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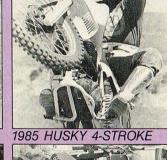
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1985 KTM 250MXC



XR PIPE SHOOTOUT





1985 KAWASAKIS



THE NEW CHAMPS

ON THE COVER:-Steve Schmitz gets twisted on the brand-new Honda CR500, while David and Broc and the rest of the 500 class get down to business at the Colorado National. Honda shot by Paul Clipper, race shot by Tom Webb, color separation by Valley Film.

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WARNING: Much of the action depicted in this magazine is potentially dangerous. Virtually all of the riders seen in our photos are experienced experts or professionals. Do not attempt to duplicate any stunts that are beyond your own capabilities. Always wear the appropriate safety gear.

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## From the Saddle



#### The wedding reception

By Rick Sieman

66 Tou promised. You absolutely swore to me last month that we'd go to that wedding, and I already bought a gift and told Alice and Fred that we were coming. If you don't go with me, I'm going to see a lawyer this afternoon. I'll get the house, the kids and the dog, and you can have your stupid motorcycle."

Marvin knew he was up against the wall. He had to go to the wedding and the reception, or it was doomsday for his marriage. It wasn't that he didn't want to go, but he tim? was so beat up, battered and bruised that he could barely walk. You see, he had taken a truly monumental crash two days earlier.

He had scabs on both elbows and there were large blue marks on his rib cage that were showing hints of yellow and purple at the edges. His back looked like he'd napped on a 40-horsepower grinder for an hour or so, and his right knee was the size of a bowling ball and had less feeling than the ends of his ears. The big toe on his right foot looked a great deal like a mango. The bridge of his nose looked like he'd taken fourth place in the National Machete Fight-offs. In short, he was a mess.

Marvin scratched his head to think real hard and realized that all the fingers on his

right hand also hurt, and only one knuckle looked like the knuckles on the other hand. He dressed slowly and carefully, using his left hand as much as he could. Shaving was out of the question, as he could not raise his left arm that high.

As he fumbled with the buttons on his best white shirt, his wife came up, nodded sympathetically and said, "Look, we won't stay long. And after all, a wedding reception is sort of fun and real low key. You can eat like a pig, have a few drinks and get to bed real early when we get back. It'll do you good."

Marvin thought it over. Yeah, maybe two or three hundred strong drinks would help at this stage. And, like she said, he could relax at the reception. Just walk around, talk to people and eat all of the food. He brightened visibly, and his lovely wife smiled the smile of satisfaction that accompanies a minor victory.

They were greeted at the door by Uncle Howard, who slapped Marvin enthusiastically on the back. Marvin turned pale, gritted his teeth and vowed to avoid his uncle for the rest of his natural days.

They wandered into the busy room and said all the hellos and how-are-yous, then got in line to congratulate the bride and groom. The groom grabbed Marvin's hand and wrung it strongly, causing Marvin to blanch and drop to his knees, moaning.

Those in the wedding party wondered if Marvin had a drinking problem. Marvin excused himself politely and headed for the food. He got a plate and proceeded to pile the food high, wide and deep. He then found a folding chair, sat down gently and balanced the overloaded plate on one knee. It was then that he realized he could not use his right hand well enough to work a fork.

After 15 minutes of eating with his left hand, more food was on his legs and the floor than in his stomach. People walked by and nodded their heads sympathetically. Car accident? War wounds? Polio vic-

Marvin gave up on the food and headed for the bar. Two drinks later, he was feeling a bit better. Perhaps it was his fuzzy judgment that let him talk Aunt Belinda into dancing with him.

As she bounced her 265 pounds around the dance floor, Marvin came to know what real pain was. She whooped with glee and kept perfect time with Frankie Splizo and the Polka Wimps as they ripped through the "Beer Barrel Polka" four times in a row. When the music finally stopped, Aunt Belinda gave him a big hug that nearly made him

Marvin's wife came up and told him that there was blood on the back of his good (continued on page 71)

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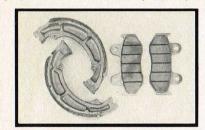
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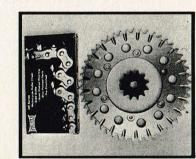
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## Last Over

#### Daybreaks

By Paul Clipper

arold Hamill had exhausted every possibility. He'd called Fred, Louie, "Crash" Jackson, Sam "the Crusher," and even the Ternbaum twins, and not a one of them could get away to go riding. The Ternbaum twins were a last resort, and an indication of how badly Harold wanted riding company. They were two girls who rode four-strokes—nice enough people, but as painfully ugly as a skinned elbow. Rhoda Ternbaum had a glass eye that would every now and then drop out and roll around inside her goggles, while Frieda had a wooden leg that kept getting turned around the wrong way and was very distracting. Harold liked them both, but being in the mood for serious riding, he was more than slightly re- to panic, he was on the other side. "Holy lieved when the phone wasn't answered.

He went by the bike shop to see if any of the rest of the crowd were hanging out with nothing to do, but this too drew a blank. The only person at the shop was Ferdinand the Mad Mechanic, who immediately started shouting in broken German something about Oscar, the owner, being out fishing while he had to waste his time trying to balance the carbs on an ancient Suzuki twin that Oscar had contracted to repair for a very low sum. "Nicht enough money!" he screamed, his voice cracking. "I vill starve under der rusty Suzuki! Tank you, Oscar!" This last was aimed at the empty office with a threatening point of a grimy finger. Harold smiled uncomfortably and backed out the front door.

Like it or not, if he wanted to put a few miles on, he was going to have to go it alone. He was well aware of the dangers of solo trailriding and knew that being alone would slow him down some, but the worst part was that there'd be nobody to compete with, no one to show off to. After all, this is the best part of riding, right? Playing little "Oh yeah? Let's see you do this!" games. Without friendly competition, even the best of trails turn into not much more than a thoroughfare suitable for the operation of a motorcycle. And that's a lot duller than dirt riding!

But one way or the other, he wanted to tweak a throttle today. So he loaded up and drove the few minutes out to the usual trail head, and before long he was fulfilling his desires. The trail wound through a national forest, and although it was a good trail, it was slightly overused. The dirt was good, usually wet and dust-free, but because of all the wear, it wasn't really an easy place to ride. All the low, muddy areas were rutted out; hills were grooved deeply, some of them even stepped by the Forest Service to limit erosion; and a few bridges that used to cross

the major streams had tumbled down and were mostly useless.

Harold knew a bridge just like this was coming up. It had crumbled to the point where there was nothing left but a six-bysix wooden beam spanning the banks across the two-foot-deep stream. Hikers used it regularly to keep their feet dry, and Harold was thinking along the same lines as he drew nearer to the water. He didn't really want to soak his boots this early in the day, and when the bridge came into sight, he spied the plank and thought, Hey, why not? I've never done it before, but if I hit it with a little speed, the worst I can do is auger into the other bank.... I might even be able to save it if I do miss. Thinking along these lines, he kept his eve

on the plank and his hand steady on the throttle, and before he even had a chance cow! I did it!" he hollered, braking the bike to a stop. He jumped off the bike and ran back to the bridge, just to satisfy himself that it was really there. Yep! There it is, he one-hander), and never got stuck in the mud thought, and there are my tracks going right up to it! Being that Harold had never tried anything fancy before in his life, and even his odometer, and he loaded up in a mad had problems with wheelies, you could safe- rush to get home and tell somebody about it. ly say he was pumped.

As a matter of fact, a wheelie was the next thing he did. Less than 200 yards from the bridge was a perpetually muddy spot that he always tried to wheelie through like Sam the Crusher (we won't go into how Sam got his nickname) and always failed miserably, getting himself amazingly muddy in the process. This time he yanked on the bars in just the right spot, gave it a good dose of throttle and just a little bit of clutch, and he not only wheelied across the mud, he carried the wheelie a good 30 yards farther. He was so excited he forgot his usual caution and took his left hand off the bars and shook his fist over his head in victory—before he put the front wheel down!

He was so stunned that he stopped, wideeyed, and just sat quietly on his stalled bike. I have just defied the laws of nature twice in a row, he thought in wonder. I can't believe this is happening to me.

Actually, what was happening to Harold wasn't that big of a deal. It was His Day, pure and simple. Think about it: We have so many bad days when we go out riding, we accept it as the norm. The bike breaks down, we get tired, we blow every other turn or hill-climb—it's very rare that we can get everything together. But it happens. Once in a blue moon you can go out on the bike and seem to do absolutely nothing wrong, and since the folks you're riding with will be having a bad day—a normal day—you have a chance to wow them no end and raise yourself a notch in their esteem.



time having normal days and watching other people have a good time. Harold was like that. He had spent so many riding days dummying up and going over the bars that his friends had started calling him "Hammer" rather than Hamill behind his back, because of the many times they'd seen him hammer himself into the ground.

Too bad for Harold he was alone, Still, he had a great time doing it. He made every hill he came to, did a half-dozen more wheelies (even though he didn't try another or crashed at all. He wasn't a bit out of breath when he finished putting 50 miles on

He had barely gotten through the front door when he was on the phone to Sam the Crusher.

"Sam! You missed it! Boy, did I have a good ride today!"

"I hope you didn't hurt yourself too badly," Sam said, trying to keep from giggling.

"No, I didn't crash once. As a matter of fact, I rode right over the beam crossing the first creek—you know the one!"

"Hogwash."

"No, I swear! Rode right across that thing, and I even pulled a one-hander to celebrate!" He was boasting a little.

"I think you've been into the bottle, Hammer—er, I mean Hamill," Sam replied, getting curious.

"I finally figured it out, Sam, got it all dialed. I spent the whole day figuring out what I used to do wrong, and learning how to do it the right way. We'll have to go out next Saturday and I'll show you how to cross the bridge, and then we can do the powerline hill!'

"Anything you say, Harold," Sam said, wondering what had gotten into his formerly inept friend. "We'll go out next weekend. If nothing else, it'll be good for a laugh."

Sam wasn't laughing after they came back on Saturday. Harold didn't show him the ropes; no, nothing like that. Harold managed to plant himself in the far creek bank on the first pass across the bridge. Sam was laughing so hard that he fell into the creek and wound up in bed for a week with a bad cold. Too bad. If it hadn't been for that, The trouble is, you spend most of your he might have had a good day....





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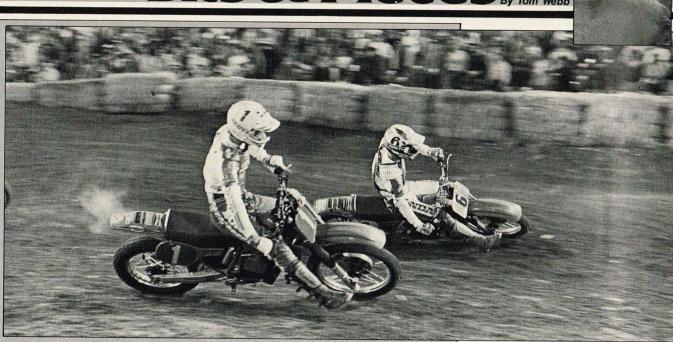
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10 DIRT BIKE / NOVEMBER 1984

## Bits & Pieces By Tom Web!



Thirty thousand dollars will be up for grabs at the Miller Masters race at the L.A. Coliseum.

#### MILLER MASTERS MAXIMUM MONSTER BUCKS

Supercross racing returns to the L.A. Coliseum on November 3. The Coliseum is the grandfather of indoor racing, and it will be the final event of the '84 season. Not only will this be the final event, but at the end of the night a special tenlap race will be run. It's called the Miller Masters, and \$30,000 in prize money goes to the winner!

In order to qualify for the Miller Masters, a rider must win a Supercross Main event while wearing Miller identification. So far David Bailey, Johnny O'Mara, Ricky Johnson and Jeff Ward have qualified by winning a Main event. Also invited will be the 125, 250 and 500 National Champs, who, ironically, have all

won and qualified; the World Champions in all classes; the Canadian, Japanese and Australian Supercross Champs; plus Rider of the Year and Rookie of the Year. A wild-card rider will be drawn from the Supercross Consolation race winners filling the field.

Thirty thousand dollars is a chunk of change, and oddly enough, unless Hannah wins one of the remaining races, he won't qualify, even though he has already won a Supercross event this year. It seems that Bob wouldn't put on the Miller logo unless they paid him, so now he's not eligible to compete in the Miller Masters. We'll see what happens, so stay tuned.

#### **GLOVER HOT AT ARENACROSS**

The Insport promoters decided to capitalize on the racing-prone San Diego people. Since the San Diego Supercross was canceled, Insport created what they call Arenacross. It's similar to Supercross but features a much shorter, tighter track. Held in an arena rather than a stadium, lap times run about 25 to 30 seconds. Unlike Supercross, both 125cc and 250cc machines are ridden.

The only two National stars to make the trek were Broc Glover and Mark Barnett. Ironically, they finished 1-2 during the night's activities. Glover quite handily won the 125s, and tight action in the 250 class pleased spectators once Barnett and Glover rammed, shadowed and tugged their way around the mini course.



Broc Glover smoked both classes at the San Diego Arenacross.



Mike Melton closed the gap on Terry Cunningham's points lead at the Jack Pine National.

#### MELTDOWN AT THE JACK PINE

Mike Melton pulled out of the doldrums by winning the Jack Pine National Enduro, edging out Terry Cunningham by a single point. The 200-mile National had Melton dropping nine points to Cunningham's ten in another Husky sweep. Cunningham still holds the edge in the points race for the National Championship over Melton, 207 to 204. Only three events are left, and it looks like it will go down to the wire again.

#### SUPERBIKERS

October 28 marks the return of the Superbikers. Labeled "biking's ultimate test," the race will feature the likes of Eddie Lawson, Andre Malherbe, Ricky Johnson and Broc Glover fighting head to head for a super-big paycheck. For tickets and/or info call (714)661-4198.

#### TECATE RUMBLINGS

The once famed Tecate enduro that was dropped a few years ago has been reinstated as a single-day event. The date will be in January, and the run will be a measly 165 miles. From what we've heard, it will be a 24-mph average and none of it easy. The club is still working on new trails, and the crew simply laughs when you ask them how tough the event will be. It sounds like a typical killer Tecate enduro.

#### AMA TAKES OVER SUPERCROSS

All 1985 Supercross races will be sanctioned by the AMA, not Insport. Insport will take on some other function within the scope of indoor racing, but schedules, dates, etc., come from the AMA.

#### HOLDING PATTERN

While we were talking with Broc Glover about the National season, we found out that he will probably ride the Open class again next year and that the production Yamahas will be very close to what they were this year. No watercooling means that Yamaha and Suzuki will be the only air-cooled 500 bikes from Japan. Both the 1985 Honda and Kawasaki are water-cooled and rumored to be far superior machines to the ones in their lineups this year.





