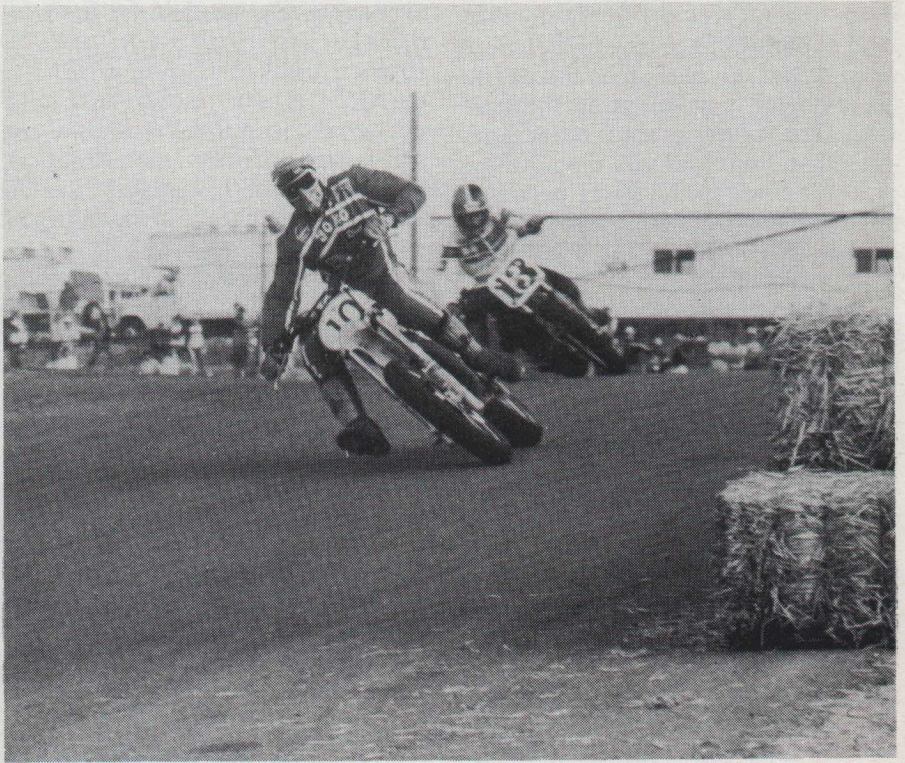


Former World Motocross Champion Hakan Carlqvist has just road-raced his way past new American Dirt Track Champion Randy Goss. Carlqvist is piloting a YZ465 Yamaha motocrosser with disc brakes and treaded road race tyres, while Goss wrestles manfully with his hefty 750cc Harley Davidson vee-twin dirt-tracker.

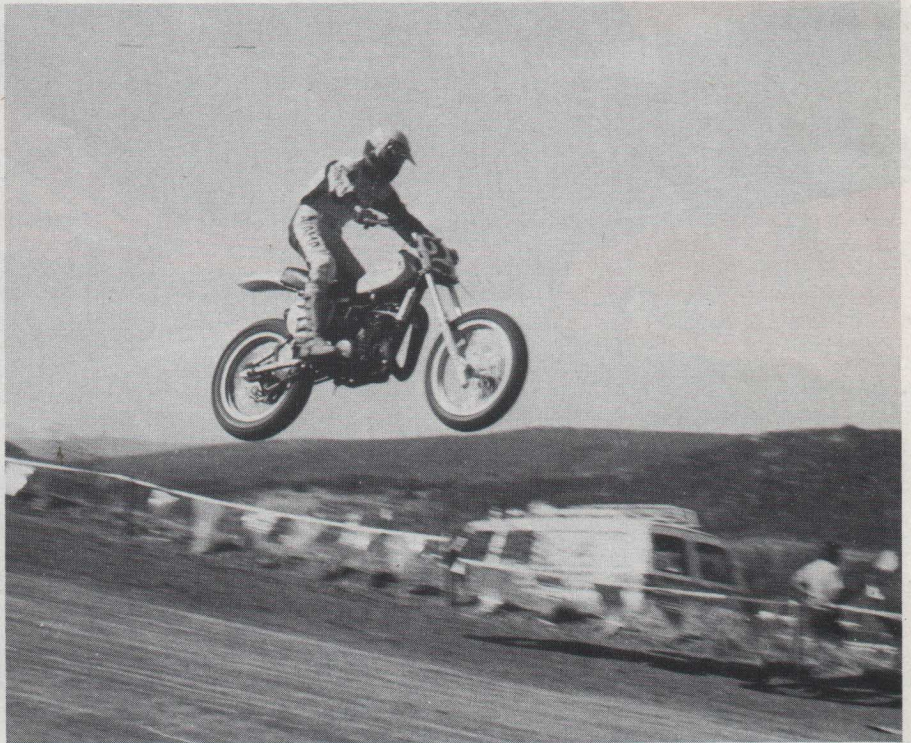
Strangers when they meet! World Road Racing Champion Kenny Roberts (2) and World Motocross Champion Andre Malherbe (7) face off on the Superbiker grid.



