



**LUCAS OIL**

PRO

**MOTOCROSS**

CHAMPIONSHIP

**FINISH**



Photo By: Richard Haight









Photo By: Richard Haight



Photo By: Chuck Null

















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# LUCAS OIL MOTOCROSS





Memorial Day week-end opened the 2022 AMA National MotoCross season with a bang. But more interesting was that there were a few BIG surprises. With one exception the entry list was full of all the names we have come to know and love. Mattstedt Germany's Ken Roczen, Chase Sexton from Illinois, Multi-time winner and 3-time 450 Class Champion Eli Tomac, 9-time World Champion Antonio "Tony" Cairoli, and a host of others. But wait, someone else was on the entry list, let me think ... Oh, right, Seven Time AMA National Champion in both classes, and 3-time winner of the largest International MotoCross Race, the MotoCross Des Nations, Ryan Dungey.

Retired for 5 years, well actually 1820 days or 4.9863 years to be exact, at 32 years old, the man has been competing professionally for over 16 years! Something like 90 wins overall. The track at Fox Raceway is wide and meticulously groomed, with lots of elevation change and multiple double and triple jumps to deal with, offering just about every opportunity to pass that you can imagine. The start narrows down into a 190-degree U-Turn, before opening into a long string of jumps and whoops. Like the 250 class, the entry list was huge with over 75 entries vying for the 40 starting places based on qualifying times.

It seemed like everyone had someone grooming the starting gate tracks to get the best possible grip at the off, not that it lasted for long, with everyone ripping their way out of the gate like a pro Tractor pulling competition!

At the off it was Germany's Ken Roczen going for the narrow gate that is turn one, and taking Shane McElrath with him. Eli Tomac rounded out the top 3 at the start. By the end of the lap Tomac had McElrath for 2nd and set out after Roczen. To a few people's surprise Dungey, after 5 years of retirement was right in there in the first 5. On the other hand, it may NOT have surprised too many people! It is like they say about riding a bicycle, once you know how, you don't forget, and it was pretty obvious that Ryan hadn't forgotten. There were a lot of fans cheering him on! 9-Time World Champion Cairoli may have thought that coming over here to America would be easy pickings, but it was not working out that way, as he was quite a way back in the pack. After the first lap it was Roczen, Tomac, McElrath Sexton, Craig and Dungey with Cairoli struggling to keep up in 8th.

Sexton, the fast qualifier, to no one's surprise, passed McElrath for 3rd within the first 3 laps and wasn't letting the two leaders pull away. As the race progressed, Sexton worked his way past Tomac into 2nd and Ryan Dungey battled up from 5th to get past Craig as McElrath faded to 7th. Tony Cairoli dropped back first to 9th place and then regained 8th. As the race progressed Sexton put in "Qualifying" laps, sometimes as much as 2 seconds a lap faster than anyone on the track as he reeled in his Honda teammate Ken Roczen. By halfway through the moto Sexton was less than 1.5 seconds behind his teammate Roczen, and not willing to settle for less than the 1st position! After a series of "Inside, Outside, Inside" crossover moves Sexton was less than .2 seconds Behind Roczen and at the 15 minute mark gave Roczen's right leg a little brush with his front wheel to let him know, "Hey, I'm coming"...









Tomac, Dungey, Plessinger and Craig were the followers, but steadily getting left behind by the Roczen/Sexton train. At the 13 minutes to go mark, Sexton had a bit of a wobble after landing a jump, but didn't seem to care, leaving the throttle open and taking the lead from Roczen over the next pair of whoops! With a clear track and his choice of lines, Sexton proceeded to use lapped riders as picks and continued to stretch his lead out over Roczen. As the 30 minutes ran out, it appeared that Roczen had fallen out of contention according to the official scoring, but it turned out to be a "Transponder" problem that failed to count his laps. But the visual scoring had it right, and Roczen was moved back up to his rightful 2nd place quickly.

As the race came down to the last couple of laps, Kawasaki's Jason Anderson, who had gotten a crap start, began turning the fastest laps of the race, eventually overtaking Ryan Dungey for 4th. Although Anderson mounted a serious charge to get around third place Craig, a little wobble in one corner was "All She wrote" and at the end it was Sexton, Roczen, Craig, Anderson and Dungey.

At the start of the 2nd Moto Sexton Got the Hole-Shot with, Surprise – Surprise! Ryan Dungey right beside him. 3rd, but not for long was Ken Roczen, Sexton's teammate. Cairoli got a great start to end up 4th after the first lap. However, in spite of the great start by Sexton, Roczen jetted past him by the 2nd lap with Dungey holding onto 3rd.

