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# DIRT BIKE

NOVEMBER 2004

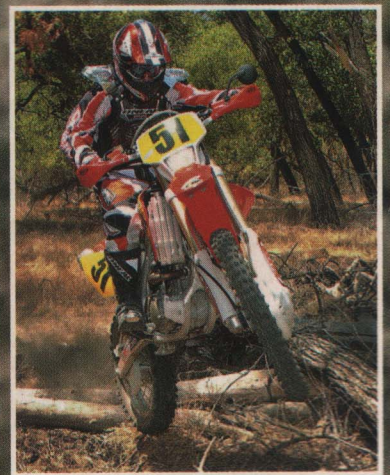


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# CARLSBAD, REST IN PEACE

**After flirting with the end for 10 years, California's most famous MX track passes into history**

► Carlsbad Raceway hasn't had much of an impact on American motocross recently. For about ten years it's been on the endangered list, kept open only at the whim of the developer who now owns the land. But back in the day, it was the most famous, the most brutal and the most celebrated track in the country. It was the site of the original USGP, the original Supermoto, and it was the spawning ground for the most talented riders of a generation. Marty Tripes, Marty Smith, Rick Johnson, Ron Lechien and a long list of other champions got their start there.

All that finally ended this month as the bulldozer laid blade to the famous track. A farewell barbeque was held and attended by Jeff Grismer, Gavin Trippe and Marty Moates, among others. We couldn't let mighty Carlsbad fall without a farewell salute.



*USGP promoter Gavin Trippe gave birth to Supermoto at Carlsbad back in 1979, only he called it the Superbikers. It was a made-for-TV event that saw Kent Howerton, Steve Wise (pictured) and Eddie Lawson win twice each, while Danny Chandler won in 1984.*



*Dutch dentist Gerrit Wolsink never won a world championship, but he was the absolute ruler of the Carlsbad USGP. He won in '74, '75, '76, '77 and '79. Holland is flat and sandy, Southern California is hilly and hard-packed—go figure.*



**Brad Lackey was the perennial crowd favorite at Carlsbad, although he never won. It was only fitting that the 1983 USGP was the only race where he actually carried the number one plate. Brad had retired after finally winning the world championship in 1982, but came back for that one last race.**



**1980 was the beginning of a new era in world motocross. Marty Moates won both motos of the USGP, becoming the first American to do so. After that, the flood gates opened and the race was won by Chuck Sun, Danny Chandler, David Bailey, Broc Glover and Rick Johnson.**



**Sweden's Hakan Carlqvist was the only European to win at Carlsbad in the American-dominated '80s. He won in 1983.**



**Roger DeCoster hated Carlsbad, but not because of the hills or the travel or the dirt; he just hated losing there year after year. Usually some mechanical failure took him out, including one year when his bike broke in half on national TV. ☐**