Goat Breker's Team Green 500.

It seems that the 1984 works Kawasakis have been the test beds for the '85 production machines. Ward used a pro-



Carlsbad will once again host the annual Superbikers event.



This is Broc Glover's works production racer. This is also what the '85 YZ490 will look like.



Jeff Ward's works KX125.

#### TRANSFUSION TIME

duction '85 motor (with a little dental work) in his #1 outing this year. Breker's 500 engine appears close to the new

water-cooled showroom model, and all of them had adjustable rear struts and preload adjusters on the forks. Interesting.

(continued on page 71)

## Mister Know-it-All



#### PRIORITIES AND THEIR AVOIDANCE

• Even though I'm a tolerant man, I still remain aghast at the follies of the younger generation around me with regard to how they treat their dirt machines. I could care less than one tenth of a whit if they land in jail, disturb the neighbors or wreck their eardrums with outlandish music. But it does perturb me to see them twitter away their money on stickers, decals and plastic gee-gaws when their bikes need-nay!, CRY for new chains and sprockets. Or they prance around with a badly worn knobby at both ends, but proudly sport the latest "white plastic parts."

To me, the maintenance of a dirtbike is of paramount importance, and all the cosmetic things come second ... or lower, in the pecking order.

Use your heads, youth of the nation, and your pimply little pockets of brain tissue. The only people you might impress are those who really don't matter. Remember, I'm out there looking. And snickering, I might add.

Have a reasonable inquiry? Can you type, or write semi-legibly? Do you know someone who can? Then address your pithiest problems to Rondo Talbot, the Pithy Prober, c/o DIRT BIKE Magazine, 10600 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills, CA 91345.

Crank mail will be discarded and probably made fun of. Do not expect personal replies; I am far too busy. Thank you.

#### IT BLUBBERING

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

After reading the terrific write-up on the Yamaha IT200L in the May issue, I went out and purchased one. Unfortunately, the IT200L did not perform for me as well as it did for you.

Upon test driving it, I discovered that it breaks up at quarter throttle and wideopen throttle in first and second gear. and the spark plug comes out black. I have followed all Owner's Manual and Services recommendations to correct these problems. I have pre-mixed my gas to 24-to-1, turned the pilot air screw out three-and-a-half turns, and the recommended spark plug still comes out black. | XL600 JETTING BLUES

The bike came from the dealer with an N-86 Champion spark plug, 330 main iet in the carburetor, 6F21-4 iet needle, O0 needle jet, 2.0 throttle valve, 70 pilot jet, and with a 23.5 float height level.

Why does the Owner's Manual call for a different jetting? Why did the IT200L run so well for you? Was there a last-minute jet change I should know about? Please help and advise.

> Arthur Bounos Flushing, NY

Amazing! You might have been impressed with our write-up, but you certainly did not read the spec sheet. In there, you might note the revised jetting, which includes a 55 pilot jet and P-6 needle jet. We also recommend an Answer Products muffler/spark arrester and possibly one or two sizes smaller on the main jet.

#### **EXCELLENT QUESTION FROM A DISTINGUISHED GENT**

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

What should I do for MX boots if my foot size is 14E and I have a calf circumference of 21 inches? I'm a body builder/dirt biker and finding boots to fit is almost impossible. I can't even buckle a size 10 Hi-Point around my arms.

> Brad Ziegler Alexandria, VA

Mr. Ziegler, I, too, have a similar problem. Due to my enormous intelligence, I cannot find a helmet to fit. Ha ha, but seriously, Brad...I can call you by your first name, I hope?...you can take the boot to a good shoe repairman and ask him to extend the width of the closing flaps by adding the appropriate-sized leather insert.

#### 1965 WAS A GREAT YEAR, ISN'T IT? Dear Mr. Know-It-All.

I have a Yamaha YG-1 80cc motorcycle, made in 1965. I've had it for almost four years, and up until this summer, I have had no major problems. I have been told that I need a new front brake plate and a few engine parts. I have looked all over for these parts. I've even gone to junk yards. No one seems to have them. If you know so much, is there a Yamaha specialty dealer or specialty shop where I can get the parts? If not, what do you suggest I do?

David D. Winterhalter Framingham, MA

Considering the fact that your old motorcycle is worth 75 bucks tops, how can you justify spending more than that on it? Good Lord, man, you've had your fun. Now sell the thing for parts and move up to something newer and more modern, like a nice new 1969 model.

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

Perhaps your omniscient capability can be tapped for my meager needs. To make it short, oh Great One, I wasted dollars at several dealers in attempts to cure a severe starting and stalling problem I have with my '83 XL600.

Finally, Honda issued a starting kit for those having such problems, which was installed free, under warranty. But this has only provided minor relief of the symptoms. The problem appears to be a combination of the new RFUC head design and the Keihin carbs. She floods prophetically after the second kick, and the bowl must be drained (the petcock is off).

The dealer's service managers claim there's nothing more that can be done (as the mechanic drains the bowl and tries to start her again). Also, the second carb is apparently too lean. She cuts out briefly when given full throttle and backing off at 50-to-60 mph, and she's a slouch past 60, topping out around 85 (my old XL500 pulled 90). The dealers claim they can't rejet the Keihins. Substantiate my faith in your supreme intelligence, and execute your providence in my behalf. My red thumper needs a miracle cure, and Honda's losing believers every time I tie up traffic walking her out of busy intersections.

Bob Brown Ooltewah, TN

The XL comes jetted ultra lean to pass federal regs, because it is listed as a street bike. The grim jetting helps it pass certain emission standards. Your bike is jetted too lean, even with the revised jetting. The left carb, by the way, opens first, and at one-third to one-half throttle the second carb opens. You can send off to White Brothers for larger main jets for both carbs, which will make a bigger improvement than the Honda dealer's cure. It might also be illegal, according to Big Brother.

#### **SQUIDDLY DO-RIGHT**

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

I know this real squid. He says he rides enduros on his 1983 YZ250. We asked him if he rides enduros with a one-gallon tank, and he said, "No, I use a five-gallon tank."

Can you fit a five-gallon tank on a 1983 YZ250? He also said he put a flashlight on his front fender during the enduro. Is this guy a real squid, or what?

Laguna Beach, CA If you believed any of that, J.P. of Laguna Beach, you are the squid in this pathetic scenario.



Riding all-terrain vehicles is more than a job to me. It's a great way to have fun. But only if you do it right.

I wouldn't race without the right gear, and I won't ride without it, either. An approved helmet, eye protection, boots and gloves are important. And so is respect for your machine.

ATVs aren't toys. That's why it's important to read the Owner's Manual. And to always give your machine a thorough check-out before getting started.

As a racer I know that riding over your head is the quickest way there is to get into trouble. Stay within your limits as a rider, and you'll have a better time. And stay away from alcohol. A rider who

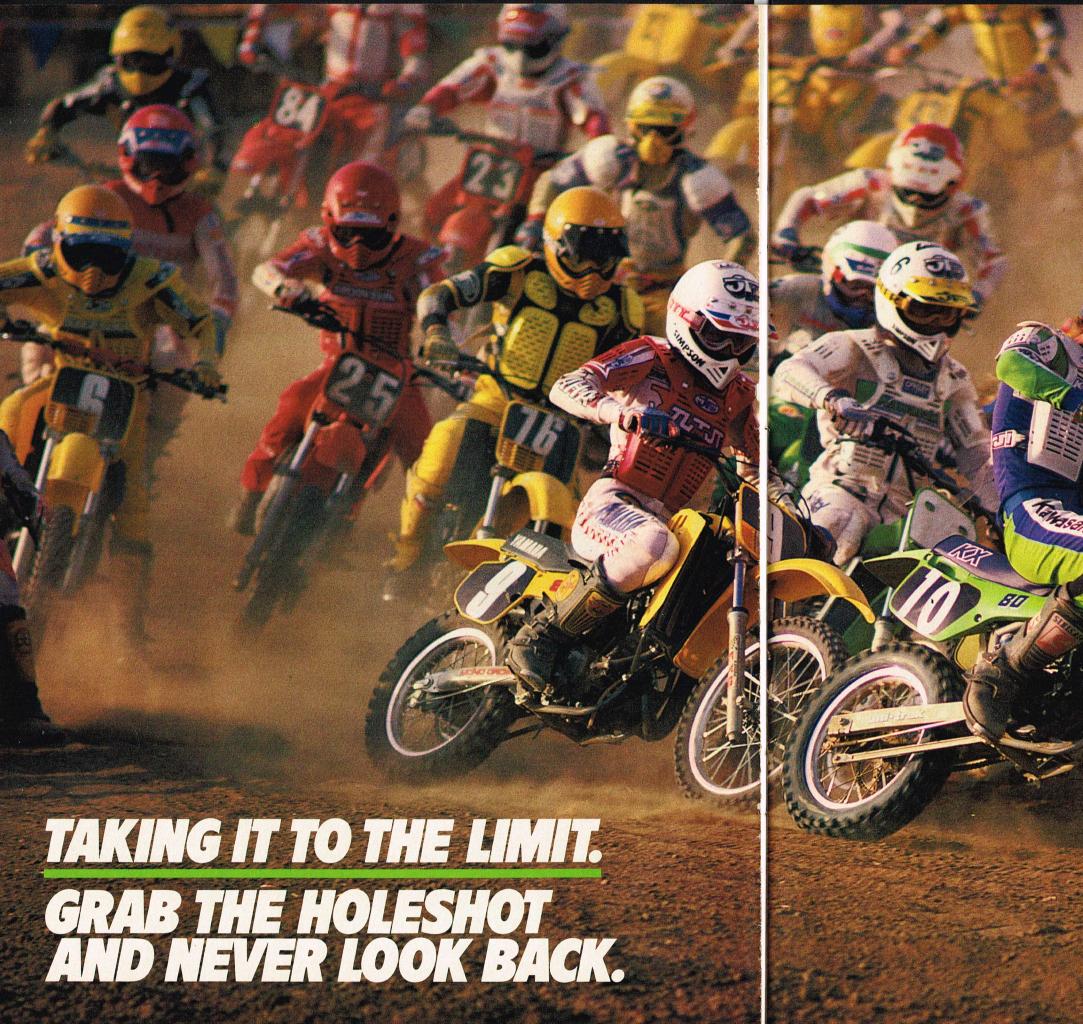
can't control himself, can't control his machine.

Age, size and experience are also important to riding safety. So when I go riding with family or friends, I make sure that everyone gets a machine that's suitable to their size and experience. I also see that children never ride unattended. That way. everyone has a good time.

And everyone comes out a winner! For more information, a free riding instruction booklet and the location of the Honda dealer nearest you, call 800-ATC-3WHL.



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1985 KX60 AND KX80.

Get the best machine. And the closer you can get to a genuine works bike, the better the machine gets.

This year, Kawasaki's KX60 and KX80 motocrossers are loaded with GP technology from all over the world. You can't get any closer to winning than that.

Every machine that wins a European GP or American Supercross has liquid-cooling. So we wouldn't dream of a 60 or 80 without it. You read it right. Our 60's been improved, radically.

Liquid-cooling prevents heat build-up as the moto wears on. So you can strike with peak power at any time. And you'll strike with even more this year. Because with heat down, the engineers have tuned the 60 and 80's horses up. To the max.

But more power won't help you without more traction. So the KX80 has a new adjustable compression damping system on the Uni-Trak® And for less unsprung weight, we've added a new box-section aluminum swingarm. Because you can't roost anyone with your real wheel off the ground.

Kawasaki is taking it to the limit with the new KX60 and KX80. So grab a winner and forget the competition. That's all behind you now.



TAKING IT TO THE LIMIT

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## 5-way adjustable preload on rising-rate Uni-Trak. A bigger carb joins new liquid cooling which allows igher compression for more hp. Optional aluminum rims save 2.2 pounds per wheel. Improved Uni-Trak has 4-way

New porting boosts horsepower in 1985. adjustable compression and rebound damping.

Rugged six-speed gearbox

with folding shift lever.

New aluminum swingarm has less unsprung weight for

better handling and traction.

## **Riders Write**

#### BAILEY UBER ALLES

Dear Dirt Bike.

I want to thank you and the Professor for writing his tips. I just had my first race at Englishtown and placed 11th, I think that his tips helped me a lot: please keep it up.

David Bailey is the best MXer ever. He is always using his head. I think he should be the real Hurricane!

> Rob Nuttall Huntingdon Valley, PA

#### TRAINING DEPARTMENT

Dear Sirs.

Since it's summer here in the Southern California desert, it's hot as Hades. I went riding yesterday in Ocatillo Wells, and at 3:30 it was 110 degrees. My friend and I fueled up on beveragesbeer, Super Socco, Gatorade, and water. We also ate some sweets—cookies and cupcakes—thinking we'd gain some energy. We rode hard for 30 minutes, and thought we were gonna die. I puked my guts out. Any suggestions for handling these conditions would be gravely appreciated. We're both in reasonably good physical condition.

> Bart Antista Oceanside, CA

To continue with our quotes of great literary works, "There's more of the gravy than the grave in you!" You say you're in good physical condition, but you won't be if you keep that up. To stave off dehydration, we believe in drinking nothing but water, as everyone on the DIRT BIKE staff gets muscle cramps from the commercial "thirst quencher" drinks. Don't drink it cold, but drink a lot of it. It also takes a certain amount of time to become acclimated to such a severe climate. Try to ride early in the morning or late in the evening, and avoid the heat of the day. Obviously, you shouldn't eat a lot of junk before you go out, but you know that

#### **QUESTION OF THE MONTH** Dear Dirt Bike.

I would like to congratulate you on having such a great magazine. I know you hear that all the time, but it is true. I would like to ask the staff a question that I'm sure a lot of other readers have been wondering about. The question is. where does Suzuki rider Mark Barnett really live? In your June '84 issues on page 70, you said he lived in Bridgeview, Illinois. Come August '84 on page 35, poor old Mark lives in Lawley, Alabama. Since I live in Alabama, I just had to know. I am sorry about the terrible typing, but I figured something as

important as this should be cleared up. I will be waiting for your answer.

Pell City, AL

bad as the grammar. Speaking of grammar, that's who Barnett lives with in Lawley, Alabama. He was raised in Bridgeview, but his wife and grandmother live with him on his grandmother's farm in Alabama.

A couple of nights ago I was watching our Olympic basketball team playing some good ball when whose head pops out from behind the bench but Bad Brad himself minus the beard. At least I think it was him. Could you tell me if it was indeed him or just some basketball freak who happens to have a face that's as at home in an Arai helmet as it is in a basketball crowd.

