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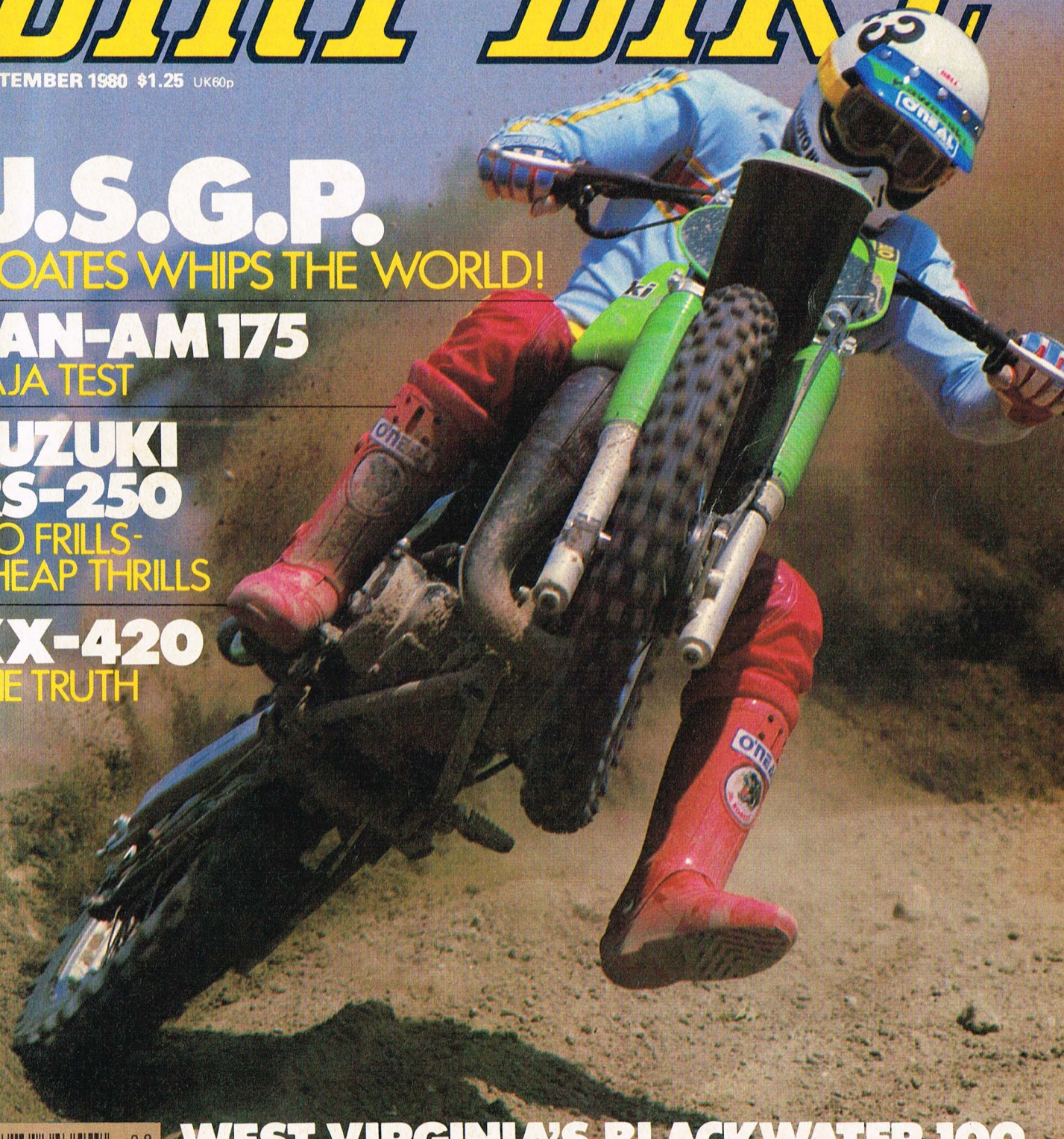
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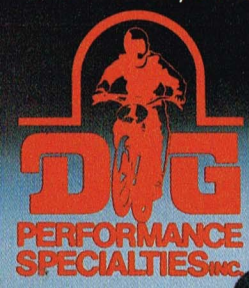


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ON THE COVER: — Rod Brand on the KX420.

