

FAST WOMEN – FISH, COX, EVANS

DIRT BIKE

FEBRUARY 1977

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**“I DON'T LIKE TO
COMPLAIN, BUT...”**

**GERRIT WOLSINK
SPEAKS OUT**

**FIRST LOOKS
'77 YZ125D
CAN-AM
175MX**

**NATIONAL
ENDURO,
TRIALS
WRAP-UPS**



DIRT BIKE

VOLUME SEVEN NUMBER TWO FEBRUARY 1977

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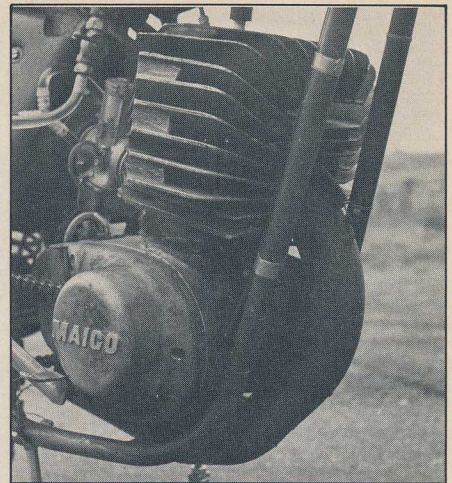
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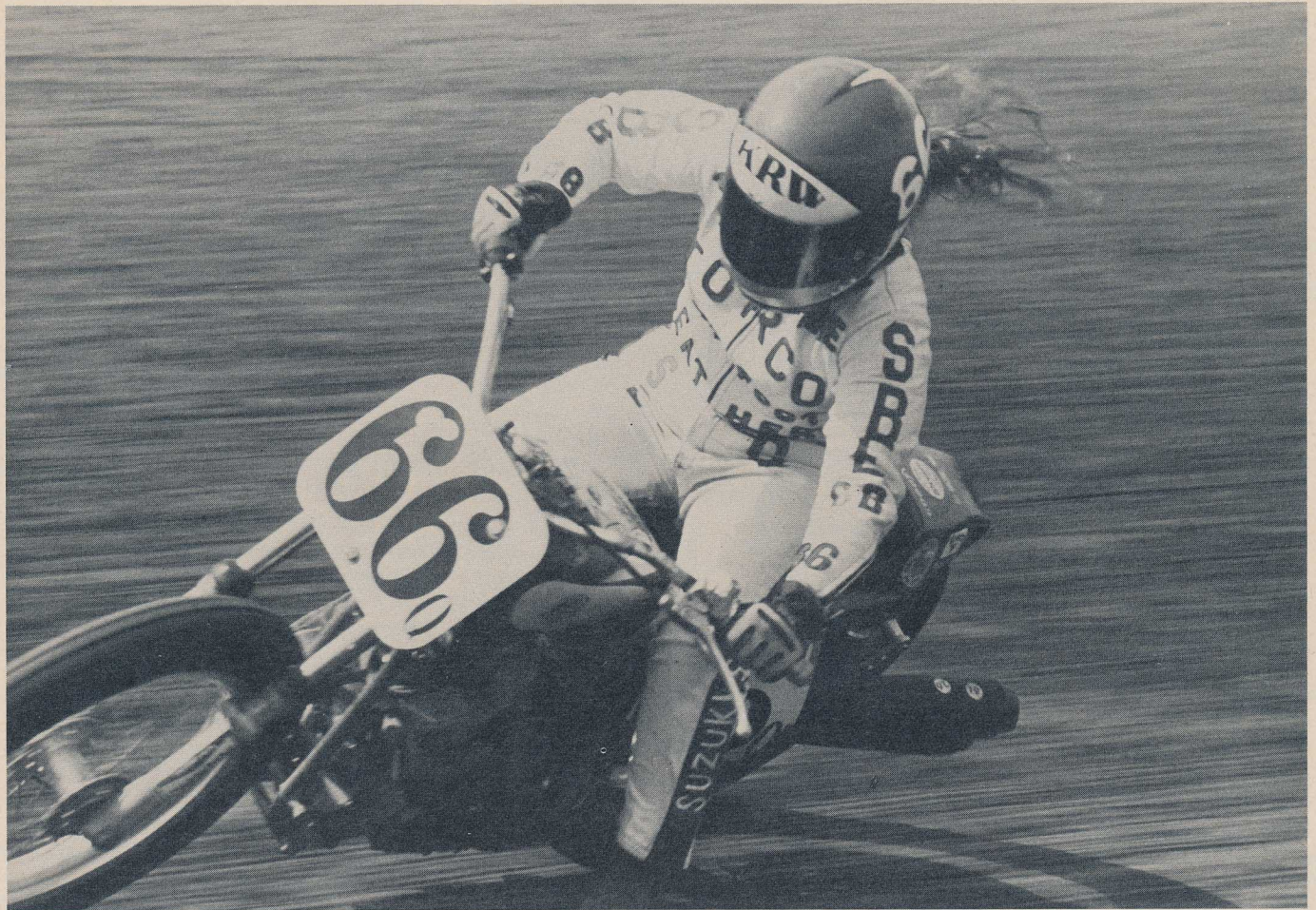


