



9 IN A ROW!

MOTOCROSS DES NATIONS

Americans clean up in West Germany

By the DIRT BIKE Staff

If there ever was a chance of **America** not bringing home the Motocross des Nations title, it was 1989.

The AMA picked Jeff Ward (500), Jeff Stanton (250) and Rick Johnson (125), with Ron Lechien as an alternate; then Johnson injured some ribs and elected not to ride. Lechien felt Johnson was faking and backed out at the last minute. Insiders say that Lechien was just afraid to ride a 125. This left team manager Roger DeCoster scrambling for a 125 rider! George Holland was hurt and Yamaha couldn't get a 125 ready in time for Damon Bradshaw, so Mike Kiedrowski was selected to ride Johnson's CR125R. This left the **USA** with one des Nations veteran and two newcomers, and the **Europeans** felt they could strip **America** of the title. New 125 **World** Champ Trampas Parker, who now considers himself an **Italian**, boasted before the event, "Today, **America** will eat **Italy's** dust!"

To top it off, the track at **Gaildorf** was totally alien to the **Americans**. It was high-speed hard-pack with absolutely no berms or braking bumps! The bikes laid down a blue groove and the track resembled a Superbiker course more than a motocross circuit. Even the 125s were lighting up the tires coming out of corners. During practice we blew out a few banners, overshooting corners by 15 feet! In timed practice, **Great Britain's** Dave Thorpe set fast time, so **Great Britain** and **Italy** were definitely confident.

OPENING 500/125 SALVO

Wardy lined up on the first row with Kiedrowski directly behind him; the plan was for Ward to immediately move over and give Kiedrowski some room, but it was too tight on the line. Wardy started fourth but found some tacky soil on the edges of the course and was able to move into first within three turns. Thorpe applied pressure to Ward but Jeff would have none of the new 500cc **World** Champion. Wardy said, "Thorpe was riding well and stayed within three seconds of me for about half the moto, and then I pulled away. He cut fast lap in practice, but I could ride within a half-second of his fast lap for the whole moto. I wore him down and had about seven seconds on him at the flag."

Meanwhile, Kiedrowski had a rude awakening. He said, "I gated about midpack and picked off a few riders, but on the first lap my mechanic signaled that I was ninth 125! I picked up the pace and was in second within five laps. Van Doorn was five seconds ahead but I caught and passed him within two laps and cruised away with the 125 win. Starting behind 500s was something else—I had to keep my mouth closed!"

Going into moto two, **America** had a perfect score, while **Italy** dogged it with Parker crashing back to seventh 500 and Puzar mustering fifth 125. **Holland, Great Britain, Belgium, Luxembourg** and **France** were still in the hunt.

STANTON SEIZES MOTO 2

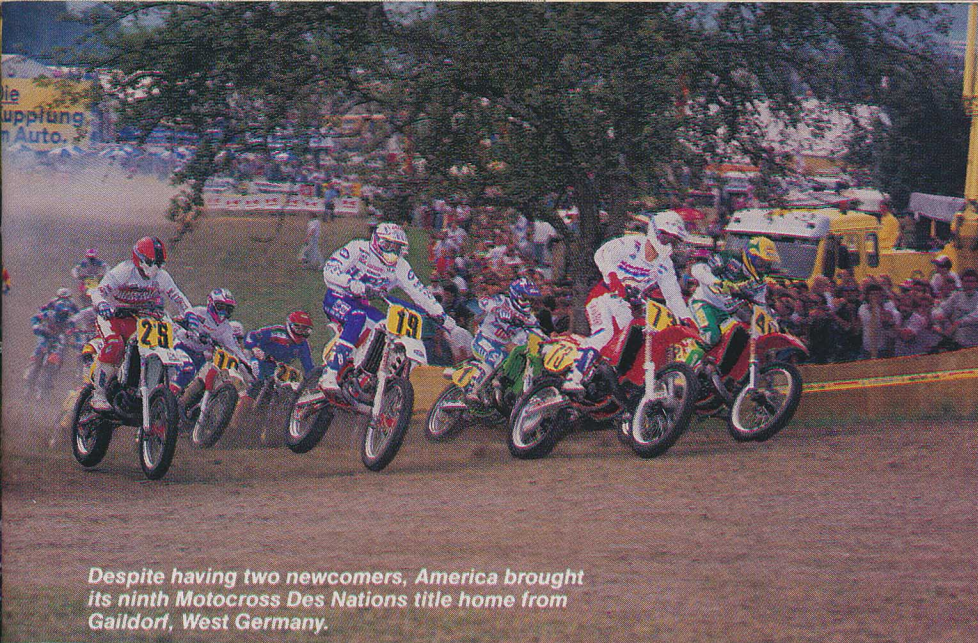
In the 250/125 moto, two-time National Champion Jeff Stanton ran away from the world's best and easily won the moto overall. Stanton said, "The track was so smooth I didn't get tired at all. I just concentrated on riding smooth and not making any mistakes. It was fun, easy."

