



## 1986 Women's Motocross National Championship

November 9, 1986

Glen Helen Raceway – San Bernardino, CA





Kawasaki-mounted Mercedes Gonzales won both the 125 and 250cc Pro classes at Doublecross Racing's Women's National at Glen Helen Raceway.



Candy Hartley and her Suzuki won both the 125cc Novice and Vets Sportswomen classes at Glen Helen.

## Doublecross Racing's Women's Motocross Nationals

# It's Gonzales again at Glen Helen

By David Procida

SAN BERNARDINO, CA, NOV 9

Kawasaki's Mercedes Gonzales showed once again why she is the Women's National Motocross Champion as she dominated both the 125 and 250cc Expert classes today at the Women's Nationals, held at Glen Helen Raceway.

Gonzales started the day by walking away from the rest of



Lisa Peterson (8) and Sheryl Fedorow battle closely in both 250cc Pro motos with Peterson getting the edge for third overall.

the pack in the first 250cc Pro moto. Honda-mounted Vicky Jackson rode to a strong second place while the battle for third was between AXO-sponsored Lisa Peterson and Sheryl Fedorow. Fedorow held Peterson off until Peterson forced her way past in the esses. Peterson, however, was too far back to make a dent in Jackson's bid for second place.

In the second moto, Gonzales repeated her performance with another easy win. Jackson put in another fine ride, but had to settle for second with Peterson again having to work to get by Fedorow for third and third overall.

The largest class of the day was the 125cc Pros, and this time Gonzales had to fight for the win. Jackson stole the holeshot with Tara Harrison and her Yamaha in tow. Gonzales was forced wide and had to work her way through the pack. Peterson and Fedorow took up where they left off in the fight for fourth.

Gonzales was soon on the move, quickly passing Harrison and setting her sights on Jackson as lap three came to a close. The rapid pace of the leaders soon brought them up behind Sherry Lowery and Debbie Mathews. Gonzales used her experience and the right choice of lines to pass Jackson in the traffic.

Gonzales quickly opened a lead that held to the finish. Jackson held on for second with Harrison, Peterson and Tami Rice rounding out the top five.

The crowd was anticipating a tough second moto, but Gonzales didn't allow it to happen. Gonzales shot her Kawasaki into the lead and was untouchable for the rest of the moto. Jackson again had a comfortable position in second while Harrison, Peterson and Rice traded places constantly in the battle for third.

At the end of the moto it was Harrison third, Peterson fourth and Fedorow working her way up to fifth; Rice ended up sixth.

Ladies Day at Glen Helen started out with the 250cc Amateur/Novice/Beginner combined class. Leading the fray into turn one was Honda-mounted Jillian Roth with AXO-sponsored Kimbo Oler in hot pursuit. The battle for third had O'Neal's Mindy Smith holding off Sherry Fogerty until a crash moved her back to fourth.

Oler pressured Roth while attempting to pass at every opportunity, only to be held off again and again. The battle behind them in the Novice

class had Suzanne Downey and Shoei-sponsored Lori Hedstrom dueling for the lead. Hedstrom was working on a pass when Downey changed lines forcing her to brake hard. The leading Beginner Angie Sellers, meanwhile, was putting on a charge of her own when she rear ended Hedstrom causing both riders to crash.

Hedstrom was first to get back underway and set off after Downey. On the last lap, however, Downey and Smith crashed together and Hedstrom was back on top. Hedstrom took the win followed by Downey.

Julie Putnam took the Beginner win after taking advantage of Seller's fall early in the moto.

In the second moto, Roth again grabbed the holeshot. But this time Smith stayed up on two wheels and closed on Roth. Oler was pushing hard after her first moto second and was trying to make a pass on Smith when she got out of shape, giving Smith some breathing room.

Roth had pulled away from the pack and had a comfortable lead until late in the moto when she dumped her Honda in a corner and gave the lead to Smith. Both Smith and Oler picked up the pace and were close at the finish, but Smith came away with the win and the overall. Oler's 2-2 was enough for second overall while Roth's 1-3 gave her third. The Novice class win went to Hedstrom.

