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**LIGHTNING STRIKES!
RADICAL YZ 250G**

**THUNDER RIDE:
BIG BUCK CCM 500**

**ENDURO GOODIES-
TIME TOOLS**

**BOLT FROM THE BLUE:
YAMAHA IT 425G**



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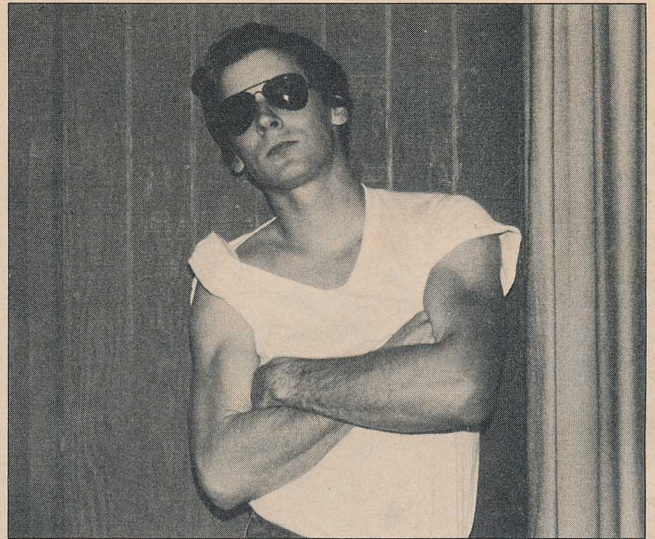
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DIRT BIKE

MARCH 1980

VOLUME 10, NO. 3



“The very best is barely good enough.”

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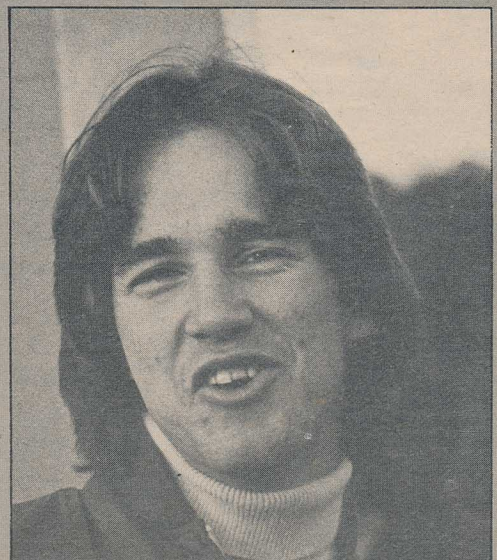


TWIN STATES NATIONAL ENDURO THE LAST TICK OF THE CLOCKS

Burleson takes another title,
but Smith wins a moral victory

By Ann and Brian Palermo

After an eight-month run, the curtain rolled down on the 1979 National Enduro season in early November in Cadiz, Kentucky. The setting was perfect for a grand finale: an ideal mid-South fall weekend in one of western Kentucky's most scenic spots, Lake Barkley State Resort Park. / *Continued*



Above: — Overall winner Drew Smith clowns for the Palermo camera. Left: — Unexpected flooding made it a short run for many.

(Continued)

A number of people had played a part in the season, and most of the principal ones were on hand for this final scene. The trio getting the most attention included the 1979 winner and still Champion Richard Burleson, his closest rival Drew Smith from Team Suzuki, and the hot shoe from Minnesota, Can-Am's John Martin, who played the spoiler in Drew's bid to capture the crown.

Martin's previous triumphs over the other two had been witnessed by many of the 400 assembled to ride. Could he do it a third time? Did Dick have the advantage as the only one of the three familiar with the territory? Did Drew have the momentum after his West Coast overall win and strong showing all fall? Each person had strong arguments to back up his choice for Sunday's victor.

Still, Twin States is the kind of enduro that a local person could snatch from one of the more-touted team riders. Enduro riding is very popular in this heartland region, and a number of area riders were capable of matching the outsiders' scores.

TWIN STATE 100 MILE END			
CH	TIME IN	Ki	Error
1	29	30	0
2	30	30	0
3	30	30	0
4	30	30	0
5	31	30	1
6	30	30	0
7	30	30	0
8	30	30	3
9	30	30	0
10	29	30	0
Number <i>Drew</i> Class <i>250</i> Total <i>4</i>			
<i>30A Smith AA</i>			

When it was all over, this is the way the numbers fell.

There were the Schuler brothers, Greg Alexander, Dan Higgins and Terry Trice leading the southern Indiana assault. Several western Kentucky riders had cut their teeth on this territory and would love to make the home folks proud. However, the strongest of their team, Bobby Thomas, was the man in charge this year as president of the sponsoring West Kentucky Trail Riders Club.

Kentucky's famous hospitality was immediately evident to the occupants of the vans and trailers rolling into the state park from as far away as Michigan, Ohio, South Carolina, Alabama and Arkansas. Sign-up was housed in a warm, heated building and the park accommodations were breathtaking.

With an enduro man in charge, one could expect a good day's work for Sunday. This area abounds in tight natural trails, and the club is known to prefer keeping riders "close to nature."

Trails wind through sections of west Tennessee as well as Kentucky, with a chance to bounce over some tank trails on Ft. Campbell for good measure. As

(Continued on page 67)



Dick Burleson managed a fourth overall, and a sixth National Championship.



Can-Am's John Martin started late in the season, and surprised many of the old pros. Look out for him next year.

(Continued from page 34)

the weather was sunny and dry, if somewhat cool, riders didn't have a chance to experience this area at its best/worst.

Besides the routine challenges any club faces, a few extras were thrown in for good measure this year. Severe rains south of the area late in the week resulted in the Nashville-based Corps of Engineers raising the level of Lake Barkley and unexpectedly flooding sections between the second gas and home. Reworking this area took a lot of man-hours Saturday, but by sunset all seemed under control.

Sunday's ride demanded that participants utilize all their enduro skills and some common sense as well. Leaves over the trails meant watching more closely for arrows rather than simply following the path left by those who had gone before. Riders who failed to do that ran the risk of getting off the course. John Martin fell into that trap and lost three points unnecessarily. His day seemed to go downhill from then on.

In the reworked section, all early riders fell victim to outside tampering with the arrows, which caused some confusion coming off a rocky ridge. Many, including Martin and Burleson, floundered on a trail to "nowhere" for a few minutes before the club got help over to straighten out the problem. Later numbers were finding seemingly innocent water pockets falling away into sink holes, and at a creek, the beavers' repair work on the destroyed dam hampered crossing efforts when the bank collapsed in ruts.

For good measure, a check was added at the 112th mile of the run to prevent those who knew the area from "black-topping" back to the finish. This check caught several riders by surprise and added hot points to the scores of Burleson, Erika Raidel and Jerry Schuler, to name a few.

In the eyes of a few, the final outcome may have been an anticlimax. But that was only if their scorecards were hanging at the end of the row. Those in the winner's circle were satisfied indeed, and Smith was the most satisfied of all. He had achieved another win over Burleson, this one by four points.

Two of his teammates, Kevin Snap and George Peck, placed second and third overall as they won the High Point A and AA class honors respectively. Another Suzuki rider, Richard Lenover, captured the Super Senior honors for an almost perfect day for the PE crew.

At the final curtain, the sun was setting and a full moon was rising, and everyone was wondering who the stars would shine on in 1980. □



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