Eli Tomac, who had faded later in the first Moto, had by now, worked his way past Cairoli into 4th by the ten-minute mark, and looked a bit better than he did in the 1st Moto. However, Germany's Ken Roczen was holding a solid lead over Sexton, with the "Come Back Kid" Dungey in firm grip of 3rd place. By the 17 minute mark, it was looking like a repeat of the first Moto with Sexton gradually running down Roczen in an attempt to garner another first place finish and the overall win. But both of them were simply leaving the followers in their wake with the gap to third growing to over 16 seconds with the order being Craig, Tomac, Dungey, Cairoli, McElrath, Marchbanks, and Anderson, who had done so well in the first Moto, suffering a small fall early at the start of the race.

Sexton waited patiently and once again set up Roczen with a series of calculated inside/outside moves at the 21-minute mark, and made his move to take the lead. Unlike the first Moto however, Roczen was determined not to allow his team mate to drive away, and kept the gap to under a second for a few laps. But then he made a charge and quickly pulled literally alongside of his teammate. However, it was not to be and as the moto wound down, Sexton showed how much he really likes the Fox Raceway layout and was able to stretch his lead to nearly 5 seconds over his team mate at the finish.

Overall, Honda, with the Lawrence brothers and Sexton/Roczen combo, seem to be determined to put themselves back atop the series Championship lead in both classes. If the results from this event are any indication, they may be able to pull it off. Ryan Dungey proved that the "Comeback Kid" still has it, and ended up in 5th place overall after a 5-year retirement. His fans were ecstatic and loud, way to go Ryan. It is going to be a Hell of a season, stay tuned!