Also, about the Olympics, I heard that they were thinking about adding motocross as an Olympic sport. Is there any truth to this?

Montpelier, VT

It may have been Bad Brad, but when pressed, he refused to comment on the situation. As far as Olympic motocross goes, don't hold your breath. It probably couldn't compete with the men's air gun finals for excitement, anyhow, Vermont, eh? Send us a quart of grade "B" maple syrup, and the next time we'll spell your name right.

#### WE HAVE A PROBLEM HERE... Dear Dirt Bike,

I have a 1984 Kawasaki 125. So far I

I've been going to motocross races,

#### Bubba Guntrip

At this point you should try putting about \$1500 into a frontal lobotomy. Obviously, your bike is too big for you -you're being intimidated by all the power and are scared to get on the gas. You should consider moving back down to the 80cc class for a few years, until you are certain you can control the wild burst of power available from a highly

Jamey Willis

You're right, the typing is almost as

#### **FULL COURT PRESS**

Dear DB.

Gene "KTM Kid" Fontaine

have put \$275 into porting, \$400 into suspension, \$200 into the carb, and \$100 into tires. I use aviation gas and have just put on a boost bottle.

and I just can't win. Average riders lap me at least twice a moto. What can I do to get more power? I know I'm fast. Do you think that the reason I get lapped is because of my bike, or because I weigh 375 pounds?

#### Gladwin, MI

modified 125.

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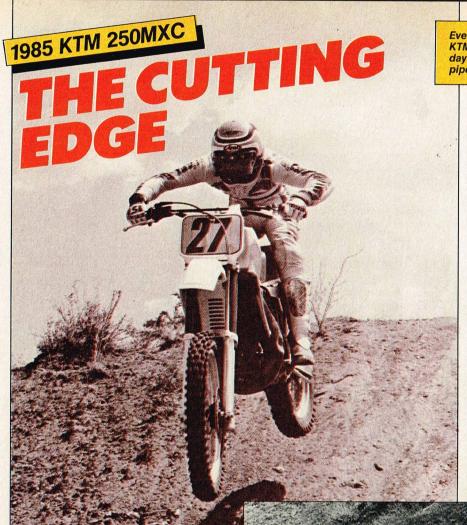
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Even though the new tank looks bulbous, this KTM is one of the slimmest bikes made to-day—sliding forward is a snap. We mashed the pipe during a close shave with a deep rut.

a new engine design has resulted in more torque and horsepower, and the fastest 250 of '84 is now about ten percent up across the powerband. Also, the rake has been changed for tighter turning, and the whole package was slimmed down with the help of a new gas tank. Sadly, the bike has gained four pounds in the process, going from 219 to 223, but it is still the lightest 250 enduro bike going.

#### MOTOR MADNESS

In an attempt to extract more horsepower lower in the rev range, KTM lengthened the stroke of the 250 engine and decreased the bore diameter. They succeeded. The new bike has just enough extra grunt to lug through the test sections that the '84 had trouble with. During our first impression, we thought that first gear was slightly tall, but after lugging the bike through some of the tightest trails we would find, we have amended our opinion. First gear should be fine for anything but vertical walls.

Overshadowing the low-end power, though, is the unbelievable mid-range. When the MXC comes on the pipe, things happen rapidly. In good traction conditions the KTM will stand up and rocket forward so suddenly that the rider really has to be on his toes to keep from winding up on his

KTM has just moved the term "no compromise" into the nether regions

By the Staff of DIRT BIKE

There's no denying the fact that we were impressed with last year's KTM 250MXC. The bike was lighter than anything else in the class, had an awsome power delivery, and what it lacked in suspension refinement (read: Marzocchi forks) was overshadowed by the light weight and accurate handling. We liked the bike so much that we refused to give it back, and it was ridden every weekend—with zero mechanical troubles. If asked what we thought KTM could do to improve the '84 MXC, we would have been hard-pressed for an answer, other than ironing out the Marzocchis.

Well, '85 has rolled around, and KTM has not sat on its hands for the past year. We noted with a certain amount of joy that the bike would now be delivered with White Power 4054 upside-down forks, a suspension system that made its debut on the bigger bikes last year and has proven to be a vast improvement over the Zokes.

At that, we would have been happy, but



Getting the MXC around a corner takes little more than a nod of the head, thanks to the new rigid front end. Steering is so precise, it may be disorienting to some riders.



There is no trick to doing wheelies on the MXC; the trick is to try to keep the wheel on the ground!

back. In marginal traction the rear tire will spin wildly—we wore out the original Metzeler in two rides.

This mid-range explosion will take some getting used to. The best way to ride the MXC is to take it easy on the throttle. Roll the power on and shift early—keep the engine working and the rear end will behave. Treat the mid-range like a nitrous injection system—not the sort of thing you want to use all the time, but when you need it to make a pass, it'll be right there. Top-end power is also very strong, but like the lower end, it pales in comparison to the mid-range.

For the technoid freaks among you, the KTM achieves its power through a Nikasil bore, a sprayed-on cylinder coating developed by the Mahle Piston people that is comparable to the Kawasaki Electro-Fusion bore. "Nikasil" stands for nickel silicone carbide, and although this cylinder can't be honed or bored, KTM testing indicated that the material should last through at least four pistons. Mahle is currently setting up a cylinder re-coating plant in New England, so we should soon be able to get such cylinders rejuvenated inexpensively.

The gearbox hasn't been changed for '85, but the gap between fourth and fifth gear is not as noticeable, thanks to the additional power on tap. Shifting is pretty much standard KTM, which means the lever throw is relatively long, and gear engagement is slightly on the notchy side. Not as notchy as, say, a Yamaha IT, but not as smooth as a KDX200.



The White Power 4054 forks are a giant step up from Marzocchis, but they do demand a careful setup. The brake line you see here is not stock; the production line should be cleaner and much more rigid.

#### SUSPENSION STROKING

The Pro-Lever/White Power suspension system on our test bike was no less than excellent. KTM changed the leverage ratio of the system, and also lowered the weight. One of our testers remarked that the Pro-Lever reacted much like the Suzuki Full-Floater system, a suspension we've had much respect for over the years. Our MXC needed no dialing in and seemed to suit a wide range of rider weights—a sign of a well-developed system.

Chatter bumps do not exist with the Pro-Lever. Even with the rear end fishtailing wildly from too much rear brake, trying to compensate for way too much speed, the back end would simply float over the bumps, remaining in tight control. On bigger crushers it takes each hit and then moves on to the next one, with no shocks being transmitted through the frame. One of our 200-pounders managed to bottom the rear end once, indicating that the spring is just a little on the stiff side. Lighter-weight riders may find even better results with a lighter spring and/or slightly lower preload.

Our front end came to us a little confused, but it gave us an opportunity to become very familiar with the White Power forks. Because of a change in the internal valving, no one in the country was up-to-date on how they have to be set up, and as a result, our forks were topping out badly during the initial ride. This is always a symptom of too little oil, and when we checked it out, that was the problem.

By looks alone you can tell that these forks were not put together like normal forks, and that is the perfect truth. In a way, they are easier to work on than normal forks, but measuring the oil level is a job that will take most people a few tries to perfect (see *DB* August '84, page 36). Limited space keeps us from going into detail here, but you should read every bit of information KTM gives you before you start tearing them apart.

The important thing is that they work. After we got them dialed in, they soaked up anything thrown in their path. Even huge, square-edged crushers were cushioned with not much more than a dull *thud*. These are seriously good forks, much better than the Marzocchis of the earlier bikes. We would strongly urge any new KTM owner to get to know them inside and out and take the time to dial them in perfectly. Even though they feel good as delivered, with a little fiddling you can make them *perfect*.

#### HANDLING AND TURNING

The White Power 4054 forks give new meaning to the term "rigid." There is either no flex at all in these forks, or so little that a rider will never be able to detect it. This can be felt in any situation where the front wheel is on the ground. On a high-speed run it feels like you can take your hands off the bars. The front end doesn't shake or squirm in the least. Any time you go into a turn, they offer instant reaction—turn the bars even the slightest amount and you're moving in that direction.

It sounds great, but it takes some getting used to. Most first-time riders on this bike will badly underturn a number of corners, thinking that the bike is going to react like every other bike. It won't. You don't have to muscle this KTM—just twitch the bars, lean into the turn, and roll the throttle on. KTM pulled in the rake a half degree to make the front wheel stick better, and stick it does. The MXC turns as well as any bike we've ever ridden, enduros and motocrossers included.

## 1985 KTM 250MXC

#### **BITS AND PIECES**

Helping out the handling is a new, 3.1-gallon gas tank. It may look odd-shaped at first, but when you sling a leg over one, you'll appreciate just how narrow it makes the bike. One test rider commented that he could slide so far forward, he had to look over his shoulder to see the gas cap!

KTM has finally designated a new kickstand. This one actually stays up without clanking around and doesn't snap up as soon as the bike is vertical. An extremely welcome addition.

Every one of the suspension pivot points uses zerk fittings for regreasing. Also, all of the major pivots use needle bearings, making it one of the slickest-moving systems around.

A word on the brakes: excellent! The front disc uses a floating rotor and a dualpiston caliper, and is the best disc brake we've used to date. (The year is, however, still young...!) The double-leading-shoe rear drum works without chattering or locking uncontrollably. Together they make a perfect combination.



Double-leading-shoe rear brake is super strong and has been cured of the hairtrigger tendencies of last year's 125. Rear frame loop is stock this year, as is the aluminum muffler. A spark arrester is

.3.00 x 21 Metzeler 3E

..... 4.50 × 18 Metzeler 4E

ront . . . White Power 4054 forks, 300mm (11.8 in.)

ended use ..... Off-road, enduro

untry of origin . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Austria

etall price, approx.....\$2997 stributor/Manufacturer:

verall rating of bike, keeping intended use in mind

nndling . . . . . Excellent

Cost . . . . . Very good

fectiveness, stone stock......Excellent

is rating system is included to aid in comparison of

tes in the same displacement and intended-use

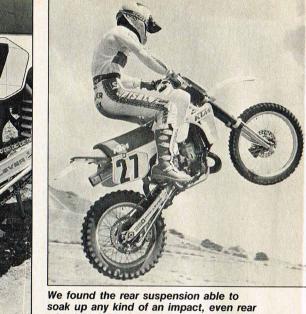
tegories. Comparing the ratings of two dissimilar

ion to detail . . . . . . . . . . Very good

..... Excellen



KTM 2	50MXC
Engine type 2-stroke, reed valve	Tire size and type:
Bore and stroke 67.5mm × 69mm	Front
Displacement	Rear 4.50 × 18 Met
Carburetion	Suspension, type and travel:
Factory recommended jetting:	Front White Power 4054 forks, 300mm (
Main jet	Rear Pro-Lever single sho
Needle jet	comp/reb., 320mm (
Jet needle8L2	Intended use Off-road,
Pllot jet50	Country of origin
Slide number	Retail price, approx
Fuel tank capacity	Distributor/Manufacturer:
Lubrication Pre-mix	KTM America
Gearbox ratios:	1906 Broadway
1 2.917:1	Lorain, OH 44052
2	Overall rating of bike, keeping intended use i
3	Handling
4	Front suspensionVe
5	Rear suspension E
Gearing, front/rear	Power
Ignition Motoplat CDI	Cost Ve
Recommended spark plug NGK B10EG	Attention to detail Ve
Silencer/spark arrester Yes/no	Effectiveness, stone stock
Wheelbase 1460mm (57.5 in.)	
Ground clearance	This rating system is included to aid in compa
Seat height	bikes in the same displacement and inten
Rake/trail	categories. Comparing the ratings of two di
Wet weight, no fuel	machines is a meaningless exercise in futility.
	and a management of the control of t



wheel landings from a surprising altitude. One-hundred-and-fifty-pound riders may feel the need for a softer spring.



KTM went to a smaller bore and a longer stroke in order to increase the low-end power. The grunt factor has been multiplied on the '85, but the mid-range power is awesome.

#### SETTING RECORDS

If you want a new 250 enduro bike this year, you haven't got too much of a choice. There's no more KDX250, no IT250; there hasn't been a PE250 in years; and the XR250 is out of the league of any of these two-strokes. That leaves you with a choice between the Husky, the KTM, and the Can-Am. Obviously, we haven't had a chance to even see the offerings from the other factories yet, but after riding this MXC, we have to say that they've got a tough job in front of them if they plan to beat out KTM.

The MXC is a no-compromise machine. There's no such thing as "leftover enduro technology" here. This is the cutting edge of enduro and hare scrambles technology this MXC does its job so well that some riders will have trouble sleeping at night after piloting it through a race, while other riders will hate it for its hair-trigger response. There's no middle of the road. You either like it or hate it. We like it. A lot.

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HELMETS

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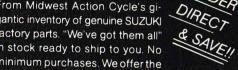
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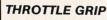
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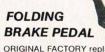




Complete piston se RM 80 all yrs															\$31.9
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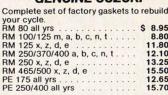
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odio dila o mig mio	 	 _	_	 _	EST HALL
RM 80 all yrs					\$23.25
RM 100/125 all yrs					26.80
RM 250/370/400 all yrs					30.40
RM 465/500 x, z, d, e .					29.35
PE 175 all yrs					28.30
OF 250/400 all vrs					29.35

#### STATOR PLATE ASSY.

0	SUZUKI FACTURT Teplacel	nem
	assy.	
5	RM 80 all yrs	\$73.45
5	RM 100/125 m, a, b, c,	
5	n. t	83.50
0	RM 125 x, z, d, e	88.15
5	RM 250/370/400 all yrs	83.95
5	RM 465/500 x, z, d, e	83.95
	PE 175/250/400 all yrs	77.65
13	NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, WHEN PERSON O	-

## RM 370/400/465/500 all years TM 250/ TS 250 all years . . . .

assy.	
RM 80 all yrs	 \$73.45
RM 100/125 m, a, b, c,	
n, t,	 83.50
RM 125 x, z, d, e	 88.15
RM 250/370/400 all yrs	 83.95
RM 465/500 x, z, d, e .	 83.95
PE 175/250/400 all yrs	 77.65
L 175/250/400 all yls	77.00
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5/500 all yrs	
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RM 100/125 m, a, b, c .



**RM 80** 

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PE 175

PE 175 z, d, e

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#### SALVAGE



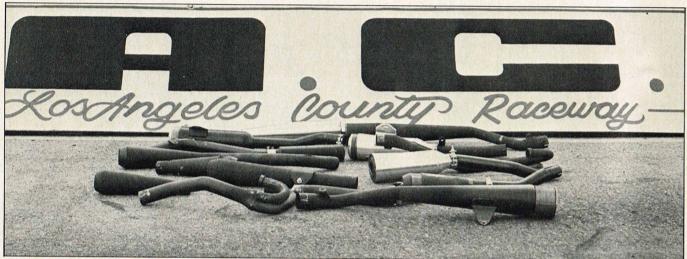
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## WHO MAKES THE FASTEST HONDA PIPES?

