

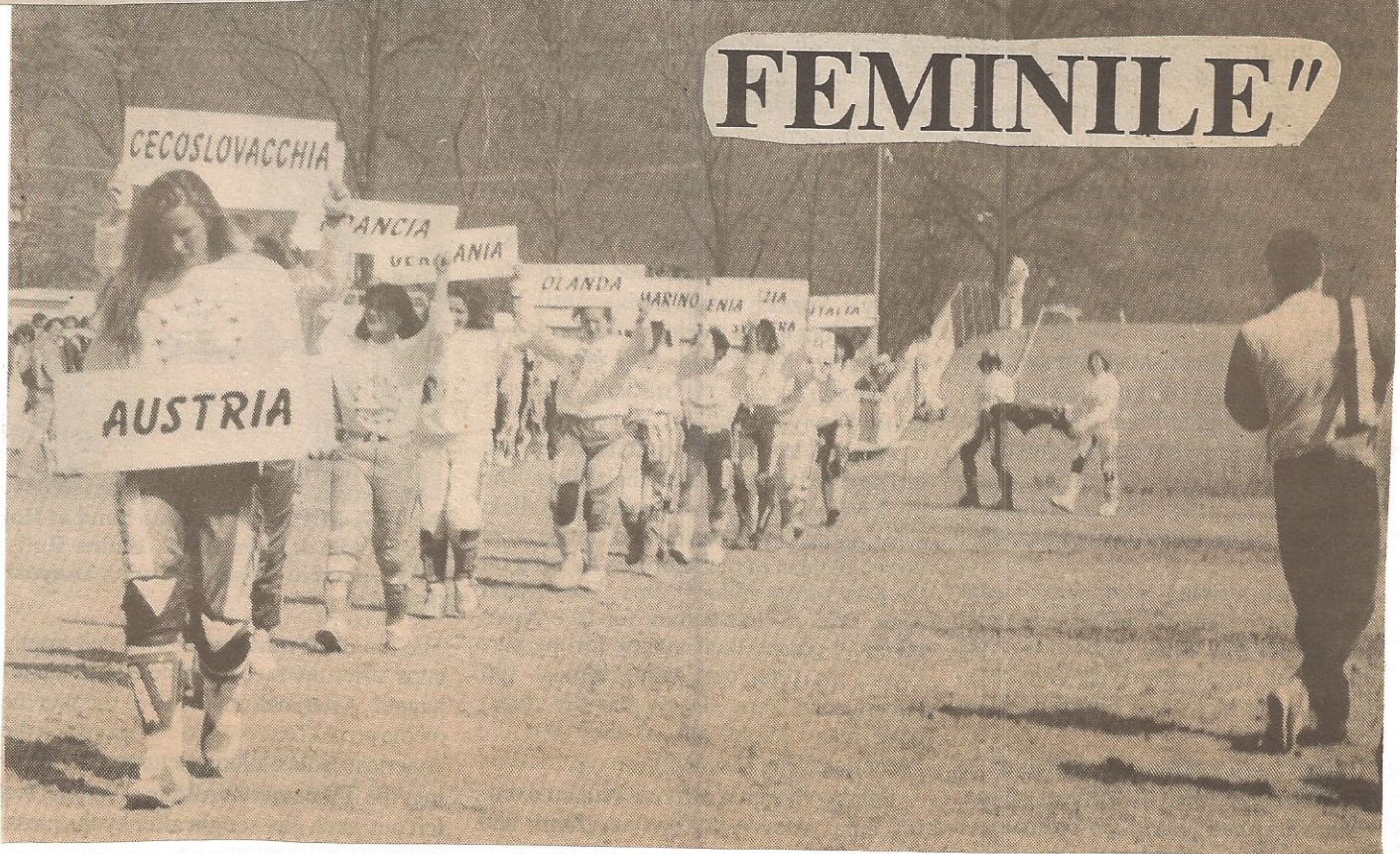
1992 Ladies Cup Motocross International USA Coverage

"LADIES CUP '92

MOTOCROSS

INTERNAZIONALE

FEMMINILE"



[www.WomensMXHistory.com](http://www.WomensMXHistory.com)

or on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/WomensMXHistory>



Two weeks prior to the Ladies Cup '92/Internazionale Femminile event the women were honored at a local event. Poster from all the participants were paraded for the spectators.