The Beginner class battle was a good one as Putnam and Sellers battled for the entire race. On the last lap Putnam crashed in a corner and Sellers went on for the win.

The Women's Vet class got underway with Gale "MX Mom" Webb on her Malcolm Smith-sponsored Honda holding the lead. Susan Wilday and Barbara Perry battled for second as Webb pulled away. Denise DeVines held onto fourth on her Suzuki while Bonnie Collins and Pauline Pitt followed. In the Vet Sportswomen class, Candy Hartley held off Lelani Emery and Carol Kramer.

When the gate dropped on the second Vets moto it was again Webb taking the lead. The surprise came in the form of DeVines and her Suzuki RM250 holding down second place; Wilday and Perry were dicing for third. Webb easily won the class with Wilday taking second overall after her 2-3 tally. DeVines took third overall while Perry carded a 3-4 for fourth overall; Bonnie Collins took fifth with Pauline Pitt grabbing sixth.



**The start of the second 125cc Pro moto saw Mercedes Gonzales capture the holeshot. Gonzales won every moto she competed in.**

In the Vet Sportswomen ranks, Hartley repeated her first moto performance with a win with Lelani Emery and Kramer following her to the finish.

The 125cc Amateur/Novice class saw Mercedes' sister Maria Gonzales grab the lead while holding off the charges of Corina Chinen and Kelley Maylor. Jeannie Pruitt, however, was on the move out of midpack on her Kawasaki KX80. First she charged by Maylor and took off after Chinen. Two turns later she was in second and looking for the lead. Another lap and she was on Gonzales and looking for a way past. It took another lap but the 13-year-old rocket was soon leading the amateurs to the checkered flag.

Novice action had Kathy Jo Ehrp holding off Candy Hartley and Tina Zahrt until the last lap when her bike broke giving the win to Hartley. Laura Warnecke held off Sue Sittman for the 125cc Beginner win.

The second moto saw Pruitt again leading at the halfway point in the moto. Chinen was holding off Gonzales for second and the order ended up that way at the finish. In the Novice class, Hartley again found herself in the lead with Ehrp in second. Zahrt stayed on Ehrp's rear fender waiting for a mistake that came late in the moto when Ehrp crashed. Hartley and her Suzuki took

the overall with Zahrt's 3-2 bettering Ehrp's 2-3 for second.

In the Men's Exhibition class, Jerry Black led the field to the first turn followed by Bill Scott and Danny Bartholomew. Black immediately opened up a big lead and continued to stretch it out every lap. Scott and Bartholomew battled behind him with Scott finally grabbing second.

In the Men's Sportsmen class, Daryl Hawkins held off charges from Jim Cartmell. The Vet class was won by Scott Freeman with Karel Kramer and Tim Morrison rounding out the top three. ●

