

SPORT

Tripes Wins 250 USGP At Unadilla

About ten Europeans came to the most European-type track in the United States and got thoroughly trounced by Marty Tripes, Jimmy Ellis and Bob Hannah, who dominated the action at Unadilla's 250 USGP. A massive crowd, upwards of 25,000, lined the fences of the beautifully groomed natural-terrain track. Since Unadilla is only used for this race and one Trans-AMA round, there was a thick green grass carpeting most of

the surface. It got a bit chewed-up during Saturday practice, but a light rain that night made the race-day surface a perfect mixture of tacky dirt, loam and grass. On this particular Sunday it was the best track in the world.

Tripes set the fast practice time followed by two Europeans who felt at home—Hans Maisch of Germany on a Maico and World Champion Genedy Moiseev of Russia (KTM). It seems the Russians and Czechs, who didn't show up at the 125 USGP the week before in Mid-Ohio "for political reasons," were too closely involved in the world point standings to miss Unadilla. Moiseev wanted to gain on second-place man Harry Everts, a Belgian who didn't come to America because he had broken his wrist the week before at the French GP. Two other Russians on KTMs, Vladimir Kavinov and Valery Korneev, also wanted points, but came along primarily to block for Moiseev and

make his passing easier. They were the main attraction in the pits, signing autographs, handing-out posters and trying to explain, through interpreters, why their KTMs had only 9 inches of travel. With moderate travel suspension, frame geometry changes less as the suspension moves so steering becomes more accurate. The Russians seem to prefer this to the softer ride of 12-inch travel, and indeed, Kavinov had just won in France, which has a rougher track than Unadilla.

Though he finished only fifth, Hannah was the major story in the first moto. In the first turn after a bad start either a rock or another motorcycle broke his front backing plate. There he was in 20th place with no front brake. Weinert had collided with Moiseev, and if looks could kill, Weinert would be buried by the hate lasers beaming from the Russian's tightened pupils. Moiseev started dead last and in five laps passed



The Russian KTMs had big swingarms, floating rear brakes, aluminum mufflers and short travel forks.



Two corners later Sweden's Hansen (Kawasaki) zapped World Champ Moiseev who brought help from home.

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Hannah, who had been floundering, trying to get used to riding without his motorcycle's most important brake. Having the World Champ pass him seemed to make Hannah mad, and he started an unbelievable drive which saw him repass Moiseev and push all the way to fifth place while matching the leaders' lap times. At the end Ellis and his red Honda were



Jim Ellis' near vertical landing cost him the 250GP overall victory.

Unadilla's European-style grass-covered track made our guests feel at home—until the hosts trounced them.



Hannah broke his front brake in the first moto, still took fifth by passing the likes of Falta, then won second leg.



Hans Maisch of the Maico family sported this square-box swingarm, hand-made brake pedal and one-off footpegs.



Hansen's traditionally trick Kawasaki. Cobby pipe, Olins shocks, tiny frame tubes and long forks had all drooling.

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14 seconds ahead of teammate Tripes, who had moved steadily from a 15th place start. Then came Hans Maisch, Kent Howerton and Hannah.

The Tripes/Ellis blur grabbed the second moto holeshot ahead of Moiseev, Chuck Sun and Maisch. Hannah was seventh. Moiseev took the lead, Tripes got it back and suddenly found himself being pressured by the yellow Yamaha of arch-rival Hannah, who had breezed into second in five quick laps. Tripes knew it was between him and Ellis for the overall, so when he got tired, he actually waved Hannah by, rather than fall-off in a berserk dice with the desert wild

The New York state track is ridden bi-yearly, thus the high whoops, grass-hidden rocks, wide open spaces and good lines are new to all riders.



man. His strategy worked for he finished a solid second, followed by Ellis, Torlief Hansen, Moiseev, Korneev and Maisch.

