

LaRocco Riding Into Retirement

Veteran rider announces decision at home track

For the past 28 years, Mike LaRocco has been spending his time on the backs of dirt bikes at race tracks across the world. He was seven in 1978 when he first competed in a sanctioned race. Since then, the Rock has grown into an icon in the sports of supercross and motocross, etching his name among the discipline's greats. But a practice lap in Indianapolis in early March has put an end to an otherwise great career.

LaRocco was working on a technical series of jumps during a practice session at the RCA Dome in his hometown of Indianapolis, when he mishandled one of the landings, sending the 35-year-old rider over the handlebars. After a visit to the x-ray machine, he was diagnosed with a dislocated wrist, ending his weekend and most likely bringing an early end to his stellar career.

The injury sped up the on-going rumblings that LaRocco would retire at the conclusion of the AMA Supercross Series in May of this year. The Rock made his retirement from professional racing official before the start of the race in Indianapolis. He was recognized before the event during a short ceremony honoring his contributions to racing.

"I've had a long, great career in motocross and supercross, but it's time to call it quits," said LaRocco during his press conference. "Unless you are winning, it's hard to keep racing."

Winning was a big part of LaRocco's career. The South Bend, Ind. native turned pro in 1988 and ran the AMA 125cc Eastern Region Supercross Series, finishing third overall. He would run near the top for the next few years before he landed his first pro championship in 1993, winning the AMA 500cc National Motocross Series. He backed up his championship in 1994 by winning the AMA 250cc National Motocross Series. To dispel the theory that a rider can't succeed late in his



LaRocco was honored in front of 40,000+ fans after his retirement announcement.



The Rock will spend more time behind the scenes for the Factory Connection team, helping the young riders find better lines.

career, LaRocco became the only athlete ever to win an AMA Supercross race in three different decades in the 125 and 250 classes. In 2004, he served notice that he was actually getting better with age, posting a supercross win and a remarkable 10 podium appearances to finish third overall in the Series.

LaRocco is one of the most feared riders in the field, even at the age of 35. Always the hunter, he has a reputation for charging when other riders can barely hang on. His legendary stature in the paddock has earned him another reputation as well, that of mentor.

"I can watch a lot of guys and look at their philosophy and know if I can help them or not," said LaRocco. "Some guys have it together and some guys don't. The bottom line is, when you're 18 you think you know everything and you realize 20 years later that you didn't. Those are the kind of things I like to pass down."

LaRocco, who signed with the AMSOIL/Factory Connection team with its inception in 1999, will spend more time helping out the young riders. He also is considering taking a larger role with the Factory Connection team and working in the industry. He may not have obtained all of his goals during his 28 years in racing, but he did prove he was one of the best, year-in and year-out. Not seeing the number five bike lined up on Saturday nights will be missed by fans of multiple generations.

World Champ Gets Season Title

Wanderscheid Wins WPSA Points Races

PJ Wanderscheid wrapped up his second straight championship season in early March. Throughout his career, the 22-year-old Sauk Centre, Minn. native hasn't normally run well in Beausejour, Manitoba, but he didn't need to do any better than his three top 10 finishes to wrap up his first titles in the World PowerSports Association's Oval Ice Series.

With a fifth and two sixth place finishes, the Team AMSOIL rider was able to capture the season points championships in both the Pro Formula and Pro Champ classes in the WPSA.

"It was great to finish first in points in the top two categories in WPSA this year," said Wanderscheid. "The AMSOIL/Wanderscheid team was able to have another great year because of the crew's dedication, our sponsors' great support and the fans that come out and support us every week. Thank you everyone."

After a come-from-behind win at the Eagle River Snowmobile Derby in

January, Wanderscheid became just the third person to win the Eagle River World Championships three times.



A spectacular season for Wanderscheid, including his third Eagle River World Championship, was capped off with two WPSA titles.

New AMSOIL "Super Team" Sees Lambeau CORR Drivers unveiled at historic field

Team AMSOIL was on major display inside Lambeau Field, home of the Green Bay Packers, the first weekend in March as the WPSA hosted its eighth round of snocross racing at the historic venue. Along with being the Official Oil of the series, AMSOIL also sponsors the Scheuring Speed Sports duo of pro riders DJ Eckstrom and Carl Schubitzke. AMSOIL decided it was as good a place as any to unveil the newest member of the AMSOIL/Kumho Tires Super Team, Scott Douglas.



The Super Team (L. to R. - Scott Douglas, Dan Vanden Heuvel and Mike Oberg) hopes to bring home a lot of Team AMSOIL podium sweeps during the 2006 CORR Season.

Douglas joined Dan Vanden Heuvel and Mike Oberg at the field. All three men signed autographs, had photos taken, handed out awards to some of the winners and did interviews to explain the CORR series and its fast-paced action to fans. They also took part in a celebrity race, featuring the mayor of Green Bay and local television personalities. The CORR drivers set the tone for their upcoming race season early with Oberg winning the race, followed by Vanden Heuvel and Douglas. The Super Team will be in action at the first CORR race, which kicks off in Chula Vista, Calif. on May 20.



Mike Oberg grabbed early bragging rights with his win in the Celebrity Race.