Superbikers—Looking For



Michael Lee in the California sun.



Michael Lee, Kenny Roberts, Hakan Carlqvist and Dave Aldana—all road racing at over 100mph on modified YZ465 Yamaha motocrossers! Sounds like a motorcycling fantasy but it was actual fact at Carlsbad Raceway, California, in November.

The quartet was among 40 motorcycling superstars from all over the

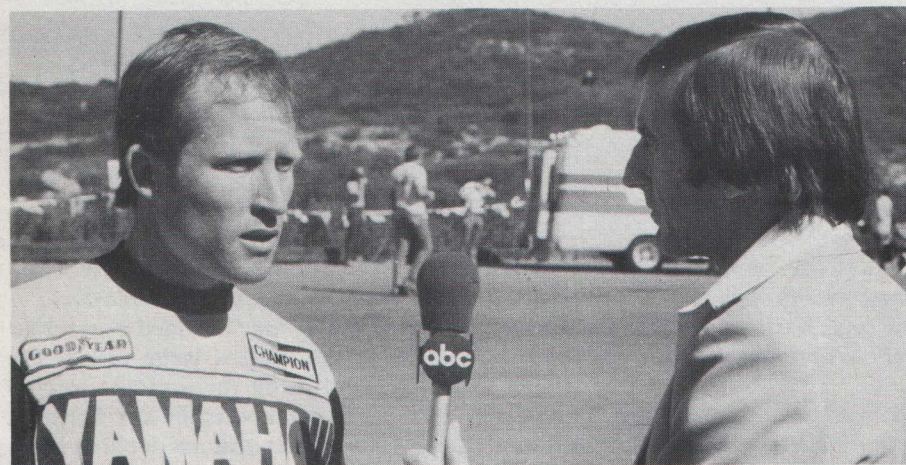
world who contested the American "made for television" spectacular called "The Superbikers."

It's a unique event on a "rallycross" type of circuit that blended road racing, motocross and dirt-track terrain into a single two-mile lap. Competing machinery varied from modified motocrossers (the most popular

Fastest man on the course was Dave Aldana who came from last place through to fifth. Here he runs right against the bales on a downhill, off-camber road race turn while passing American dirt-trackers Jeff Haney (Honda 500 four-stroke) and Scott Pearson (95—Yamaha YZ465).



The Best All-Rounder



World Road Race Champion, Kenny Roberts, flies high on his Yamaha YZ465-powered racer (above left) and thoroughly tests the monoshock suspension when he touches down at 50mph! (Above) Kenny discusses his chances with ABC-TV commentator and former car-racing World Champion, Jackie Stewart.

choice) to American twin- and single-cylinder dirt-trackers. There were factory teams from Yamaha, Honda, Suzuki, Kawasaki and Harley Davidson . . . all anxious to showcase their machines in front of the vast American TV audience (80 million viewers watched last year's two-day screening!).

It wasn't a great day for Yamaha, with their leading hope, Kenny Roberts, blowing a head gasket on his YZ465 while closing in on eventual top three—Steve Wise (an American motocrosser), World 500cc Motocross Champion Andre Malherbe, and U.S. Superbike road race star Eddie Lawson.

Consolation came, however, in a superb ride by Dave Aldana, who proved to be the fastest man on the track. He slid out on the dirt-track section on the first lap, re-mounted in last place and slashed back through the pack of 25 superstars to finish the race in fifth spot!

Michael Lee never really could come to the grips with the strange terrain . . . in common with the rest of the speedway riders. Not only was there only one corner that even resembled a speedway turn, but the bikes were obviously totally unlike the typical speedway rig.

"It's a race that would need a lot of special training," said Michael, "and unfortunately the hand and back injuries I suffered in the British League Riders Final three weeks earlier meant that I just couldn't do any practice. Still, I had a great time and I'm just amazed at the Americans. They seem to be capable of going fast anywhere . . . no matter whether their specialty is dirt-track, road racing or motocross."

Equally amazing was the effort of Hakan Carlqvist. He rode the event last year and was back in 1980 full of enthusiasm.

Despite no previous experience of 100mph road race speeds, he ran with the leading bunch for most of the 25-mile final and just relinquished fifth place to Dave Aldana before the finish! Minor problems with his YZ465 were just enough to blunt its competitive edge and he obviously didn't have the flat-out speed of Wise, Malherbe, Lawson and fourth man, U.S. Motocross champion Kent Howerton.

Hakan made up for this with really aggressive riding on all sections of the course, being particularly impressive in his unfamiliar "road racer" role.

"I know that I can win this thing with a fast bike," said Hakan. "Sign me up for 1981 right now!"