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DIRT BIKE

FEBRUARY 1981

VOLUME 11, NO. 2

TESTS

- 26 HUSQVARNA XC250
Testing in Tulsa
- 44 YAMAHA YZ125H
Water-cooled wonder
- 56 HONDA XR200R
First Pro-Link test
- 64 YAMAHA YZINGER
Knee high to a gopher

FEATURES

- 16 NATIONAL ENDURO WRAP-UP
King Richard VII
- 36 WHAT IS DIRT BIKING'S FUTURE?
A serious editorial
- 40 HI-POINT HOT GRIPS
Keeping paws warm in a deep freeze
- 50 RIDING A FACTORY HONDA TT BIKE
Wonder what it's like?
- 62 NEW KTMS FOR 1981
Orange, white and wild
- 66 LEGAL UPDATE
Short bits from around the country

COMPETITION

- 20 SUPERBIKERS 1980
Asphalt TT for TV—bring your TZ
- 32 SAN DIEGO SUPERCROSS
End of another season

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 FROM THE SADDLE
The riders meeting
- 6 LAST OVER
Foo-foo bikes unite
- 8 BITS AND PIECES
Short bits, small pieces
- 10 MISTER KNOW-IT-ALL
Technical expertise
- 13 RIDERS WRITE
Letters from the earth
- 14 NEW PRODUCTS
Buy some today
- 74 CRASH AND BURN
Don't do this



HONDA XR200R



HUSKY XC250



FACTORY HONDA 500

On the cover: John Whelchel jumps the YZ125 over the littlest YZ, while little Shela tries to keep low. Photo by Tom Webb.

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SUPERBIKERS!

WISE WHIPS THEM ALL

Once Again, the Motocrossers Rule

By Tom Webb

Two-for-two was the end result for motocrossers at the second annual Superbikers, held at Carlsbad Raceway. Team Honda rider, Steve Wise, clearly dominated the action held on the extremely fast dirt/pavement course and collected \$13,000 for the day's work. 500cc World MX champ, Andre Malherbe, made closing action in the 12 lap main event exciting, finishing a close second to his Honda teammate. Having his rear brake go away in the latter stages of the main had Wise clambering all over his Honda for the win, but made for a close finish.

Qualifying

Qualifying was broken up into several categories. There were three heats: one for road racers, dirt trackers and motocrossers. The top six from the road race heat would transfer to the main, with the flattrack and MX heat taking the first seven. Two, 10 lap

semis would follow for those who didn't directly transfer, with the final being a 12 lap affair, approximately 25 minutes long.

Heats

When the green flag dropped for the road-race heat, Kenny Roberts of Team Yamaha quickly grabbed the lead. Following closely was Dave Aldana on a 465 Yamaha and Factory Kawasaki backed Eddie Lawson. Roberts slid out in the dirt section just as they were making their way back to the pavement. Resuming the race in last place, Kenny had his work cut out for him. Aldana held a slim lead over Lawson while Team Honda's Freddie Spencer lurked closely behind in third on his RC450 motocrosser.

Lawson made his move on Aldana in a fast dirt sweeper and then breezed to an unchallenged win. Aldana and Spencer held onto second and third, but the real action was from the World

Champ, King Kenny. He worked from last to an amazing 4th while putting plenty of ground between 5th and 6th Steve Scott and John Bettencourt.

Flattrackers were the next up and Winston Pro Champ, Randy Goss, wasted little time by grabbing the hole-shot. Wayne Rainey snaked by Goss as they entered the dirt section and just motored his Kawasaki to the win. This left Goss to do the battle with John Wincewicz mounted on another Harley dirt tracker. Scott Pearson and Honda's Mickey Fay displaced Wincewicz then started to hound Goss. Fay dropped it, letting his teammate Jeff Haney slide in for third. Can-Am mounted Alex Jorgenson wound up fourth, followed by Bubba Shobert, Jim Filice and Ronnie Jones, riding a Viper-equipped 2-stroke Yamaha.

So far, lap times were like this: Lawson, 1:58.47; Rainey, 2:01.02, but the motocrossers were standing in line.



Kent Howerton (1) flattracks past Andre Malherbe (7) in the third heat only to have his Suzuki seize in the final.

Photos by Tom Webb & Dennis West



SUPERBIKERS!

Holding the lead at the end of the long dragstrip straight was Kawasaki's Jeff Ward. His lead was short-lived, however, as both Steve Wise and Andre Malherbe drove past before the lap came to an end. Defending Superbikers Champ Kent Howerton slipped into third during the next lap while setting his sights on the two Hondas. Wise set a blistering pace and sailed on for the heat win. With a time of 1:58.55, he claimed the fastest lap of the day. Howerton made a daring last lap pass against Malherbe to nail down 2nd; former 250 World Champ Hakan Carlqvist held off Yamaha teammates Mike Bell and Broc Glover for fourth. Newly transplanted Southern California rider Kevin Davis maintained for a 7th on his Wheelsmith Maico.

Semis

Mickey Fay put the power to the ground with his big Honda and lead

the first Semi from start to finish. In the early running, Carlos Serrano and Gary Semics, both Yamaha mounted, were a close 2nd and 3rd. John Wincewicz pressured Semics momentarily before overshooting a turn and putting himself out of the running.

