

BICYCLE MOTOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP

DIRT BIKE

34355 JANUARY 1975

**360 YZ
MONOCROSS**



**125
TYRAN
MX**

**175
PUCH
ISDT**

**250
BAJA
EL SINORE**

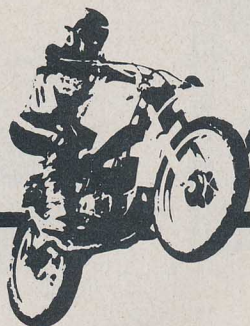
**ISDT: SIX DAYS
OF ALMOST
SEEING GIOVANNI
BATTISTA MONTINI**

**NATIONAL MOTOCROSS FINALS * QUEBEC'S
MAPLE LEAF ENDURO * EVEL'S SNAKE
RIVER SENDUP * BENGT'S SWEDISH SWEEP**

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ON THE COVER: Aerobatic advocate
of lighter than air travel shown aboard
Yamaha's flying machine.

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SWEDEN 22
U.S.A. 70

MOTOCROSS DES NATIONS

by **KEN OLAUSSON**

Bimbo, Brad, Tony and Jim grab silver while Bengt blitzes on the home court



Hakan Andersson and Bengt Aberg standing, Ake Jonsson and Arne Kring kneeling with Swedish pom pom girls.



After back-to-back wins, Team Belgium finished out of the money this year.

Sweden, paced by two wins by former World Champion Bengt Aberg (Bultaco), slaughtered the opposition at the 500cc Motocross des Nations at Huskvarna in Sweden. But it was not Sweden's home win that surprised the crowd as much as the performance of the U.S., which finished second overall. It was a cakewalk for the Swedes, who scored 22 points in the two races. The Americans' 70 points edged the Russians, led by the new 250cc World Champion Guenady Moisseev, by four points. Last year's winner, Belgium, and West Germany and Finland failed to score before the television



Would you buy a used car from any of these guys?



Official team photo. Can you tell who has the Tony?



Soviet team. Popenko, 250 champion Moisseev, Rulev and Botchkov.



Kinda looks like these fellows won.

cameras. (ABC's *Wide World of Sports* carried the coverage in October. Did you remember to drop 'em a line and ask for more racing programming?)

Forty-eight riders from 12 different nations made it to the start line. The Czech team had withdrawn their entry at the last minute — possibly because of the happenings in the last event of the 250cc World Championship meeting in Switzerland. That's the one where the Russian team played Pin the Tail on the Donkey and Centerpunch the Czech with Jaroslav Falta. The Czech maintained and had apparently



Arne Kring had a seventh and a second for Sweden.



International version of hare and hound. Daniel Pean (37) played the rabbit for less than a lap.



Aberg, with nobody else in sight.

scored well enough to overtake Moisseev for the title but was penalized out of the championship with a questionable false start ruling.

The Belgians appeared to have a strong team going in with Jean-Claude Laquaye and Raymond Heeren joining DeCoster and van Velthoven. (Joel Robert and Sylvain Geboers did not compete.) Sweden had Bengt Aberg, Ake Jonsson, Hakan Andersson and Arne Kring. Their manager was the two-time 500 ex-World Champion, Sten Lundin. The U.S. boys had a strong team as well, consisting of Jim Pomeroy, Brad Lackey, Tony DiStefano and Jim Weinert, all aboard different makes of machines.

Bengt Aberg took command right from the first. Roger DeCoster, and Hans Maisch (Maico) chased, but never stood a chance. Pomeroy and Lackey were circling somewhere around tenth.

Jaak van Velthoven (Yamaha) crashed heavily when his throttle jammed open. The bike cartwheeled on a downhill section and hit a marshal who was taken to the hospital with Velthoven. Both suffered severe facial injuries. The crash snapped the



Two-time World Champ before Roger and Heikki, Bengt Aberg.



Aberg (7) took the lead on the first lap.

Yamaha's fork legs right off the bike.

Jean-Claude Laquaye (Yamaha) was also forced to retire and second runner DeCoster's engine seized three times, compounding the Belgian team's problems. Roger hung in there, remounted each time and held onto second behind Aberg. The Finns were finished when the new 500 World Champ, Heikki Mikkola, injured his foot playing catch-up.

Hakan Andersson (Yamaha) forced his way through the field from a 23rd place positioning at the start to take fourth behind Guenady Moisseev. Another Swede, Ake Jonsson (Yamaha) was in fifth spot for a while, but was delayed by a pit stop to straighten his brake lever which was bent under the footpeg. Thus Arne Kring (Husqvarna), finishing seventh, counted as the third Swede in the team points. Lackey and Pomeroy finished just ahead of Arne. Tony DiStefano (CZ) took 14th, while Jim Weinert (Kawasaki) finished 25th.

Sweden was clearly in the lead after this first race with a 12-point total registered by the three highest placing team members. In their wake were the U.S. (25), Russia (36) and England (46).

