



## CMRC Racing News

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### No surprises at Round 1 of Monster Energy Motocross Nationals



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If anyone was expecting a major shake-up to the status quo at Round 1 of the Monster Energy Motocross Nationals in Kamloops, BC they came out sorely disappointed.

The usual suspects, meaning Yamaha Red Bull Blackfoot Fox Racing's Dusty Klatt, Colton Facciotti and Tyler Medaglia ruled the day – no surprise there!

Facciotti – who has a lot to make up for a disastrous 2010 season that saw him sit out more than half the national tour due to injuries and end up with the No.10

plate – barnstormed his way to a double moto win in MX1.

Klatt, although he led the first moto for a while, snared second overall, thanks to 2-3 motos. And Medaglia, despite a catch-up race from the back of the pack in the first moto, claimed the MX2 overall on the strength of 3-1 motos.

Sure, there was a lot of pre-season talk about the American newcomers to the scene: Robby Marshall riding for Royal Distributing KTM and Austin Politelli and Tyler Sjoberg aboard a Leading Edge Kawasaki ride.

And there were such newsworthy items like former MX2 champ Teddy Maier up to MX1 and the return of another former MX2 champ, Michael Willard, to the CMRC fold. Like his fellow American Maier, Willard also decided to campaign the MX1 class in 2011.

Although the above proved themselves by delivering riveting rides that saw them score top-10 to top-5 moto results, there was none of that “here I am, beat me” message sent. Of course, there are eight more rounds to win motos and overalls.

While Monster Energy Leading Edge Kawasaki's Maier impressed with fourth overall on the strength of 3-4 motos, Royal Distributing KTM-mounted Willard failed to play a major role in the proceedings.

He recorded eighth overall on the strength of 10-6 motos. Not a shabby result but Willard will need top-five finishes in the motos if he hopes to have a say in the championship.

In addition to Maier and Willard, only two other Americans found themselves with top-10 finishes in Kamloops: Rockstar Energy Troy Lee Designs OTSFF Suzuki's Bobby Kiniry and Confused Clothing Bulldog Racing Kaige Racing Kawasaki's Kevin Urquhart.

New York's Kiniry, who finished with a No.3 ranking in 2009 and 2010, rode like a man possessed to claim third overall on the strength of 4-2 motos. Kiniry especially showed his mettle and resolve in the second moto, when he kept an aggressive riding Klatt behind him during the second half of the race and claim runner-up.

Urquhart, who snagged the No.9 plate in his second full season of racing the Canadian Nationals last year, left a solid impression in Kamloops as a top-10 rider. The privateer even ran top-five for a while in both motos before settling for 8-10 results. In the second moto, he rode the closing laps with a blown rear shock and didn't even flinch.

In the volatile MX2 class, Sjoberg and Politelli raised a few eyebrows thanks to impressive rides that netted Sjoberg third overall on the strength of 4-2 motos and Politelli 10th on the strength of 18-4.

With Maier no longer campaigning MX2, and Shawn Rife and Eric Nye staying south of the border this year, Sjoberg and Politelli need to be considered the new key American players in a field that's dominated by Canadians like Tyler Medaglia, the Royal Distributing KTM duo Jeremy Medaglia and Kaven Benoit, and Leading Edge Kawasaki's Spencer Knowles

Although the Allison twins, Jared and Parker, ranked No.5 and 6 respectively in the 2010 MX2 Championship, were expected to break the top-five barrier this season, they decided to tackle MX1 instead for Team Yamalube Blackfoot Direct Troy Lee Designs Racing.

Their debut in the premiere class netted Parker 10th and Jared 11th overall on the strength of 15-9 and 14-11 motos respectively.

Will the 2011 Monster Energy Motocross Nationals produce new champions? Possibly, yes. But in the MX1 class it will no doubt be another Team Yamaha Red Bull Blackfoot Fox Racing victory with either Klatt or Faciotti.

Other than Suzuki's Kiniry and Kawasaki's Maier, the multi-time champions will most likely be battling themselves with the rest of the riders playing supporting roles.

Tyler Medaglia definitely has what it takes to put Blackfoot in the MX2 limelight for another year. Arguably, he will have a tougher time of it than his MX1 counterparts with the likes of Jeremy Medaglia, Benoit, Sjoberg and Politelli hungry for their first Canadian National Championship title.

This weekend another chapter will be written in the Canadian motocross wars at Round 2 in Nanaimo. After a few years off the radar, The Wastelands rejoins the national tour under a joint management and promotion effort by the various Vancouver Island motocross clubs. The facility has enjoyed a number of upgrades to keep it on par with the rest of the national tracks that are on the 2011 schedule.

Look for Dusty Klatt to redeem himself in front of a home track crowd and Tyler Medaglia to break the tie for first in the points chase with his brother Jeremy.

Also on hand for the second national of the season to be run on British Columbia soil will be Vancouver Islanders Nick Syrotuck, Derek Thompson, and Bryce Aspell as well as mainland natives Dylan Coombs, Kohl Canada, Spencer Knowles and Broc Hoyer.

Knowles and Hoyer, who produced identical 6-7 moto results in Kamloops to claim sixth overall on the day in MX2 and MX1 respectively, will no doubt be on the throttle to surpass those results in Nanaimo.

And who knows, maybe there will be some surprises.