Semi number two again saw Jeff Ward jump out in the lead. Yamaha rider Scott Pearson passed Ward in the dirt track section and held the lead until the end. Ward got the hard luck trophy of the day, though. He re-passed Pearson at about the half-way point of the semi, when a flat rear tire put him out for good. Mike Bast finished second with Dennis Briggs grabbing the final transfer position.

The Final, Finally!

After a long, drawn out day of practicing, qualifying and giving parade laps for the ABC cameras, the \$28,000 purse was finally up for grabs. Reign-

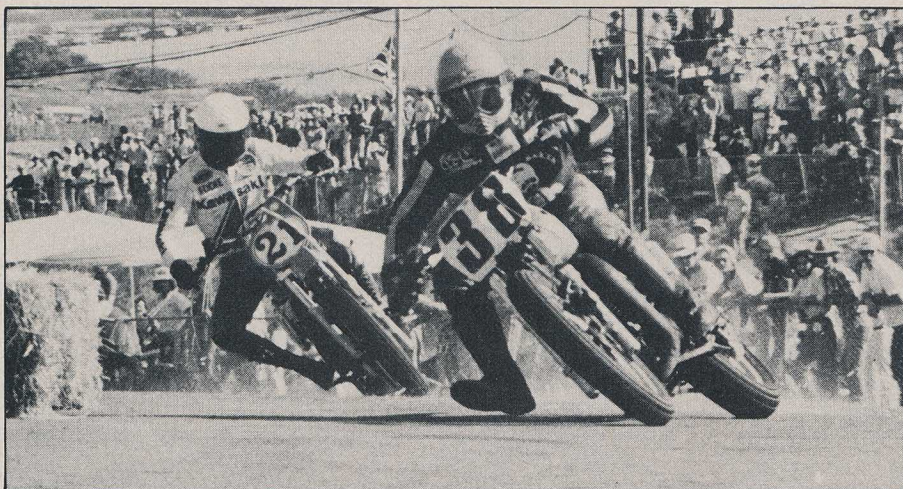
ing Champ Kent Howerton powered his Suzuki to the holeshot with Goss, Wise, Spencer and Malherbe following close in tow as they left the pavement and entered the dirt. All three Team Honda members smoked past Goss in the MX section while Kenny Roberts and Eddie Lawson moved right in behind the Harley rider.

Wise pulled up on Howerton, and, as they came to the long, back straight, he outpowered Kent and snatched the lead. The two Texans were running 1-2 when engine seizures started slowing down the Champ. Malherbe overtook Spencer in the motocross section and soon caught the ailing Suzuki of Howerton.

On lap 8, Malherbe passed Kent and closed the distance on Wise. Steve lost his rear brake about this time. Andre started driving with the vengeance of a madman and was soon on his teammate's tail.

Meanwhile, Eddie Lawson moved into third ahead of Howerton. After falling on the first lap, Dave Aldana put on an incredible charge that eventually found him in fifth place. That's the way the top five finished. Wise barely held off Malherbe for the win, with Lawson, Howerton and Aldana grabbing the next three slots.

Wise was jubilant with his first big victory of the year, let alone a wallet that was \$13,000 thicker! The Hondas seemed to have the horsepower on everyone; their 1-2 finish showed that they'd done something right. All in all, the motocrossers continued their domination of the Superbikers; they'll be the ones to shoot for next year. □



In a contrast of styles, Dave Aldana, #38, with his foot-off flattrack position, tucks in ahead of the feet-up Eddie Lawson.



Steve Wise flew to victory aboard his factory Honda and ended up \$13,000 richer.

RESULTS OF 12-LAP FINAL

1. Steve Wise, Pharr, TX Hon
2. Andre Malherbe, Belgium Hon
3. Eddie Lawson, Ontario, CA Kaw
4. Kent Howerton, San Antonio, TX Suz
5. Dave Aldana, Santa Ana, CA Yam
6. Hakan Carlqvist, Sweden Yam
7. Carlos Serrano, Tucson, AZ Yam
8. Randy Goss, Highland, MI H-D
9. Scott Pearson, San Jose, CA Hon
10. Mike Bell, Lakewood, CA Yam
11. Alex Jorgensen, Stockton, CA C-A
12. Gary Semics, Carlsbad, CA Yam
13. Jim Felice, San Jose, CA Yam
14. Mickey Fay, Puyallup, WA Hon
15. Broc Glover, El Cajon, CA Yam
16. Kevin Davis, Las Vegas, NV Mai
17. Dennis Briggs, Santa Ana, CA Yam
18. Jeff Haney, Seaside, CA Hon
19. Steve Scott, Woodland Park, CO Yam
20. Mike Bast, Monrovia, CA Yam
21. Freddie Spencer, Shreveport, LA Hon
22. Bubba Shober, Lubbock, TX Kaw
23. Ronnie Jones, Oklahoma City, OK Yam
24. John Bettencourt, W. Bridgewater, MA Hon
25. Michael Lee, England Yam
26. Kenny Roberts, Modesto, CA Yam
27. Wayne Rainey, Norwalk, CA Kaw