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ON THE COVER: Motocross's favorite dentist, Gerrit Wolsink, hams it up for the Weed camera.

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DIANE COX



DB talks to Princess Diane about High School, The San Jose Mile, Women's Motocross, and the future

by The Staff of DIRT BIKE

DB: OK, let's try a traditional opening: tell me how you got started with bikes?

DC: When I was ten I started riding a Honda 50. And I just putted around on it and rode on the dirt. And then I started racing the next year, after I got a 90.

DB: What kind of racing?

DC: Motocross.

DB: On what? On the Honda?

DC: Yeah, the Honda 90.

DB: Did any of your sisters race?

DC: No, they never did. I started motocross at 11. Further on in that year I did flattracking too.

DB: You liked flattracking the best at first. Why?

DC: I think the reason why is that I rode motocross in the wintertime. And it was always raining. But I liked it; it was muddy. I always rode in the mud; I never rode in the dry really. And I ended up . . . I kept doing better at one, and I got tired of the mud and cleaning up and washing the bike. And I think that probably had something to do with it. I did it for a long time. I went like twice every weekend and rode all the time.

DB: Even though it was a long time ago, how would you compare motocross to the Grand National Series?

DC: Well, I don't know . . .

DB: But is motocross an easier form of racing . . . or harder?

DC: Physically, it requires that you be in shape more than anything. I think you should be in the best shape you can be in for any riding, but as far as motocross goes, I think that going out and riding would be the best thing you could do. Get to know what your bike is and how to work it.

DB: When you started getting into flattrack, what bikes did you ride at first?

DC: I rode a Suzuki 90, no, it was a 100.

DB: Was it pretty stock at first?

DC: I don't know, I don't

remember . . . I think it was . . .

DB: That's a long time back.

DC: Yeah . . . I think it was stock, as far as I know. But I rode the hundred and then every year I moved up. The next year I rode a 125. The next year I rode a 125 Suzuki and then a 125 Penton motocrosser. Then a Bultaco flat-tracker, and a 250 Suzuki.

DB: Was your original Triumph just one that you bought yourself?

DC: I bought the engine from Triumph and it wasn't put together — it was just brand-new. And I had a guy put it together for me.

DB: And TT was your original specialty, right?

DC: Well, that's what I rode the most; that's all we had.

DB: You rode at the Clackamas track mostly?

DC: Yeah, there. Well, professionally I rode there and Castle Rock.

DB: And that's where you picked up your points and transferred to National?

DC: Yeah. I earned a couple up there.

DB: You seemed to look as at home on the mile as you look anywhere. Do you really like the long track?

DC: Oh yeah, I do. I'm really comfortable; I really like that kind of racing. I'd like to get a bike and just ride, just to ride at the big tracks, mile and half-mile tracks.

DB: Have you ever done any . . . or ever been interested in doing any short-track or road racing stuff?

DC: I've done Sportsman's road racing, and short-track. But I don't like short-track. I don't like it when you keep bumping into each other. I just never liked it that well.

DB: What about road racing? Do you have any ambitions in that area . . . if you ever get your National number, do you think you'll have time to do that too?

DC: I've thought about it. I have had offers to do some road racing, but I don't know if I want to go out and ride that fast.

DB: You go pretty fast on the mile.

DC: Yeah, but the dirt, I don't know. It won't hurt you as bad if you fall in the dirt.

DB: Yeah. But on the road you're at least not getting sideways.

DC: I don't know; there's something I like about the dirt . . . I feel like I've got more control.

