

## **METZELER WINS INAUGURAL X GAMES ENDUROCROSS**

### ***KTM Rider Taddy Blazusiak Takes Podium in Tough Night of Racing***

*August 3, 2011, Los Angeles (California)* – Metzeler Moto took top honors at the 2011 GEICO AMA EnduroCross series, presented by Lucas Oil at X Games 17 in Los Angeles this week. The inaugural X Games EnduroCross proved to be a nail-biter to the end as Taddy Blazusiak (KTM), the series' dominant rider squeaked in to the race thanks to a Last Chance Qualifier performance after failing to qualify the first time out. He then had to push his way past three very strong riders - Kevin Rookstool, Geoff Aaron and Mike Brown – who all valiantly fought to keep their leads in the main event. Blazusiak went from third to first in one section as Aaron went over his bars during his challenge for Brown's second-place spot. Brown also moved past Aaron take over second and held it to the finish.

The battle for the final podium spot ultimately went to Monster Kawasaki's Justin Soule, who had to fight off repeated challenges from Joakim Ljunggren from Sweden. Geoff Aaron recovered for fifth position. Destry Abbott, Kurt Caselli, Cody Webb, Taylor Robert and Kevin Rookstool rounded out the top ten.

"Winning is exactly the result I wanted but it was a seriously tough night," said race-winner Blazusiak. "The main event went really well, and the night started well, but my qualifying race was a disaster and having to ride the LCQ wasn't something I was planning on doing either. I got the second fastest time during the hot laps session, which I was happy with. I made a few mistakes but it went well. I got a great start in my qualifying session then got hit from behind on the first log section, which put me right at the back of the pack. I had a wild couple of laps after that but then got things together and started to put some good lap times together. But I got third and had to go to the LCQ because the qualifying procedure was a little different to normal. That race went well but I got a really bad pick of the gate in the main event. I saw a gap in the first turn of the main and went for it off the start, which moved me up to about fourth or fifth. At the end of the first lap I was third. I felt like I was riding well then and pushed hard. I worked my way into the lead and really enjoyed the second half of the race. The event was awesome, but hard work. Riding the 350cc four-stroke worked out great, I loved it. I have to head back to Poland now, just for a few days, but will soon be back in the States for the second round of EnduroCross."

Blazusiak's KTM was fitted with the Metzeler 6 Days Extreme World Champion Enduro F.I.M. tire which features a new high resistance polyester carcass material and x-ply construction for superior structural characteristics and excellent puncture resistance. The 6 Day Extreme's new 90/90-21 "Hard" front is designed for use in mid-hard to hard-rocky terrain conditions. Its V-shaped tread pattern improves braking performance and stability while its knob distribution and geometry are designed to offer outstanding grip and traction with high resistance both in dry and wet conditions, in soft, loose or hard terrain. New compounds feature special carbon black and polymers to reinforce the knobs and offer improved tear resistance.

"This was a big win for Metzeler," said Chris Wall, Metzeler Moto North America's Director of Marketing. "The X Games EnduroCross is about as extreme an environment as you can get, and our 6 Days Extreme tire has been proven once again to be the right choice for EnduroCross racing."

In the first ever Women's EnduroCross event, KTM backed Maria Forsberg dominated the event and lapped the entire field. Tara Geiger rode her Lucas Oil backed Honda to second place and Kacy Martinez led the early laps and looked comfortable until a crash took her out of the lead.

The EnduroCross series will now head north to Everett, Washington in less than two weeks for its second visit to the region. Last year proved an amazing event at the sold-out Comcast Arena.

### **About Metzeler Motorcycle Tire**

On the road since 1892, Metzeler has over 100 years of experience meeting motorcyclists' toughest tire demands with unflagging innovation and setting trends others must follow. Whether one is drawn to the longevity of its classic design or uncompromising performances, Metzeler is an iconic brand to motorcycling worldwide. Established in Munich, Germany, offices are spread throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia and Oceania, while production occurs in Germany and South America. All this makes Metzeler the "Two Wheels Specialist", appreciated by motorcyclists for its quality and technology. Metzeler's continued commitment to road safety is consistent with the European Road Safety Charter and its primary objective of saving 25,000 lives through the improvement of motorcyclists' safety knowledge as well as their active riding skills. For more information on Metzeler and its line of motorcycle tires, please visit: [www.metzelermoto.com](http://www.metzelermoto.com)