

## IMAGOLIVE

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 Oggetto: CAIROLI RULES IN HOME GRAND PRIX



### CAIROLI RULES IN HOME GRAND PRIX

MANTOVA, 6 May 2007- It was a really **hot day** for the enormous Italian crowd at **Circ Internazionale Città di Mantova**, playing host to a breathtaking Motocross Grand Prix.

The **51<sup>st</sup> edition of the FIM Motocross Grand Prix of Italy** was won by New Zealander Jo Coppins in the MX1 class, as Italian Motocross idol Antonio Cairoli made the home fans crazy dominating both MX2 heats.



This is what the Italian fans were looking for: Antonio Cairoli winning the Grand Prix of Italy

#### MX1

**Joshua Coppins** won the Grand Prix thanks to two wise heats, that he both won by pacing him and staying out of early fights. Kawasaki Racing Europe's **Tanel Leok** was back to the po

after his last top three finish at Ernée 2006, and earned a well deserved second place ahead of Kawasaki fellow rider **Sebastien Pourcel**, of the GPKR team. Suzuki factory team mates Kevin Strijbos and Steve Ramon completed the top five overall.

#### MX1 GRAND PRIX RACE 1

**Mike Brown** grabbed the holeshot, as Jonathan Barragan crashed, but a gutsy **David Philippaerts** felt a friendly home crowd, and worked his way up the lead before the end of lap one. Kevin Strijbos followed the Italian for a couple of laps, then **Marc De Reuver** passed him and gave the lead to Philippaerts. With De Reuver tangling up with Philippaerts, the leading duo crashed, and **Ken De Dycker** grabbed the lead. **Joshua Coppins** began to make up ground from half race distance and successfully passed De Dycker for the lead. With Ken stopped by a technical problem, **Tanel Leok** worked his way up to second and left Kevin Strijbos behind in third. **Sebastien Pourcel** pushed himself to finish fourth after a good start, and James Noble completed the top five. Early lap leader Philippaerts entered the top ten in ninth.

#### MX1 GRAND PRIX RACE 2

**Mike Brown** lead the pack into turn one, and also lead the first three laps under massive pressure from **Joshua Coppins**. The Kiwi passed at lap four, but he had to face **Ken De Dycker** for the win. Ken and Josh passed each other several times during a breathtaking duel, before De Dycker tried to pull away with the lead. Coppins let the rival go for four laps, then moved back to first and won the heat in front of De Dycker. **Marc De Reuver** made up for moto one with a solid final lap to finish third after moving past Mike Brown, who ended ninth, because of a crash. **Sebastien Pourcel** was once again consistent, and finished fourth ahead of experienced **Steve Ramon**. Tanel Leok made some mistakes at the start, and hit neutral twice, but worked his way up to sixth. David Philippaerts crashed once again, as **Kevin Strijbos** tangled up with him at lap three.



This was Joshua Coppins' best victory, as he always had a hard time on the Italian circuit

#### MX2

Yamaha De Carli's **Antonio Cairoli** had no rivals on his home ground today. He raced and

both heats with an impressive pace, as **Tyla Rattray** of KTM Red Bull Racing was consistent enough to comeback to the podium with second place. Team mate **Tommy Searle** completed top three, ahead of Gareth Swanepoel and defending Champion Christophe Pourcel.

#### MX2 GRAND PRIX RACE 1

**Erik Eggens** had a storming start, but “**Tony**” **Cairoli** flew up to the lead before the end of first lap. The Italian was a freight train, and pulled away with the lead to win the first heat. **Rattray** conquered a well deserved second place, after he made to pass tough rivals such as Eggens –who crashed and dnf’d- **Kenneth Gundersen** and **Tommy Searle**. The latter had to defend third place from a very fast **Christophe Pourcel**, who had a bad start, but put pressure on Searle for the last three laps. With the Frenchman ending fourth, Kenneth Gundersen dropped down to fifth, ahead of Gareth Swanepoel.

#### MX2 GRAND PRIX RACE 2

**Antonio Cairoli** finally made a great start, and was his incredibly fast self for the rest of the race to win with a 16 second gap over runner up **Tyla Rattray**. Also **Christophe Pourcel** put in a strong start, and put pressure on Cairoli for the first couple of laps; then the Frenchman was passed by Rattray, and crashed. On the other hand Rattray rode to a safe second place, and **Gareth Swanepoel** received third place from Pourcel, to keep it until the chequered flag. **Tommy Searle** was fourth at the end of the moto, but had to work hard to keep **Nicolas Aubin** behind. Aubin tried to pass but crashed, and Pourcel was coming closer to Searle, but finished fifth.



Antonio Cairoli was the only rider facing this turn with a jump

#### IN THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS STANDINGS

Kiwi **Josh Coppins** increases his leadership to a 36 point advantage over MX1 runner up **Kees van der Wal**. **Steve Ramon** passed Jonathan Barragan for third, as the Spaniard dropped down to sixth. Ken De Dycker is now fourth, ahead of MX1 debutant Sebastien Pourcel. Estonian Tanel Ikonen improved his Championship standings, and is now seventh.

In the MX2 class, **Antonio Cairoli** is opening up a significant gap over current runner up **Rattray**, who moved past **Christophe Pourcel**, third at the moment. Tommy Searle moved forward into the top five and is now fourth, ahead of Pascal Leuret.

#### WHAT'S NEXT

No more pauses for the FIM Motocross World Championship, that will continue **next week** in Germany, Teutschenthal. The **FIM Motocross Grand Prix of Germany** will also host the opening round of the **FIM Women's Motocross World Cup**.

The Grand Prix will be **broadcast delayed** on:

- **SPORT ITALIA:** Sunday May 6, MX1 Race2 20:30 – Monday May 7, MX2 Race1 16:30, MX2 Race2 16:30-17:30 CET
- **VRT:** Sunday May 6, MX1 Race1 N/A (check <http://www.vrt.be>)
- **EUROSPORT WORLD:** Sunday May 6, MX1 Race1 20:15, MX1 Race2 21:00 – Monday May 7, MX1 Race2 9:30, MX2 class 17:30, MX2 class 22:00 – Tuesday May 8, MX1 Race1 5:00, MX2 class 6:00, MX2 class 23:45 GMT
- **AMERICA ONE:** second Tuesday after the GP MX2 Race2 and MX1 Race2, N/A (check <http://www.americaone.com>)
- **GAORA:** MX2 Race1 and Race2, MX1 Race1 and Race2, N/A (check <http://www.gaora.co.jp>)

Information and results on <http://www.motocrossMX1.com>, the official website of the FIM Motocross World Championships.

Fans worldwide can watch this and every race of the 2007 FIM Motocross & Supermoto World Championships live and on-demand exclusively on The Moto Channel on MediaZone ([moto.MediaZone.com](http://moto.MediaZone.com)). MediaZone is a leading global online broadcaster specialized in sports, entertainment and international programming.

#### LINKS

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