

Husqvarna brings strong international team to X Games 18

It's time again for Summer X Games and the world's best off-road motorcycle racers are ramping up for the Moto X Enduro X event. The action heats up Sunday, 1 July, when Husqvarna Motorcycles enters the STAPLES Center in downtown Los Angeles with a factory-backed team featuring four top world-class extreme racers from four different countries, each hopeful of returning home with an X Games medal.



Husqvarna Motorcycles North America's (HMNA) Cory Graffunder and Kyle Redmond will be joined by CH Racing's Alex Salvini and extreme enduro ace Andreas 'Letti' Lettenbichler for the race. Southern California native Redmond represents the American contingent alongside Graffunder of Canada. Both are AMA EnduroCross series regulars and 2012 marks the second year that the thrilling national series has included X Games on its calendar. Husqvarna European-based factory riders Salvini and Lettenbichler have made the journey from Italy and Germany, respectively, making for quite a diverse international factory tour de force.

The four Husqvarna riders came together in Southern California to train and prepare for the big event on Sunday, July 1 in downtown Los Angeles. They will compete aboard TXC310 motorcycles, but Salvini has the distinct privilege of riding Husqvarna's newest racer, the 2013 TXC310R. The re-vamped model, which was only revealed to the public last week in Italy, boasts the powerful new red head motor, and Salvini's No. 9 machine is the first to appear on U.S. soil.

HMNA factory EnduroCross racer Kyle Redmond is the only returning rider to the X Games, as Salvini, Lettenbichler and Graffunder roll onto the STAPLES Center track for the first time. Canadian Cory Graffunder was in attendance at last year's X Games, but was forced to watch from the stands after breaking his wrist in a practice crash only days before the race.

“It was probably the biggest disappointment of my life, getting injured right before X Games,” Graffunder said. “This year I can’t explain how excited I am. I can’t wait. I’ve watched X Games since I was a little kid. Some of my friends have competed in it and I’ve always wanted to be a part of it. EnduroCross is a big deal – the races are great – but X Games Enduro X is just that much bigger.”



CH Racing Husqvarna’s Alex Salvini is a fresh face in EnduroCross – and in the United States for that matter. But the Italian motocrosser-turned-off-road-racer has experience in racing SuperEnduro (the European equivalent of EnduroCross) as well as the World Enduro Championship. The 26-year-old even spends time in the off-season free-riding with his good friend and X Games gold medallist Taddy Blazusiak.

“It’s hard to know what will happen because EnduroCross is so crazy,” said Alex. “Thirty of the best riders in the world are trying to make the main, but only 10 riders will make it. I will be happy if I am one of them!”

Like Salvini, Andreas Lettenbichler is an X Games Enduro X rookie, but he is no stranger to extreme enduros. ‘Letti’ is one of the strongest off-road riders in the world, having reached the podium in extreme events like the Erzberg Rodeo, The Tough One and the Roof of Africa. Though not an EnduroCross series regular, the German’s world-renowned talent and tenacity earned him an invite to X Games 18.

So far in 2012, the factory Husqvarna rider has competed in Hell’s Gate where he finished fifth, the Red Bull City Scramble in New Zealand where he finished fourth, and the recent Red Bull Romaniacs, where he got on the podium with a second-place finish. “It’s an honour to be coming to X Games,” Letti said. “This year has been going well for me so far, and I hope to keep the consistency going at the Enduro X race.”

AMA EnduroCross first became a part of Summer X Games in 2011, and is going into its second year as part of the world's largest extreme sports competition. Last year over one million U.S. viewers tuned in to the ESPN telecast of the inaugural race and over 100 million viewers tuned in worldwide!

X Games 18 kicks off on 28 June, and Moto X events will be taking place on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday. On Saturday night, however, the dirt will undergo a major transformation as the most extreme elements of off-road terrain make their way indoors for a rare urban appearance. Boulders, logs, river rocks, earthmover tyres and even a cement pond all blend together to form the Enduro X course literally overnight.

"It's a race just to build the track," EnduroCross inventor/producer Eric Perronard commented. "But we're thrilled to be coming back to Los Angeles and X Games 18, and so excited to have such a strong list of pre-qualified riders from around the world racing with us. Bringing together the best competitors in the world is what X Games is all about; for sure we're going to have another amazing show on Sunday night."

For more information, visit www.husqvarna-motorcycles.com



Suggested text for Facebook:

Husqvarna brings strong international team to X Games 18

It's time again for Summer X Games in Los Angeles and the world's best off-road motorcycle racers are ramping up for the Moto X Enduro X event. Husqvarna Motorcycles is entering a factory-backed team featuring four top world-class extreme racers from four different countries, each hopeful of returning home with an X Games medal.

Links:

Click [here](#) to download the original word file for editing.

Click on the thumbnails below to download images.