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BEL-RAY  
MIL

## BEL-RAY 500 USGP

# FIRST AMERICAN!

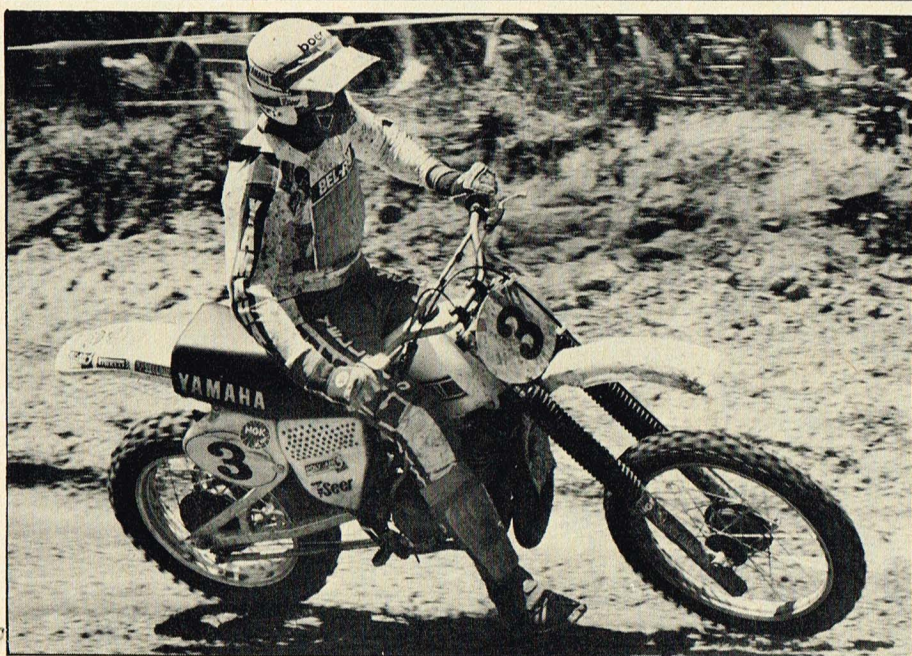
*Marty Moates and Team LOP  
Slice Themselves a Piece of Historical Pie*

By Paul Clipper

Carlsbad, 1980

A leisurely stroll through the pits before the first moto left us not a clue. The Europeans were kicked back in the shade of the trucks and motor homes, wearing that patient, practiced look of deadly serious confidence. To the unpracticed eye, they all look like they've got the win wrapped up, the only thing that remains to be done is riding this too boring motocross, and then we can get out of this dust. But not today.

# BEL-RAY 500 USGP



Hakan Carlqvist gave Moates the most trouble in the first moto, but couldn't make any of his passes stick.



Brad Lackey was supposed to have been the force to be reckoned with, but the best he could do was a sixth place in the first moto.

The privateers are all bustling around wearing their pre-race nervous frown, thinking, "It'd be damn nice to sit around and sip Perrier, but if I don't get this clutch working I'm gonna be S.O.L. . . ." and words to that effect. It's always hard to tell what's going on amid the noise and confusion of the privateer pits, and you can be sure that if they know anything, they're not telling.

And then there's the Americans, the Team riders, better known as the Americans Who Have a Chance, because everyone knows that the private-sponsored Americans have as much of a shot at the pie as a hell-bent snowball. Number one man, Brad Lackey, is running with nearly even odds—if an American is going to do it, Brad is everyone's first bet. After that, it's a guesser's paradise, with LaPorte, Staten, Mosier, Gibson, Burgett and the rest trying to elbow their way to the front.