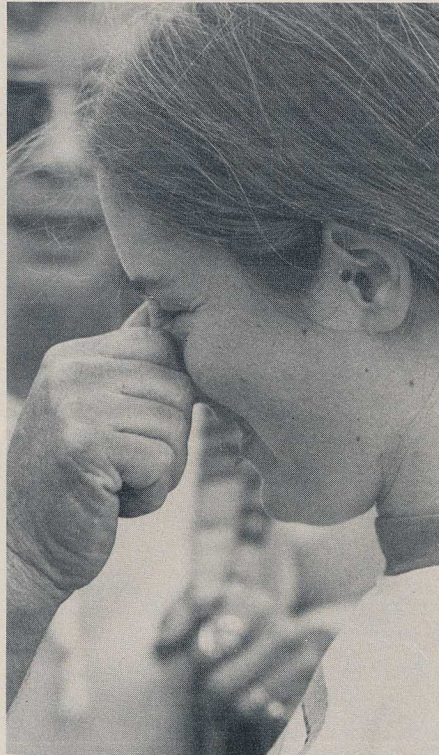
DB: You started serious professional flattracking at 16?

DC: Yeah, I started as a Novice at 16.

DB: How did your folks feel about it?

DC: Well, my dad's the one who asked if I wanted to do it. They didn't mind. I didn't know what would happen, but I thought I'd try it.

DB: I finally had a chance to talk



Diane's dad gives her a congratulatory nose-tweak at San Jose.

to your mom. She said that your dad didn't even know you had high-sided at San Jose until a week later. He thought you just slid out.

DC: (laughter) No, I went over the high side. But from where he was standing he just couldn't see.

DB: Did racing have any effect on your social life in high school?

DC: Well, around here it isn't that big of a thing. And nobody really knew it. I never went around telling everybody. It was something . . . I

I'd like to get a bike to just ride the big tracks, the miles and half-miles.

don't know . . . I didn't make a big deal about it to everybody. I didn't know a lot of people, and when they found out . . . they read an article . . . they were really surprised. They couldn't believe it. It was neat. But I don't think anybody used it against me when they found out.

DB: Well, was there anything in your high school yearbook . . . did they put any notes under your picture?

DC: No, they didn't do anything like that.

DB: What year was it that you became a National class rider?

DC: When I became an Expert . . . it was when I was 16, so it was 1974. It was the year we started the Camel Pro Series. That was the first year. I'll be 20 now. I'll be going on my third year.

DB: Between the Triumph and the Harley, which do you like the best?

DC: Oh, I like them all. I can't say. It just depends on what they're for. For the mile I like the Harley, because you can really put the power on. It handles super-good. And my Triumph — I really like it. It's good on shorter tracks. But I've never ridden the Harley in the TTs so I wouldn't know.

DB: Your Triumph is Mike Kidd's old bike, from when he was sponsored by Triumph? Isn't it getting on in years now?

DC: Yeah, I've only had it for a year or so, though.

DB: The people you hang around with now . . . are they mostly connected with racing, or are they people who aren't involved at all?

DC: Most of them are involved with racing because most of the time I'm working at the shop and I'm not around. You just don't meet that many people when you're away from school.

DB: Do you have any plans for college?

DC: I might take a couple of classes. I'm not too good in school. Probably because I don't like to study. But I haven't really given it a chance. At one time I didn't have any plans about what I was going to do, and I thought about going back, but I don't know, something really that big, I don't know if it could help me out. Oh, I'd like to do something kind of different . . . mainly being able to display products and being able to design displays. That's what I'm going to

try.

DB: Sort of like a business art type thing?

DC: I'm not sure. I'm going to try to find out, a couple of classes on it. I have ideas on how to display things. I designed a whole showroom once.

DB: Then are your future plans toward making a career in the

don't know if I want everyone to know.

DB: Well, do you then hope to be working in something connected with motorcycles for as long as you work?

