



**Speedway bikes on ice:** Studded tires, methyl alcohol and ice form a heady concoction for American and European gun slingers. Short, intense, smoke-filled races remind the fans and racers of the shootouts of the Wild West.

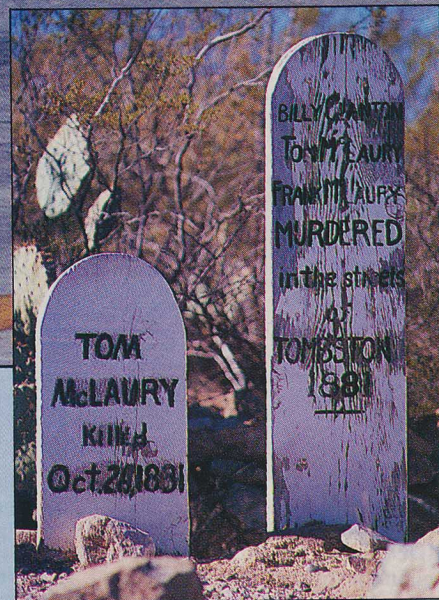
**T**he event: the World ICE Racing Finals. The place: no, it's not Oslo, Norway, nor is it Siberia, Alaska or even Saskatchewan, for that matter. How about Tucson, Arizona, the desert and cowboy capital of the world? That's right, folks, smack-dab in the part of the country where daytime temperatures can hit the 80s in January. What's the catch, you ask? It's simple—the track is laid out on an indoor ice hockey rink!

Yep, with the spectacular saguaro cactus plants as a backdrop, the best motorcycle speedway and quad indoor ice racers gathered in the Arizona sun to determine the world champ in this grueling form of motorsports. Sanctioned by International Championship Events (ICE), the 1990 World Finals took place after a busy season of tour-

ing North America and Canada. The three-day event brought Czechoslovakian speedway legend Jiri Stancl and Polish speedway hero Zenon Plech to America as "A" seeded riders. The 30-man entry list was indeed a worldwide roster; included were Dave Roberts from Wales, Rene Mortensen of Denmark, Jan Jensen and Gaetan Carigan of Canada and Kevin Hawkins of Great Britain.

#### WHITTLED DOWN

The event boiled down to a six-man, six-lap final race to determine the World Champion on Saturday night. With bare cement showing in turns three and four, Canadian Ice Speedway Champ Warren Diem nailed the holeshot and led Scott Ormiston, Charlie Venegas and Robert "Kid" Curry into the first turn. Passing was extremely difficult



**Tucson, Arizona,** once a haven for desperadoes and just 50 miles from the site of the shootout at the OK Corral, now hosts a modern version of gunplay. Top-gun speedway racers face each other in several shootouts in one night—and only one emerges unscathed as World Champion.

by this time and Venegas fell while taking a shot at Ormiston, while Curry had his hands full with Hawkins as they battled for third.



# SLIDEOUT AT THE OK CORRAL

*Studded speedway bikes battle in Tucson*

By the Staff of DIRT BIKE



**RESULTS: WORLD ICE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. Warren Diem . . . . . New York
2. Scott Ormiston . . . . . Colorado
3. Robert Curry . . . . . California
4. Kevin Hawkins . . . . Great Britain
5. Pat Litt . . . . . Colorado
6. Charlie Venegas . . . . California

**BOB HETRICK MEMORIAL**

1. Pat Litt . . . . . Colorado
2. John Lewis . . . . . New York
3. Ed Castro . . . . . California
4. John Grant . . . . . California
5. Charlie Venegas . . . . California
6. Scott Ormiston . . . . . Colorado

Up front, Ormiston tried to get underneath Diem on the last lap, but got in too hot and ran wide, almost losing his position to Curry. He pulled back down in time to salvage second, but Diem was out of reach.

After the race Diem was ecstatic and joyfully tossed his helmet to the crowd.

"Next to having a baby, this is the best thing that's ever happened to me," said the 28-year-old Diem. "It was a lot of work. I had to re-stud my tires after the qualifier because everybody thought my studs were illegal. After that, everything was going my way."

Ormiston was obviously happy with his runner-up position. "I was waiting for Warren to catch that concrete so when he didn't I dove inside, but got in too hot."

Curry was not as happy with his third place. "I couldn't hang on," he said. "I had to ride three races in a row and had no chance to rest. I had no concentration."

Pat "The Rat" Litt, definitely the crowd favorite on Friday night, won the Bob Hetrick Memorial race after cutting his arm in a preliminary race. New York's John Lewis and California's Ed Castro followed him across the line.

**LOTS TO SEE IN TUCSON**

Since all of the events were held at night, the riders and pit crews had a chance to enjoy many of the varied activities set in this beautiful desert town. For a lot of these contestants, their trip to Tucson turned out to be a vacation as well as a race. Some of the must-see attractions include the Pima Air

Museum, R.W. Webb Winery, Sabino Canyon, Degrazia Art and Cultural Foundation, Old Tucson and the Arizona-Sonora Living Desert Museum. For those interested in a real cowboy experience, the Tanque Verde Guest Ranch is one of the most popular "dude ranches" in the world and features full-on accommodations and activities. Finally, south of Tucson is the famous Old West town of Tombstone, which actually has many of the original buildings still intact, as well as Boot Hill cemetery and the site of the famous gunfight at the OK Corral. □