



UNTAMED

With the title, "Fastest Man on Earth," and a TV show to promote it, James Stewart must have the weight of world on his back when he rolls onto the track. Skeptics want proof, naysayers want failure, and everyone else just wants to see him do what he does best: ride the track unlike any other rider out there—triple when everyone doubles, quad when everyone triples, effortlessly bound over anything designed to hinder progress. More often than not, Stewart does just that, otherwise he wrecks. His season hasn't been easy, on or off the track, and it culminated in Atlanta. First, his team manager was nowhere to be found, and the rumors began flying like ducks spooked by a shotgun blast. Speculation and fragmented information eventually led to the story that Stewart had fired his team manager, Larry Brooks, due to both administrative and personality differences. Although it wasn't exactly common knowledge, it also wasn't a secret that Stewart had bought into the team, but most didn't realize how much he had bought in until he fired the "L" in L&M Racing.

The drama only escalated when Chad Reed cut across the bottom of a right-hand 180-degree turn and cleaned out Stewart with one lap to go in the main event. Stewart was leading the race, but the crash forced him out of podium contention. As the fastest man on earth, James Stewart seemingly needed only to live up to his title to win the championship, but the reality of racing and happenstance may forbid him from reclaiming a championship in 2011.

ABOVE: Defending Supercross Champion Ryan Dungey didn't look like himself at the first few rounds of his title defense, but things have begun to click for the Rockstar/Makita/Suzuki rider. A broken chain at the Anaheim II Supercross effectively ended Dungey's hopes of successfully defending his title, and from this point on the champ hopes to simply earn some wins. Thus far, second is the closest he's come.

RIGHT: As always, controversy has continued to surround San Manuel/Red Bull/Yamaha's James Stewart. From an on-track collision with the rear of Jason Thomas' bike at Houston to the much-talked-about run-in with an aggressive Chad Reed at Atlanta, all eyes are on the number-seven machine. Stewart is more often than not the fastest rider on the track, but the fastest man hasn't always won thus far in 2011.

