

TEN FOR TEN

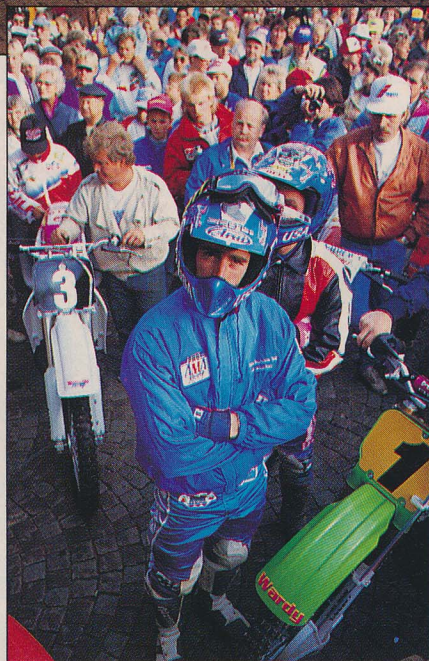
America enters the record book

Roger DeCoster was always quick to point it out. Every time the Americans patted themselves on the backs for dominating the Motocross des Nations, Roger would quietly mention that it's been done before. From 1969 to 1978 the Belgian team won every single Trophy des Nations. Ten years in a row. A record.

Now you could point out that the Trophy des Nations was for 250s only, that the modern MX des Nations is a much more significant event with 125s, 250s and 500s, but Roger, our own team manager, would just shrug. A record is a record. Ten in a row. Beat that and you'll have done something.

So Sweden, 1990, was on the calendar. The U.S. team would have a chance at getting in the record book, a chance to make it ten in a row for America. Jeff Ward, Jeff Stanton and Damon Bradshaw felt the pressure. Ward was the only veteran, with more appearances than any other American rider. Stanton had only been to last year's des Nations, and Bradshaw . . . well, no one knew what to make of Bradshaw. In the last two years he had led the 125 National (1989) and Supercross series (1990) and crashed his way out of contention of both.

Still, the three Americans knew what they had to do. And when it was all over, they had done it—barely. Stanton had a first and a second in the 250 class, Ward had a second and a ninth in the 500s and Bradshaw had a fourth and a DNF in the 125s. Our best



four finishes were good enough to beat the Belgian team by a single point. America had its tenth victory to tie the record. Even DeCoster was pumped—and why not? He had been a member of all ten American teams as manager, and he had been a member of all ten Belgian teams as a rider. That's a personal record that no one else can even come close to.

The pressure is still on for America. After all, it's not a true record until we've won 11.

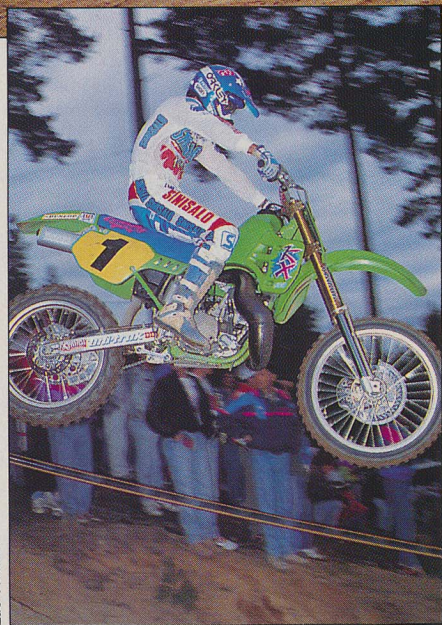
"I knew I had to go out there and do something." Stanton made it his personal responsibility to salvage America's win streak.

◀ *"They thought I knocked everybody down, and they didn't like that." Stanton felt the record-tying American effort was an anticlimax.*

DAMON BRADSHAW: "WE WEREN'T LUCKY"

"In the first moto, there were six 125s on the first row. I was on the second row and the best I could work up to was fourth. In the second moto I was on the second row again, but I got a better start because there were only three 125s on the first row. I was fourth 125 halfway through the race and I caught this Irish guy; I was trying to pass him for third. I went one way and he would go the same way. Then there was this tabletop that was real hard to clear on a 125 even when there was no traffic. I went right to try to pass him in the air and he went right at the last second. I landed right on his fender, tumbled and my bike hit me in the back. It really hurt. I'm just now getting to where I can put my pants on by myself.