Want the strongest four-stroke around? The drag strip gives us the answers

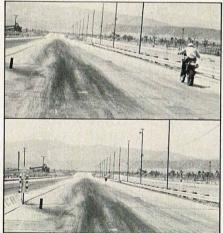
By the Staff of DIRT BIKE, with special thanks to Bernie Longjohn of L.A. County Raceway for advice & counsel



The bolt-on pipes varied greatly in performance. We tried many combinations of headpipes and tail sections in our quest for better performance.



At the end of a day at the drag strip, our Honda XR500 logged well over 50 miles of quarter-mile runs. Ron Gibson, a District 37 four-stroke racer, was at the controls



The timing lights don't lie. All runs were made with a rolling start at ten miles per hour in second gear, and the clutch was used on each shift.

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on the marketplace is performance pipes for the XR500 Honda four-strokes. Many claims are made. What we want to do here is test those claims.

Our method of testing is very straightforward and simple. We took the bike out to Los Angeles County Raceway and ran it through the quarter-mile traps and measured both the E.T. (elapsed time) and the speed at the end of the quarter.

All runs were done with a rolling start in second gear, with the bike crossing the line at ten miles per hour. This eliminated the standing start factor and gave us very consistent times.



Hot and sweaty work. While the pipes and mufflers were being changed, the bike was allowed to cool down between runs. After the testing, we did backup runs with the stock setup.

	WEIGHT	PRIC
STOCK Honda XR500 muffler/spark arrester tail section	63/4lbs	\$203.5
POWROLL Muffler/spark arrester, 18 discs	4.0 lbs	\$60.0
MUGEN megaphone with silencer	4.7 lbs	\$69.0
INTERNATIONAL MOTORSPORTS S/S megaphone/muffler	4.4 lbs	\$69.9
INTERNATIONAL MOTORSPORTS Frontier muffler, with spark		
arrester, 28 discs	5.0 lbs	Call for price
SUPERTRAPP, muffler/spark arrester, 8 discs, one-piece,		
includes S-bend pipe	61/4 lbs	\$84.9
SUPERTRAPP, muffler/spark arrester, 16 discs, same as above	7.0 lbs.	\$99.1
SUPERTRAPP, aluminum muffler/spark arrester, 6 discs,		
with pipe section	41/4 lbs.	\$94.9
WHITE BROTHERS 12-inch open steel megaphone, no muffling	1½ lbs.	\$22.0
Pipe	2 lbs.	
WHITE BROTHERS Megalloy aluminum megaphone with silencer	21/2 lbs.	\$94.9
WHITE BROTHERS aluminum spark arrester, same as SuperTrapp		
with pipe section	43/4 lbs	94 0
WHITE BROTHERS Steel SuperTrapp muffler/spark arrester	33/4 lbs.	\$44.0
WHITE BROTHERS 20-inch steel open megaphone	3.0 lbs.	\$32.0
WHITE BROTHERS Special headpipes with Megalloy silencer	33/4 lbs	\$149 0
Silencer	21/2 lbs	
WHITE BROTHERS Special headpipes with aluminum muffler/		
spark arrester; headpipes	33/4 lbs	\$149.9
Muffler		
PRO-TEC special headpipes with open steel megaphone; pipes	3.0 lbs	\$81.0
Megaphone only	3.2 lbs	
PRO-TEC special headpipes with J&R muffler/spark arrester.		
tail section	4.0 lbe	\$70.0



Pro-Tec headpipe with J&R muffler/spark arrester.



SuperTrapp steel three-inch spark arrester. It came as the base muffling device in a number of the products offered. This unit was from Powroll.



The best elapsed time for a straight muffler was recorded by the International Motorsports steel S/S pipe.



An IMS spark arrester/muffler called the Frontier attached to the stock headpipe.



White Brothers' 12-inch megaphone.



White Brothers' 20-inch megaphone.



White Brothers' aluminum spark arrester/ muffler. This was the identical unit to the Trapp, with a different name plate.



A good performer, the White Brothers Megalloy muffler.



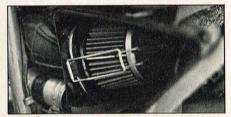
Those stock Honda headpipes were actually well designed. The White Brothers headpipes shown here were worth only one-tenth of a second over the stockers.



Baja proven, the Mugen steel muffler worked well.



The open megaphone from Pro-Tec, combined with their headpipes, was loud and ultra fast.



Our Honda XR500 received a K&N filter and careful jetting before the performance pipes were tried. With stock jetting and filter our initial pipe testing showed dismal results. You MUST rejet the bike for any reasonable sort of gain:

#### **MUFFLERS WITH SPARK ARRESTERS**

MUFFLERS WITH SPARK ARRESTERS								
2345678901	BO MPH 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0							
14.760	88.66							
14.744	88.32							
14.846	87.54							
14.952	88.66							
14.821	89.46							
14.821	89.46							
14.897	87.87							
14.704	89.10							
15.081	86.04							
E.T.	TOP SPEED							
	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 8 14.760 14.744 14.846 14.821 14.821 14.897 14.704 15.081							

#### OPEN PIPES—UNMUFFLED, NO SPARK ARRESTERS FOR CLOSED-TRACK USE ONLY

PIPE	*14 SEC. +	1	2 :	3 4	5	6	7 8	9	0	1	80 MPH	1	2	2 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1 2
White Brothers—12 inch, open steel megaphone		-	-	-		-		4.74	3					-	-		-	-	-	-		91.74
White Brothers—20-inch open steel megaphone			-	-	-	- 1	4.59	3				-		-	-	-	-	-		-	<b>9</b>	0.18
Pro-Tec-Special headpipes with open steel megaphone			100	NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.	14	4.46	5						-	O COLUMN		-		NA.	-			90.36
						E	т.										то	PS	PEE	D		

#### **MUFFLED SYSTEMS—NO SPARK ARRESTERS**

PIPE	14 SEC. +   1 2 3	4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1	80 MPH 1	2 3 4 5 6	7 8 9 0 1 2
Stock Honda XR500 pipe, includes built-in spark arrester, stock filter	and jetting	14.92		83.0	
Stock XR500 pipe, with K&N filter and stock jetting	THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN	15.04	test part	84.5	
Stock XR500 pipe, with cut airbox, K&N filter and modified jetting		14.755	Constant Constant	CONTRACTOR OF STREET	87.63
Mugen Megaphone with screen silencer	Designation of the last of the	14.444		-	89.82
IMS S/S pipe, megaphone with screen silencer		14.407		THE RESERVE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE	90.54
White Brothers Megalloy aluminum megaphone with screen silencer	-	14.572	Name of Street	-	89.02
White Brothers special headpipe with Megalloy silencer	-	14.474			90.18
		E.T.		TOI	SPEED

\*E.T. SECONDS IN 10ths

NOVEMBER 1984 / DIRT BIKE 29



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83/84 XR 350 RFVC 74.95
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83/84 XR 500 RFVC 74.95
83/84 XR 600 RFVC 74.95
81/83 XR 200R 74.95
YAMAHA All TT/XT-250 74.95

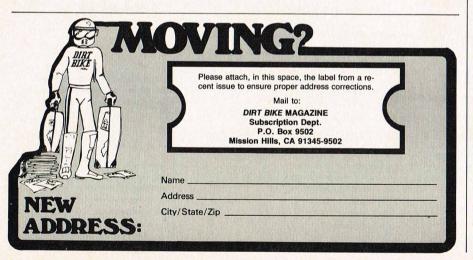
YAMAHA
All TT/XT-250 74.9
1977 thru 1981 TT/XT 500 74.95
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prevent cracking. No loss to low end. 84 IT-200L 83 IT-250K 83 IT-490K Clamp on spark arrestor available for all above . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 24.95 TO ORDER, see local dealer, or mail to DG. Specify make & year of bike, products & price. (CA res. add 6% sales tax). COD, cash, cashier's check, money ord., MC/VISA acceptable. Inc. card #, exp. date, & sample of authorized\_signature. Freight collect only. 1-714-630-5471 (Inside CA) DG PERFORMANCE SPECIALTIES, Inc. 1230 La Loma, Anaheim, CA 92806 ORDER TOLL FREE TODAY! 1-800-854-9134 (Outside CA only)

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#### **HONDA PIPES**

#### WHAT WE DID TO OUR STOCK XR500

The bike was run stone stock a number of times. A representative time was 14.92 seconds at 83 miles per hour. We then tried a few pipes and found the engine bogging badly and the plug running lean. Using the stock jetting and filter was out of the question. The bike simply would not have survived the day.

We then cut the airbox to let some air flow through and installed a K&N filter. White Brothers (in their informative literature that comes with each pipe) warns you not to expect much from any pipe if the engine cannot breathe. With only the K&N filter in place, the bike ran much worse. It leaned out the XR so badly that it coughed and gasped at lower revs and gave a dangerously light plug reading.

#### JETTING—A MUST!

The stock XR500 runs a 135 main jet in the left carb and a 108 in the right carb. LACR is located at 2600 feet altitude, so we ended up using a 152/122 combo. White Brothers suggests a 142/112 combo with their pipes at sea level. You'll have to adjust accordingly. But you will have to adjust if you change the pipe.

With the K&N filter and stock jetting our results were 15.04 at 84.5 mph. With the proper jetting we ran an improved 14.755 at 87.63 mph. That in itself was a substantial gain.

#### TESTING THE PIPES

After the bike was dialed in, our test rider, Ron Gibson, a District 37 four-stroke racer, ran the XR500 through the traps with each pipe combination.

Some of the pipes bolt on the existing stock headpipes, while others offer you a complete new system. Of course, the addons are less expensive. What worked? What didn't? Well, for your convenience we've grouped the pipes into three categories: muffled, unmuffled and muffler/spark arrester. Your need will determine which group you should choose from. It's pretty obvious you won't be running an open megaphone in the woods, and you certainly will not need a spark arrester for motocross.

The results are widely varied and in some instances, amazing. How much is a tenth of a second worth to you? Or are you more interested in sheer top speed potential? In either case, we have winners and losers. Read on and learn.  $\square$ 

#### WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

Powroll Performance Products P.O. Box 1206, Bend, OR 97709 Mugen, c/o Sudco 1824 E. 22nd St., Los Angeles, CA 90058

International Motorsports
1189 W. LaCadena Dr., Riverside, CA 92501
SuperTrapp, Div. of Moller Corp.

1222 Research Park Dr., Davis, CA 95616
White Brothers
11750 Seaboard Circle, Stanton, CA 90680

Pro-Tec 282 Gemini, Brea, CA 92021 1984 AMA OUTDOOR NATIONAL MX SERIES WRAP-UP

# PRESSURE

Suprises, shockers, stunners, sweeps & no-shows

By Tom Webb



In Colorado, O'Mara took the lead in the second-moto start. At the tail end of the moto, Ward caught and passed the bewildered Honda rider.



Johnny claimed much of the year was spent testing and improving his bike, whereas Ward had the Kawasaki dialed early on.

Runaway wins in Colorado brought Ron Lechien close to Ricky Johnson in the points race.



Jeff Ward: "After I'd won some big races early in the year, second place just wasn't good enough."

Ricky Johnson: "Last year I thought I was King Baloney. I was bad. I felt that if someone was in my way, I'd just knock him over. This year I've learned that sometimes you have to go around."

Broc Glover: "Bailey said to me after the first moto at Mt. Morris, 'Can you believe how fast we're going?' I thought about it; he was right. It was faster than I'd ever gone before."

Jeff Ward, Ricky Johnson and David Bailey are the newest National Outdoor Motocross Champions. For Ward and Johnson, it was a long, bitter battle to the top. Nerves reached a savage high in their quest for the number one plate. Bailey



Number Four Ward will be Number One Ward in 1985. After a few early wins, he said second place just wasn't good enough.

brought new meaning to the words "Just what is fast?"

Nineteen eighty-four provided us with some patented, textbook battles: Ward versus O'Mara, Johnson versus Lechien, and Bailey up against Glover. We talked to all of them, looking, prodding and poking their minds to find out the real skinny. Starting with the 125 class, here's the lowdown.

#### 125 CLASS:

#### WARD AND O'MARA HAVE IT OUT!

After the 1983 season, Johnny O'Mara decided to concentrate on stadium racing. He'd won the 125 National title, and it did little to enhance his value. Jeff Ward, on the other hand, wanted *some* kind of title. Kawasaki had gone too long without a number one plate, and there was no doubt that the pressure was put on Ward.

O'Mara went into the National season split. He had the number one plate to carry in the 125 class, but knew deep down that the stadium races were where the gold was. "I was concentrating on the stadium stuff. In the meantime, he (Ward) was at the Golden State series riding his 125. They'd been testing and racing, testing and racing long before we ever got our bike. Their bike had been perfect since January; we didn't even get mine until two weeks before the Nationals. Basically, he had a two-and-a-half-month jump on us.

"When our bike came over, we were hoping that it would be deluxe and only need little stuff to get it going. Instead, it turned out to be a major. For the entire year, we tested something different at every race. I'd say that Ward's success had a lot to do with the bike, as it worked really well all year. The last couple of Nationals we got semidialed, but were still behind in horsepower. Sometimes we got the power, but the bike got impossible to ride. It would make me

## KEN CLARK

Yamaha's motocross team manager talks about racing production bikes in the works class

K en Clark has been the racing manager at Team Yamaha since the earth's crust cooled. This year he achieved mixed success. Yamaha being in the odd position of being the only factory racing stock-based machinery. We talked with him about what's up for next year.

DB: What's going to happen with Team Yamaha in 1985? Will we see a continuation of the use of production-based bikes in Supercross and National MX?

Clark: Absolutely! We will be using stock bikes again, with whatever modifications we need to do the job. Our ultimate goal is to get more and more people involved with motocross, and you can't do it if the top riders compete on machinery that's available to only a handful. How can anyone expect a newcomer to challenge equipment that's available only to the David Baileys of the world? We figure if we put our time, effort and know-how into what's available, we can offer the racer top-level equipment that's affordable. It's worked for us. . . Ricky Johnson is the 250 National Champ, on a stockbased bike. We've won more than our share of stadium races against the exotica that the privateer will never see.

DB: How do you develop the new technology for your production-based racers?

Clark: We have people in the U.S. who are trying new things all the time. If a mechanic has an idea to produce more power, we put it on the dyno, then field-test it to see how it holds up. If it proves out, 30 days later the Yamaha Wrench Reports are on their way to every Yamaha dealer in the country. We share our technology.

