

USGPRU

United States Grand Prix Racers Union



Rider: Michael Barnes
Photo: Unknown

The new High Plains Raceway, located just east of Denver, was the setting for another action-packed USGPRU weekend. The highly technical course caught many racers off-guard, and **the number of crashed bikes quickly outpaced the non-crashed ones.**

Ryan Matter and Jake Lewis swapped the lead in the Moriwaki MD250H race while slowly breaking away from an intense four-way battle for third. Hayden Gillim, Stephano Mesa, Lex Hartl and Garrett Gerloff showed how close spec motorcycles can race as they changed positions numerous times per lap. This intense battle raged on until lap 7 when **Mesa crashed** in turn eight. That turn would claim another victim as **Gillim crashed** in the same place, two laps later. Garrett Gerloff, who had been able to hold down third for the past few times across the start/finish line, also **crashed on lap nine.** His crash would move Hartl into third. The two out front, Matter and Lewis continued to swap the lead position until **Matter spectacularly high-sided** in turn fourteen with just two laps to go. Lewis stayed upright and rode uncontested for the rest of the 12-lap event. Hartl inherited second while Grayson Gerloff took his first podium with a third place finish.

Nobi Iso led the Pilot USA 125GP race at the start, and clearly wanted to make an early getaway. But Lewis sat right on his rear wheel with Gerloff, Matter and Hartl tucked in close. As the laps went on, Iso slowly pulled out a lead, and seemed on his way to a dominant victory. The field spread out with Lewis in second and Gerloff aboard his Moriwaki in third. The fourth place scrap intensified between Matter and Hartl as they rode nose-to-tail. Working lap eight, Hartl and Matter made contact with each other and **both crashed** in the treacherous turn eight. That incident catapulted Cameron Gish and Stephano Mesa into fourth and fifth respectively. Two laps later, High Plains struck again, this time the victim was the race leader Iso. **He tucked the front end** of his Aprilia and crashed in turn ten. Lewis, again staying out of trouble, cruised to his second victory of the day. Moving up in the order was Gerloff, Gish, and Mesa.

In 250GP qualifying, reigning 250GP National Champion, Adam Roberts, missed the session due to repairs still being made from a crash earlier in the day. West coast star, Vince Roller, easily took pole with Miles Thornton, Mike Aboyoun, Sean Jordan and Kory Gill

rounding out the top five.

For the Moto Liberty/RS-Taichi 250GP race, Roberts had made his repairs and was ready to go despite having to start on the back row of the grid. He had an amazing start, and was up into second place by the end of lap 1. But Roller set the pace early and kept a two-second gap over Roberts. Aboyoun, Seann Jordan and Angus Borland had a close race for third. With three laps to go, Roberts charged and caught Roller and was now looking to get by for the win. Roller left an opening for Roberts in turn 8. But **Roberts had seen all of the earlier crashes in that turn,** and could not capitalize on the opportunity. Roller seemed to have the advantage on the first half of the circuit, but Roberts dominated the later half and consistently closed the gap to mere inches at the finish line. Both riders set their fastest laps on the last lap with Roberts turning the fastest lap of the race. Ultimately, Roller held on to win by .080 seconds.

NEWS:

GP Tech has joined Pilot as a sponsor for the exciting new F450 class. The sponsorship program that has been established with GP Tech means that there will be \$30,000 of purse available to competitors in this class. The program encompasses the remainder of the 2009 season, and the entire 2010 race season. GP Tech's website (www.gptechllc.com) has full details on how to build one of these race bikes using many parts that are proudly produced in the USA at the GP Tech facility. Many of these bikes can be built affordably by the average racer for under \$8k, and that includes the donor bike. Or, if you don't have time to build one yourself, and just want to buy a turn-key bike, that can also be provided by GP Tech.

In addition to the new sponsor, the **rules for the class have been tweaked to allow more bikes** to be eligible for the class. The underlying rule will remain that the bikes must be powered by a single cylinder dirt-bike motor that is not larger than 450cc 4-stroke. **Racers may now use GP chassis or custom frames (Spondon, etc) to house their thumper powerplants.** The bikes must all be fully faired roadrace machines and must conform to all of the technical specifications as outlined in the USGPRU rulebook. For full details, visit the USGPRU website. (www.usgpru.net)

2009 Sponsors

RoadracingWorld.com
Rising Sun Cycles
Motion Pro Tools
Moto Liberty
RS-Taichi
Pilot Leathers
Hjelm Motorsports
ChickenHawk Racing
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GP Tech
Yoyodyne
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2009 Schedule

Eastern Region:

Apr 4-5 Jennings GP
May 2-3 Road America
July 11-12 Heartland Park
July 25-26 NJ Motorsports Park
Sept 12-13 Mid-Ohio

Western Region:

Mar 21-22 Buttonwillow
Apr 18-19 Firebird East
Jun 6-7 High Plains Raceway
July 11-12 Thunderhill
Aug 8-9 Miller

National Final:

Oct 3-4 Barber Motorsports

Visit
www.USGPRU.net
for more information