## Results

250 EX: 1. Mercedes Gonzales (Kaw); 2. Vicky Jackson (Hon); 3. Lisa Peterson (Yam).

250 AM: 1. Mindy Smith (Kaw); 2. Kim Oler (Yam); 3. Jillian Roth (Hon).

250 NOV: 1. Lori Hedstrom (Yam); 2. Suanne Downey (Suz).

250 BEG: 1. Angie Sellers (Hon); 2. Julie Putnam (Yam).

125 PRO: 1. Mercedes Gonzales (Kaw); 2. Vicky Jackson (Hon); 3. Tara Harrison (Yam).

125 AM: 1. Jeannie Pruitt (Kaw); 2. Corina Chinen; 3. Maria Gonzales.

125 NOV: 1. Candy Hartley (Suz); 2. Tina Zahrt (Hon); 3. Kathy Jo Ehrp (Hon).

125 BEG: 1. Laura Warnecke (Hon); 2. Sue Sittman.

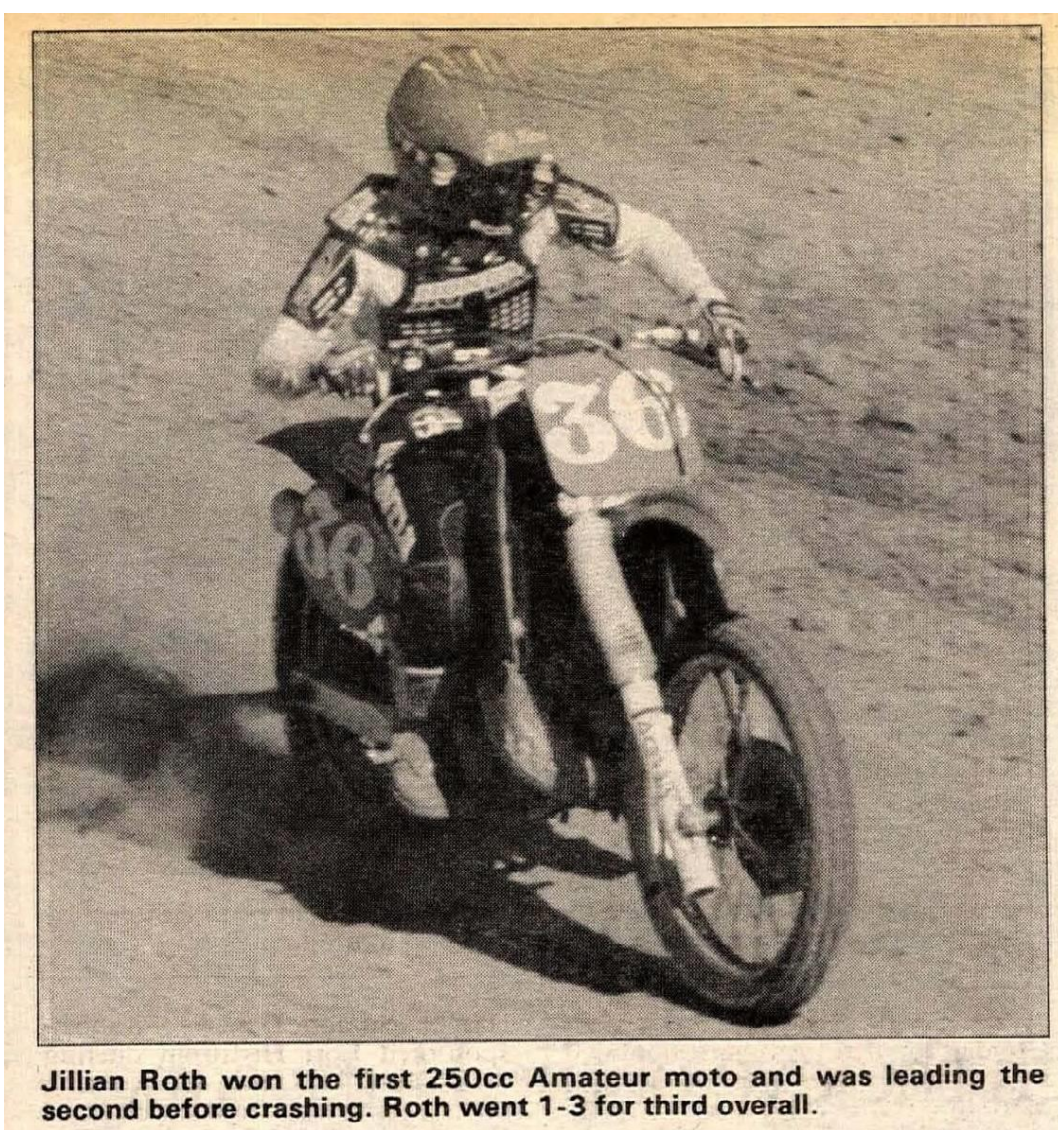
VET MASTER: 1. Gale Webb (Hon); 2. Susan Wilday (KTM); 3. Denise DeVines (Suz).

VET SPORTSWOMEN: 1. Candy Hartley (Suz); 2. Lelani Emery (Suz); 3. Carol Kramer.

MENS EXHIBITION EX: 1. Jerry Black (Suz); 2. Bill Scott (Hon); 3. Danny Bartholomew (Kaw).

SPORTSMEN: 1. Daryl Hawkins; 2. Jim Anderson; 3. James Carmell.

VETS: 1. Scott Freeman; 2. Karel Kramer; 3. Tim Morrison.



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