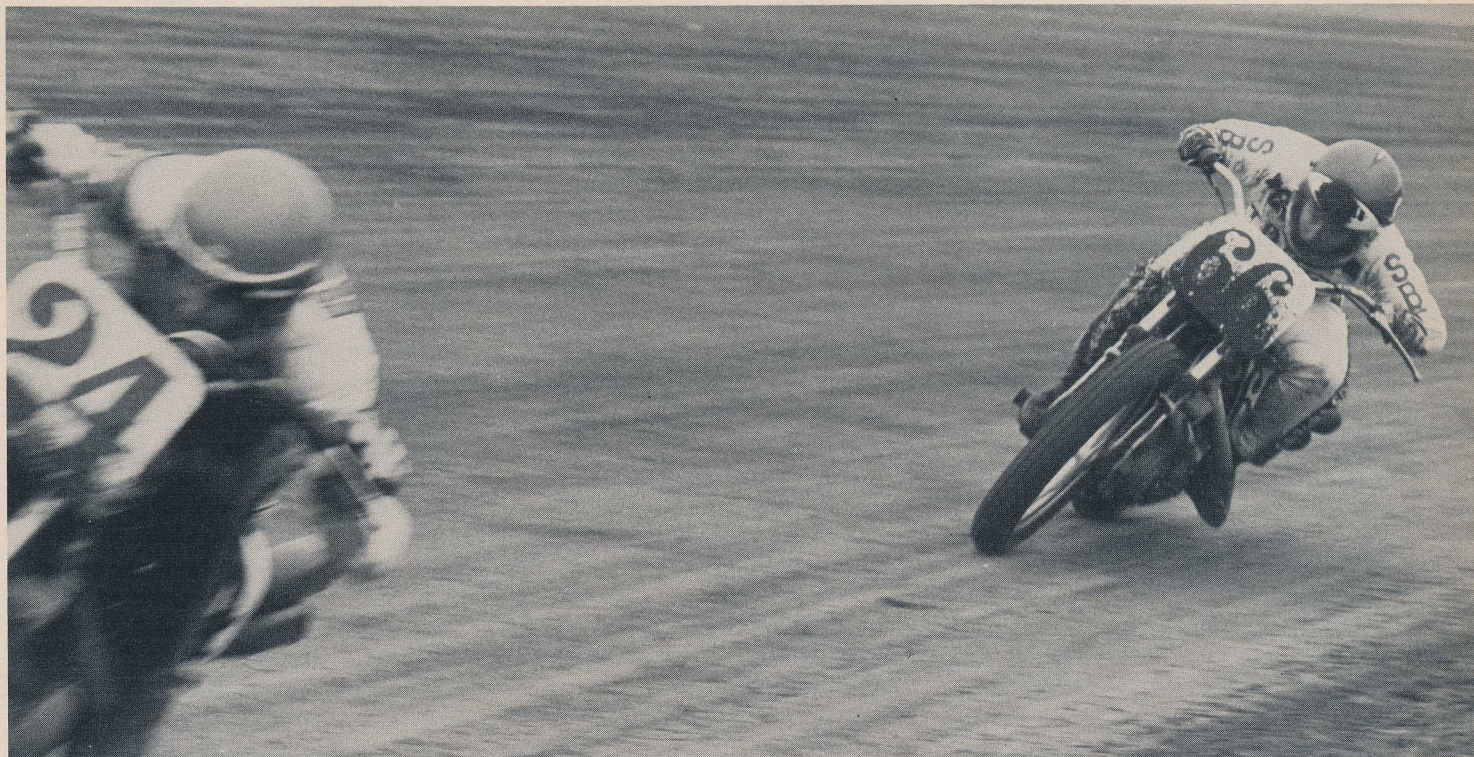
DC: Right now I do. I don't know about five years from now, but right now I think I do.

DB: Were you pretty jazzed after

what he's done for me.

DB: What did you think about the Series this year? Were you surprised that Springstein got it, or did you pretty much expect it?

DC: Well, at first . . . I didn't know. I thought, well, he has a good chance. And then he started going and kept going. I didn't think he'd win it that easily. Jorgy usually



All tucked in at around 100 mph . . .

motorcycle business somehow?

DC: I don't know. I kinda think so. I really enjoy the work. I know . . . not a lot, but I know about the bikes and the parts. I run our parts department, you know. I don't do any of the bookkeeping. All I do is just organize. I just put the parts in order and I have a lot to do. I don't order any parts because we do it by a computer system. But I try to keep things cool and organized, which is really full-time.

DB: If a ride doesn't come along, or even if one does, what do you think you'll be doing ten years from now?

DC: What do I say? I'll probably be married by then. The only thing I can think of . . . ten years? That's a long time.

DB: What kind of a guy are you looking for?

DC: I don't know if I want to answer that or not. Well, yeah, I have an imaginary person, but I

the San Jose thing? After you finally had decent horsepower under you?

DC: I was really excited. It was so exciting I didn't have time to think about being nervous or how I was going to do, or anything. It was just a thrill.

DB: How did you happen to get Gary's bike?

DC: Well, he offered it to me to ride and thought I was capable of doing it, I guess. I think Gary's a pretty good guy. I really appreciate

does super-good. I figured he'd win it . . . him or Eklund.

