



CMRC Racing News

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Another year...another season to determine Canadian MX Champions

With the completion of Round 1 in Kamloops, the much-anticipated 2010 Monster Energy Motocross Nationals are now officially underway. Another year, another season to determine a new champion in MX1, MX2 and the Women's Nationals. But are we in for a rerun of the '08 and '09 seasons? Sure looks that way. At least as far as the marquee 'star' of the previous two editions of the MX1 Nationals are concerned.

Team Yamaha/Red Bull/Blackfoot/Fox Racing's Colton Facciotti sent a strong message to the competition at Whispering Pines that he intends to take up where he left off in '08 and '09. And that is to take no prisoners as he sets his sights on MX1 Championship title 'number three'.

Facciotti's clean sweep performance this past Sunday was nothing short of stellar; nothing much different from the rides he's been delivering since he claimed the title in 2008. And what we're seeing in 2010 is a more mature and even more accomplished rider. If the Aldergrove, BC native is spared any worst-case scenarios, his third MX1 National Championship should be in the bag.

Then again let's not rule out his Blackfoot teammate and '06 MX1 National Champion Dusty Klatt. The Vancouver Islander was, after all, the only other rider on the track last year and the year before, to keep Facciotti honest. In '08 Klatt came within 62 points of Facciotti – in '09 it was 45. Still pretty big gaps, sure, but when taking into account '09 No.3 finisher Bobby Kiniry's 138 points deficit, 45 points seems like a narrow margin.

Is Facciotti unbeatable? Nobody is, especially if they're having a really, really bad day. But Facciotti, who doesn't seem to have many really, really bad days will unquestioningly be the man to beat again this year. And considering Facciotti is only 22 years old, it's a safe bet he's got a very good shot at surpassing Roy as the winningest Canadian motocrosser of the new era, which started with the departure of multi-multi-time champ Ross Pederson, and the introduction of CMRC as the sanctioning body of the Canadian Nationals.

In addition to Klatt, less than a handful of underdogs should be dreaming about humbling Facciotti in 2010. Unless, that is, the good fairy comes along and passes the magic wand over them. Royal Distributing KTM Canada's Kornel Nemeth – in his first full season riding the nationals – should not be underestimated. The Hungarian has plenty of European GP experience and last season he raised eyebrows with his hard-charging all or

nothing riding style. He's got the team; he's got the equipment. It's up to him to put it all together.

Rockstar/OTSFF/Troy Lee Designs/Suzuki's Bobby Kinyry needs to be considered in the mix. Like Nemeth, he too raised a few eyebrows during his Canadian debut. Kinyry's team may lack the support and equipment the factory teams have, but racing wisdom has it that the equipment does not make the rider...the rider makes the equipment! That being said Kinyry does have super engine builder Chris Bondi in his corner. And that means the New Yorker has an awfully fast bike at his disposal.

The MX2 title hunt looks like it could very well be going to be another American affair. With newcomer to the series Monster Energy/Leading Edge Kawasaki's Shawn Rife, his teammate and defending champion Teddy Maier, and former champ Eric Nye aboard the Royal Distributing KTM, the American contenders are present and accounted for. But there is hope for the Great White North this season in the form of Team Yamaha/Red Bull/Blackfoot/Fox Racing's Tyler Medaglia, and his younger brother Jeremy Medaglia, who is flying the colours of Orange Motorsports KTM.

Tyler Medaglia, who clinched the MX1 No.3 plate in '08 and No.5 in '09, migrated to the powerhouse Blackfoot team this year to contest the MX2 Nationals as teammate to Kyle Beaton. Beaton, who broke his thumb in the Kamloops qualifiers, won't be a factor in the series however. Medaglia, thus, carries the weight of snaring for Blackfoot their first MX2 National Championship title. It is doubtful that there is anyone hungrier on the nationals circuit to join the championship club than Medaglia – don't forget he led the '08 MX1 title hunt for four rounds. Not surprisingly, after one round of the 2010 MX2 points chase, the Ottawa native is leading the pack.

Jeremy Medaglia, who has talent to spare, is looking for his big breakthrough on the Canadian Nationals circuit and although he has to be considered a real long shot to claim the MX2 crown this year, he should not be discounted as a top-five candidate. And he should be capable of winning at least one moto if not an overall.

There are some other up-and-coming Canadians capable of making waves in the volatile MX2 class including Duroy Racing KTM's Kaven Benoit; Leading Edge Kawasaki's Spencer Knowles; and the Allison brothers Parker and Jared (Blackfootdirect.com Yamaha). But to squeeze into the top-five this year will be a tall order for them.

In the Women's Nationals presented by Honda, we could see a bit of a shake-up. Look for the usual western suspects, Shrader Yamaha's Denaye Giroux, Newway Motorsports Kawasaki's Karly Pozdnekoff and newcomer to the series, 14-year-old Shelby Turner to present the ladies of the east, including defending champion Rockstar/OTSFF/Troy Lee Designs/Suzuki's Heidi Cooke, with some stiff competition.

But in the motorsport racing game – which is equally about the competitor and his or her machinery and their team support staff – it ain't over till it's over! And no, one round

doesn't make a series. But at the end of Round 9 it's a given that three of the above named will find themselves 2010 National Champions.

In the meantime, the Monster Energy Motocross Nationals Tour heads to Castrol Raceway in Edmonton this weekend for Round 2. Castrol Raceway, located 10 minutes south of Edmonton on Highway 19, is one of the premiere racing facilities in Canada.

For a video wrap-up of Round 1, please follow the link below.

http://www.mxpmag.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1906:monster-energy-motovision-&catid=16:industry-news&Itemid=100011

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