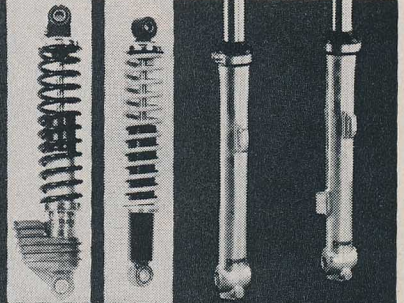
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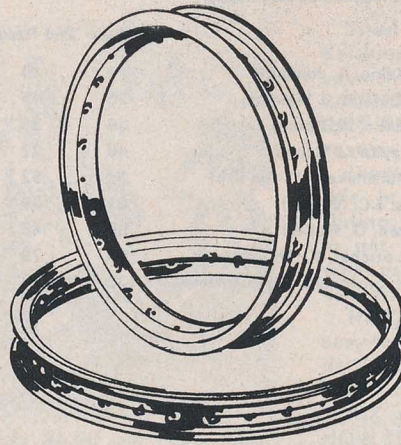
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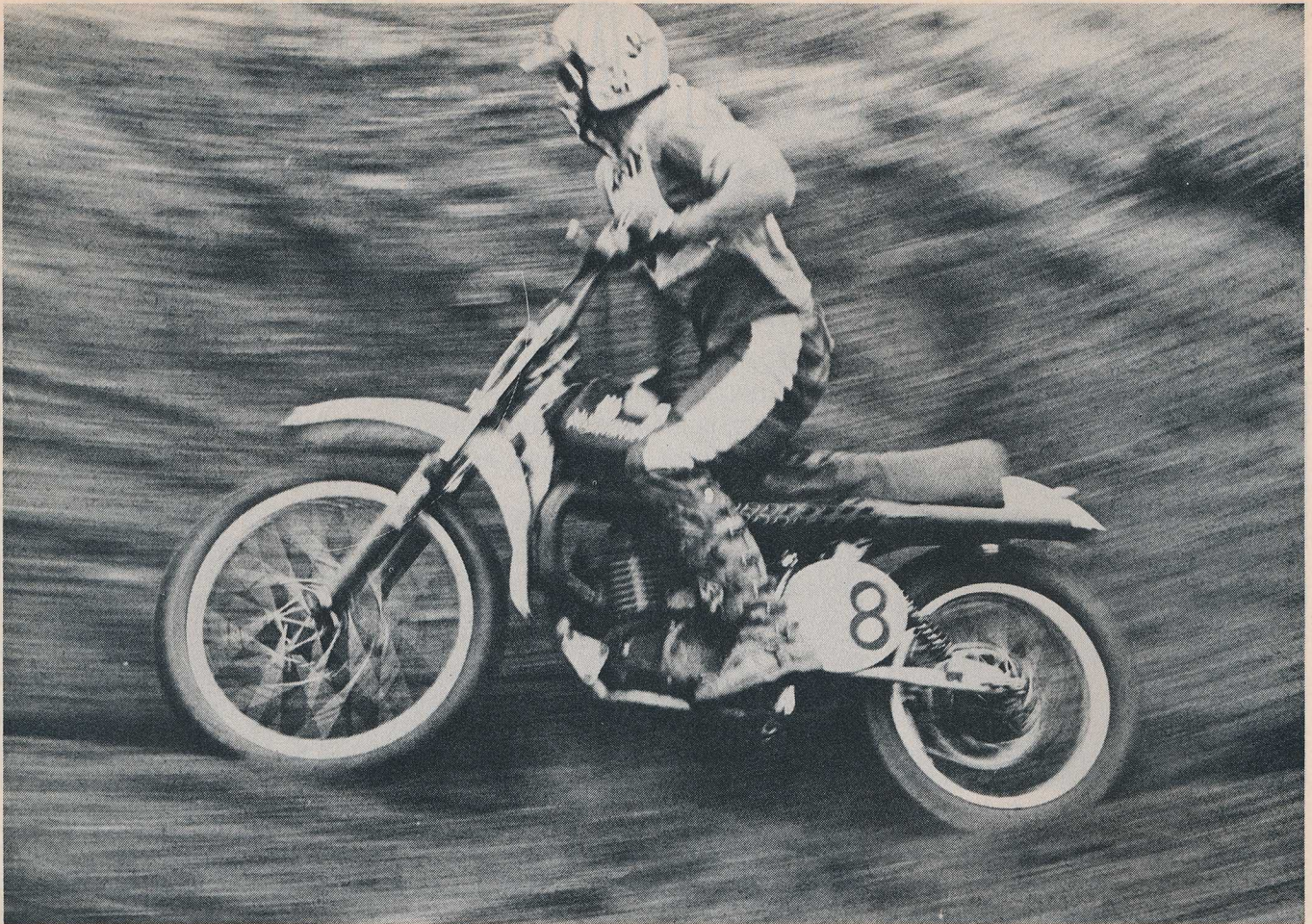
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Arne Kring at about a thirtieth of a second.