DB: There are a lot of people who seem to be pet Ascot riders. They have that track so wired . . . nobody can touch it. And that's sort of Jorgy's thing. He's just awful good there. But his Norton certainly had the power too.

DC: Yeah I couldn't believe it. The crowd wanted Springstein to win it. I mean, I did, but my favorite was Gary.

DB: You haven't heard anything from anybody about riding for next season?

DC: I haven't heard anything yet. DB: If you could get any deal you wanted on a bike, what would be your dream bike and your dream package from a manufacturer?

DC: It would be the bike, a spare, money. I don't know what they do. I guess money to ride. I'd take the Harley because if I rode, I'd probably ride the half-mile and the mile. That's what I'd take, because

*There's
something I
like about
the dirt, I
feel like I've
got more
control.*

right now it's the best.

DB: I still miss the old BSA/Triumph days. Although I don't know, it doesn't look like Triumph's about to make a comeback.

DC: No, I don't think so.

DB: When yours is running good it runs real strong, and it's an old machine.

DC: Well it's not as strong as the Harley. Maybe the horsepower



output has gotten too high and it's too hard on it. I don't know.

DB: Do you ever do any plain old trail riding, play riding or anything like that?

DC: I haven't done that in a long time. I used to do it, but I don't have that much time. And I sold my dirt bikes.

DB: There are a few girls like Sue Fish who can compete against the guys regularly and do real well. But then there are others who race mostly against girls, and I don't think that's really good. Maybe you don't agree with me but in some ways I think that tends to limit the field. To ride just with girls. You'd clean up but you wouldn't continue to get better.

DC: I don't think so either. I won't say that for anybody else. But I think you're right. I haven't ridden against girls in so long. I was wondering, you know. Because I haven't. I don't know if I could compete with the motocrossers. Of course, it's been so long, I used to

be able to go out and ride two different bikes, two different classes a day and ride six motos. I'd just go out there and do it, you know. Yeah, I was tired, but I was in shape. Now that they've got the women's racing I'd like to try it, just to see if I could do it. I'm curious. I always rode in the mud, so I was really slow when it came to the dry tracks, I mean I liked real mud up to your knees when you're standing. I'd have to get used to it, again, just stand up and pull the front wheel up and do it. It's easy to say.

DB: Do you think it's harder to ride a half-mile or mile bike than it is to ride motocross for somebody who hasn't tried it before?

DC: I don't know. It's just a different kind of strength. I think it takes practice as far as how to slide it and which way to do it. Because I had to go out when I was learning on my Suzuki and practice sliding on the beach.

DB: Is there any kind of training you're going to go into now between the time the Nationals start again with Texas at the Astrodome?

DC: Well I jog, do curl-ups, and swim. Riding I think is the best. I don't ride in the off-season. I don't have that many bikes. I sold all of my regular dirt bikes, and I have nothing to try out . . . nothing to ride on.

DB: What are your plans for next year?

DC: It depends on whether I get a sponsor or not. It's getting too expensive, and if I ride I want to ride the circuit and I can't afford to do that. That's what my goal is now. To get maybe a bike and sponsor and the money to do it. I think I can start finishing up the Nationals if I can ride the miles.

DB: San Jose was the first time you rode a Harley; had you practiced on it before?

DC: Oh no. That was the first time

"I'm not too good in school, probably because I don't like to study."

I was really on it. I was on one other Harley but it wasn't really fast. When I was out there I thought I might as well win. I had the power — I had the bike. The thing was that I saw a picture where I had fallen and I could see why I did fall. One guy, Gleason, was like straight. I mean he's already sitting up on the corner and here I am on the outside of him and I'm completely, almost fully,



Preparing Scott's back-up Harley.

sideways. If I could have kept it up there, I think I could have got it . . . I think I could have. I won't say for sure though. (A fan comes up to Diane and discusses the San Jose night.)

Fan: If you had had practice or if you ever have horsepower, shame on these turkeys. You looked so great and it was so exciting, that standing ovation . . .

DC: Yeah, it was exciting.

Fan: That was the best I've seen you ride yet. Tonight I wasn't too impressed.

DC: I wasn't either. I had clutch problems; it was slipping all night. From the very first practice when I went out. It still doesn't work. I could smell it. It's not my track here anyway, but I thought I could come up and do something with that bike.

Fan: You tried.

DC: Yeah. I tried.

Fan: Well, we'll see you next time out in San Jose. OK?

DC: OK.