DB: Some people say your stock-based bikes are more trick than some of the factory specials. Care to respond?

Clark: Hey, we just let some journalists ride Ricky Johnson's bike—the same bike he won with at Washougal. We let 'em ride it, then take it apart. It was a stock machine with our proven modifications, and it was well set up. That's it. A sportsman rider could turn his own YZ into something John-



DB: With all the successes of 1984—a great 250 and a super 490—what happened with the YZ125? It was sort of the sluggo of the field.

Clark: We will not have a slow 125 in 1985. I repeat, Yamaha has no intention of bringing out a slow 125. I don't know how it happened; maybe it was because we never really fielded a rider in the 125 class, and we gave all of our attention to the 250 and 500 classes. Next year we just might have two riders in each class, a real all-out effort. We already have Broc and Ricky, but we might even shuffle their classes around. Who knows? We'll keep the competition guessing right up until the season starts.

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#### 1984 AMA OUTDOOR NATIONAL MX



Mark Barnett never got in touch with his Suzuki. In the last few races of the year, he rode a production-framed machine to de-



Hannah got hurt early, then hurt again, but still proved that he's one of the fastest racers around.



At the final event of the year, Washougal, Lechien was three points behind Johnson.

ride harder and more radical, and I'd use a lot more energy.

"I hate using that as an excuse, but on loamy tracks where the powerband equaled out, I'd always beat him."

That so-called power controversy came up often during the year. Honda claimed the department. Ward says, "I don't think it was the bike, or that mine was faster. They complained all year long that our bike was superior to theirs, but on a 125 it's almost impossible to be that much better. We had a good powerband from the bottom to the top. Really good. They say the Kawasaki guys have had their works motors since the Golden State series and have been dialing them ever since. Bull! At the Golden State we were racing last year's 125, which really helped. I got a lot of riding time on it. Then we got some new motors, which are basically production 1985 engines. That's it! We tried little things; mainly I rode the bike constantly during the week and especially the day before the race.

"Johnny beat me off the gate as many times as I beat him. His bike had bottom end, but I don't know about handling. I



Keith Bowen and Billy Liles duked it out in Denver for most of the second moto. Liles ended up third for the year, Bowen

could tell that the motor was good, and I followed him enough to see that the bike looked like it handled just fine."

The two riders respect each other off the track, but on the track things get a little sticky. O'Mara's words: "Jeff is real tough, but a little cocky, and I don't like that much. Kawasakis had an advantage in the boost I try to keep it to myself when I do well; he likes to shout about it. I've seen that more than I care to remember.

Ward, on the other hand, says, "I used to think real highly of him. Before, I could run in tight with him and not worry. I've lost that confidence. He's made some foolish moves, and I don't trust him any long-

#### ROLLERBALL AT WASHOUGAL

Going into the final rounds, Ward held a slight lead over the O'Show. Colorado was the second-to-last race, and O'Mara needed a pair of wins if he wanted to stay in the hunt. Instead, Jeff bolted to a double moto win, further increasing his points lead. The track was hilly, coupled with a high altitude, and it made the works 125s run like blenders. Ward's "blender" appeared stronger that day, especially after a come-from-behind second-moto win. Washougal would be



The new 250 Champ, Ricky Johnson, used his head this year and rode smartly. His new found wisdom gave him the final ingredient needed to become a champion.

deliverance day for both riders.

Johnny had a substantial 18-point deficit to make up heading into the final event. Deep down, he knew his chances of backto-back number one plates were about as strong as pole vaulting with dental floss.

Both riders were middle of the pack after the first-moto start. All Jeff needed was a top ten finish to guarantee a championship. He wasn't going to take any wild chances. "My plan was to win the championship; I'd already won seven races out of nine. I'd proven that I could beat him every moto, whenever I had to. I just didn't want to get knocked down or break. It's as simple as

Things aren't that simple, especially when the pressure is on. At the tail end of the moto, O'Mara moved up on Ward. He shadowed the Kawasaki rider, hoping for some kind of break. "Near the end of the moto I caught Jeff. As I was passing him, I hit his front wheel and knocked him down. Hey, man, that's racing. It wasn't intentional. In racing, whatever happens, happens. Afterwards, he was all ready to come over and fight me. He's done it to me before, at Saddleback."

#### 1984 AMA OUTDOOR NATIONAL MX

Ward, on the other hand, wasn't real thrilled. His story differs quite a bit. "I got out in front and was running away, building a ten-second lead. My arms started pumping a little, and I was making too many mistakes, so I slowed down toward the end of the moto. I knew I'd made it through the crucial point of the moto; I was out front. O'Mara was charging hard, trying to catch me in a last-ditch effort. With four laps to go, we entered a double jump right at the mechanics' area. I jumped them in practice, but during the race I didn't want to miss. So I didn't double them. O'Mara was doubling them and got in right behind me, heading into a 180 left turn. There was a real good berm on the inside and a flat berm way outside going up a hill. I missed the line and went over the berm. Then, I put my arm down to wave him by on the inside. I was way outside; he wasn't looking and started to turn back and get in the good approach. He must have overshot the berm, too, because as I was turning, with my left arm off the bars, he flipped his back end into me and took me out. I wasn't near the berm! I know he wanted to take me out in the back of the track, but he couldn't get close enough. It was deliberate."-

In the end, Jeff said it best. "After I'd won some big races early in the year, second place just wasn't good enough." They split moto wins at Washougal, and Jeff Ward finally snagged his first major championship. He was overjoyed, saying, "I've been racing the 125 Nationals for seven years. That's a long time. The first five years was just learning. Back then, the class was jammed with talent like Glover and Barnett. Now there aren't as many riders going for the title, but the competition at the top is awesome."

#### RICKY JOHNSON AND TEAM STOCKER BATTLE RONNIE LECHIEN AND THE RED KILLERS

Of all the classes, the 250 division is clearly the most feared. Although reigning number one, David Bailey, parted for the 500s, the class is still packed with talent. Team Honda's Bob Hannah and Ron Lechien are animals. Ricky Johnson and youngster Keith Bowen represented Yamaha. Mark Barnett transferred to the class and would have Scott Burnworth along for the ride from Suzuki. Kawasaki's money was on young Billy Liles and old-timer Kent Howerton.

The season started on a sour note for Hannah. He was injured in a painful practice crash in the California desert and was doubtful as a threat in the early races. Mark Barnett, on the other hand, was healthy, but his works Suzuki was sick.

Ironically, the talent-packed 250 class proved to be the most inconsistent of all the divisions. In May, at the Atlanta round, several things became apparent. Ronnie Lechien was finally happy with the works Honda. Ricky Johnson, a much different



David Bailey brought new meaning to the stagnant 500 class. Total control! His dominance early in the year stifled favorite Broc Glover.



Toward the end of the year, Glover dialed up the wick a bit. In Colorado he and Bailey split moto wins and had a serious dice of death in both motos.



This was probably Kent Howerton's last year. The Rhinestone Cowboy tallied seventh overall for the season.

rider from 1983, was gradually working his way up the points standings. Bob Hannah was erased from the picture when Keith Bowen landed on top of the Hurricane and damaged his wrist. The race was on—Lechien versus Johnson, stock versus bigbucks trickery.

Two weeks later, at the Mt. Morris National, Ricky Johnson finally put it all together. He'd won a moto at every National so far, but never finished with an overall victory.

Now was the time and the "100% Flash" tallied a 1-1 day.

Millville, Minnesota, a sandy, whoop-infested torture track, was the third from the last event in the outdoor schedule. Johnson held a 19-point lead going in; going out it was cut to nine points. Lechien went 1-1, followed by Bob Hannah's 2-2 score. Controversy plagued the win, however, as Hannah, leading both motos, suddenly slowed, letting Lechien by twice.

Johnson calmly stated, "I know he (Hannah) pulled over and let Ronnie by. It's not like Hannah to make a big charge the whole race, pull out a lead, and then suddenly accidently bobble, both motos. That's just not

Bob. He had to do the same thing the year before. Had the situation been reversed, I hope he would have done the same for me. That's team racing and one of the reasons



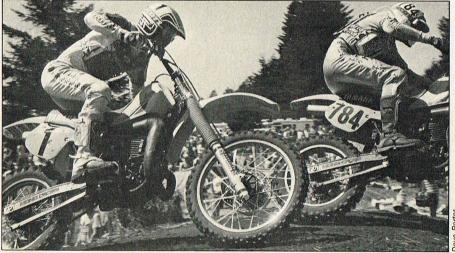
Late in the year, Husky gave Micky Dymond a genuine single-shock works bike. His finishes improved, although he was only seventh at the end of the year in points



Magoo rode a few races but spent much of the year on the mend. When on the track he was thrilling to watch, to say the least.



Kawasaki's Goat Breker raced with himself all year long and ended up third. He never was a threat to Bailey or Glover.



Broc spent much of the year learning to ride his production-based YZ490 fast enough to keep Bailey in sight. It was too little too late.

you have more than one good rider in a People say that he slowed and let me win.

But take Johnson, for example—he wasn't

Lechien felt a little different. "I really don't know what happened to Hannah.

125 NATIONAL	CLASS FINAL POSITIONS	
	Mission Viejo, CA	
2. Johnny O'Mara	Simi Valley, CA	461
3. Mike Beier	Orange, CA	322
4. A. J. Whiting	Sherman Oaks, CA	299
	Granada Hills, CA	
	Longview, WA	
	San Jose, CA	
8. Guy Cooper	Stillwater, OK	183
	Bakersfield, CA	
	Costa Mesa, CA	
	<b>CLASS FINAL POSITIONS</b>	
	El Cajon, CA	
2. Ron Lechien	El Cajon, CA	411
3. Billy Liles	Fairburn, GA	366
4. Alan King	Troy, MI	306
5. Mark Barnett	Bridgeview, IL	292
6. Keith Bowen	Pontiac, MI	287
7. Kent Howerton	San Antonio, TX	281
8. Jim Holley	Northridge, CA	204
	Atwater, OH	
10. Bob Hannah	Carson City, NV	191
	CLASS FINAL POSITIONS	
	Axton, VA	
2. Broc Glover	El Cajon, CA	443
	Riverside, CA	
4. Mark Murphy	Ft. Myers, FL	253
6 Mickey Keesler	Newbury Park, CA Farmingdale, NJ	241
7. Micky Dymand	Verba Linda CA	224
8 Andy Stage	Yorba Linda, CA	221
9 David McClain	DePew, NY	18/
	San Bernardino, CA	
io. Scott Warning	Sail Bernaidino, CA	159

People say that he slowed and let me win. But take Johnson, for example—he wasn't even in the hunt there. He couldn't see us, so how could he know what was happening? He was too far behind to even catch a glimpse of us."

The high speed and high altitude of Colorado was next. Yamaha was frazzled. Their bikes simply couldn't deal with the long uphills and the lack of air.

Johnson said, "We had a real power problem in Denver. I rode my butt off and nothing seemed to work. The altitude, combined with the hills, made for a track that required no talent or finesse. It was just hit the gas and go. The Hondas had the horse-power, so they worked better. Those giant power uphills let Lechien just sit down and gas it. I don't know if a 490 would have been enough to keep him in sight."

Lechien's double moto win in Denver closed the points gap to a measly three points. The final round in Washougal was do-or-die time for both riders. A double win for Lechien, and the championship was his. Johnson was positive heading into the race. Horsepower would *not* be the key; rider ability and stamina would.

Johnson started slowly, "I got off to a crappy start and was real nervous once I found out Ronnie was in front. I was back in ninth, and I just started riding at my own pace and quit worrying about him.

"I started attacking the track, and I think he started worrying about me and fell. In fact, he fell twice, and the second time he got up right in front of me. I motored around him and held that position. Hannah was out in front, but I didn't care. Ronnie was my only concern."

Lechien didn't care for the track, saying, "That track gets rougher than a son of a gun. I just don't like it; Denver's track was better for me. I holeshot the first moto and tried to put some time on the pack. Johnson was stuck in traffic, so I was gassing it up, trying to motor away. Then I slid down and he got around. I couldn't gain on him, so that ended my chances."

Both of these riders are young and will see plenty of head-to-head action in the future. Johnson won the title in a close battle. He says the big difference this year was, "I used my head. Last year I thought I was King Baloney. I was bad. I felt that if someone was in my way, I'd just knock him over. This year I've learned that sometimes you have to go around."

#### **NEW ATTITUDES**

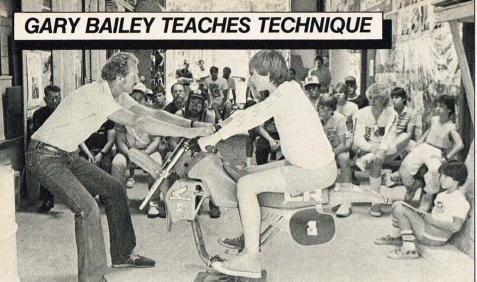
David Bailey nearly overprepared for the 500 Nationals. "I was nervous. I knew Broc was tough and experienced on 500s, so I really got physically and mentally set up before the start of the season." Glover, on the other hand, had a mental block to conquer. He'd be riding a production YZ490. Bailey would be on a fire-breathing, water-cooled, monster works 500 Honda. Broc had never ridden production bikes in a National series before, and being typically a slow starter only compounded his problems.

Saddleback set the tone for the rest of the season. David's missile machine slammed him to wins in both motos. Broc stumbled to get seconds. He looked ragged. David knew the bike was good. "Our bike was excellent right from the beginning. We did very little development work; most of our time was spent dialing it in. It had tons of power, more than I could ever use."

John R, Broc's mechanic, was going nuts. He managed to coax some more power out of the stocker with porting and a new pipe. If he tried for the real mongo ponies, it simply got too hot and fried. He had to make it reliable, his main disadvantage being that the engine was air-cooled. The standard suspension was another story altogether. Broc states, "We changed, fiddled, modified, and changed again. The forks were different at every race, and the Ohlins valving was constantly altered. Halfway through the season, I was going nuts. I go fast on a bike that I like. My 500 and I weren't getting along."

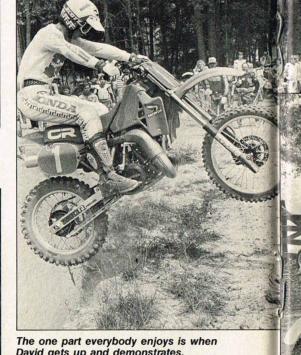
David felt that Broc's dilemma was mental. "I know for a fact that their bike was good. The Ohlins people traveled with them to every race, just like the Showa people did

(continued on page 70)



A classroom atmosphere prevails on the first day of the Bailey school as Gary explains the proper riding position and then moves to the workshop to go over bike preparation. By the time the afternoon riding session starts, everybody is raring to go.