**Article By: Richard Haight**













Photo By: Chuck Null





Photos By Chuck Null





# JASON ANDERSON

## WINS SUPERCROSS ROUND 2

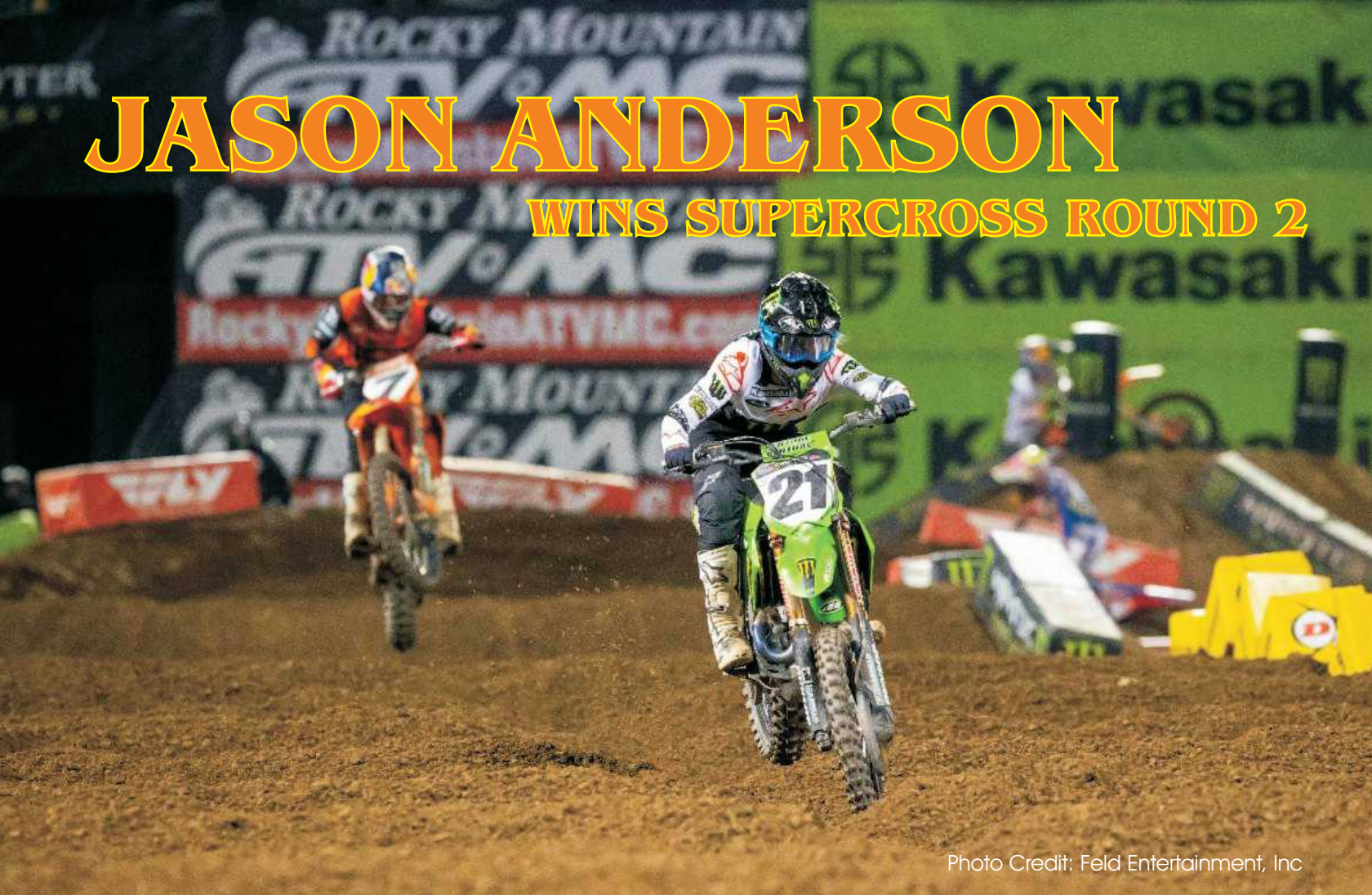


Photo Credit: Feld Entertainment, Inc

Jason Anderson earned his new team a 2022 Supercross win at Round 2. It was Anderson's second race on the Kawasaki and his first win since his 2018 championship season. Photo Credit Feld Entertainment, Inc.

Jason Anderson had an emotional return to the top of the Monster Energy AMA Supercross podium after 47 races without a win for the 2018 champ. Red Bull KTM's Aaron Plessinger grabbed his best 450SX Class finish with a strong second place result in front of a crowd of 42,918 that encircled the track inside RingCentral Coliseum. Repeating his third place finish from the opening round, Troy Lee Designs Red Bull GASGAS Factory Racing's Justin Barcia took third on the night and captured the points lead after two rounds of the 17-round series. In the Western Regional 250SX Class, Monster Energy Star Racing Yamaha's Christian Craig followed up his opening round win with his first back-to-back Supercross victories.

Jason Anderson earned his new team a 2022 Supercross win at Round 2. It was Anderson's second race on the Kawasaki and his first win since his 2018 championship season. Photo Credit: Feld Entertainment, Inc.

Monster Energy Kawasaki's Adam Cianciarulo grabbed the Holeshot and held the lead early ahead of a stacked field on the loose and fast Oakland track. Still recovering from a pre-season shoulder injury, Cianciarulo stayed up front for the first four minutes of the 20-minute plus one lap race before eventually dropping back to finish twelfth. It was teammate Jason Anderson, in only his second race on the Kawasaki, who took over the front spot and was never challenged for it. The victory was Anderson's first win since his championship season in 2018.

Aaron Plessinger and Justin Barcia both started outside the top five but charged forward. Just past the five minute mark Plessinger took over second. Before the race's midpoint Barcia advanced into third. The two riders would stay close but never challenge one another for a position change. Monster Energy Star Racing Yamaha's Eli Tomac, the 2020 champion, steadily recovered from a mid-pack start. He reached fourth place with just over nine minutes on the clock but was not able to close in to make an attack on Barcia for a podium spot.



# Jason Anderson







**Chirstian Craig**

Photo Credit: Feld Entertainment, Inc





Red Bull KTM's Cooper Webb was following a second-place finish at the opening round but the defending champion was only able to fight up to seventh after a slow start. Opening round winner Team Honda HRC's Ken Roczen started well but got shuffled back outside of the top five. Three and a half minutes into the race the Honda rider got out of shape in the whoops and crashed hard into a berm. Roczen would remount slowly and eventually finish thirteenth.

Photo Credit: Feld Entertainment, Inc



Christian Craig looked flawless on the challenging Oakland track. The second win in two rounds plants Craig solidly in the points lead in the 250SX Class. Photo Credit: Feld Entertainment, Inc.



# MONSTER

In Western Regional 250SX Class racing, Monster Energy Pro Circuit Kawasaki's Jo Shimoda nabbed the Holeshot with Christian Craig quickly on his rear fender and applying early pressure. Two minutes into the 15-minute plus one lap race, Shimoda stalled the bike and Craig slipped past. Two more minutes into the race Shimoda crashed hard in the whoops and dropped back to eventually finish in seventh. Team Honda HRC's Hunter Lawrence steadily moved through the pack to earn second place. Monster Energy Pro Circuit Kawasaki's Seth Hammaker took another 2022 podium finish with third.

