of a Motocross des Nations moto? Exactly. The only rider that comes to mind is Travis Pastrana. The American motorcycling legend pushed through his many lingering ailments and injuries that he's accrued as a professional motocross racer, stuntman, rally car driver, and freestyle motocross competitor over the years in order to race an event that he couldn't miss. Pastrana wanted to be there so badly that he decided to miss multiple stops in the Nitro Circus You Got This Tour in order to represent Team Puerto Rico at the Motocross des Nations. Way back in 2000 when Pastrana was a member of the SoBe Suzuki team, he represented Team USA alongside Ricky Carmichael and Ryan Hughes in Saint-Jean-d'Angély, France, winning the only Peter Chamberlain Trophy of his career. He didn't return to the Motocross des Nations with a trophy in mind, but instead to raise money for the country of Puerto Rico, put on one hell of a show for the fans in attendance, and soak up the atmosphere of the epic event. The amount of energy and charisma that Pastrana projects is difficult to put into words; he was constantly taking selfies, signing autographs, or chopping it up with fans in between races and rarely took a second to himself to focus on the task at hand. His results weren't nearly comparable to the last time that he competed at a Motocross des Nations, but that wasn't the point. Every time his RMZ250 screamed past the fences alongside the track, the crowd roared in approval, no matter if he was in dead last or 15th. Although the undying racer's mentality deeply vested in Pastrana's being may have wanted some better results, he contributed to a team of unlikely heroes working their way into the finals of the Motocross des Nations against the world's best and he did it with a smile from ear to ear, as always.



KEVIN WINDHAM

Kevin Windham returning to race on the Geico Honda inspired a lot of Geico cave-man jokes around the pits, considering he bears more resemblance to the average neanderthal than one of the baddest dudes to ever throw a leg over a dirtbike. The last time Windham competed at a Motocross des Nations was in Ernée, France back in 2005 alongside Ricky Carmichael and Ivan Tedesco, helping Team USA to their second Peter Chamberlain Trophy of the new millennium. Windham showed that he still has serious speed on the track in Free Practice on Saturday morning, finishing the MXGP session in 14th place overall and finishing as the top racer at the age of 40 or older...not that they had that classification, but if they did he would've won it. Regardless, Windham out-qualified the likes of Cody Cooper and Valentin Guillod who both showed top ten potential throughout the weekend. A crash in the MXGP heat forced him to the back of the pack, but he returned in a big way for the B-Final as he pulled an immaculate start on his Geico Honda CR450F. The crowd expended all of the air in their lungs to cheer Windham onward on the opening lap of the race as he led the majority of the lap, crossing the finish line side-by-side with South Africa's Michael Docherty. Windham ended up holding on for a 4th place finish in the twenty-minute race and earned Team Puerto Rico a spot in the finals due to his teammate, Ryan Sipes, finishing just ahead of him in 2nd position. The two of them were received by the fans as if they were A-List celebrities walking down Hollywood Blvd as they pulled off the track and into the podium area, proving that experience and veteran consistency can pay off on the big stage. Despite his overall lack of riding and general lack of fitness, K-Dub showcased the natural ability that earned him so much respect during his longstanding career as a professional motocrosser.





RYAN SIPES

It was difficult not to be overshadowed by American motorcycling giants such as Travis Pastrana and Kevin Windham, but Ryan Sipes earned his place on Team Puerto Rico and then some. The thirty-three-year-old has experience representing his country on the world stage as he was the first American to win the individual honors at the International Six Days Enduro, dominating the competition in Slovakia back in 2015. He began racing Pro Motocross and Supercross back in 2004 and has since switched gears to the GNCC series, but has still competed at select events throughout the last couple of years on the Pro Motocross schedule. The Rockstar Energy Husqvarna rider showed up at RedBud earlier this year and finished 16th overall in the highly competitive 250MX class, proving he's still got what it takes to run with the young guns. Additionally, Sipes managed to win a couple of Flat Track TT races this year as a testament to his versatility on a motorcycle as he continues to grow and improve throughout his career. He was the only rider on Team Puerto Rico that was making their debut at the Motocross des Nations and he rode tremendously in order to overcome some hard crashes throughout the weekend. The highlight of the weekend was on Sunday morning after Puerto Rico ended up in the B-Final, pulling a start that put him near the top five to the delight of the crowd. Sipes charged forward and ended up passing his teammate, Kevin Windham, onto a second place finish as the two riders secured Team Puerto Rico's place in the final in a scenario that resembled some sort of dream sequence of a disgruntled motocross fan stuck in the mid-2000's. Although Sipes wasn't able to put together a clean moto and a result that reflected his potential in the finals, his effort in the B-Final earned him utmost respect from the American crowd and the fans that traveled from all over the world to RedBud.



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