

Holy mackerel, look at that lady ride!

SUE FISH

by Suzanne Davidson



Sue Fish is a 17-year-old high school graduate who works behind the parts counter at a motorcycle shop (Crown Cycle) in Rosemead. She is also the 1976 winner of the Women's Motocross Nationals, classified as an Expert, in the 125 and 250 races.

The "Flying Fish," as she has been referred to, says it all began with her Dad. Her father, who raced in scrambles and at Ascot, and who is still racing, encouraged her. "I began riding when I was around 11 years old, on a Hodaka 90. Three years ago I began racing but my mother didn't like it, so for six months I didn't tell her. When I was 14 my Dad (her parents are divorced) bought my sister an XR75 Honda and I started racing it as a Mini-Junior. But then I would go out and win the Friday and Sunday night races with the guys, and became classified as a Mini-Expert."

Sue went on to win the first Women's Nationals Mini-Expert class and got her first sponsor, SuperCycle, located in Eagle Rock. They gave her a Hodaka 100 which she rode at Irwindale. When she was 15 she came in second for the first year of the District 37 Division. SuperCycle then gave her a Hodaka 125 and she rode that in the second Women's Nationals and the second year of the District 37 Division.

Commenting on this, Sue says, "In the Second Women's Nationals I broke all of my bikes. But before that, at the beginning of the year (at Irwindale) I broke my wrist and my shoulder and was out seven or eight weeks." However, in spite of these setbacks the girl wonder came in in second place in the second year of the District 37 Division.

By this time the "Fish" was more than just interesting copy, and because of it she got sponsored by Crown Cycle. She also got a 125 monoshock Yamaha. She raced in the Women's Expert class at the 1975 Superbowl of Motocross and won. She then raced the Hopetown (1975) and the 1975 Grand Prix, winning both — in the Women's Division as Expert. And if these weren't enough, Sue also conquered the bicentennial year by winning the Viewfinders 1976 (Women's Division) and the already mentioned Women's Motocross Nationals, 1976.

Probably Sue's style and ability stem from the fact that she began



racing with men and prefers it over racing with women. "It's much more fun. You have to go a lot faster, and it helps when you go back and compete with the women. You have to concentrate 100 percent or you'll fall behind. But in the women's you can afford to make a mistake, they're not pushing you." However, Sue feels her greatest female competition in the aggressive field comes from Johanna Stenerson. "Johanna is not afraid to pass and repass, she stays right up there with me."

The 5'3", 120-125-pound moto-bike queen has three bikes — all Yamahas. She takes care of the little things, like cleaning the air cleaners and chain, checking all the cables, and tightening the spokes and bolts. But the fellas at Crown Cycle take care of the big jobs.

Sue is a very competitive person, so her grades in high school came as a surprise. "I was very bored in school, though my senior year was fun. I had low grades because I day-dreamed all day about biking. I do want to attend college though and eventually major in photography."

As far as training goes, Sue advocates riding every day as opposed to working out. She feels if you ride you get into condition. "It's better than anything else." As far as food goes she tries to stay away from junk food, but, "I have my binges."

Sue seems like a shy gal, but when asked about publicity she said that there had been quite a bit of it . . . however not as much as she thought there would be. She also mentioned that she had press that she didn't like. "A magazine, I'd rather not mention the name, said that in the Women's Nationals someone else should have won. In my personal opinion they gave Patty Jacques a lot of compliments, saying what a better rider she was, and maybe these are just my personal feelings, but they gave the impression that she should have won instead."

No matter, the "Fish" really flew in that race and those are the facts, ma'am. And where does she go from here? "I am going to keep riding. I want to ride with the guys more and be more competitive. The older I get, the more I will have to train, but I will always ride." 