

A British invention – perfected by the Americans

As Motocross was invented by the British, it was only fitting that they would dominate the early stages of the Motocross des Nations.

But forty years down the track the sport has been perfected by the Americans. And incredibly, they have won the last eleven contests.

The sport began in the 1920's. But it was not until after World War II that it really began to emerge with a surprising degree of vitality and life.

By now the sport was clearly established in Europe.

And as early as 1946, the first ever International team event was staged in Duinrell, Holland.

This event was somewhat of an exploratory nature.

It was organised for 500cc machines as after the war, these were the machines most readily available. And competitors represented Britain, Belgium, and Holland.

The first International was run without official status.

But its success persuaded the FIM (Federation Internationale Motocycliste) to grant official recognition to the sport of Motocross.

The following year, the inaugural Motocross des Nations was held in Wassenaar, Holland with official approval from the FIM.

And so, the historical Motocross des Nations began...

Team racing is the yardstick of the Motocross des Nations.

Although there have been minor changes over the years, the initial formula proved the right one which has attracted and held great public enthusiasm.

The present formula, where three riders compete from each country on 125, 250 and 500cc machines, was introduced in 1985. Prior to this, all riders rode only 500cc machines.

Riders contest two races each and points are awarded to all riders who finish – 1 for first, 2 for second, and so on.

Although three Motos are contested with two capacity classes competing at a time, points are individually allocated per capacity class.

And the Nation with the lowest points is deemed the winner.

Predictably, Britain, the sport's founder, would dominate the early stages of the Motocross des Nations.

The British had excellent and highly competitive machinery at their disposal, plus many riders had reached high standards through their expertise in the trials world.

However, the Belgians were close rivals, winning in 1948 and 1951.

But the Swedish broke through in 1955 to take their first victory.

This marked the beginning of a new era which would see a total domination between the English and Swedish.



The Motocross des Nations was established in 1947 after the sport was firmly established in every European country.

The Swedish Husqvarnas were becoming increasingly successful against the British BSA's and between 1955 to 1974, the Swedes won 7 times.

The British won for the last time in 1967, taking their total victories to 15, a record that remains unbeaten today.

But this ended the era for British/Swedish rivalry.

The Belgians soon took the place of the British in the dual for supremacy against the Swedes.

Aided by Japanese Suzukis, the seventies were completely dominated by Belgium, winning seven times.

Belgium's Roger De Coster – the winner of many World Individual 500cc Championships, led his country to six of these victories.

And many people still regard him as one of the greatest motocross riders of all time. Belgium has produced many world champions, including George Jobes, Harry Everts, Andre Malherbe, and Eric Geboers.

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Team USA domination in the eighties

At the end of the eighties, Russia and Czechoslovakia were the only other countries to ever score victory in the Motocross des Nations.

Both were recorded on their home terrain – Russia in 1968 and Czechoslovakia in 1975.

Russia's victory was without the British, Belgian, Dutch, Swedish, and Italian teams in protest against Czechoslovakia's invasion.

But 10 years later, the Russians proved they were capable of beating the world's best, when they won for the second time in Germany – 1978.

In 1981, the Motocross des Nations was to take a dramatic turnaround.

From this point on, the event has been completely dominated by the United States of America.

This is indeed quite a remarkable feat, especially in the light that the Americans had probably never even heard of motocross until the seventies.

Motocross was introduced to America by servicemen returning from duty in Europe.

But it lived in an atmosphere of disorganised chaos until the AMA (American Motorcycle Association) launched the Trans-AMA series.

The great European riders were invited to participate with substantial dollar inducements.

And from that moment onwards, America became the "Garden of Eden" for the European and Japanese manufacturers.

The greater financial resources for the riders and rich sponsorship has enabled the Americans to become new world leaders.

But to their credit, 13 consecutive victories since 1981 is the greatest achievement in the history of the Motocross des Nations!

