



1979 Women's Motocross National Championship

August 19, 1979

Carlsbad International Raceway

CYCLE NEWS
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STURGIS
Party time at the 39th Annual Black Hills Rally!

Indy
Rookie winner and a rain-out

Des Moines
Resuscitated half mile

St. Pete
New 500cc MX Champ!

Riverside
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England
500cc Hondas arrive!

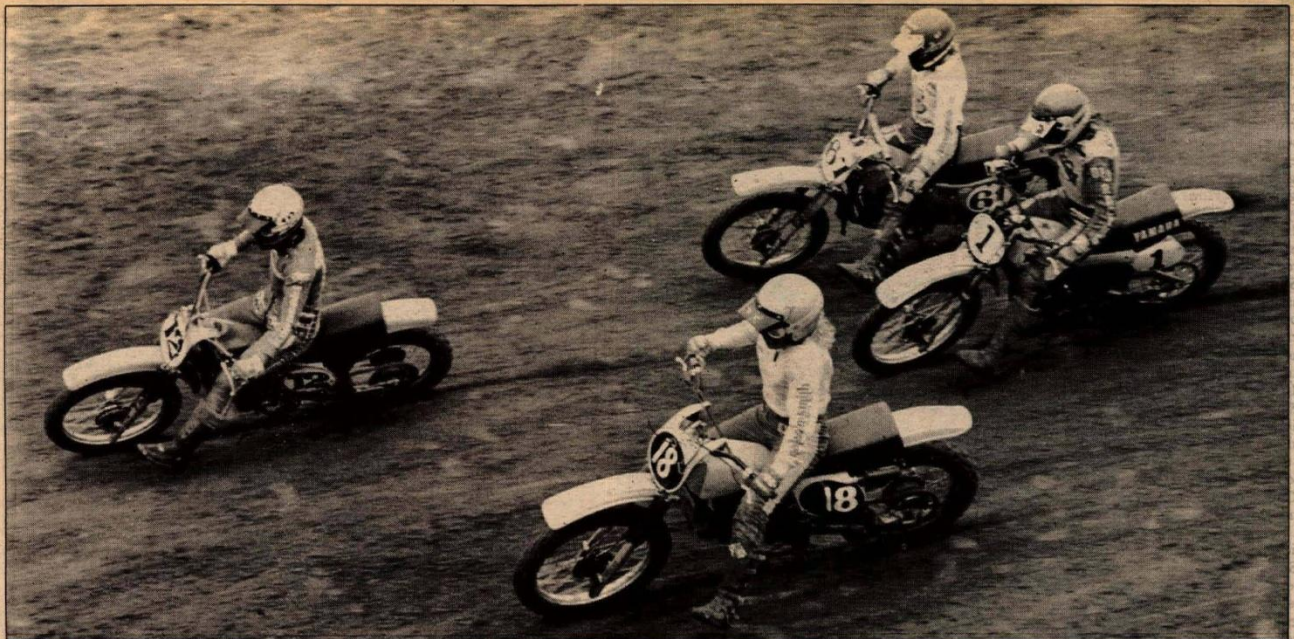
Anti-FIM
Roberts & crew sign out



The Best Go West
AMA Amateurs meet for National Short Track Championships!

NEWSPAPER





(Above) It's the first moto of the 125cc Pros and Dede Cates is already gone. Pursuing are Barbara Spielman (12), Terry Bender (18), Dorene Payne (61) and Carey Steiner (1). (Below left) Cates gets support from fans and champagne for the win (below right).



Cates takes Women's National MX title

By Mark Kariya

CARLSBAD, CA, AUG. 19

Eighteen-year-old Dede Cates rode flawlessly to secure the number one plate at the Women's Motocross Nationals held at Carlsbad International Raceway.

Lady Luck seemingly smiled only upon her as most other competitors were beset with problems of one sort or another.

Cates scored three wins and a second in the four motos that determined the overall Expert champion on a center-port works 250cc Honda and a two-day old 1980 Suzuki RM125.

Kawasaki provided the bikes for runner-up Barbara Spielman. The transplanted Californian now living in Illinois hadn't raced or ridden in

almost a year, so she came to California a week before the Nationals "to practice."

Defending champ Carey Steiner overcame spills and other setbacks to garner third on her Western Wheels/MXL/D&J/KRW Helmets-sponsored Yamahas.

Though very light and joking off the track, "Elbows" Cates showed she meant business from the very beginning of the first 125cc Expert moto by catapulting out of the gate and into the lead halfway down the start straight.

That was the closest anybody got to

the Q&E Cycle-sponsored rider as she put on an unrelenting charge to the checkered.

Spielman rode second the whole way aboard Gaylon Mosier's old factory flier. Steiner had to hold off Dorene Payne (Kaw) for the first few laps before she could try to catch Spielman. She settled for third, though, with Payne fourth and Cindy Dumo fifth on a Crotch Rocket Factory Suzuki.

