

2014 Team USA Speedway World Cup



2014 Season Update #1

Team USA launches 2014 World Cup Training Camp

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Photography By: Michael Kingston Phipps - MSD Photography

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The USA Speedway World Cup squad launched its 2014 preparations this week with seven prospective squad members and Team Manager Billy Hamill putting in practice laps at the first of a series of private team training days held at Perris Raceway last weekend.

USA finished an astonishing 5th place in last year's Speedway World Cup competition, which took them to Miskolc Hungary in May to qualify, followed by King's Lynn in England for the semi final and then Prague, Czech Republic for the final stages in July. The 5th place finish made worldwide Speedway headlines as the USA, with a very limited European based rider pool, finished higher than the much fancied countries of Great Britain, Sweden and Russia.

Leading the way on track at Perris were two time World Champion and sole US Grand Prix Series rider Greg Hancock, and fellow 2014 World Cup team members Ricky Wells and Gino Manzares. Also in attendance were 25 year old Aaron Fox, former Super Cross rider Tyson Burmeister, plus teenagers Rocco Scopellite and Broc Nicol, with Hamill himself putting in laps whilst also watching over the squad with team co-coordinator Steve Evans.

Manzares and Fox have both landed contracts to race in England for the 2014 season with the Ipswich Witches and Edinburgh Monarchs teams respectively in the British Premier League. Along with Hancock, Wells and the UK based Ryan Fisher, this gives the USA its largest rider pool in Europe for close to a decade, though it is still much less than most of its big rivals. In Speedway terms, the European team competitions are very much the major leagues.

Regarding the 2014 World Cup, which takes place in July and August team manager Hamill said "We had eight riders here today and it was very promising for our first training session. We are perhaps the only country preparing like this so early and we

have big plans and aspirations. We are getting Gino and Aaron ready for their first seasons in Europe and this is a pretty exciting time for American Speedway."

Hancock, entering a groundbreaking 26th straight season in Europe commented, "Last year was much more successful than we anticipated, it shows we are a nation that can still be a world leader. When we put the stars and stripes on our chest it's everything – we are a proud country and we want to show people."



Greg Hancock spinning some laps at Perris Speedway

The 2014 Speedway World Cup takes place in England, Sweden and Poland between July 26th and August 2nd. The USA, for the first time since 2007 is seeded straight into the final stages, which consists of themselves and eight other nations. They have been drawn in the first semi final, returning to Kings Lynn, England where they astonishingly eliminated #4 ranked Sweden last year in an epic encounter. Their opponents this year will be Australia, Great Britain and the winner of a qualifying round 3 weeks earlier between Italy, Russia, Germany and Slovenia. The

USA will name its 9 rider roster for the competition in June 2014 with American riders based in the European leagues and those racing on the domestic USA scene desperate to get a spot on the roster.



Billy Hamill - Team Manager American SWC Team
World Champion 1996
World Team Champion 1998
AMA 2012 Sportsman of the Year
AMA U.S. National Champion 1999, 2001, 2002, 2007, 2012
U.S. National Champion 2002, 2007, 2012, 2013



Greg Hancock - Team Captain, USA SWC Team
World Champion 1997, 2011
World Pairs Champion 1992
World Team Champion 1992, 1993, 1998
AMA U.S National Champion: 1995 - 1998 - 2000 - 2003 - 2004 - 2005 - 2006
AMA Athlete of the Year 2009
Numerous GP Wins over career







Ryan Fisher - Coventry Bees / Peterboro Panthers



Ricky Wells - Wolverhampton Wolves / Workington Comets



Gino Manzares - Ipswich Witches



Aaron Fox - Edinburgh Monarchs



American Youth Hot Shots



Broc Nicol



Dillon Ruml



Kurtis Hamill



Rocco Scopellite





Joker

MACHINE



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