



*Hello!
I'm Roger De Coster*

Motocross is my way of life . . .

says four times world 500cc champion Roger De Coster

from Belgium. But motocross is not only a part of his life. Being a first class rider of the strongest caliber, Roger is also a part of motocross itself. What would the world championship be without such a strong personality?

Having won four world championship titles (1971, 72, 73, 75), Roger is the most successful rider of all times in the 500cc class. Roger has done more for motocross than most other riders combined. That's why the 31-year-old superstar is one of the most popular riders today. In fact, Roger is a true Mister Motocross.

When not racing Roger lives with his American wife Laurie in a big house on van Roostlaan in Tremelo near Brussels. "Sometimes I get very tired of racing around the world on two wheels. Just imagine how boring it can be to travel, stay in hotels, eat at restaurants, sign autographs, answering the same questions over and over again and finally race Sunday after Sunday all year around." "Then, it's nice to be able to relax with Laurie," says Roger, who is a gentle and somewhat quiet person, "I love to go out in the garden and feed our two deers. Laurie and I used to have three of them, but one was a bit mean so we had to get rid of it."

Roger and Laurie met at a U.S. motocross race and Laurie has been a real motocross fan ever since. She follows Roger to most of the races all over the world, especially when Roger

flies over to the States to compete. That gives them a chance to see Laurie's parents and visit with old friends. Still, they both like to spend as much time as possible and relax in front of the open fire in their living-room. But there is not much leisure time left for the Belgian wonderboy. Besides racing, Roger has a bike shop in Leuven where he is selling all kinds of bikes, accessories and riding equipment. Some of his staff are travelling to the races in Belgium with a mobile store selling leatherpants, gloves and other goodies. If Roger is one of the participants, he will spend some time as a salesman between the races. His competitors are also good customers!

Roger masters his 400cc Suzuki both on the track and, if necessary, also in the pits. At championship races he has factory mechanics who look after his bike, but during the off-season Roger looks after it himself. Roger has a complete workshop in his garage where he can fix most anything. Ready to go, he loads the bike in his U.S. van which takes care of the transportation problems.

"I brought the van back after the Trans-AM series. I like it very much but the engine is always very thirsty," says Roger. A key question is of course how many races Roger will do in a year. "Oh, about 40 or so. And I will continue as long as I'm competitive . . ."

For a moment the champion is quiet. Then he adds: "You see, motocross is really my way of life."