

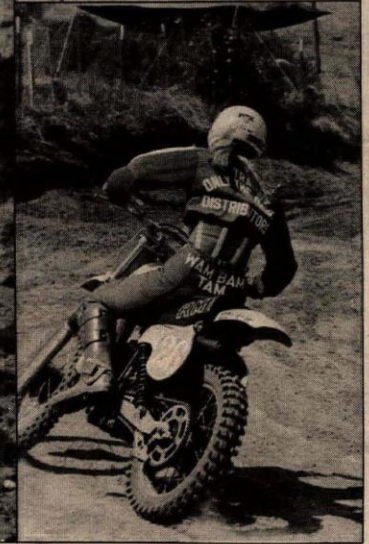


1980 Women's National Championship

August 17, 1980

Carlsbad International Raceway





(Above left) Dede Cates rode strong for the Pro win. (Top right) Second Amateur moto winner Susie Livingston. (Above right) Novice winner Tam Tracy.

AMA Women's MX Nationals

Cates cops the crown

By Mark Kariya

CARLSBAD, CA, AUG. 17

Suzuki's Dede Cates successfully defended her AMA Women's Motocross Nationals title by winning both motos of the 250cc Pro race. Combined with her 125cc win here on June 21,

it makes her the undisputed woman motocrosser of 1980 and she joins Sue Fish as a two-time winner of the title. Fish did it in '76 and '77.

Though she claimed not to feel any more pressure to win than in the past, Cates said, "I didn't think we'd win it. I was running and I knew I was in shape and I was running good against the Intermediate guys, but anything can go wrong."

Few things did, however, as she won both motos by comfortable margins.

Second in both motos went to Rhe Helms who has never looked better

here. Kathy Holman came from Houston, TX, and got 5-3 finishes for third overall, her best placing in California.

Most of the USGP course was utilized for this event. Instead of using Rattlesnake Gulch and the sandwash area, though, the course cut straight from the ledge to the start of the uphill.

Among the many sponsors who helped put on the race were Scientific Drilling Controls, Oakley, ND, U.S. Suzuki, Torsten Hallman Products and Russ Darnell Motocross Schools.

Suzuki-mounted Kimi Douglas blasted into turn one of the first 250cc Pro moto with a slight lead over the

pack, but Keystone Yamaha rider Leslie Olinger and Yamaha of Covina ace Rhe Helms battled for first out of the turn.

Helms and Cates completed the first lap in front of a four-rider freight train consisting of Olinger, Mercedes Gonzalez, Lisa Akin and Cindy Dumo. JT/E.C. Birt/Kal-Gard/Honda-sponsored Kathy Holman rode a short distance behind in seventh.

Helms and Cates pushed and pulled each other around the course and in doing so, started to pull away from the pack a bit. Gonzalez dropped back to sixth with a rear tire that was starting to go flat and would eventually force the Yamaha rider back to a 25th-place finish.

Akin moved the Team Dynamic Yamaha right up on Olinger while the Hondas of Dumo and Holman sandwiched Gonzalez in positions five through seven.

On lap three, Cates found a clear path and zipped past Helms for the lead which she never relinquished after that point despite losing her rear brake

early in the moto. Helms kept it gassed, though, and held a comfortable second for the duration.

Akin put Leslie O back to fourth and looked around, only to see the leaders gone and kept it wicked for third in her debut ride aboard a 250cc.

Dumo and Holman both passed Olinger early on lap five and proceeded to put on the dice of the race. Holman, hampered slightly by back pain (she broke her back in February), couldn't quite muster the speed to get by Dumo and stay in front, so she settled for a close fifth at the finish.

Olinger, Kawasaki of Oceanside's Charleen Higgins, Kawasaki-mounted Debbie Mathews and Premier Yamaha's Jan Murray completed the top 10.

Leslie O got the second moto hole-shot and led the first lap. R&D Suzuki rider Barbara Spielman, who had a multitude of petty problems in the first moto which squelched her ride, held second just ahead of Cates. Helms and Holman were a close 4-5.

Spielman and Cates took over the front-running spots on lap two while



(Top) Leslie Olinger leads Lisa Akin on lap two of the first Pro moto. (Above left) Kathy Holman went 5-3 for third. (Above right) Runner-up Rhe Helms.

Olinger attempted to keep third from Helms. Akin had charged up to seventh and would advance two more slots in the next two laps, a superb ride from being last off the line due to a fouled plug which demanded changing.

Spielman dropped to third behind Cates and Helms on lap three, plagued with bars that were getting loose.

Cates and Helms ran an easy 1-2 the rest of the moto to secure those positions overall. Cates even had time to overshoot the turn at the bottom of the downhill on the final lap yet keep her lead.

Helms was not too disappointed with second, though. "First would've been nice, but..." She had just returned to racing last month after an operation. "To be able to put it together like that in such a short time, I'm real pleased," she commented later. "'81 looks like it'll be a good year."