## PERCROSS Championship







250SX Class podium (riders left to right) Seth Hammaker, Christian Craig, and Hunter Lawrence.  
Photo Credit: Feld Entertainment, Inc.



450SX Class podium (riders left to right) Aaron Plessinger, Jason Anderson, and Justin Barcia.  
Photo Credit: Feld Entertainment, Inc.



## Ken Roczen Wins Supercross Season Opener in Anaheim

Photo Credit: Feld Entertainment Inc





Christian Craig Kicks Off Western Regional 250SX Class with a Victory Anaheim, Calif., (January 9, 2022) The 2022 Monster Energy AMA Supercross series kicked off Saturday night with Team Honda HRC's Ken Roczen grabbing his fourth season opener win in the 450SX Class inside a sold-out Angel Stadium. Defending champion Red Bull KTM's Cooper Webb charged hard for a second place finish amid the screaming of 45,050 race fans. Troy Lee Designs Red Bull GASGAS Factory Racing's Justin Barcia, who was in line for a record-breaking fourth-straight season opener victory, put in a smart and fast ride to fill out the podium with third. In the Western Regional 250SX Class, Monster Energy Star Racing Yamaha's Christian Craig turned a good race start into a great start to his season with his first win inside the stadium in which he grew up watching Monster Energy Supercross from the stands.

Photo Credit: Feld Entertainment Inc







Honda riders Ken Roczen (94) and Chase Sexton (23) won their heat races and battled for the win in the Main Event. Roczen took home the opening round victory. Photo Credit: Feld Entertainment, Inc.

Photo Credit: Feld Entertainment Inc



Team Honda HRC's Chase Sexton grabbed the holeshot in the 450SX Class Main Event but his teammate Roczen was past him almost instantly. The two Honda riders quickly gapped the field by more than six seconds, with sophomore 450SX racer Sexton keeping clear of potential contact but looking like he had the speed to make a pass for the lead. Behind them, struggling with a pre-season shoulder injury, Monster Energy Kawasaki's Adam Cianciarulo held third place with Barcia behind but not yet applying pressure.

The first eight minutes of the 20-minute plus one lap race were outwardly uneventful, but then things started to happen rapidly and dramatically. The Honda teammates nearly made contact in mid-air; shortly after that Sexton got out of shape at the end of a rhythm lane and crashed entering a bowl turn. He recovered quickly but crashed harder a lap and a half later re-taking second place from Cianciarulo. The second crash dropped Sexton well outside of the top five.

Barcia took second from Cianciarulo, then a few laps later Monster Energy Kawasaki's Jason Anderson, the 2018 series champion, passed Barcia to put a green bike back into second place. Barcia quickly retaliated and put Anderson on the ground. Then Cooper Webb put on one of the late-race charges that's he's become known for, putting his KTM into second place with just over three minutes left on the clock. Amid the position changes up front, Chase Sexton climbed back as high as fourth before giving up the spot up to Red Bull KTM's Marvin Musquin right at the checkered flag.



Photo Credit: Feld Entertainment Inc



Photo Credit: Feld Entertainment Inc





## 28 Christian Craig

Monster Energy Pro Circuit Kawasaki's Seth Hammaker grabbed the Western Regional 250SX Class Main Event holeshot but Smartop Bullfrog Spas MotoConcepts Honda's Vince Frieze pushed past into the lead early. Christian Craig moved quickly from fourth to second, then made the move into the front spot less than four minutes into the 15-minute plus one lap race. On the fifth lap Hammaker got past Frieze with Muc-Off FXR ClubMX's Garrett Marchbanks right behind. Marchbanks applied pressure for the spot, but it was Team Honda HRC's Hunter Lawrence who put in the final attack for the spot with contact in the final corner. It was not enough to take the position. Other title favorites Troy Lee Designs Red Bull GASGAS Factory Racing's Michael Mosiman and Monster Energy Pro Circuit Kawasaki's Jo Shimoda ran into trouble early but showed speed climbing through the pack that indicates they'll be battling for wins in the coming rounds.