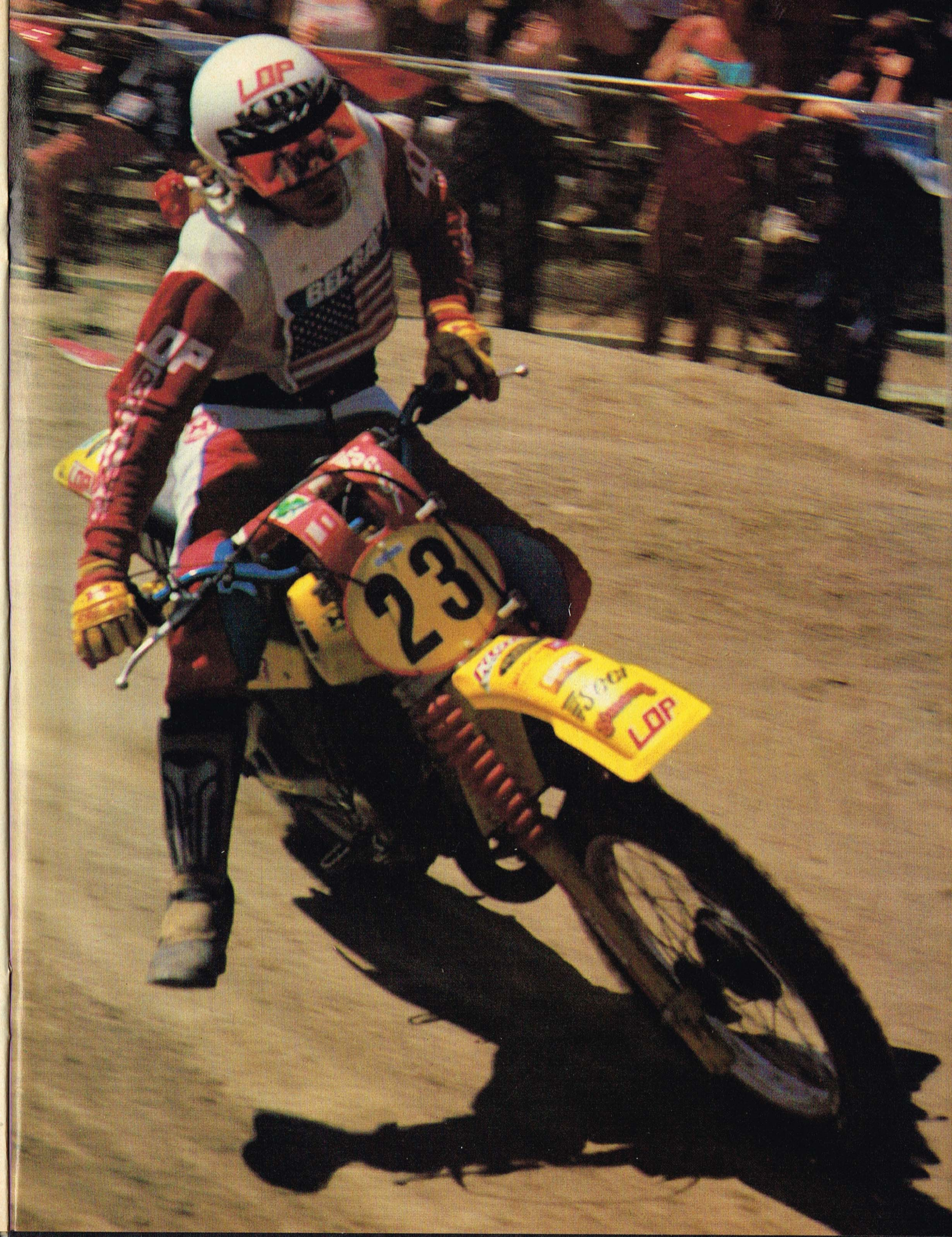
But not today.