RESULTS
MOTOCROSS DES NATIONS

| | 1st Race | 2nd Race | Overall |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| 1. Sweden (B. Aberg, H. Andersson, A. Kring, A. Jonsson) | 12 | 10 | 22 |
| 2. U.S.A. (J. Pomeroy, B. Lackey, T. DiStefano, J. Weinert) | 25 | 45 | 70 |
| 3. Russia (G. Moisseev, P. Rudev, V. Popenko, A. Botchkov) | 36 | 38 | 74 |
| 4. England (V. Allan, V. Eastwood, R. Taylor, J. Banks) | 46 | 62 | 108 |
| 5. Holland (G. Wolsink, F. Sigmans, A. Karsmakers, T. van Erp) | 32 | 82 | 114 |
| 6. France (S. Bacou, D. Pean, M. Combes, J.C. Nowak) | 61 | 69 | 130 |
| 7. Denmark (A. Lodal, B. Vad, L. Sorensen, O. Moller) | 99 | 45 | 144 |
| 8. Switzerland (W. Kalberer, F. Graf, J. Lotscher, K. Thomet) | 68 | 79 | 147 |
| 9. Norway (T. Funderud, S. Haugerud, R. Smedstad, J. Kristofferson) | 132 | 65 | 197 |

FIRST

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Bengt Aberg | BUL |
| 2. Roger DeCoster | SUZ |
| 3. Guenady Moisseev | KTM |
| 4. Hakan Andersson | YAM |
| 5. Brad Lackey | HUS |
| 6. Jim Pomeroy | BUL |
| 7. Arne Kring | HUS |
| 8. Kalevi Vehkonen | HUS |
| 9. Vic Allan | BUL |
| 10. Harry Everts | PUC |

SECOND

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Bengt Aberg | BUL |
| 2. Arne Kring | HUS |
| 3. Gerrit Wolsink | SUZ |
| 4. Hans Maisch | MAI |
| 5. Guenady Moisseev | KTM |
| 6. Harry Everts | PUC |
| 7. Hakan Andersson | YAM |
| 8. Ake Jonsson | YAM |
| 9. Adolf Weil | MAI |
| 10. Jim Pomeroy | BUL |



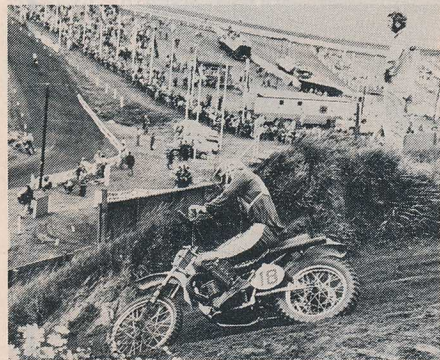
According to placards, entered nations included Soviet, Schweiz, Danmark, Sverige and Norge.

In the second moto Aberg grabbed the lead on the first lap. Aberg, World Champ in 1969 and 1970, was flying like the old days. The Viking had some troubles during the last few laps, but didn't learn of them until after the race. His ignition coil worked loose, but since his Bultaco was equipped with two coils (and two plugs), he didn't even know of the electrical failure. Even though he eased off the pace considerably toward the end he still held a wide margin over countryman Arne Kring. Hakan Andersson had to fight from the back of the field once again after using the intermission

to weld his frame. Jonsson, who was running fifth, was forced to slow down as the damper tube of his Yamaha Monocross suspension failed. He wound up eighth. So the blue and yellow team took first, second, seventh and eighth for ten points.

The Mom, flag and apple pie crew didn't fare as well in the second race. Pomeroy had the best placing with a tenth. Brad Lackey was 14th and Tony DiStefano 21st with Weinert down on 34th place. The Americans nearly lost second place overall to Russia when Brad fell one lap from the finish. Coming around a corner he failed to avoid an exhaust pipe lying on the track and went down. He remounted his Husky and just made it over the line before collapsing.

Dutch rider Gerrit Wolsink was the highest placing "foreigner" behind Sweden's Aberg and Kring.



Brad took a fifth in the first.

West Germany's Hans Maisch edged Moisseev for fourth. Harry Everts paced Belgian efforts. Roger retired early in the second race when the chain adjuster came off his Suzuki and his chain wouldn't stay on the sprockets.

HISTORICAL BITS AND PIECES

The Motocross des Nations, the team World Championship for 500cc bikes, has been run since 1947. The first meeting was in Holland. England leads with 15 wins. Sweden has seven wins and Belgium five. The most dominating display was back in 1962 when four Swedes (Rolf Tibblin, Ove Lundell, Gunnar Johansson and Bill Nilsson) went over the finish line riding hand in hand receiving the same overall time.



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