David gets up and demonstrates.

The classroom moves outside. Bailey stresses the importance of woods riding to good motocross racing: "You have to be accurate on a MX track if you're going to be competitive. Nothing will teach you accuracy like a big tree.



Bailey points out the jump and tells you what will happen, but it can still be a sur-

around 45.

Bailey's practice sessions are fun. He teaches wheelies, nose wheelies, brake sliding, locking the front brake, and rut riding-all exercises to improve control.

prise. The age range in the Bailey school

is about 9 to 60. This young gentleman is

Demonstration time on the motocross track. The Lake Sugar Tree track can be either solid dust or solid mud, depending on the weather. In August it's usually



The maneuver that made him famous. Go through the turn with your arm down, and you'll get a slap on the elbow as a reminder; leave a finger off the clutch and he'll hit your hand.

## PROFESSOR BAILEY'S BOARDING SCHOOL

Four days of intensive training on the right way to ride

By Paul Clipper

roggily, I regarded my toothbrush. I I knew the first taste of paste would signal the start of another day, and I really wasn't sure that another day was what I wanted. Far too early in the morning came the knock on the door, and looking outside I could see 25 people in shorts and T-shirts doing stretching exercises on the wet grass. He was really serious about warming up in the morning, I thought, with a certain amount of wonder. Rolling around on the lawn at 7:00 in the morning is not my idea of a good time, but knowing that I'd look like a wimp if I sat back for a cup of coffee, I trudged outside and joined them.

This is the Bailey school. For the price of admission you get the privilege of working up a giant sweat while the sun is just breaking the horizon, and if it doesn't rain, you can keep that sweat going all day long. The four-day school is held on the Baileys' property in Axton, Virginia, which is about 18 miles south of nowhere, and right next to nothing. There's not a whole lot of night life, but it is a great atmosphere for learning the ins and outs of motocross riding. LEARNING A RACER'S DISCIPLINE

Wait a minute, did I say racer? Strike that. You don't have to be a racer in order to benefit from the school. As a matter of fact, although you'll see a motocross track during the stay, the chances of you riding more than a tenth of it at one time are very slim, and wholly dependent on Gary's mood and how far along he's brought the class by the final day.

Gary doesn't teach racing. He teaches his students how to ride-how to control a motorcycle under any condition, and how to keep it from controlling them. Before you scoff openly, consider these statistics: Of the 25 people in the school I attended, not one of them knew how to sit properly on their bikes, even though every one of them had a couple of races or at least a year of riding under their belts. They felt like they were in control going around a track, at least until they fell off.

This is what Bailey strives to correct. Confident control of a motorcycle takes the proper techniques, and the discipline to forget everything you've picked up along the way and force yourself to use those proper tech-

#### SO WHAT IS THERE TO LEARN?

When Gary says proper technique, he means this: Sit lightly on the bike, way forward on the saddle—right up against the tank. Keep your elbows up as you hold on to the bars (the same as if you were doing a push-up off the grips); your head stays over the triple clamps; and you keep at least one finger on the clutch lever and strive to learn how to slip the clutch through any obstacle. If you ride in this attitude your first day of the Bailey school, he will applaud loudly. But he'll still find something wrong with your style.

The thing that all prospective students should learn is that Bailey did not think up these techniques on his own. This is not merely his riding style—and not one of

David Bailey's secrets, either. Gary hit on the perfect method for learning the proper techniques years ago, and that is to video tape the Pro racers at outdoor Nationals and Supercross races, and then examine their style to see what they are doing right or wrong. By examining early films of Hannah and other hot riders. Bailey came up with the elbows-up "attack position," tried it out, and glory be, it worked.

Naturally, every new obstacle or type of tack demands a different technique, and Gary films them all. His students have a chance to watch tapes of the Pros, and even tapes of themselves that Gary takes while out on the track, and by comparing and examining riding styles, the truth is soon out: If you ride like the Pros, you should be able

to win like the Pros. And the proper riding style is all that Gary teaches.

#### A DAY IN THE

#### LAKE SUGAR TREE CLASSROOM

As previously illustrated, you're expected to be out of bed and doing warm-up exercises by 7:00 a.m. If not, you get to run a mile instead. Maybe two miles. After exercises the class is split into two teams, and a rousing game of Killer Ball ensues. Killer Ball is like soccer, but it's played with a football. Expect to get scraped up and bruised.

After breakfast, everybody suits up and gets on the bikes. Gary usually starts the day with a little trailride through the woods, which was my favorite part of the day, but it was soon obvious that many of these kids had never been off a race track in their life.

NOVEMBER 1984 / DIRT BIKE 39

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## **PROFESSOR**



If David is in town, he always makes it a point to help out for a while in the school. David owns the Lake Sugar Tree track and also has his own Supercross track.

Wrong move, said Gary-woods riding helps your timing and increases your accuracy, and it is an essential practice for anyone who wants to be serious about motocross racing.

After the woods, Bailey gets down to details. On the first day, expect to spend time learning how to do balance wheelies and front-brake stands. We did this for a few hours and then went on to the proper starting techniques. On any other day, expect to do many different types of berms, all the different ways to tackle a jump, dropoff, or rut, and how to use the clutch to get the front wheel over obstacles. Our class spent the last day refining jumping and practicing advanced riding techniques on David Bailey's Supercross track. As long as David is in town, you can expect him to make an appearance each day and lead the class through a section. Watching him demonstrate is almost worth the price alone.

#### SPEAKING OF MONEY...

The only bad part of the Bailey school is that it isn't free. The price for a four-day school is \$300, and if you want to bunk there and eat with the class, it's an additional \$100. The Baileys have room for campers, and for a slight charge you can pitch your tent or plug in your motor home. His traveling two-day schools cost \$75.

Obviously, you should be serious about your riding to spend this kind of money, but you needn't be serious about racing to consider it. Once you learn the Bailey techniques and put them to use, you will be a better rider—capable of going fast on a motocross track or in an enduro, spending less time crashing and more time enjoying yourself, and ultimately you will find you have more confidence on a bike than you ever thought possible. If all this and the thought of rolling around on the lawn every morning appeals to you, then you won't be disappointed. Just keep your arms up and a finger on the clutch and you'll be fine.

For more information write to Gary Bailey's Motocross School, P.O. Box 130, Axton, VA 24054; or call (703)650-3030.





## TEAM GREEN REVEALS ALL



Liquid-cooling is the big news on the KX60. Along with the plumbing, Kawasaki revised the porting and raised the compression ratio, and ended up with more power across the board. A new airbox has been fitted to the chassis which is reputedly a better breather and much easier to maintain. Steel rims are again standard, but final-



The rear suspension has received most of the attention lavished on the KX80. The swingarm and brake stay arm are now made of aluminum for better strength and lighter weight, and a new shock features four-way adjustable compression damping as well as the four-way rebound damping adjustment. A porting change, thinner reeds, and a new pipe contribute to an increase in top-



There have been so many changes made to the KX125, it almost classifies as a new bike. Premiering this year is the KIPS-Kawasaki Integrated Power Valve System. The KIPS adjusts the height of the exhaust port as well as controls a dump chamber for the exhaust. The system is said to have resulted in a major increase in mid and top-end power. The suspension features an adjustable Trak link at the rear and externally adjustable fork preload as well as compression

#### Liquid-cooling the lineup

Photos by Steve Casper

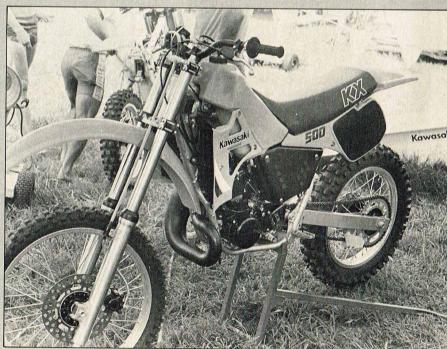
very year Kawasaki unveils its new Cmodels at the Amateur Nationals in Ponca City and Hurricane Mills. Selected Team Green riders are picked to race the new machines. This is more than just the first time the new models fall under the public eye—race wins in these two notable races can give the '85 machines a head start on the competition in the dealers' showrooms, and even though a good finish can add to the popularity of any machine, just being there is a big plus to the manufacturers.

Being there, also, is what our roving correspondent Steve Casper concentrated on. He threaded his way through the pits, sneaking shots of the new Kaws, while we slaved away in the office digging up some numbers on the new scoots. Many new features have been applied to the '85 race bikes, and if they prove as trick as the new graphics, Kawasaki definitely has a stable of winners this year.

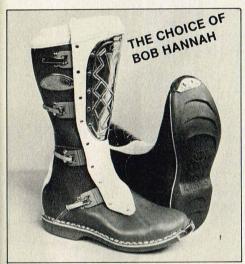


The 250 shares a number of the 125's features, including the KIPS, the adjustable suspension, and straight-pull spokes. It has also benefited from a redesigned cooling system and radiators that have been slimmed and lowered for weight savings. Another acronym feature shared by the two bikes is the FAIS—Fresh Air Intake System, a fancy name for an airbox that breathes down the backbone tube. A new pipe, porting, and timing specs contribute to a reputed increase in mid and top-end power.

The KX500 shares the new air intake system but does not use the KIPS. A boost bottle is fitted to the intake system, which features a 40mm "R" bottom Mikuni carb. The cylinder is completely new, and Kawasaki claims the detonation problems of the past are ancient history now. We heard that huge horsepower gains are evident. and all the adjustable suspension features are







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4:50x17





5:00x18

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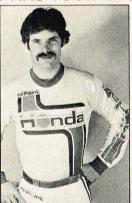
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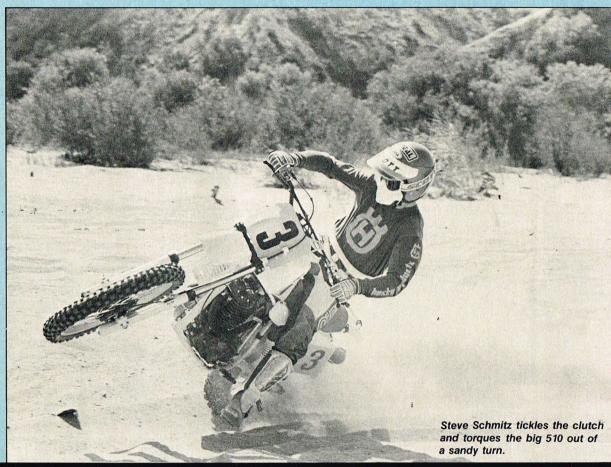
\*Hi-Point tubes

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Six speeds, four strokes & two shocks



We still have our 1984 Husky four-stroke. It's a 500cc four-speed model with about 2700 miles on it. It's been raced in a half-dozen MXs, seven four-stroke events, five GPs, one Barstow to Vegas, and trail ridden to death. In that period of time, we replaced the clutch once (slipping) and broke the chain-side axle adjuster. At 1700 miles we put in fresh rings and valve guides.

The bike is not stock. It runs a White Brothers 2 into 1 pipe and a Mikuni flatslide carb, set up by the same folks. An aluminum swingarm supports Pro Circuit revalved shocks with the heavy yellow springs. Air comes in through a K&N filter.

Why are we telling you all this? Mostly because we just received our 1985 Husky four-stroke test bike, and we are making the classic mistake of comparing our faithful old tricked-out scoot to a squeaky fresh, tight new stocker.

#### FLAWS IN THE '84

Most of the problems with the 1984 Husky four-strokes were centered around hard starting at the odd time, like when the bike was hot and dropped—admittedly not the best of conditions. Here, the Dell'orto pumper carb proved troublesome. Sometimes the bike would light right off; other times it took 20 kicks and lots of swearing. Some ignition failures were reported, but ours never died.

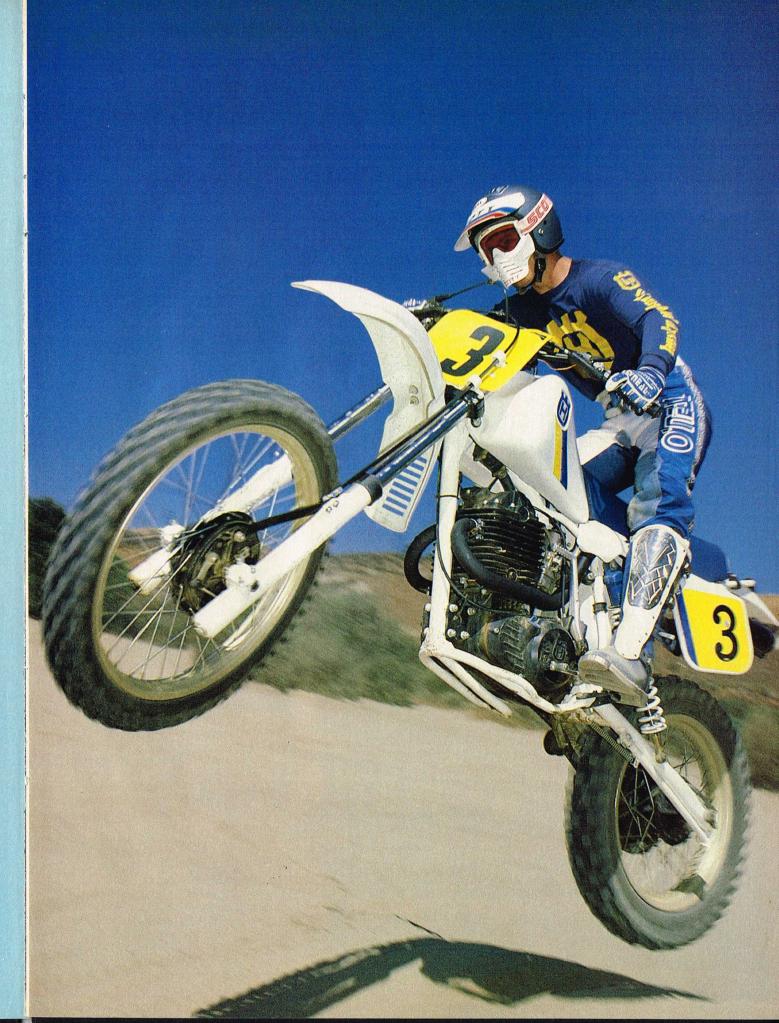
At midyear, Husky recalled the bikes and replaced the pumper carbs with normal ones and installed K&N filters as stock. An updated ignition (one with a hotter spark at low speeds) was also given to the owners, free of charge. Many owners never took advantage of the exchange, being satisfied with their bikes, while others jumped at the chance to help their reluctant-starting machines.