No way. Because early this morning, a man by the name of Marty Moates, 23 years old, from San Diego, woke up with a quiet buzzing in the back of his head. It sounded like one of those cheap alarm clocks, a 60 cycle hum from across the Holiday Inn bedroom tuning up on Moates' medulla, and he knows today is going to be different. The kind of buzz that doesn't go away, all through the drive out to the track, a couple of laps of practice, fiddling in the pits, and all the time getting louder, until right before the first International moto old Marty must have had a freight train running through the back of his skull, while his frontal lobes screamed out, "You're gonna win this sucker, you crazy SOB! Yes, YOU!"

There's no telling. Any one of us on hand that day could have probably put down a fat bet on Moates at 50:1 odds, and gotten laughed off the track in the process. "Moates? What the hell you wanna bet on Moates for, boy? Don't you know that if any of these here Americans are gonna win this thing it's gonna be Lackey, dammit! He's got his name written right on the ticket, you durn fool, but gimme that ten spot, I'm gonna teach you a lesson!" And we would've laughed all the way to the bank.

(Continued on page 62)

Color Photos by Paul Clipper



Black and white photos courtesy of Dick Miller, MXA.

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(Continued from page 41)

There was only one person on hand who knew who was going to win, and that was Moates. And he was willing to tell anyone who'd listen, but, of course, the whole thing was ridiculous. Carlsbad is the playground of the Europeans, and next in line are the factory riders. A privateer just doesn't have a chance. Even the self-proclaimed international motocross "expert," Jim Gianatsis, was quoted in *Cycle News* as saying that the American riders "... just won't be able to match the same high speed pace as the Grand Prix stars." Surprise, surprise. The Grand Prix stars had their share of problems. Gerrit Wolsink spent the day fighting a pair of malfunctioning shocks. Andre Malherbe had a bad time in the first moto, and then broke his gearbox in the second. DeCoster took a bad fall in the first moto and went out with a leg injury. Moates' only struggle was with Hakan Carlqvist in the first moto, after a tenth-lap fall put him in third, but Marty still went on to a two-second lead at the checkers.

Brad Lackey, hungering after enough points to put him ahead of Malherbe in the standings, gave Moates a fight in the second moto. The pair diced back and forth for the major part of the moto, until Lackey slid into a fence and spent the next lap trying to get untangled. Moates was the recipient of the class move of all time on that next lap, when, as he passed the spot of Lackey's crash, there was Bad Brad himself waving Marty on. From that point on, it was Marty's day, and after a few more laps around the course—that narrow strip of dusty dirt, lined with spectators waving American flags—Marty Moates became the first American to win the USGP.

The Support class battle was no less spectacular, with a tooth-and-nail struggle between Warren Reid, Broc Glover, Brian Myerscough and Jeff Ward. The lead had changed enough times to keep everyone guessing, but in the end it was Myerscough of Team Suzuki enjoying top spot honors.

However, the big news was Marty Moates. First American. Top of the bloody heap, and he never looked back. Looks like we can start sticking those American flag decals back on our bikes again, in honor of Marty Moates, Laurens Offner, and the whole LOP team—wait a minute! I feel a slogan coming on! How about "... Mom, Apple Pie, and LOP"? Think it'll sell?

Bel-Ray 500cc USGP  
Carlsbad, CA 6-22-80

First moto Results

- Marty Moates, #23 ..... YAM/LOP
- Hakan Carlqvist, #3 ..... YAM
- Danny LaPorte, #16 ..... SUZ
- Andre Vromans, #8 ..... YAM
- Goat Breker, #28 ..... KAW
- Brad Lackey, #1 ..... KAW
- Chuck Sun, #33 ..... HON
- Rex Staten, #20 ..... YAM
- Gaylon Mosier, #21 ..... KAW
- Jim Gibson, #24 ..... HON