"On practice day, the crowd was real good. I was throwing it sideways off this tabletop and they were getting into it. One kid was running up to the edge of the jump every lap and giving me a big thumbs up, but later on I got the feeling they didn't really

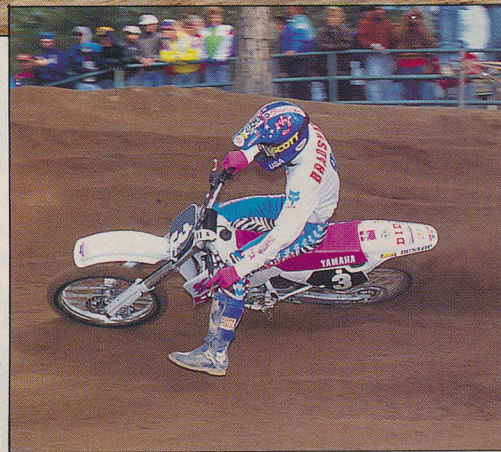


In September, America invaded Sweden in search of a record. When it was all over, the Yanks came home victorious—barely.

◀ "This was probably the roughest track I had ever raced on." Ward was the veteran of the U.S. team.

"They didn't seem to want us there." Bradshaw didn't know what to make of the European crowd. ▶

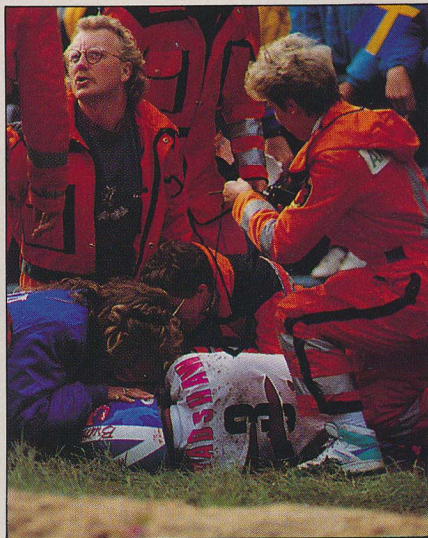
"It wasn't my fault!" Bradshaw's collision with another rider sent him to the hospital while the other Americans got a trip to the victory podium. ▼



want us there. They say Stanton and Ward even got booed at the trophy presentation—I was at the hospital at the time. They said we got lucky and barely won; how can they say that? We had an awful lot of bad luck, it seems, with a DNF and Wardy's shock giving him trouble. We had the best score despite all that."

JEFF STANTON: "THEY BOOED US!"

"The crowd didn't like us. We were booed on the victory stand because they thought I knocked everybody down, and they didn't like that. I didn't try to take anyone out, I just took aggressive lines and I rode to win. In the second moto I started on the second row in 31st and I had to work up through the pack, but I didn't have any trouble with any of them. I was going two seconds a lap faster than Puzar, and I just ran out of time. One more lap and I would have passed him for the lead. We shipped over my National bike and so I had the best bike there. This year it was a little more tense than last year because it was so close. Ward and Bradshaw didn't win, so I knew I had to go out there and do something.



"It was kind of a letdown after it was all over. It was great to win for America, but it seemed like no one gave us any credit, like they thought we had some kind of unfair advantage. It used to seem like the Motocross des Nations was the most prestigious race in the world, but in the end we didn't get anything for it. We just went home."

JEFF WARD: "IT WAS LIKE LOOKING FOR MINES"

"I'm not real fond of sand, and this was mostly a long sand track. There was one

straight where I had the 500 pinned for what seemed like five or six seconds, then it would change to hard granite—it was like looking for mines in a minefield. The track was really hard to pass on. Sand usually just develops one line—it's not very technical at all. You just pin it, hold on through the turn and then try to pin it coming out of the turns. I still got second in the first moto behind Jacky Martens, but he's supposed to be the fastest sand rider in the world. In the second moto I had shock problems, and this was probably the roughest track I had ever raced on. I didn't do very well at all.

"Things started off really bad. When we first got there we didn't have any oil, so we went out and got something locally to mix. The motor seized up tight in practice. We had to change motors before the race. I guess all things considered, we didn't do that badly, after all." □

**RESULTS:
MX des NATIONS
Vimmerby, Sweden**

OVERALL		250 CLASS, FIRST MOTO	
1. USA 9 points	1. Jeff Stanton USA	2. Alessandro Puzar Italy	
2. Belgium 10	2. Jeff Stanton USA	3. Peter Johansson Sweden	
3. Sweden 12		SECOND MOTO	
	1. Alessandro Puzar Italy		
	2. Jeff Stanton USA		
	3. Marniqe Bervoets Belgium		
	125 CLASS, FIRST MOTO		
1. Stefan Everts Belgium	1. Jacky Martens Luxembourg		
2. Pedro Tragter Holland	2. Jeff Ward USA		
4. Damon Bradshaw USA	3. Soren Mortensen Denmark		
	SECOND MOTO		
1. Pedro Tragter Holland	1. Jeff Leisk Australia		
2. Joakim Karlsson Sweden	2. Dirk Geukens Belgium		
3. Erwin Machtlinger Austria	9. Jeff Ward USA		