**21 Jason Anderson / 51 Justin Barcia**







28 Christian Craig

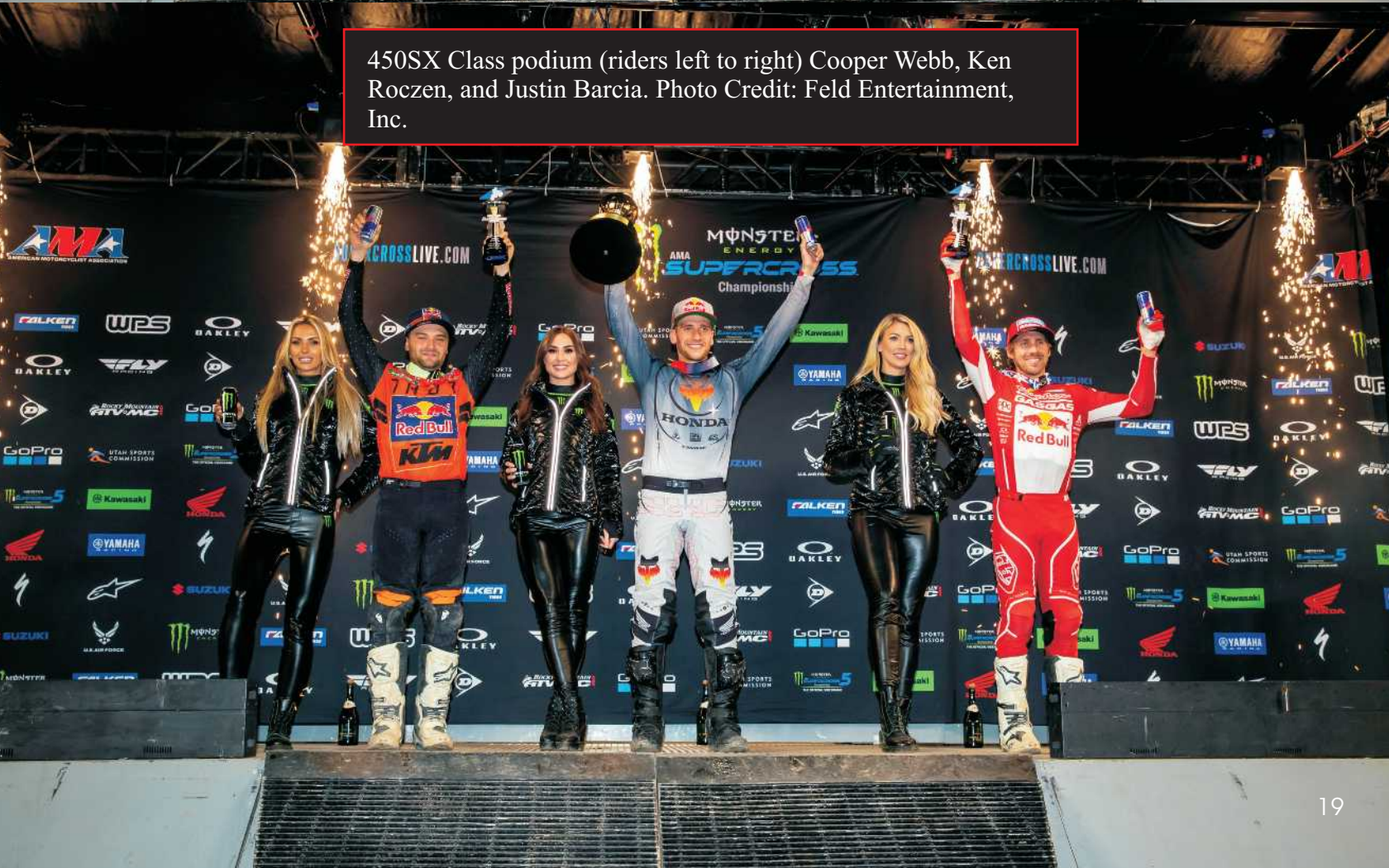


47 Seth Hammaker / 62 Vince Friesse





250SX Class podium (riders left to right) Hunter Lawrence, Christian Craig, and Seth Hammaker. Photo Credit: Feld Entertainment, Inc.



450SX Class podium (riders left to right) Cooper Webb, Ken Roczen, and Justin Barcia. Photo Credit: Feld Entertainment, Inc.



# LUCAS OIL MOTOCROSS 2022

250





Memorial day is always a great day, or for that matter, a great weekend for motorsports. It couldn't have been truer on this memorial day, what with The Indy 500, or the Grand Prix of Monaco and the Coca Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. The only problem is that the Indy 500 is 2000 Miles away for a lot of us. Charlotte is even farther, and well, the Grand Prix of Monaco is Just a little over 12 hours and 6,025 miles. But if action and excitement is what you need, man there is lots of action closer to home, LOTS closer to home!