Kiedrowski gated third from last and blitzed to tenth at the end of the first lap. It took Mike only six laps to move to second, but Puzar was ten seconds ahead and Kiedrowski's charge ended there. Mike said, "I gained a second and dropped back, then I slid out in a turn and dropped to third. I got second back but couldn't move up. It's hard passing 250s on such a fast track, but I did well enough for us to wrap it up with a moto to go!"

America's five points wrapped our ninth des Nations victory, so all we had to do in the last moto was score a class win for a perfect four points (only four scores out of the six count). Jeremy Whatley finished out of the top five and cost **Great Britain** some points, while Puzar's 125 win and Michele Fanton's fourth 250 gave **Italy** momentum.

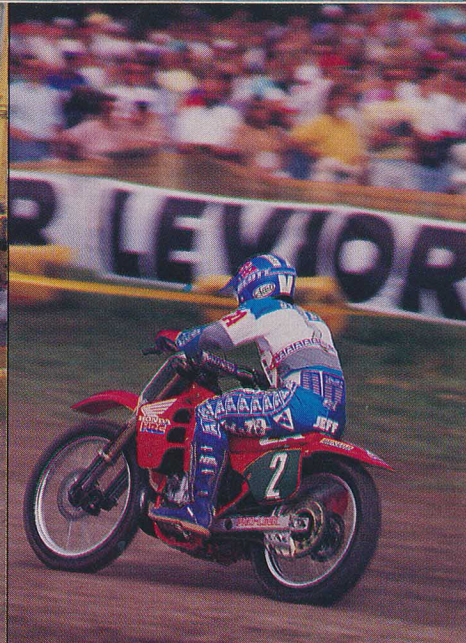
A TALE OF 2 JEFFS

Stanton and Ward campaigned the 500/250 moto, with Ward starting on the first row so he could run with the other 500s. However, Stanton got a great start from the second row and again motored away from the best in the **World**, leaving new champs



Despite having two newcomers, America brought its ninth Motocross Des Nations title home from Gaildorf, West Germany.

Jeff Ward flew past the best in the world to win the first moto and get the American momentum steamrolling.



Jeff Stanton led his teammates Jeff Ward and Mike Kiedrowski to victory with the overall win in both motos!

Parker and Thorpe on his way to the overall victory. This assured a perfect score for the "Yanks." Stanton said, "I followed Ward into the first turn, where he went too wide, and I ducked inside. With the track getting slicker, I definitely had the advantage on the 250 and just cruised." However, Ward had it worse in the pack and crashed three times on the slick track. "I grabbed a handful trying to pass Thorpe and high-sided into a jump. Then I slid out in a turn but remounted quickly. I caught Thorpe, then he stalled it in a turn and I had nowhere to go. Geboers ran into the back of me and we fell over like dominoes. We had it sewn up and I didn't want to chance getting hurt, so I cruised the rest of the moto."

Parker passed Thorpe for the 500 win, giving Italy second over Great Britain, while Belgium and Holland faded big time. As Ward puts it, "We could win with anybody, because of our depth of talent. The Euros only have one or maybe two really good riders from each country and lack consistency. It'll be a long time before they beat us on talent. Luck maybe, but not talent!" □

RESULTS: 1989 MOTOCROSS DES NATIONS, GAILDORF, WEST GERMANY

COUNTRY	500 CLASS	250 CLASS	125 CLASS	TOTAL PTS
1. USA	J. Ward (Kaw)	J. Stanton (Hon)	M. Kiedrowski (Hon)	4
2. Italy	T. Parker (KTM)	M. Fanton (Suz)	A. Puzar (Suz)	11
3. England	D. Thorpe (Hon)	J. Whitley (Suz)	J. Dobb (Hon)	15
4. Luxembourg	J. Martens (KTM)	B. Liles (Kaw)	H. Martens (Hon)	16
5. W. Germany	D. Lacher (Hon)	R. Diepold (Kaw)	Harold Ott (Hon)	17
6. France	J. Vimond (Hon)	Y. Kervella (Hon)	Y. Demaria (KTM)	19
7. Australia	J. Leisk (Hon)	C. Dack (Yam)	G. Bell (Hon)	20
8. Sweden	P. Hansson (KTM)	P. Johansson (Yam)	D. Pettersson (Yam)	20
9. Belgium	G. Jobe (Hon)	E. Geboers (Hon)	M. Bervoets (Kaw)	25
10. Holland	Van der Ven (KTM)	Van den Berk (Yam)	G. van Doorn (Suz)	31

TOP FIVE FINISHERS

	1	2	3	4	5
125 MOTO ONE	Kiedrowski	van Doorn	Demaria	Bervoets	Puzar
125 MOTO TWO	Puzar	Keidrowski	Ott	Demaria	Dobb
250 MOTO ONE	Stanton	Liles	Van den Berk	Fanton	Johansson
250 MOTO TWO	Stanton	Kervella	Liles	Johansson	Fanton
500 MOTO ONE	Ward	Thorpe	Leisk	Lacher	Martens
500 MOTO TWO	Parker	Thorpe	Lacher	Leisk	Hansson

OVERALL AND CLASS CHAMPIONS

OVERALL/250	Jeff Stanton (1-1)	500	Dave Thorpe (2-2)	125	Mike Kiedrowski (1-2)
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