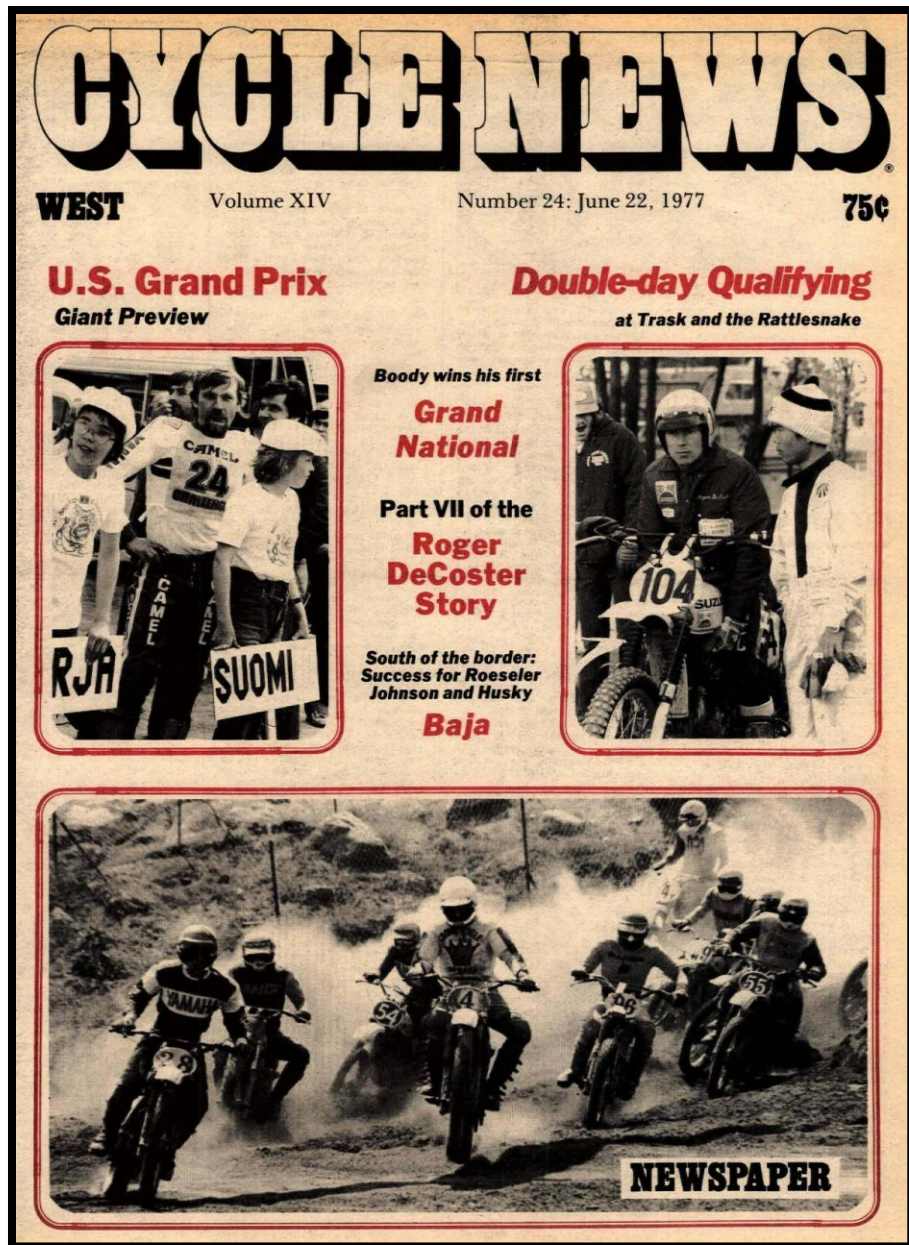




1977 World Invitational Women's Motorcycle Championship

May 28-29, 1977

San Antonio, TX





Johanna Stenersen holed every moto in both 125cc and 250cc classes at the Women's championship.

Fish and Stenersen dominate Women's Championship at Cyclorama

SAN ANTONIO, TX, MAY 28-29
Cyclorama hosted the First
World Invitational Women's

Motorcycle Championship over Memorial Day weekend. The all lady event attracted racers from California, Arizona, Texas, Missouri, New York, South Carolina and Georgia.