By John Steyntjes



1982 at Manjimup Western Australia was the first time in the history of the sport that the Motocross des Nations was held outside of Europe. RIGHT: The American team convincingly won to make it twelve wins on the trot. The USA team featured: Billy Liles (500cc), Mike LaRocco (250cc) and Jeff Emig (125cc).

WORLD MOTOCROSS DES NATIONS RESULTS 1947 - 2019

Year	Circuit	Country	Winning teams
2019	Assen	Netherlands	Jeffrey Herlings / Calvin Vlaanderen / Glenn Coldenhoff
2018	Red Bud	France	Gautier Paulin / Dylan Ferrandis / Jordi Tixier
2017	Matterley Basin	France	Gautier Paulin / Christophe Charlier / Romain Febvre
2016	Maggiora	France	Gautier Paulin / Benoît Paturel / Romain Febvre
2015	Ernée	France	Gautier Paulin / Marvin Musquin / Romain Febvre
2014	Kegums	France	Gautier Paulin / Dylan Ferrandis / Steven Frossard
2013	Teutschenthal	Belgium	Ken De Dycker / Jeremy Van Horebeek / Clément Desalle
2012	Lommel	Germany	Maximilian Nagl / Ken Roczen / Marcus Schiffer
2011	Saint-Jean-d'Angély	USA	Ryan Dungey / Blake Baggett / Ryan Villopoto
2010	Lakewood	USA	Ryan Dungey / Trey Canard / Andrew Short
2009	Franciacorta	USA	Ryan Dungey / Jake Weimer / Ivan Tedesco
2008	Donington Park	USA	James Stewart, Jr. / Ryan Villopoto / Tim Ferry
2007	Budds Creek	USA	Ricky Carmichael / Ryan Villopoto / Tim Ferry
2006	Matterley Basin	USA	James Stewart, Jr. / Ryan Villopoto / Ivan Tedesco
2005	Ernée	USA	Ricky Carmichael / Kevin Windham / Ivan Tedesco
2004	Lierop	Belgium	Stefan Everts / Steve Ramon / Kevin Strijbos
2003	Zolder	Belgium	Stefan Everts / Steve Ramon / Joël Smets
2002	Bellpuig	Italy	Andrea Bartolini / Alessio Chiodi / Alessandro Puzar
2001	Namur	France	Yves Demaria / Luigi Seguy / David Vuillemin
2000	Saint-Jean-d'Angély	USA	Ricky Carmichael / Ryan Hughes / Travis Pastrana
1999	Indaiatuba	Italy	Andrea Bartolini / Alessio Chiodi / Claudio Federici
1998	Foxhills	Belgium	Marnicq Bervoets / Patrick Caps / Stefan Everts
1997	Nismes	Belgium	Marnicq Bervoets / Stefan Everts / Joël Smets
1996	Jerez de la Frontera	USA	Jeff Emig / Steve Lamson / Jeremy McGrath
1995	Sverepoc	Belgium	Marnicq Bervoets / Stefan Everts / Joël Smets
1994	Roggenburg	Great Britain	Rob Herring / Paul Malin / Kurt Nicoll
1993	Schwandenstadt	USA	Jeff Emig / Mike Kiedrowski / Jeremy McGrath
1992	Manjimup	USA	Jeff Emig / Mike LaRocco / Billy Liles
1991	Valkenswaard	USA	Damon Bradshaw / Mike Kiedrowski / Jeff Stanton
1990	Vimmerby	USA	Damon Bradshaw / Jeff Stanton / Jeff Ward
1989	Gaillardorf	USA	Mike Kiedrowski / Jeff Stanton / Jeff Ward
1988	Villars-sous-Écot	USA	Rick Johnson / Ron Lechien / Jeff Ward
1987	Unadilla	USA	Bob Hannah / Rick Johnson / Jeff Ward
1986	Maggiora	USA	David Bailey / Rick Johnson / Johnny O'Mara
1985	Gaillardorf	USA	David Bailey / Ron Lechien / Jeff Ward