In the first 250cc Expert moto, Wheelsmith Maico rider Pauline Pitt got the jump on everyone else from her starting position on the outside.

Exiting turn one in front, though, was Texan Kathy Holman (Hon) with Rhe Helms (Mai) and Cates in tow.

Holman and Helms began to pull away a bit in their own duel. At one point, Helms ducked under the Rose-Rich Yamaha of Houston pilot going into a turn. She couldn't get enough traction on the muddy inside line to make the pass stick, however, and Holman scooted by.

Helms dropped out shortly after that with a burned piston, giving Cates the task of finding a way around Holman.

It wasn't Holman's day, however. Her 125cc Yamaha had blown up on the first lap of the 125cc Expert moto and now severe stomach cramps began slowing her pace. Actually, it was surprising she lasted this long, because she was still recovering from a bout with mono.

Holman managed to hold off Cates until lap eight when Cates zipped past just before the ledge. Cates rode the rest of the moto unchallenged.

While this went on, Spielman was making an astounding comeback after a first lap mishap that left her far behind.

Midway through the moto after Helms retired, she climbed into fourth and zeroed in on Steiner. After forging by her, Spielman kept pressing in order to catch Holman.

Two laps from the end, though, she bailed coming off the jump after the

horse shoe, letting Steiner back into third.

Spielman recovered quickly and repassed Steiner before they got the white flag. Maintaining that intensity, she then reeled in Holman and rode around her on the uphill.

Holman hated to relinquish second, however, and came back to nearly rub tires with Spielman at the checkered flag. They were followed in by Steiner, Peggy Hall (Hon) and Canadian rider Kay Attwood (Yam).

In the second 125cc Expert moto, it was Cates all the way for win number three, edging ever closer to the title.

Spielman again got runner-up after blasting by Payne on lap two. Payne dropped back after that and scratched her way towards the front, giving third place Kim Douglas (Suz) a hard time. Dumo and Steiner went five and six.

In the final Expert moto of the day, the 250s, Cates got her third holeshot. Spielman stayed right behind, though, and got a better drive out of the corner at the bottom of the downhill to fly into the lead.

Cates decided to make Spielman work for the lead and kept close tabs on her. On lap four, she outbraked Spielman going into a turn.

Spielman got her back, snaring first after the downhill again. This time she was the first to see the wave of the checkered flag as Cates settled for second, content in the knowledge that it would ensure her of the number one women's plate.

Helms borrowed a Yamaha and kept pace in third until bike gremlins forced her out on lap nine. The Hall/Steiner duel then moved up one slot with Hall managing to keep the defending champ a few bikelengths at bay.

The Amateur title went to Mercedes Gonzalez (Suz) who finished behind April Dunlap (Kaw) in the 125cc class, but put on a strong 250 ride while Dunlap was forced to play catch-up. Jenni Miles (Suz) earned a solid third in the overall Amateur standings.

In the Novice class, 125s and 250s rode and were scored together. Yvette Husted blasted the rest of the field on her Maico while Tracy Needham (Suz) and Debbie Brown (Suz) rounded out the top three.

The Expert Pit Tootsie race saw Tony Wanket (Yam), riding for Novice Cindy Monohan, jump out to an early lead. Brother Pete (Yam), also riding for Monohan, got stuck behind a downed rider in the first turn, but flew through the field to catch Tony.

The two dived for a few laps putting on quite a show. In an admirable move, though, they putted across the line together, tying for first. Lee Ramage (Mai), riding for Cates, finished third.

In the awards ceremony held after the races, promoter and Expert rider Vicki Miller Haag handed out the \$500 Expert purse donated by Rick Haag and Dave and Karn Toycen.

Quite a number of companies donated their products and sponsorship of the event including Barum tires, KRW Helmets, MXL, Torsten Hallman, Shoei Helmets and the Russ Darnell Motocross Schools. (Barbara Spielman even won a session at the schools.) ●

Results

125 EX: 1. Dede Cates (Suz); 2. Barbara Spielman (Kaw); 3. Dorene Payne (Kaw).

250 EX: 1. Barbara Spielman (Kaw); 2. Dede Cates (Hon); 3. Peggy Hall (Hon).

OVERALL EX: 1. Dede Cates (Suz/Hon); 2. Barbara Spielman (Kaw); 3. Carey Steiner (Yam).

OVERALL AM: 1. Mercedes Gonzalez (Suz); 2. April Dunlap (Kaw); 3. Jenni Miles (Suz).

OVERALL NOV: 1. Yvette Husted (Mai); 2. Tracy Needham (Suz); 3. Debbie Brown (Suz).

DESERT DAISIES: 1. Kelly Kline (Suz); 2. Winona Richardson (KTM); 3. Denise de Vines (Suz).

EX PIT TOOTSIES: 1. (TIE) Pete Wanket (Yam), Tony Wanket (Yam); 3. Lee Ramage (Mai).

SPTSMN. PIT TOOSIES: 1. Wayne Martin (Suz); 2. Ed Ho (Yam).

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