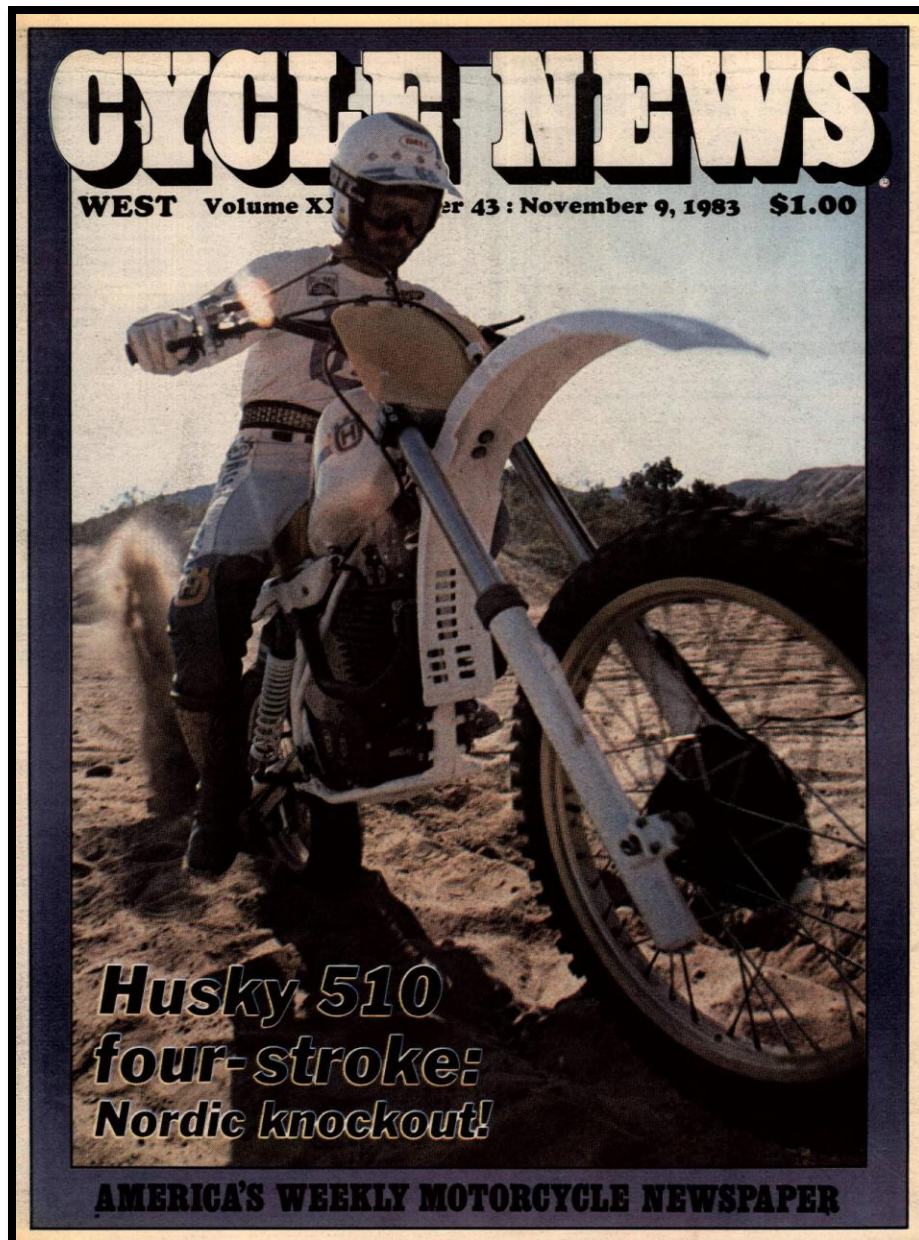




**1983 Women's National Motocross Championship**

October 23, 1983

Saddleback Raceway – Orange, CA





Kimi Douglass (9) flew the farthest and the fastest at the Women's National. (Inset) Women's motocross is no longer a dainty, genteel affair.

# Douglass takes Women's Championship at Saddleback

By Ken Stein  
ORANGE, CA, OCT. 23

"I wanted this more than anything else in the world, and I finally got it!" With that, Kawasaki Support rider Kimi Douglass, the 19-year-old from Anaheim, California,

became the champion, having won three of her four motos in Sunday's annual Women's National Championship motocross race at Saddleback Park.

No one expected the local favorite to have an easy day. In addition to the local competition from Dorene Payne and Mercedes Gonzalez, Douglass faced opposition from Michigan-based Lisa Akin and top British rider Vicky Jackson.

The first 125cc Pro moto opened the schedule, with Lisa Akin's Hi-Point-sponsored, factory-supported '84 Yamaha out in front at the start. Douglass' '84 pre-production Kawasaki shadowed her for three laps, until Akin fell, adding a bruised knee to her previously injured ribs. Hi-Point's Payne, on a Cagiva, Ultimate USA's Suzuki-mounted Jackson and Yamaha Support rider Gonzalez shot by in a hot battle for second.