World Wide friendships were made in May when three Texas ladies boarded a plane in Houston en route to Milan, Italy in Europe. Dee Ann Wood, of Fort Worth; Nadine Holbert, of Stafford; and Kristy Shealy, of Houston, would accompany the President of the WOMEN'S MOTORSPORT ASSOCIATION, Tami Rice, of Norco, CA., on an adventure they would never forget. The "first ever" WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MOTOCROSS event, sanctioned by the FMI (Federazione Motociclistica Italiana) and FIM (Federation of International Association) took place on a track outside of Faenza. Europe is very supportive of the Women's Motocross Movement, providing ample amounts of media coverage for their events.

Tami, Nadine, Dee Ann, and Kristy competed with women from all over the globe on May 10th in the LADIES CUP '92/MOTOCROSS INTERNAZIONALE FEMMINILE event. All three Texas ladies finished in the top five. Tami left the States not planning to compete in actual motocross activities, still recovering from a punctured lung and broken ribs she incurred three weeks prior to this scheduled event, but International protocol made it difficult for her to refuse competing on the motorcycle provided for her. She still finished with a respectable 15th overall.

The American women's participation for this event was created months ago when Maurizia Bruni, of Italy, contacted Tami after reading an article about her involvement in the Women's Motorsport Association that was published in *Dirt Rider Magazine*.

zine. Maurizia, herself, is involved in creating an organization for women motocross's in Europe. An instant friendship developed across the ocean by these two women.

By the time the final notice came regarding the race it became a last minute dash for passports. This all took place in Las Vegas, Nevada at the 21st Annual NMA World Mini Event the end of April. Tami Rice, in conjunction with ACERBIS Manager, Elaine Ruff, met with Nadine Holbert, Texas Rep for the Women's Motorsport Association, and finalized details for this international extravaganza that would take place just two short weeks away. Phone calls were made back and forth to Italy, time schedules were set up, along with arrangements for accommodations while the ladies would be overseas.

Five Time Women's Motocross Champion, Mercedes Gonzalez, was also slated to attend this international event, but a previous commitment prevented her from attending. Mercedes was Maid of Honor at her brother, Jose's, wedding in California. Jose Gonzalez, Team Green's Assistant Manager, and long time sweetheart, Amy Culver, were scheduled to exchange vows the day before the European race.

On Wednesday, May 6th, Dee Ann Wood flew into Houston's Intercontinental Airport, where she joined Nadine Holbert and Kristy Shealy. Together they boarded a British Airways DC-10 for London, England. Nadine said, "I said good-bye to my

*husband, Robby, and daughter, Andrea, and left on the most exciting adventure of my life! Robby has always been supportive in my racing, but this topped the scales as he was going to get to play 'Mr. Mom' for a week".* Nadine also added, "The impact of the whole trip didn't hit me until Kristy and I went to pick up our passports". The girl's nine hour lay-over at Gatwick Airport gave them time to think about the race and anticipate what was about to happen.

After arriving in Bergamo and loading all their gear, in addition to themselves, into a tiny Fiat, the journey to Maurizia's home began. Culture shock immediately set in as the driver got behind the wheel and hit the roads of Italy. Road signs were in Italian, small narrow streets, motorcyclists passing in the middle of the road, crazy intersections, bicyclists that never flinched when barely being missed by the Fiat...what a ride!

After finally arriving, introductions were made to Maurizia's husband, Massimo, and nine year old son, Alex. Alex spoke NO English at all, but fourteen year old Kristy, being a typical adolescent, had no problem in communication.