It mostly seemed to boil down to rider savvy: If the Husky owner was an experienced four-stroke rider, he had no real problems starting the bike. If he was a new fourstroke owner, it was hassle.

One thing stood out, though. All of the riders liked the idea of 25 to 30 pounds less weight to haul around than any other big four-stroke on the market. At right around 250 pounds dry, the Husky was a feather compared with the XRs and TTs, which tipped the scales at 275-plus dry, and over 300 loaded with gas. Another plus was the fact that the Husky came stock with excellent suspension parts that could easily be dialed to suit most any rider or requirement. No need to pop \$400 for the rear and another deuce for a fork kit and springs.

#### **CHARTING THE CHANGES** FROM '84 TO '85

Visual changes are limited to a new-gener-





#### 1985 HUSQVARNA 510TX



Light weight is the single biggest plus with the Husky. It feels more like a real bike than the typical four-stroke tank.

ation plastic tank shaped like the MXers', and a new blue saddle to replace the yellow butt-rester of old. The not-so-visible changes are much more important. A huge 40mm non-pumper Dell'orto carb replaces the 36mm slobber pot of 1984. The new ignition produces a much fatter spark at cranking speeds and is really bizarre in design. The stator is attached to the mag cover, and the rotor spins inside of it. The last time we saw this was on the Italian-made Harley MXers of the mid-'70s.

Fork bushings have been beefed up to reduce flex and increase bushing life. A K&N fabric filter is now standard. Details in the automatic compression release and kickstarter will only be evident to a previous

A backup axle adjuster on the drive side corrects a minor flaw, and the tail section of the front fender is shorter. Tank decals seem to be of better quality than the el slippos of last year.

#### LEFTOVER STUPIDITY

While the product is clearly improved, it's plain that they simply ran out of time to get rid of all the glitches. The rear brake pedal will still bottom out on the peg when the brakes are abused. We used an Uptite Husky pedal for better feel and improved action. It fits just about all of the various Huskys, by the way.

While the four-speed bike has straight mufflers (two), the six-speed bikes come with strangling silencer/spark arresters. Just about any accessory bolt-on muffler is a notable improvement. Answer Products has some tidy aluminum units that work well.

Brakes on the big Hooska are average at best and fade-o-matics when wet. If you have to ride through a river before attempting a steep downhill, you're better off throwing the bike down the hill and then crawling down after it.

As with last year's machines, the rear suspension is delivered with too soft white springs. The beefier yellow springs (with lighter preload) are the way to go for aggressive riders.

Stock rubber at both ends is Trelleborg Ten Master. It works okay under good traction conditions but is next to useless on hard-pack or in sand. Try a Metz up front and a Dunlop at the rear for big handling gains.

#### RIDING THE HOOSKA

Starting usually took three kicks, but every now and then the Husky would simply refuse to start until we'd worn out the entire testing crew's legs. Wimpy kicks would not get the job done. Considering that we cured last year's starting hassle with a Mikuni carb, we have to cast suspicious glances at the Dell'orto mixer. This is a shame—the stock 40mm carb delivers great horsepower once the bike is running, but we can't recommend it for starting.

With the new big carb there's less punch at the very bottom and more snap through the mid-range. We experienced some surging at very low revs when trailriding the bike which our Mikuni-equipped Husky does not

As you run through the smooth-shifting gears, the snappy mid-range lofts the front end of the TX easily. Having six gears means that quite often you're not sure what gear you're in, nor do you really care. All you know is that the Husky never seems to run out of steam, and the top speed is frightening. Gear it up a tooth or two on the countershaft, and the thing could loaf along at Baja speeds.

#### **HUSKY HANDLING**

Typical. Predictable. Accurate when under power. Where have you heard all this before? The bike steers and tracks like every Husky ever built. For trailriding or enduro work, the TX will turn almost twitchy fast with the rear axle set far forward. With the axle near the rear of the adjuster slot, highspeed stability is dramatically improved.

Fire roads were a blast on the TX; just pick the right gear, lean it over, and roll it on. The new saddle shape and slimmer tank let you climb up front easier, and nothing spooky happens as you make like a crazed flattracker.

No other 500cc four-stroke made handles



Just-right forks and too soft shocks left the stock bike a bit unbalanced.

#### HEY, WHAT ABOUT THE WATER-COOLED SINGLE-SHOCKER?

• You saw it first in the pages of Dirt Bike, even be wilder looking than the proto we a one-off prototype four-stroke with liquidcooling and one shock. According to Husky reps, the bike we saw was the first of many new-generation rolling test beds. You'll be seeing a lot of wild new Huskys in the field for actual condition testing, they say.

It's all part of a new aggressive policy. Instead of waiting for public demand for a of the experimental proto models, just to get new concept, Husky will now initiate tech a reaction from the riding public. We hearttrickery, hot, fast and early.

The bike you saw will be a reality. When? When it's ready, says Husky. When all the flaws have been worked out . . . and it may

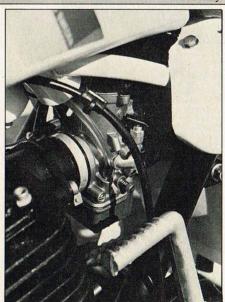
featured.

We already know that 1985 Husky MXers will be liquid-cooled, disc-braked and singleshocked...and DB will receive the first of the CRs for testing as they hit these shores.

Husky also noted that they would make available to us—for impressions only—some ily applaud this departure from their formerly tight and controlled attitude, and we look forward to seeing the new Husqvarna in action. •



With six speeds at your disposal, the Husky had a gear for every situation.



A 40mm non-pumper Dell'orto carb replaces the 36mm pumper of last year. It still performed erratically at best and is a poor substitute for a properly jetted Mikuni.



The double exhaust pops more than a few eyes at the track. We replaced the restrictive muffler/spark arresters with Answer units from a 500XC and noticed a big improvement in performance.



A slimmer and better-contoured blue saddle replaces the yellow unit of 1984. No, you cannot interchange the two.

1985 HUSQVARNA 510TX

the whoops and bumps like the Husky. The lighter weight and super chassis are the bonus edge, combined with non-fading shocks and good forks.

#### **TECH BRIEFING**

For those who care about such things. much weight is saved in the Husky engine by a unique oiling system that lifts up the oil from the bottom of the engine via the cam chain and carries it up to the top end.

Twin headpipes leave the front of the engine and exit cleanly beside the rear fender. The bike is a bit wide near the leg juncture, but the rider soon adapts to it.

The engine itself acts as an oil-cooler, says the factory, but the oil is clearly stressed, and Husky says that ordinary oil just won't cut it. Consider: The oil has to lubricate the gears, clutch and the entire engine.

Our bike ran very hot during break-in. but it settled down considerably once it loosened up. It would be in your best interests to change oil regularly. Larry Roeseler says every two rides would be a good idea. Oil draining and filling is a simple operation on the Hooska.

#### **BITS AND PIECES**

A huge airbox makes the bike waterproof, and filter changing could not be easier once the saddle is removed (two bolts).

Regular bolts replace the slotted screws on the shock mounting; shock removal is ultra simple, and the Ohlins ITC shocks can be set up for just about any riding/racing condition by a savvy shop.

Superb Regina Gold chain is stock. Horrible Mach grips are, too. Excellent Husky cables have lube fittings in the housing. Magura controls may be a bit far from the grips for some hands, but they bend-not break-in a fall and can be tweaked back closer to the grips in a moment, if desired.

Wheels and spokes gave us no grief after initial settling in. A shorter front fender will not melt on the headpipes this year.

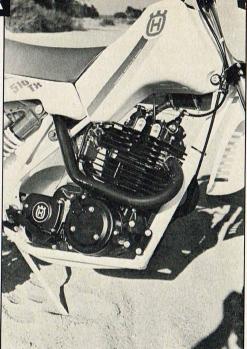
#### A SECOND LOOK AT THE SECOND EFFORT

Clearly, the 1985 Husky four-stroke is a refined version of the 1984 model. Most of the bugs are gone. It's a better bike, no question about it.

A Husky four-stroke is not for everyone. In fact, it takes a certain kind of rider to live with any four-stroke. The patience and knowledge level required to learn the habits of the big beasts is necessarily higher than with two-strokes. However, the rewards are nice.

As it stands, the Husky four-stroke is still worlds lighter than any other big thumper on the market. Forks and shocks are superior. For a few hundred bucks, White Brothers and Pro Circuit can make you the owner of a glitch-free Husky.

To take 25 pounds off any other fourstroke would cost you several thousand dollars. And that's why we say that the Husky is the spearhead of four-stroke technology and the best thumper you can buy...even with its niggling flaws.





The heart of the matter-and the big reason why the Husky is a light machine-is the engine, a hybrid with a two-stroke bottom end and a more or less standard four-stroke top end.



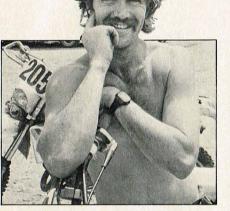
#### **HUSQVARNA 510TX**

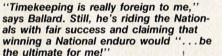
ı		
ı	Engine type 4-stroke, air-cooled, 4-valve, single	We
ı	Bore and stroke 91.5mm × 76.4mm	Tir
ı	Displacement	F
ı	Carburetion 40mm Dell'orto	F
ı	Factory recommended jetting:	Su
ı	Main jet	F
ı	Needle jet	F
l	Jet needle K32	
ı	Pilot jet	Inte
ı	Slide number	Co
	Fuel tank capacity	Ret
	Lubrication RAL system, wet sump	Dis
	Gearbox ratios:	+
	1 2.6:1—34/13	4
	<b>2</b> : 1.8:1—29/16	S
	3 1.3:1—26/19	Ove
	4 1.04:1—24/23	H
	5 0.88:1—22/25	F
	6 0.74:1—20/27	R
	Gearing, front/rear	P
	Ignition SEM external mounted rotor	C
	Recommended spark plug NGK D8EA	A
	Silencer/spark arrester Both, steel, quiet	E
	Wheelbase	This
	Ground clearance385mm (15.2 in.)	bike
	Seat height	cate
١	Rake/trail	chir



# GEOFF BALLARD

An Australian on the American ISDE team?







Ballard was THE Australian Six-Days star for the past four years running. He was top Aussie in Wales last year and a constant threat on the special tests.



"I'm normally a 500 rider, but when I rode the big Can-Am, it was way too fast for me!" He seems to be adapting well, winning the 250 class in Oregon and the overall in Michigan.

new name appeared on the list of American ISDE riders this year, and that name promises to cause a stir in our international competition before the year is out. Australian Geoff Ballard, born in Sydney, 25 years old, is a five-time veteran of the Aussie ISDE effort, and now a member of the American Vase team in Holland. Since the beginning of the year, he's been racing enduros in the States for Can-Am, and although a National Enduro win has eluded his grasp, an overall win at the Michigan Three-Day Qualifier is a definite challenge to Husky's domination. How did he manage to wind up here, and on the American team?

"I've been to Europe for a couple of seasons, and I could have gone back there, but I didn't know how long I'd be able to afford to travel around to all the racing over there. After riding against the American team in the Six Days and reading so much about the American enduro series, I did want to see America and race over here, just to try it out.

"In Australia nobody understands the American way of running enduros—all the timekeeping, and you can't be early at the checks and such. They think it's crazy. But this friend of mine from New Zealand kept saying, 'Boy, I'd really love to go to the States and ride that series!' He thought it was fantastic, and I couldn't understand it. I thought, What would you want to do that for? But the more I thought about it, the better it seemed. So I finally decided that if someone was going to go to America from this side of the world, I was going to do it

Deciding to do it and then actually riding in the States turned out to be two different things. We asked him how he was adapting.

"I remember when I knew I was coming over here, I read an article in Dirt Bike about how to keep time, and I must have read it a dozen times. But I still didn't know an Aussie!

what to expect. Somebody said, 'Yeah, but John Martin's one of the best. You won't have any trouble!' I don't know about that. When you want to know where to find something in a strange place, you don't ask one of the locals, because he just presumes that you know where everything is. Learning timekeeping from John was like that-at first he skipped over a lot of things that turned out to be real important.

"The timekeeping is really foreign. I get frustrated when I make a mistake and don't have enough experience to figure out what I'm doing wrong. But keeping such exact time seems to make the event more challenging. Winning an American enduro would just about be the ultimate for me."

What about the level of competition over here? How does America compare to the rest of the world?

"As far as all-around riding goes, America has been a great experience, especially the woods riding. In a European-style qualifier, if there's a tight woods section, you're allowed plenty of time to go through it, but over here, when it's super tight it means you have to go fast! I think American riders go through any sort of tight stuff faster and better than anyone else in the world. I don't think any of the Europeans can touch the Americans in tight riding."

If it sounds like Geoff is enjoying himself, you're right. But what about the rest of the American team; what do they think of riding with a foreigner?

"I think most of the riders will accept me as a member of the Vase team. They knew I was intending to qualify when the series started, and I've gotten nothing but positive response since then. Maybe some of the guys who just missed out on qualifying might not be too happy about being bumped out by an import, but I think I'm going to be an asset to the team.

"Some of the Aussies might not be too happy about me riding for the United States. Hey, I'm a patriotic guy. I'd like to ride for Australia this year, but the ACU (the race-governing organization in Australia) won't let me. They won't issue me a license because I've been racing in another country. I just wanted to ride over here for the experience and then ride the Six Days with the Aussies, but when I found out that the ACU wouldn't let me, I decided I wanted to be on the best team I could."

And in our opinion, that's exactly where he wound up. Look for Geoff to prove himself in the ISDE this year—and don't be surprised if the top American turns out to be



MARCY

By the burly DB Staff

f you're going to ride or race a dirt bike,

then you had better think long and hard

about working out with weights. An as-

tounding 71 percent of folks in our reader's

Now, 18-inch arms certainly aren't going

to make you go any faster on the track...

and that's not the real reason most of our

faster and longer with reduced chances of

injury in case of a spill. A stronger shoulder

will take a greater hit without separating.

A knee joint with tough muscles and ten-

Ideally, you should work out at a decent

gym under supervision and combine some

sort of running or bike riding with the

Unfortunately, "ideal" does not always

work out (pun intended) as planned. Odd

hours of employment, school, or location

often prevent you from utilizing a real gym.

This brings us to the Marcy Body Bar 2000,

a medium-duty all-around weight trainer

that retails for a reasonable 350 slammers

The 2000 lets you do most basic exercises

without the fear of getting stuck. No train-

ing partner means no one to spot you. Get

stuck under a bench press just once and

you'll see why you have to have some pro-

and can be found for even less on sale.

Working out at home is one viable option.