The 125 and 250 Expert Classes, for both Grand Prix and Motocross, found most of the women entering two classes bidding for the championship title and the lion's share of \$2000.

Saturday's event was a one-hour Grand Prix covering 3½ miles of tight wooded trail, jeep road and the Cyclerama motocross course. The first race of the hot and muggy day was the 125 Experts. Sue Fish, (from Monterey Park, Calif.), jettied her Yamaha from a dead-engine start to the first wooded section, leaving Johanna Stenersen and 14 of the best lady racers behind. Fish led the first 45 minutes of the race, building a 25-second lead over Stenersen, (San Clemente, Calif.), Linda Barnes of (Houston, Texas), and Rhe Helms (1000 Oaks, Calif.). Before her first lap crash, Terri Bender of Riverside, Calif. was hot on Fish's tail and was extremely upset about losing her shot at the Champ. Barnes finished fourth.

In the last part of the hour the question was gas consumption between Fish's Yamaha and Helm's Suzuki. Helms had passed Stenersen in the river-bottom section, and had narrowed Fish's lead. Fish roared into the pits, gas cap in hand, but the gas stop was all Helms needed to take the lead and hang on to the finish. Stenersen also passed in the pits to take second with Fish third.

In the 250 Expert Class it was the same WFO pace between the front runners minus Helms, who only ran the 125 Class. Fish gained the lead from the start followed by Stenersen and Barnes. Fish looked determined not to repeat her 125 finish and set a 5:25 lap time in the early going. The hot lap times were too much for Stenersen, who over-ran several corners trying to keep the Fish in sight. At the end of the hour it was Fish with a 90-second lead, followed by dust-covered Stenersen and Barnes.

Liz Power (Columbia, Calif.), Pamela Montague (Tustin, Calif.), and Kathy Holmns (Houston, TX.) took the honors in the 125 Novice, 125 Amateur and Mini-Cycle support classes.

The battle in the 125 and 250 Expert Grands Prix set the stage for the motocross on Sunday. Most of the experts rode two hours of GP races Saturday and were looking at two 30-minute motos on the rough Cyclerama track on Sunday. The 125 Expert saw a repeat of Saturday's races, but this

time Stenersen got the holeshot and led the first two laps. Fish worked her way through the pack to be on Stenersen's back fender by the end of the first lap, then taking the lead when Stenersen fell in the last corner on the third lap. Patricia Jacques, (Columbia, South Carolina), was close enough to the dynamic duo to take over second when Stenersen fell and that was the way the first moto finished — Fish, Jacques and Stenersen.

In the second moto Stenersen again got the holeshot, but Fish was right with her. For 20 minutes it was wheel-to-wheel and corner-to-corner. Sue Fish got by Stenersen only to have Stenersen blast her off a turn to regain the lead. Then Stenersen fell (in the same corner where she had previously slid during the first moto) giving Fish an unexpected break and a good margin of lead. In Stenersen's catch-up attempt, the 30-minute moto, the heat and Saturday's two hours of GP plus the 1:45 lap time of Fish (only seven seconds off the track record), all totaled up to disaster in the same last corner. Stenersen fell again, loading up her bike, too tired to get restarted. Her pit crew finally took the bike away from her and called it a race. Fish went on to win the 125 overall, with Patricia Jacques second and Ronna Tyler (Big Spring, Texas) third.

The 250 Expert was again a repeat of the dynamic duo battling it out from start to finish. Stenersen seemed to have the starts down — getting the holeshots each moto only to have Fish hot on her rear wheel. It was nip and tuck the whole time with only a slight mistake by either to take the lead. Stenersen's break in the first moto came when the two were passing slow riders. One fell, causing Fish to momentarily slow down and lose the fast line. Fish dropped back to fourth giving Stenersen a chance to build up a lead. But that unlucky last corner took out Stenersen again. If it had not been for the lead she had built up after Fish's problem, Johanna would have seen Fish out in front again after she had moved back up to second place.

Stenersen put it all together in the 250 after her 125 showing to win both motos. But she had pressure from Sue Fish during 50-minutes of the 60-minutes of racing.

At day's end the two fastest lady racers came to a split decision. Sue Fish took the 125 Championship and Johanna Stenersen took the 250 Championship.

As for the overall World Title, Sue Fish came out one point ahead of Johanna Stenersen in the two days of competition. ●

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