

## 2016 MotoAmerica Superbike Championship

Story & photos by Brad Chase

Cameron Beaubier overcame a rare mechanical failure during the final round of the 2016 MotoAmerica Superbike Championship at New Jersey Motorsports Park to claim his second straight title. Going into the last two rounds at NJMP, Beaubier had a 29 point lead over Monster Energy/Graves Yamaha teammate Josh Hayes.

Race 1 started with Superpole winner Josh Hayes taking the early lead with Roger Hayden close behind. After swapping the lead back and forth, Hayden eventually pulled away for the win followed by Hayes with Tony Elias taking the final podium spot.

Beaubier finished a steady and smart fourth. Race 2 saw Hayes and Elias take turns leading with Elias just barely taking the win over a hard charging Roger Hayden with Hayes rounding out the top three. Beaubier was running a consistent 6th place and looking to easily retain his title when mid-race his Yamaha expired leaving him a trackside spectator. However, when the points were added up, he had won the title by the narrowest of margins.

In Superstock 600 action, J D Beach came into the final 2 rounds trailing Garrett Gerloff by a mere 15 points. Beach was aware that he would have to put his best effort into the final races and hope that Gerloff was not on his game. In Saturdays race Beach led flag to flag accomplishing his goal of scoring max points, however Gerloff finished second with Valentin Debise in third so the point lead was 9 going into Sundays final round. Once again the start of the final Superstock 600 saw Beach with the holeshot followed closely by Gerloff and Debise. The top three remained the same to the finish with Gerloff earning a well deserved title by just 4 points.

The third division known as the KTM RC Cup Championship is comprised of young up and coming riders competing on identical KTM machines. All bikes being virtually equal, this class gives the riders an opportunity to really showcase their talents. Brandon Paasch and Anthony Mazziotto came into NJMP first and second respectively with Paasch in the drivers seat.

In one of the most contested races of the weekend, which featured lead changes on almost every lap, Paasch nipped Jody Barry by .036 of a second with a last lap charge out of the final turn. With his win, coupled with a 7th place finish by Mazziotto, Paasch clinched the title. Benjamin Smith finished third for his first career podium.

In race 2 it was a three way battle for the lead with Paasch, Ashton Yates and Jackson Blackmon. As the laps were winding down, Jody Barry made a charge for the front to contest the lead and passed Paasch on the final lap for the win with Yates third.



START OF FINAL 2016 SEASON (MOTOAMERICA PHOTO)



JOSH HAYES-LOST CHAMPIONSHIP BY 4 POINTS



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