

Hissing Continues between AMA Pro Racing, CCE

Hudgens: Lawsuit dismissed with prejudice

Despite a recent reconciliation between the two Supercross entities, it appears that there is still some bad blood and hard feelings when it comes to matters of AMA Pro Racing and Clear Channel Entertainment-Motor Sports (CCE).

Things first came to a head when AMA Pro Racing filed a lawsuit in late November 2002 claiming that it had never agreed that the U.S. Supercross events produced by CCE would be part of an FIM World Championship Series. CCE responded in December by filing an evidentiary submission that included an April 12, 2002 joint press release by AMA Pro Racing and CCE. The release was reprinted in the June edition of the *American Motorcyclist Magazine* (the official publication of the AMA), that confirmed that the CCE events would be rounds in both the AMA Supercross Series and the FIM World Supercross Series. The submission also included an agreement signed by AMA Pro Chairman P.J. Har-

vey on April 6, 2002 that stated that the events would be run as part of the world championship.


"AMA Pro had tried to avoid the clear language of its agreements with Clear Channel concerning the fact that the U.S. events produced by Clear Channel constitute rounds within the THQ World Supercross GP international supercross series," said CCE Vice President of Marketing Ken Hudgens. "In fact, AMA Pro also alleged that the agreement signed by its Chairman of the Board of Directors in April of this year was 'without authority.' However, it soon became obvious that AMA Pro's attempt to retract its agreement on this issue lacked credibility."

In addition, CCE Motor Sports Division President Charlie Mancuso commented on a press release that AMA Pro Racing issued on Dec. 17, 2002, in which the organization said a settlement had been reached in the case and that CCE had acknowledged that AMA Pro Racing would continue to exclusively officiate the races in



the AMA Supercross Series under the authority of the AMA Pro Racing Rule Book.

"Since the AMA Supercross Series events produced by Clear Channel are part of the THQ World Supercross championships series, the FIM is required to certify the events for that purpose," said Mancuso. "The FIM race director will be present at the U.S. events for the purpose of deciding whether such events will count toward the FIM Supercross World Championship. There was no dispute between AMA Pro and Clear

Channel over which entity would provide the officials for the events, or the rules that would apply. The U.S. races will be officiated by AMA Pro and run under the AMA Pro rules that had already been adopted by the FIM with limited exceptions for fuel, all of which is consistent with the existing agreements between Clear Channel and AMA Pro. We would never have agreed to increase the AMA Pro fees by four times and not expect them to perform the very sanctioning services for which we are paying." 

XTV Ecstasy

Single dollar makes dream come true

Talk about your sale prices. When John Mryczko went to pick up his new XTV off-road unit from Carter Brothers last November, he fully expected that he'd be required to come up with the special manufacturer's cost price that he had been quoted. You can imagine his surprise when the Brundidge, Ala., company knocked a few zeroes off.

Showing support for his efforts, Carter Brothers wound up presenting Mryczko with a new XTV unit for just one single dollar. But before you start inundating the company with calls and requests for special prices of your own, understand the special situations that went into this single-digit deal.

In many ways Mryczko is just your typical powersports enthusiast—at least he was until his life changed in June of 1999 when a motorcycle accident damaged his



spinal cord, placing him in a wheelchair. For his part, Mryczko has stretched his electric wheelchair to its limits. It didn't have the speed he craved, so he approached Carter Brothers last spring looking to buy an XTV.

Unfortunately, Mryczko didn't have the money for the XTV, so he embarked on an 80-mile "Rollathon" from Morton Grove, Ill., to

Lake Geneva, Wis. In the end he collected \$1,500 in donations for his 17-hour journey, which stretched out over three days.

Impressed with Mryczko's efforts, officials at Carter Brothers okayed his special purchase price.

"We were originally going to sell him the unit at out manufacturing cost," said Ryan Daugherty, vice president of sales at

Carter Brothers. However, by the time Daugherty met up with Mryczko at Carol Stream Power in Carol Stream, Ill., to deliver the unit, things had changed slightly.

"I said, 'Well John, now it's time to pay up,'" said Daugherty. "And he said, 'I've got \$1,500.' I just said, 'How about a dollar ... have you got a dollar?'" says Daugherty.

"I looked back at him in disbelief," said Mryczko. "My eyes opened wide and my opened jaw turned into a smile from ear to ear. From there we spent a little time talking. After that I left, never losing my smile. What Carter did for me, I thought only happens on TV. Their company made my dream come true."

As far as the \$1,500 that Mryczko raised to initially buy the unit, there are already plans to use that to make it handicapped accessible. 