



Mark Barnett's season has apparently ended as of August 11, 1981. That's the day he broke his collarbone after getting out of shape off a jump while riding on his practice track. Barnett had already wrapped up the AMA 125cc National Championship title (for the second year in a row), the 1981 Supercross championship and won both motos of the 125 U. S. Grand Prix.

If Magic Mark had had a chance to ride the last two National motos of the year, he would have had a shot at setting an incredible record—victory in every moto of a National series.

Barnett won both motos in each of the first seven races of the year, and that was nevertheless an unprecedented 14-moto winning streak. For 1981, only Kent Howerton, Barnett's

Suzuki teammate, came close to that record, winning 13 of 16 motos in the 250 series.

Jeff Ward (Kawasaki) and Johnny O'Mara (Mugen Honda) had a fine race for second place going throughout the season. At the halfway point of the series Ward was leading—147 points to 138. After round seven at Washougal, Washington, the point spread was essentially as tight, Ward leading 249 to 237. The last race is the decider.

Barnett, with a perfect 350 points, secured the title in Washougal. As things turned out, the 20-year-old Barnett is lucky to have built such a dominating lead. His future, however, is bright and there are plenty of records waiting for the hottest rider of the year to set.