

# Ana, trailblazer in a male-dominated sport

## The Only Female Rider At BIC, Carrasco Is Lined Up On The Moto3 Class Grid

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**Greater Noida:** Suave and confident, Ana Carrasco is a pleasant person to talk to. Her answers reflect her fighting spirit. After all, Carrasco is into something that requires her to maintain that fight. Day in, day out.

The Spaniard is into a sport that's primarily male dominated. Exceptions like Maria Herrera - who now competes in MotoE class - are there, but they can easily be counted on fingers.

When Carrasco lined up on the Moto3 class grid - astride her KTM bike - at the Buddh International Circuit track, it must have been a surreal feeling for her. She was the only female rider, revving her bike, at the inaugural MotoGP Bharat.

"I want to be an inspiration for women riders," Carrasco said during an interaction here on Saturday. "Riding a bike is quite liberating. The more female riders take up the sport, the more it will grow," the 26-year-old added.

Over the years, Carrasco has established herself as one of the leading female riders in the sport. Carrasco is the first woman ever to win a World Championship in motorcycle road racing. She bagged the World Supersport 300 title in 2018, riding for ETG Racing.

"It was a big moment for me, and for female riders in the sport. Everybody knew that a girl had won the championship," she said. "It showed that

girls are not just there for cheerleading, they can race and win championships too."

Carrasco hails from Murcia in southern Spain. Her father was a mechanic for pro-



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fessional riders. She started riding motorcycles when she was just three, and made her debut in an international competition as a 16-year-old on the Moto3 circuit in 2013. Then she became the first woman to score points in a World Championship race since the legendary German rider Katja Poensgen (in 2001).

In 2017, Carrasco became the first woman to win an individual Worlds motorcycle race after a victory in Portugal in the World Supersport 300 championship.

Carrasco is a role model for many girls who want to go into racing. She also hopes more and more Indians take up the sport. "The authorities and federations have to support young girls... right from the start. Racing and competing is not short-term, it's a long-term project," she said.

Carrasco is in no mood to give up. "I want to keep fighting and competing against the best in the world," she said.