



Press Release

European Freestyle in Mannheim (Germany)



From the left, Remi Bizouard, Maikel Melero and Luc Ackermann

It was a sensational end to the FIM European FMX Championship Saturday night in Mannheim. 11 Freestyle Motocross athletes from seven nations came together for battle at the Night of the Jumps in the SAP Arena. The 7,000 spectators that filled the SAP Arena were treated to one of the finest freestyle mx competitions to determine the fourth and final European Championship round of 2016.

The evening had two major duels to focus on. The most important was the battle for the Gold medal and European Champion crown between Remi Bizouard (FRA) and Maikel Melero (ESP). The second duel was between Luc Ackermann (GER) and Petr Pilat (CZE) to battle for the Bronze medal. First of all it would be the qualification round to determine ranking for the final and it was the 18 year old local hero, Luc Ackermann who took the competition by the horns and made his way to second place. With tricks like the Egg Roll and Surfer Take off to Tsunami Flip, it was enough to push Remi Bizouard into 3rd place without his Volt body varial.

Maikel Melero put together a solid preliminary round with a flair and California Roll and sat at the top of the ladder. Petr Pilat didn't bring his new 540 Flair on the Quarter Pipe and finished in fourth position.

Of the three riders bringing the California Roll in qualifying, it didn't go so well for the Spanish rider Marc Pinyol who put together a solid run of Surfer to Tsunami Flip, Cliffhanger Flip and the Egg Roll. But the Cali Roll brought him down with a heavy crash and put him out of contention. For Leonardo Fini on the other hand, he stuck a solid run and landed his Cali Roll to secure a finals berth in front of the veteran Brice Izzo (FRA).



The LifeProof Best Whip competition gave viewers no chance to leave early. It was battle of turn down whips between Bizouard and Davide Rossi (ITA), however it would be the Frenchman who went well past 90 degrees to seal the victory. Also it was in Maxxis Highest Air where another Italian would lose out. Bianconcini had to admit defeat to his permanent rival Jose Miralles from Spain.

The Italians had something to cheer about in the Final however, with Leonardo Fini bringing one of his best performances of the season. It could have been one of his best runs except for the Double Up when he looped out the California Roll and ended up just saving a crash on the landing to only hit the wall hard without bringing the bike to a stop after the jump. With this, unfortunately he fell to sixth place.

Brice Izzo showed a solid run to make it to fifth position but was unable to get a higher position at Mannheim.

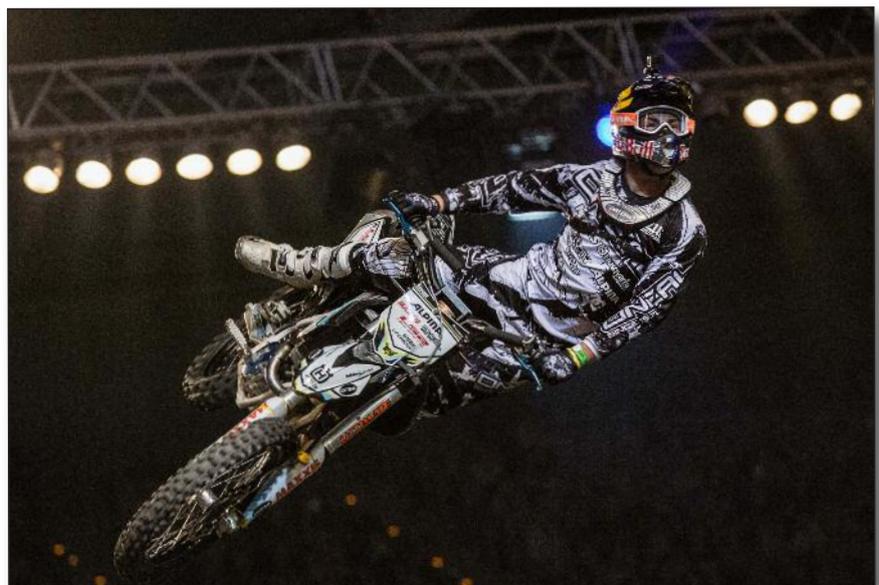
It then came to the showdown between Petr Pilat and Luc Ackermann for the Bronze medal. With



Maikel Melero



Remi Bizouard



Luc Ackermann



the collective will of the local German crowd, Luc put together a solid run with his Egg Roll, Surfer Tsunami Flip, Seat Grab Flip and California Roll in the Double Up. Petr Pilat decided against the 540 in the final run and meant he wasn't able to counter Luc's great run. Even Remi Bizouard couldn't catch the 18 year old German after he left out his Volt body varial and ended up placing 3rd for the night behind Luc by a mere one point.

The night rested solely on the shoulders of Maikel Melero who battled an illness and loss of energy to be crowned 3 times in the past 3 championships. With his victory at Night of the Jumps in Mannheim, the reigning World Champion also secured the European Championship on top of recently taking out the Spanish Cup. Remi Bizouard who has won both the World Championship and European Championship 3 times each, was happy with his silver medal. Luc Ackermann who secured 2nd place in Mannheim was able to claim the Bronze medal for the overall European Championship.

Results on FIM Europe website: <http://www.fim-europe.eu/events/201>



Jose Miralles

The actual issue of FIM Europe MAG is online and can be downloaded [here](#).

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About FIM Europe (www.fim-europe.com) - The FIM Europe (in the past UEM, Union Européenne de Motocyclisme) includes 47 National Federations (FMNs) and 6 Regional Motorcycling Associations and is a European organization acting within its attributions in all matters in relation with motorcycling activities and, as such, in domains ranging from sport, tourism, leisure, environment, mobility, road safety, legislative affairs, protection and defence of the rights and interests of motorcycle users. As far as motorcycle sport is concerned, the FIM Europe is the supreme and sole European authority empowered by the FIM to control European motorcycling sport activities organized under its jurisdiction throughout Europe. The aims of FIM Europe are to develop and promote all forms of motorcycling in Europe as well as the co-operation and friendship between its members, and notably: to examine all questions related to the development of motorcycling in Europe; to organize European Championships and to establish all competitions that appear beneficial subject to the prior approval of the FIM; to co-operate with the FIM in all matters relating to the organization of international events and motorcycling in general; to organize camps and seminars for riders, officials, coaches and administrators of various European FMNs; to support the creation and development of motorcycling activities in all European countries; to promote the co-operation among all European FMNs; to promote motorcycling among young people, both as sport and motorcycling in general; to encourage the use of motorcycles in European countries and to develop motorcycle tourism; to represent the interests of motorcyclists before European authorities; to promote in the media the sport of motorcycling and the use of motorcycles in all of Europe.

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