The next day was another adventure as Tami Rice called from the Airport saying, "Where's my ride?" F.M.I. Co-ordinator of Motocross, Franco Frattini, finally located Tami, which wasn't easy considering he didn't speak English. He had a piece of paper that had "WMXA" written on it, and somehow located her in the busy airport. They shared two international words, "beer" and "coca-cola".

Franco had rented a motorhome for the weekend, even though local hotel accommodations were provided. The trip from Maurizia's home to the track in Faenza was over 200 miles. Everywhere you turned in the surrounding small towns, posters hung advertising the race. The ladies were treated like crowned royalty, everyone begging for autographs or wanting to have their picture taken with them. Television stations, radio, and newspaper reporters followed their every move during the whole event. Each girl was interviewed constantly, press publications wanting to scoop each other.

When Dee Ann's Kawasaki arrived, Nadine borrowed tools to install a rear shock and adjust the handlebars in addition to several other 'mechanical' things. Nadine was designated as the 'Mechanic' during the whole trip, having the most experience in working on bikes. Nadine's Honda arrived, but she opted to ride Maurizia's '89 Cagiva instead, so Tami rode the Honda. Kristy's Suzuki didn't arrive until late evening, but it was worth the wait as it was brand new. Kristy said, "The bike rode a little rough because the suspension wasn't set up for my weight".

Anxious to get some practice time, the girl's geared up and started their bikes. The track was very fast, hard-packed, and slick. The tires on the Kawasaki and Honda were very old, most of the knobbies missing on the Kaw's front and rear tires. They found some Dunlop tires to buy for Dee Ann's bike and pooled their money for the purchase, the total cost being almost 180 American dollars. Dee's rear tire didn't have many knobs left so they felt the "American Gun" needed the most traction.

Sunday morning arrived with an exciting aura. Dee Ann, Nadine, Tami, and Kristy went to sign up and were thrilled to be able to ride under their American numbers. They got a 30 minute practice, then rested until the time trials. They had 30 minutes to make at least 3 laps. Dee Ann commented, "You could do more than 3 laps, but you didn't have to do all three at once".

After time trials the Ladies American Motocross Team changed out of their riding gear to attend a presentation honoring both the American and Russian riders. Each of them were presented with engraved silver plaques. Since it was Mother's Day, special gifts were presented to Tami and Nadine, honoring them as "Mom's of the World". Again, they were interviewed, photographed, and hounded for their autographs. It was at this time that Tami Rice was approached by the Russian Motocross Team Manager and officially invited to Moscow to compete in the 1st International Women's Supercross Championship race the end of August. Tami took the opportunity to invite the Russian Team to compete at Mammoth Mountain in California the end of June.

Their first race was a 3:00 PM, but they had to have their bikes on the line by 2:30 PM. The girl's were lined up according to their time trials finish. Then it was "Babes on Parade".

The race got underway. Nadine's Cagiva didn't have the horsepower needed for the uphill start, but she could see both Dee Ann and Kristy in front. Nadine said, "I passed a lot of riders right off and ran in 6th place for us. We could hear the cheer's above the sound of four engines! That was a big thrill! I kept charging through the race!"

Dee Ann finished 2nd, only two seconds behind Italy's #2 Plate rider, Teresa Pegoraro, of Tottene. Kristy took a 4th, behind Italy's #1 Plate rider, Stefania Bau of Rondissome, followed by Christina Marini, Italy's #3 Plate holder, of Ronchi. Nadine's 6th place win was followed by Russia's Natalia Fedosova. Tami topped off the LADIES AMERICAN MOTOCROSS TEAM with a respectable 15th.

The top three riders were awarded trophy cups after the race, complete with champagne! After arriving back to the pits the media arrived once again converged on the American ladies, taking pictures, interviewing, the TV camera's rolling. No one was left out, each girl sought after by the press.

During the break between races, the girls opted to rest. Massimo, Maurizia's husband, told Nadine, "Our motorcycle had never gone so fast or jumped so high before". They were really proud of all the girl's and their performance.