How close? Less than an hour from San Diego, at Fox Raceway near San Diego. This year's opener in the AMA National Championship MotoCross series exploded on May 28th in Pala California with some serious surprises. Pala, California may not be Daytona Beach or Monte Carlo, but the racing was seriously good, and in the case of Monte Carlo, a lot better. Being near San Diego brings the occasional sea smell and overcast, but the weather on Saturday was near perfect, as was the well-maintained track at Fox Raceway.

Both classes, the 450 and the smaller 250 class were filled with serious entries, in the 250's over 61 riders were entered, with last year's Champion, 20-year old Australian phenom Jett Lawrence topping the entries from just about everywhere. Accompanying young Mr. Lawrence was his younger, but equally talented brother Hunter. Adding to the international flavor were Jo Shimoda from Suzuka City, Japan, R. J. Hampshire from Hudson Florida and Justin Cooper from Cold Spring Harbor, New York.

Starting off with the 250 class, as the headline says, it was a "family affair"... It didn't start out that way in Moto #1, as New York's Justin Cooper took the hole-shot to lead from the start. Jett Lawrence started to run Cooper down, but Cooper felt the pressure and responded by gapping the older Lawrence a bit in the first few laps. Whether it was the track developing a few different lines, or simply Jett taking it easy and keeping Cooper in sight, Cooper was able to pull out a 2 second lead, as both Lawrence brothers made slight off the track excursions in the early laps.

Cooper was quick, but at about the 10 minute mark, Lawrence turned a double jump and used the inside line to swoop inside Cooper to take the lead. Lawrence answered the question of whether he was just waiting to get a feel for the track and to warm up, because he began to extend his lead out to over 3 seconds. Next up to challenge Cooper was Bainbridge Pennsylvania's Seth Hammaker shooting for the 2nd spot. Lurking in the wings, so to speak, Was Jett's younger Brother Hunter in 4th. It didn't take Hunter all that long, and by the 17th minute of the 30 Minute and 2 lap Moto, Hunter had "Hunted" down ( sorry, no pun intended! ) Hammaker for 3rd and set off after Cooper.

It took only 4 Minutes and the same double Jump and inside of the turn type of move for Hunter Lawrence to reel in Cooper for 2nd. That made it a "Family Affair" as the Lawrence Brothers were not running First and Second on a pair of twin Honda's! MotoCross racers are some of the top overall athletes in the world, regularly out-performing both top Soccer stars and Ethiopian Marathon runners for endurance, and it showed today, as both early leader and starting hold-shot runner Justin Cooper faded to 9th, losing out to Hammaker in 8th. On the other hand, Jett Lawrence pulled out an 8 second gap to the only other person capable of keeping him in sight, his brother Hunter! The next rider was Husqvarna's R. J. Hampshire who had worked his way up to 4th, 15+ seconds in arrears!

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At the end, it was Jett Lawrence taking a 6.6 second victory over his brother Hunter for a Hunter 1-2, with Hampshire holding off massive pressure from Japan's Jo Shimoda for 3rd and Levi Kitchen rounding out the top 5. A strong opening statement from the Hunter Brothers to open the season!

In the second Moto, it was another surprise hole-shot, but this time it was EnergyStar Yamaha's Nick Romano in his professional debut, letting the more established pro's know that he will be a power to be dealt with soon. As in the opener, Jett Lawrence was a patient stalker and was happy to just keep Romano in sight for a few laps, and tow Red Bull/GasGas Factory Racing's Michael Mosiman along for the ride.

Jett Again, bided his time, and when the opportunity struck, he passed the rookie for first, and took Mosiman with him for the pass on Romano for 2nd. With, as they say, the race in hand, Lawrence began to stretch it and eventually pulled out a 10+ second gap. Mosiman crashed and lost 2 places to 4th, letting Jo Shimoda up into 2nd with Hunter Lawrence again, patiently stalking to the end. Hunter was able to take advantage of a couple of crashed riders and a last-lap charge to get past Shimoda for 2nd. Shimoda finished in 3rd and his consistent 4th and 3rd finishes ended up garnering him an overall 3rd place for the day.

Over the jump at the finish, Jet Lawrence made sure everyone knew that not only was he the incoming Champ, but with a 1-1 finish on the day, remains at the top and will be the man to beat this year. He took his hand off the bars to point to the #1 plate on his Team Honda rocket while sailing over the top!

Richard T. Haight