The FIM jury spent a long time checking watches to break the tie between Tripes (2-2) and Ellis (1-3). Tripes was alone, waiting patiently. Ellis was there with his whole family, apprehensive. The winner would be

the one who had completed both motos in the least amount of time. After nearly 100 minutes of fierce motocross, Tripes was declared the victor by 73/100 of a second! He went nuts, yelling, screaming, pounding on the Honda transporter with glee. Ellis' wife and family were speechless. If the Ellis loss could be attributed to one incident, it would

Camel Pro Points Battle Rages Hot

In the four Camel-Pro races since last month, which saw a mid-season points spread of 147 for Steve Eklund and 146 for Jay Springsteen, the wrestling match between the two leaders has not stopped. Springsteen went to Washington and won the Castle Rock TT, but barely squeaked ahead in points because Eklund placed second. A week later both had terrible luck at the Ascot TT won by Alex Jorgensen on an aging BSA. One lap into the final Springer's contact breaker points gave out and he DNFed. He went straight to his truck

and didn't even bother watching the ferocious duel between John Hateley and Eklund for the lead. On lap 19 of the 25-lap race Little John high-sided on a right hander and Eklund, about 5 feet behind, ran over him. After a single-file restart with Eklund lined-up last, he charged to fourth and again took over the point lead. Hateley went home with sore ribs.

The next day at Sears Point, Eklund was hoping to collect a few points on the pavement when he bailed-off in his heat. Sears marked the return of Skip Aksland, an early season Camel-Pro favorite for No. 1 who had broken his collar bone several weeks before at the Santa Fe TT. He unloaded while leading, taking Dave Aldana with him, and east

coast road racing specialist Mike Baldwin won, followed by Gene Romero for his best finish of the year, and Dale Singleton, another eastern road racer.

Six days later when AMA mile-track racing returned to Sacramento for the first time since 1970, Springsteen and Eklund found themselves battling for fifth on the single-track blue-groove of the new Cal-Expo Fairgrounds. Hank Scott's Carl Patrick H-D had found about 10 more horsepower than anyone and he ran away with it by 50 yards over Steve Moorehead and Corky Keener, who inherited those positions when Garth Brow slipped-off the narrow groove after running second for 22 of the 25 laps. Eklund pulled a slingshot on Springsteen at the line to take fifth and extend his point lead 184 to 175.

At DuQuoin, Illinois the following Sunday Hank Scott unleashed another runaway and the point leaders again found themselves dicing for fifth until Springsteen finally broke away to place second, followed by Ted Boody, Moorehead and Eklund. Ten events remain on the schedule.

Camel-Pro Point Standings

1. Steve Eklund	194
2. Jay Springsteen	191
3. Hank Scott	119
4. Ted Boody	118
5. Garth Brow	102
6. Skip Aksland	95
7. Gary Scott	95
8. Alex Jorgensen	77
9. Steve Moorehead	69
10. Corky Keener	61



In Superbike Production at Sears Point Wes Cooley on a Yoshimura GS1000 Suzuki led until Paul Ritter's Desmo Ducati took over for its second Sears win.

PHOTOGRAPHY: PATRICK BEHAR

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be late in the second moto when he launched-off a jump almost vertically and landed so hard that he lost speed and spent two precious seconds fishing for the shift lever to get the engine back on boil. Without that error he would have won by 1.25 seconds.

The Russians had collected the points they wanted to help Moiseev regain the World Championship. They also collected some goodies from a shopping spree—stacks of Levis which can be sold in Russia at 150 percent profit, and a couple of Fuzzbuster radar detectors. Moiseev drives a Mercedes and Kavinov a BMW 320i. **M**



Marty Tripes hears over PA that he beat Ellis for win by an eyeblink.

Unadilla 250 USGP

1. Marty Tripes, U.S. Hon
2. Jimmy Ellis, U.S. Hon
3. Bob Hannah, U.S. Yam
4. Hans Maisch, W. Germany Mai
5. Gennedy Moiseev, Russia KTM
6. Neil Hudson, England Mai
7. Valery Korneev, Russia KTM
8. Tony DiStefano, U.S. Suz
9. John Savitski, U.S. Yam
10. Torleif Hansen, Sweden Kaw

250 GP Points

(three events remaining)

1. Gennedy Moiseev KTM 141
2. Harry Everts Bul 110
3. Neil Hudson Mai 105
3. Hans Maisch Mai 105
5. Vladimir Kavinov ... KTM 97