The second race saw Dee Ann once again finish two seconds behind Teresa Pegoraro, in 2nd. Kristy came in 4th, Nadine 5th, and Tami 15th. Trophy Cups were once again awarded for this moto, in addition to another Trophy Cup to the overall top three winners. It was a great moment of pride as Nadine, Tami, and Kristy watched their fellow American Team Rider, Dee Ann Wood, on the Podium accepting her Trophy Cup's and flowers. After hours of celebration it was time to load up and head back to Maurizia's. The new Dunlop tires were given to Maurizia as a gift for her Cagiva when the old tires were re-installed on Dee's bike, to be returned to Kawasaki.

Tuesday morning dawned as the ladies packed their bags, said their farewells, and left for Bergamo, where they toured the ACERBIS factory. The drive through the countryside toward the Swiss Alps to the factory was beautiful. It was very interesting to see how gas tanks, chest protectors and other plastics were actually made. The girl's were invited to dine with Franco Acerbis at a quaint restaurant located in the mountains. This gave each of them the opportunity to get to know Mr. Acerbis, who showered them with gifts, including an autographed edition of the INCAS RALLY.

The next morning Dee Ann, Nadine, and Kristy were escorted to the airport to board their plane to London, where they would catch a connecting flight to Houston. Upon their arrival in Houston they were met by both the Shealy and Holbert families, in addition to Kat Spann, Owner/Editor of the TEX-MX NEWS. Beautiful arm corsages of Yellow Roses were presented to each of the girls after they cleared customs, on behalf of Elaine Ruff, Manager of

ACERBIS, and Kat Spann. Dee Ann had to catch a flight back to Dallas and was unable to attend a special interview that had been arranged with Houston's Channel 39. Photo's of the girl's trip to Italy along with personal interviews was aired that evening.

Tami Rice, President of the Women's Motorsport Association, and Elaine Ruff, Manager of Acerbis, in conjunction with Acerbis and Motul, will be sponsoring a WMSA National Series. This will enable members the opportunity to qualify for the LADIES AMERICAN MOTOCROSS TEAM, which will compete in next year's LADIES CUP/MOTOCROSS INTERNAZIONALE FEMMINILE event.

The Ladies American Motocross Team would like to thank ACERBIS, ELAINE RUFF, TAMI RICE, MOTUL, and those who made this trip possible. Additional thanks to Kat Spann, TEX-MX NEWS, and Lynn Nickerson, for their continued support to the women in racing.

All the ladies of motocross are looking forward to competing at the HIGH SIERRA SPORTS, INC., MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN MOTOCROSS EVENT at Mammoth Lake in California the last weekend of June. Special recognition to Debbie Chapman and Kenny Baer for including a Ladies Class to this very prestigious extravaganza!



## NEWS

### American Women Dominant

American women captured three of the top five spots in the first international women's motocross race held in Faenza, Italy. The event drew competitors from around the world, including the former Soviet Union. Kawasaki Team Green's Dee Ann Wood finished second overall (an Italian took the top slot), 14-year-old Kristy Shealy placed 4th and team mechanic Nadine Holbert was 5th on

**ACERBIS**  
PLASTICA ITALIA

*The Official Sponsors of the  
U.S. Women Motocross Team  
would like to thank:*

*Dee Ann Wood  
Kristy Shealy  
Nadine Holbert  
Tami Rice*

*for their teamwork, good sports-  
manship, and dedication to  
their sport.*

**MOTUL**  
Ester-Syn Lubricants

DEALERNEWS JULY 1992

**READ ALL ABOUT IT**

an '88 Cagiva she borrowed at the last minute. Tami Rice, head of the Women's Motocross Association and largely responsible for the US squad's presence, managed 15th despite some severely injured ribs. The team spent a week in Italy with an itinerary that included TV and magazine interviews and a tour of the nearby Acerbis factory. As a result of the event's success, the Russian team is planning to participate in the Mammoth Mountain Motocross and the US team was invited to a supercross in the Commonwealth of Independent States. For more information on the Women's Motocross Association, phone Tami Rice at

[www.WomensMXHistory.com](http://www.WomensMXHistory.com)

or on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/WomensMXHistory>