In the middle laps, Akin regained second, but by then Douglass could have stopped for lunch. Jackson held

off Payne for third until falling on the last lap.

A fourth-place finish in her first moto in America gained Jackson, the 19-year-old from Garforth, England, the respect of all present. The hard, dusty California track contrasted sharply with the flat, muddy English courses she is used to. With an accent so strong it could double as a bike stand, Jackson described English motocross: "You sit there at the staatin loin in the pourin' reen, and you ask yourself, wot am I doin' 'ere, I could be 'ome wotchin' TV." Despite the communication barrier, Jackson commented that all the American girls made her feel welcome over here — off the track, at least.

Douglass holed out the next event, the 250s. Akin followed her around for a half-dozen laps, then took the lead. The pair orbited the circuit at warp speed, lapping all but third-placed Gonzalez before the flag dropped. Kathy Holman's Works Performance/Kal-Gard Honda took fourth ahead of Payne, who ran the



(Above) Douglass lets loose with the champagne. (Below) Mercedes Gonzalez finished in third place.



entire moto without the benefit of a clutch, in what would prove to be an omen of day-long mechanical problems for her.

Round three opened in the form of the second 125cc moto. Payne grabbed the holed shot, but lost the lead to Gonzalez before throwing it away on the second lap, breaking a lever for her second clutchless race. Douglass then took over the event, with Akin close behind.

Overestimating the time left, Akin waited too long before making her move, and wound up second again, ahead of Gonzalez and an unhappy Payne.

Round four was all Douglass', as she led flag to flag. Trying to gain ground, Akin fell twice, again on her knee, and wound up almost lapped. Despite the pain, she kept going and, incredibly, moved up to finish second, though out of sight of Douglass. Mercedes' third place bettered Payne, who rode most of the race on a flat tire.

An exhausted but elated Douglass thanked Simpson, Oakley, and JT Racing for their part in her title. She thanked her parents by giving them one of her prizes — a round-trip Hawaii Express trip for two. She then hopped on to the stage and grabbed the champagne, the trophy and kisses from trophy boys Dan and Chris, on loan from Chippendale's. Other booty collected included prize money from Saddleback Park, Budweiser and the Anaheim Hi-Siders.

Top finishers were also awarded invitations to the San Diego Supercross, courtesy of the sanctioning Continental Motorsports Club, so many of the day's best will be shooting for revenge there.

Gale Webb not only raced her Orange County Honda in the 125cc Pro motos, but also totally dominated the Vets Expert class, leading both motos in their entirety. Kay Atwood twice beat Kitty Mayfield for second in a race that also featured the event's organizer and promoter, Denise Devines.



(Above) Although slowed by falls, Lisa Akin ended up second. (Below) Dorene Payne takes to the air.



Novice 125cc rider Elsie Flores jumped off to a great start in the first moto, but late in the race, her bike experienced lower end problems that almost let Carol Downey take the checkers. Flores' Honda stayed together long enough for her to win the closest finish of the day.

Flores had no such difficulty in the second moto, winning easily over the rest of the pack.

Special consideration was given to those guys who were able to coerce a sponsorship and a bike from their better halves. Pit tootsie races allowed the men who helped keep the women on the track a chance to regain their battered egos.

Cliff Lett led the Pro tootsies around the track, with Rick Maki and Jim Cobham in hot pursuit. Male superiority suffered a devastating blow, however, as the menfolk were able only to beat the tender gender's lap times by a scant second.

Even the sidecar division was not "spared" of female participation. Gwen Ridyard piloted Ian Mitchell around the course well enough to keep a few guys from bad-mouthing women drivers for a while. Victory, however, went to the Tom and Scott Whitney team's Harley-powered machine, with the John and Victor Palfreyman team taking second in the first moto, and the Schnoor/Langosh team as bridesmaid in the second heat.

- Results**  
**WOMENS GRAND NAT CHAMP:** 1. Kimi Douglass (Kaw); 2. Lisa Akin (Yam); 3. Mercedes Gonzalez (Yam); 4. Dorene Payne (Cag); 5. Vicky Jackson (Suz).  
**VET EX:** 1. Gale Webb; 2. Kay Atwood; 3. Kitty Mayfield.  
**VET NOV:** 1. Susan Brennen; 2. Bonny Collins; 3. Patty Stuebner.  
**250 OPEN NOV:** 1. Tami Hart; 2. Melinda Smith; 3. Judy Scott.  
**125 NOV:** 1. Elsie Flores; 2. Carol Downey; 3. Terri O'Neill.  
**250 OPEN AMA:** 1. Jeri McClinton; 2. Nina Bevilacqua; 3. Helena Leitner.  
**125 AMA:** 1. Tara Harrison; 2. Judith Sendelbach; 3. Amy Brooks.  
**SIDECARS:** 1. Tom Whitney/Scott Whitney; 2. John Palfreyman/Victor Palfreyman; 3. Bob Schnoor/Randy Langosh.  
**PIT TOOTSIES:** 1. Cliff Lett; 2. Rick Maki; 3. Jim Cobham.

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