Things were not going so good for Spielman, though, her ride coming to a temporary halt on lap four before getting going again. She worked back up to fifth on lap 10, but the carb on

her bike turned sideways and the throttle stuck, forcing her out of the hunt on lap 11.

Olinger took over third pursued by Holman. She kept it up until the final lap when she fell, unwillingly surrendering third in the moto and third overall to Holman.

Akin assumed fifth from Spielman on lap 11 but her bike started seizing midway through the race and she lost a position to Yamaha-mounted Kathy Wall when she had to push it across the line after it seized for good heading for the checkered flag. Akin still took fourth overall.

Debbie Mathews, Charleen Higgins, M&M Cycles/Lewis Racing/Hi-Point Yamaha rider Marcy Lewis and desert ace Trudy Beck on a Premier Yamaha rounded out the top 10.

The Amateur race combined four 250s with the 125s, but they were scored separately. Linda Shatka took the 250cc portion with 1-2 moto scores. Donna Gilio won the first 125cc round and was fourth in moto two after work-

ing up from a poor start; she got the 125cc win.

The winner of the second moto, Susie Livingston on a YZ125 from Yamaha of El Paso, was in second in the first race, but crashed and hurt her knee. It didn't show the second time out as she won easily, though she said later, "I didn't think it'd be this rough (the track)!"

The Novices also ran a combined race, but were scored together. "Wam Bam Tam" Tracy ran consistently to a pair of seconds which earned her the overall win. Consistency also paid off for Diana Tweedy who finished just behind Tracy both times for second overall. First moto winner Shelly Coffey could only manage sixth in moto two for third overall.

The women desert racers had a 45-minute plus two laps race on the MX course. Lori Farmer got the holeshot, but Trudy Beck came on strong after a couple of laps and took the lead from there to the finish followed by Lynnette Zuber, Wendy McGraw (first Amateur), Jenni Miles (who stalled and lost places

while third in the early going) and Farmer.

Results

250 PRO: 1. Dede Cates (Suz) 1-1; 2. Rhe Helms (Yam) 2-2; 3. Kathy Holman (Hon) 5-3; 4. Lisa Akin (Yam) 3-6; 5. Leslie Olinger (Yam) 6-4; 6. Kathy Wall (Yam) 7-5; 7. Debbie Mathews (Kaw) 9-7; 8. Charleen Higgins (Kaw) 8-8; 9. Cindy Dumo (Hon) 4-13; 10. Trudy Beck (Yam) 11-10; 11. Marcy Lewis (Yam) 13-9; 12. Jan Murray (Yam) 10-15; 13. Pauline Pitt (Mal) 18-11; 14. Dawn Grant (Yam) 17-12; 15. Terry Lockey (Suz) 15-16.

250 AMATEUR: 1. Linda Shatka 1-2; 2. Dawn Paient 3-1; 3. Sherry Lowery 2-4; 4. Mimi Ann Selly 4-3.

125 AMATEUR: 1. Donna Gilio 1-4; 2. Jenni Miles 3-3; 3. Karen Lettinger 2-5; 4. Evelyn Hodges 4-6; 5. Susie Livingston 11-1.

NOVICE: 1. Tam Tracy (125) 2-2; 2. Diana Tweedy (125) 3-3; 3. Shelly Coffey (125) 1-6; 4. Nina Bevilacqua (400) 4-4; 5. Wendy McGraw (250) 13-1; 6. Winona Richardson (250) 7-7; 7. Shirlyn Smith (125) 11-5; 8. Penny Terry (250) 8-8; 9. Tracy Needham (125) 5-12; 10. Dedic Morahan (125) 9-9.

DESERT: 1. Trudy Beck (250) Ex.; 2. Lynnette Zuber (250) Am.; 3. Wendy McGraw (250) Am.; 4. Jenni Miles (250) Am.; 5. Lori Farmer (250) Ex.; 6. Karen Lettinger (125) Am.; 7. Diane Holeman (250) Ex.; 8. Lynda Ledlow (125) Am.; 9. Linda Christensen (175) Nov.; 10. Tricia Farmer (125) Am.

EXPERT P.T.: 1. Steve Montague; 2. Bill Jamerson; 3. Larry Morton; 4. Mark Zeisler; 5. Wayne Martin; 6. Clarke Coleman; 7. Louis Ledlow; 8. Secret Agent Man; 9. Lynn McGraw; 10. George Zuber.

SPORTSMAN P.T.: 1. Rob Dameron; 2. Mark Ehrenborg; 3. Dan Wright; 4. Eric Stanton; 5. Rick Haag; 6. Bill Erholtz; 7. Bob Zamaroni; 8. -; 9. Dave Chase; 10. Steve Zallinger.

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