1984	Vantaa	USA	David Bailey / Rick Johnson / Johnny O'Mara / Jeff Ward
1983	Angreau	USA	David Bailey / Mark Barnett / Broc Glover / Jeff Ward
1982	Wohlen	USA	David Bailey / Danny Chandler / Jim Gibson / Johnny O'Mara
1981	Bielstein	USA	Donnie Hansen / Danny LaPorte / Johnny O'Mara / Chuck Sun
1980	Farleigh Castle	Belgium	Georges Jobé / André Malherbe / Ivan Van Den Broek / André Vromans
1979	Stockholm	Belgium	Roger De Coster / Harry Everts / André Malherbe / Ivan Van Den Broek
1978	Gaillardorf	USSR	Kavinov / Khudiakov / Korneev / Guennady Moisseev
1977	Cognac	Belgium	Roger De Coster / André Malherbe / Jean-Paul Mingles / Jaak van Velthoven
1976	Sint Anthonis	Belgium	Roger De Coster / Harry Everts / Gaston Rahier / Jaak van Velthoven
1975	Sedlcany	Czechoslovakia	Bavorovský / Churavý / Naváek / Velký
1974	Stockholm	Sweden	Bengt Aberg / Hakan Andersson / Ake Jonsson / Arne Kring
1973	Wohlen	Belgium	Roger De Coster / Sylvain Geboers / René Heeren / Jaak van Velthoven
1972	Norg	Belgium	Roger De Coster / Rene Van de Vorst / Jaak van Velthoven
1971	Vannes	Sweden	Bengt Aberg / Christer Hammargren / Ake Jonsson / Olle Petersson
1970	Maggiora	Sweden	Bengt Aberg / Christer Hammargren / Ake Jonsson / Arne Kring
1969	Farleigh Castle	Belgium	Roger De Coster / Sylvain Geboers / Joël Robert / Jef Teeuwissen
1968	Chisinau	USSR	Arnis Angers / Evgeni Petushkov / Vladimir Pogrebniak / Leonid Shinkarenko
1967	Markelo	Great Britain	Dave Bickers / Vic Eastwood / Jeff Smith
1966	Rémalard	Great Britain	Dave Bickers / Vic Eastwood / Derek Rickman
1965	Namur	Great Britain	Arthur Lampkin / Vic Eastwood / Jeff Smith
1964	Hawkstone Park	Great Britain	Don Rickman / Derek Rickman / Jeff Smith
1963	Knutstorp	Great Britain	Burton / Don Rickman / Derek Rickman
1962	Wohlen	Sweden	Jan Johansson / Ove Lundell / Rolf Tibblin
1961	Schiöndel	Sweden	Ove Lundell / Bill Nilsson / Rolf Tibblin
1960	Cassel	Great Britain	Curtis / Rickman / Jeff Smith
1959	Namur	Great Britain	John Draper / Rickman / Jeff Smith
1958	Knutstorp	Sweden	Lars Gustavsson / Ove Lundell / Bill Nilsson
1957	Brands Hatch	Great Britain	Curtis / Martin / Jeff Smith
1956	Namur	Great Britain	John Draper / Jeff Smith / Geoff Ward
1955	Randers	Sweden	Lars Gustavsson / Sten Lundin / Bill Nilsson
1954	Norg	Great Britain	Curtis / Brian Stonebridge / Geoff Ward
1953	Värnamo-Skillingaryd	Great Britain	Les Archer / John Draper / Geoff Ward
1952	Brands Hatch	Great Britain	Les Archer / Brian Stonebridge / Geoff Ward
1951	Namur	Belgium	Jansen / Leloup / Meunier
1950	Värnamo-Skillingaryd	Great Britain	John Draper / Basil Hall / Harold Lines
1949	Brands Hatch	Great Britain	Harold Lines / Bob Manns / Ian Soovell
1948	Spa	Belgium	Cox / Jansen / Milhoux
1947	Wassenaar	Great Britain	Bill Nicholson / Bob Ray / Fred Rist