Second moto Results

- Marty Moates, #23 ..... YAM/LOP
- Gerard Rond, #9 ..... SUZ
- Danny LaPorte, #16 ..... SUZ
- Marty Smith, #30 ..... SUZ
- Chuck Sun, #33 ..... HON
- Andre Vromans, #8 ..... YAM
- Jim Gibson, #24 ..... HON
- Gary Semics, #18 ..... YAM/LOP
- Jaak Van Velthoven, #12 ..... KTM
- Laurence Spence, #10 ..... YAM

Support Class • First moto

- Warren Reid, #8 ..... KAW
- Brian Myerscough, #17 ..... SUZ
- Jeff Ward, #19 ..... KAW
- Broc Glover, #1 ..... YAM
- Steve Ryhan, #62 ..... MAI
- Mike Brown, #960 ..... YAM/LOP
- Carlos Serrano, #48 ..... HON
- Tony Wanket, #139 ..... YAM
- Kris Bigelow, #60 ..... YAM
- Alan Smith, #125 ..... HUS

Support Class • Second moto

- Brian Myerscough, #17 ..... SUZ
- Jeff Ward, #19 ..... KAW
- Broc Glover, #1 ..... YAM
- Warren Reid, #8 ..... KAW
- John Day, #64 ..... YAM
- Mike Brown, #960 ..... LOP/YAM
- Pete Wanket, #138 ..... YAM
- Alan Smith, #125 ..... HUS
- Ron Turner, #36 ..... SUZ
- Chappy Blose, #55 ..... KAW



Danny LaPorte rode a smooth, consistent day for a second overall.

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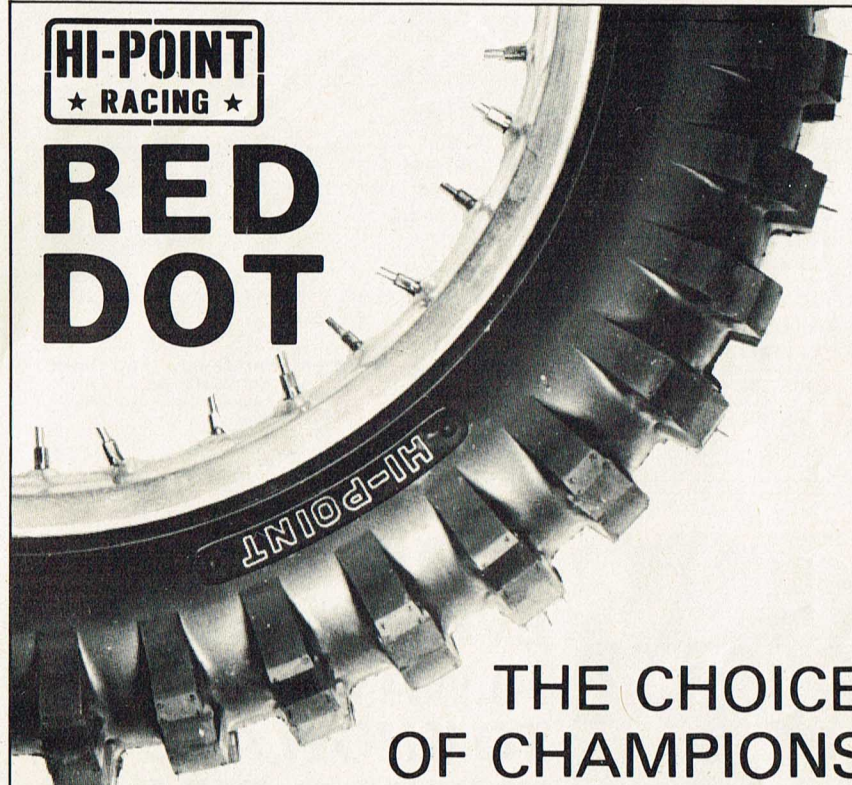
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