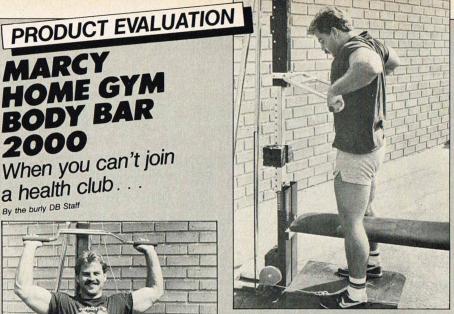
dons will resist twisting and popping.

They pump iron so they can ride harder,

survey noted that they lifted weights.

readers pump iron.

weight training.



A large variety of upper body exercises are possible on the Marcy gym.



Bad knees? Leg curls are the key to not only leg joint strength, but recovery from an injury, as well.

The basic 2000 comes with a 100-pound weight stack (no need to buy barbell plates), and you can change the weight load by moving the locating pin. There's an optional 80pound stack available for stronger people.

With the 2000 you can perform a decent variety of exercises on the bench, leg curls and leg extensions (very important for keeping the knees alive) and a wide variety of cable pulls for both legs and arms.

One shortcoming seems to be no provision for any squatting movements, and curling motions are next to impossible. We liked the bench and pressing provisions, and the 2000 is strong and well made for a medium-duty machine.

When we asked them about more weight for the gronks at DB (the Hunk bench presses way over 300, and Webb is flirting with 275), they informed us that heavy-duty machines were also available for the moose

However, for the average rider/racer, the 2000 should meet his needs and hold up for a long time. For the cost of a typical oneyear gym membership, you can now have your very own home gym. Not a half bad

They are available at many sporting goods stores throughout the country, or you can contact Marcy for more information and the dealer nearest you. Call: Marcy Gymnasium Equipment Co. at (800)62-MARCY, Ext. 33.

## PRODUCT EVALUATION

#### MAXIMA FILTER OIL No facts, just reality

By the Staff of DB



We always have a place on our workbench shelf for Maxima Filter Oil. It seems to require less oil, is easy to apply, plus keeps the crud out of the engine.

It's very rare that you'll see an evaluation Lon an oil product in the pages of *Dirt* Bike. We're breaking tradition simply because of a product that's been used week in and week out, with perfect results, in an area critical to engine life—and we hadn't given it much thought. It's Maxima Filter Oil, and we've been using it on just about every Dirt Bike test machine and on our personal bikes. Why? It goes on easily, doesn't take a lot of oil to do a filter, and cleans well after a long dusty day in the dirt.

Our experience with most of the filter oils on the market has shown us that today's bigsurfaced air filters will take nearly a halfbottle of the oil to do just one filter. Some of the oils come out like honey and require your massaging of the thick substance into every pore of the filter. Cleaning is a grim task

Maxima comes out very thin, taking substantially less oil than some of the others to do the same size filter. Let the oiled filter sit for 15 minutes, and it tacks up like flypaper, preventing any offending dirt and water from passing through. We've had no ruined engines from passing dirt, and it seems to be very water-resistant.

We're not trying to say that other filter oils don't work. What we are saying is that the Dirt Bike staff likes and uses Maxima. It'll save you money in the long run and is a valuable addition to your workshop oil shelf.

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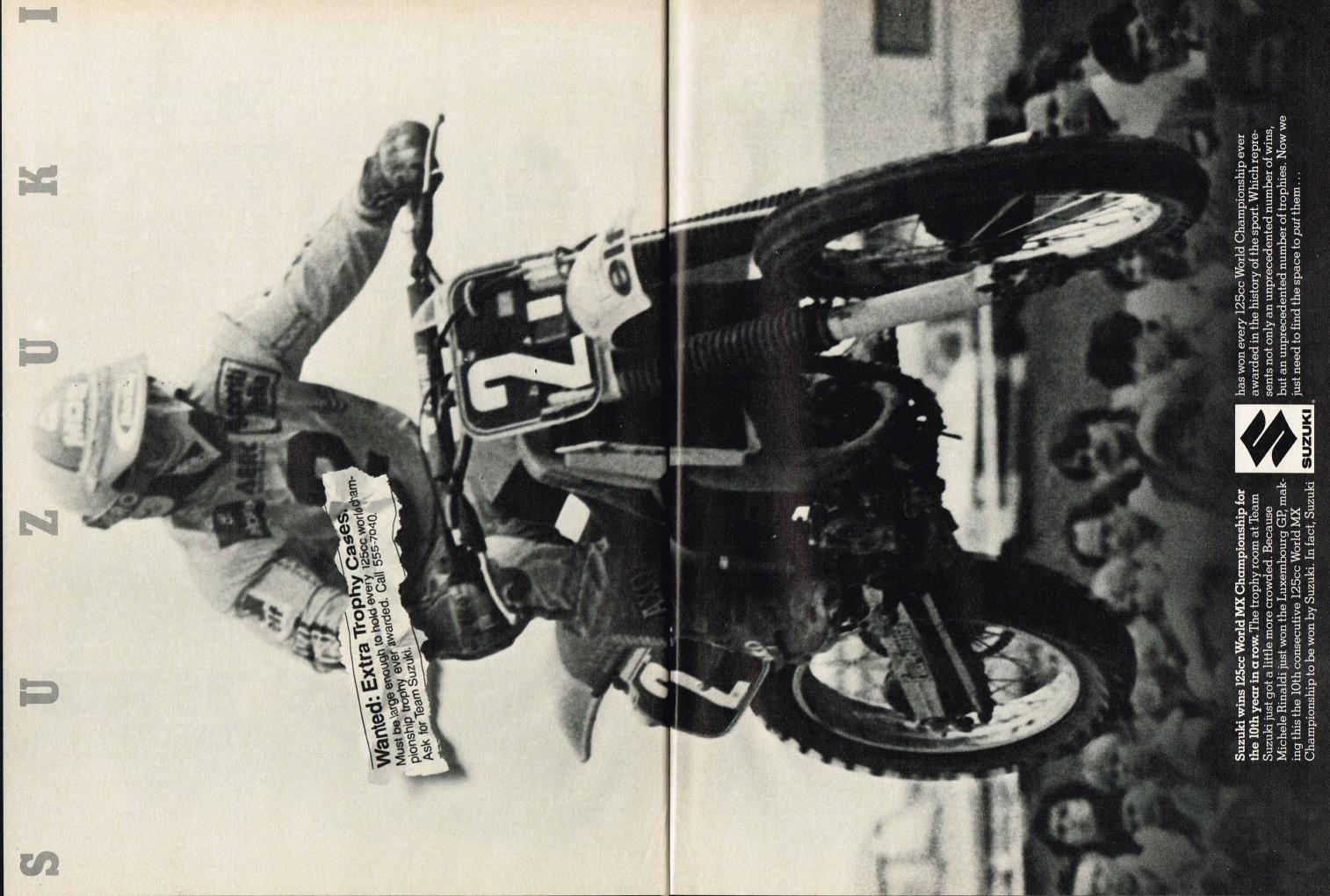


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FIRST LOOK AT THE 1985 HONDA CR125, 250 & 500

ELIMINATOR
LINEUP

How close are they to the works machines?

By the Staff of DB



Honda is claiming a full 60 horsepower with the biggest CR. This waterized boiler incites terror and appears to be a real

threat for an Open class killer.



The 500 is the only CR NOT to get any exhaust valve add-ons. It's still a five-speed, and we're informed it WILL NOT have any detonation or starting problems as last year's bikes.

Big news with the 250 is hardly visible. More travel, a new shock and a rethought rear lever ratio should make the suspension package more competitive. ▼



We started testing on the CR500 right before we went to press, and

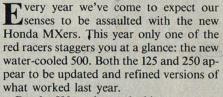


Up front, the Showa forks have been revised and will hopefully perform up to par. They're still compression adjustable and now have factory blue fork boots.



Good news for California riders
—Honda has gone back to the
Bridgestone M22 and M23
tires. These are the best hard
meats in the business.

54 DIRT BIKE / NOVEMBER 1984



But the 500...ah yes, the big monster... now *that* gets the blood boiling!

#### A COOL 60 HORSEPOWER

Last year's 500 was a thorn in Honda's quest for a steamroller lineup of motocrossers. Rather than spend time, money and effort making the '84 into a winner, they canned the beast. They took what they learned from the National and GP motocross circuit and funneled it into their new production water-cooled 500.

#### A BRIEF RIDE ON THE BEAST

We received our 1985 test CR500 too late to do a test on it. Riding was limited to a photo session and a few tentative laps around a baked-dry MX track.

We can tell you this: The new CR500 is a rocket-mobile. It pulls ultra-clean from

Thankfully, Honda moved the ATAC system on the 250 down to the pipe, as on the 125. Working on last year's cylinder proved to be a nightmare. Note how low the pipe hangs—it looks like a crusher model.





#### 1985 HONDA CR125, 250 & 500



The new flat-slide Keihin carb is one of many changes on the 125 engine. They've coaxed a few more ponies out of the 125 with pipe, porting, and other minor items.

low revs and has a mid-range that is borderline monster.

Our photo riders—who put in most of the riding time—said there was no detonation or pinging. Apparently, the watercooling and the redesigned top end has eliminated the banging and pinging of 1984.

Look for a full-blown test of the 500 next month. We plan to take the bike out and get it hot and nasty...and then let you know the whole scoop.

#### TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS AND **NEEDED CHANGES**

The entire motorcycle is brand new—the chassis, engine and suspension systems. Obviously, liquid-cooling is the biggest news with the engine. Honda assures us that the pinging and detonation problems are things of the past and that the '85 500 is smooth and very, very fast. In fact, they claim 60 horsepower, a new milestone for a production motocrosser. The 500 will feature no exhaust valves, add-ons or gimmicks.

With the chassis and suspension, Honda takes a step closer to their works machines. They have relocated the steering head and swingarm pivot points to give the bike better motocross manners. Just what that means is not yet known. As far as suspension, undeniably a weak link in the production Honda motocrossers, both ends have been refitted, updated and rethought.

Showa once again provides the damping units, and the front 43mm assembly has adjustable compression damping with 12 inches of travel. New damping has been fitted into the forks, and Team Red says it is a lot closer to being workable than in previous years. In the backyard, a new lever ratio, a new shock and more travel greet the 500. The shock still has both compression and rebound adjusters, plus a larger piston di-



shaft travel. All of the Pro-Link pivots ride New styling along with more power is the on needle roller bearings.

#### **NEW ATAC FOR '85**

Both the 125 and 250 appear to have been refined, not redone. Front discs are the norm. Blue fork boots and new seat/tank and plastic have been fitted to the CRs. The 125 engine is outfitted with the ATAC system, using exhaust resonance to boost low and mid-range power. A lighter crank and outer rotor ignition, combined with electronic advance and a smaller coil, should make for better throttle response and a weight savings.

Internally, the 125 has a newly designed top end which they say puts out 32 horsepower at 11,500 rpm. Magnesium crankcases and a redesigned cylinder and head shave off a few pounds, putting the weight right at the FIM limit. Add a new pipe, stronger clutch and revised ATAC unit, and Honda says that power is up over the '84 model.

For the middleweight crowd, the 250 is more than refined: it has been dramatically polished and zooted for '85. An all-new ATAC system has been moved off the cylinder and down to the pipe like the 125. This makes for much easier maintenance than the headache-prone '84 model. A new ignition, new porting and enlarged cooling passages should make for more hp and a longer engine life. All the CRs feature a brand-new flat-slide Keihin carburetor that resembles nothing we've ever seen before. Honda says they work!

#### **ALL TOGETHER NOW!**

It sure looks like Honda is full main jet for 1985. Their staggering monsterized 500, combined with well-thought-out changes and refinements to the 125 and 250, should make for an interesting year. In 1983 they ing overtime on the new CR line and that stomped the competition with their arsenal. ameter, increased oil capacity, and more Ninteen eighty-four proved to be a letdown, watch out! □

theme for the CR125. Check out the tank and seat and the workslike radiators. Honda says handling is up, power is up, and life in the 125 fast lane should be up.



The 125 still carries the ATAC chamber mounted on the front of the pipe.

with less-than-ideal suspension, and engine trouble with some 125s and all the 500s. They claim the engineers have been workwe won't be disappointed. If that's the case,



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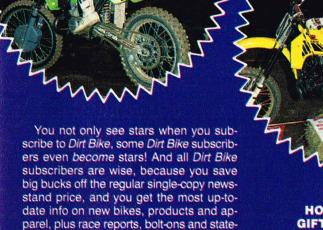
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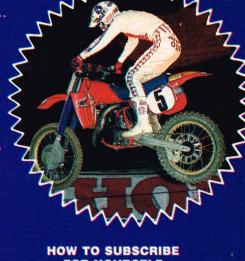
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The Belgian 500 Grand Prix, penultimate round of the 1984 World Championship, was Georges Jobe's last stand.

Moved from its traditional sinister venue atop Namur's medieval citadel, the event had landed on Jobe's doorstep. But, Marche en Famenne, 30 minutes from his home in Retinne, was not Georges' idea of a race track. "It is too easy when it is dry," snorted the 23-year-old Belgian.

Nineteen points behind title leader Andre Malherbe, Jobe knew the chips were down. Hakan Carlqvist had reappeared in the British GP at Hawkstone Park, but a big question mark hung over the Swede's fitness.

While Malherbe easily had been the most consistent European, Briton Dave Thorpe's challenge had floundered on a disastrous North American trip. The 21-year-old Berkshire bomber took a week's holiday when he returned home, recovered his poise and purpose, and proceeded to whitewash the opposition at his home GP before a wild crowd of 20,000.

He was in the mood to repeat that performance. "The track's good except for that rocky uphill. It could cause many punctures." Thorpe was referring to a solid bank of sharp, splintered slate, a menacing sheer climb out of a tight left-hand turn.

Sidelined with a broken right knee after bailing over Hawkstone's double jump, reigning 125 Champ Eric Geboers could see his fourth place in the title table fall to veteran compatriot Andre Vromans. Sixth-place man and first-place privateer, wild Finn Jukka Sintonen (Honda), had always had the edge over Jobe's steadfast Irish teammate Laurence Spence—the only man besides Malherbe to have scored in every race.

Farther back, teenaged sensations Leif Persson (on the factory Husky monoshock) and Kurt Nicoll (KTM) fought for that vital last non-qualifying spot for next year.

Current World Champ (for one more race, at least) Carlqvist hammers his big Yamaha out of a turn. Injuries kept him from a real title defense.



of the first moto.

Andre Malherbe (2) at the 20-minute mark

(Top) Thorpe swooped past a surprised

(Right) On the victory stand, Jobe acknowledges the crowd, Thorpe ponders what might have been for the year, and Malherbe smiles, knowing he's got it all but wrapped up at this point.

#### THE USA EFFORT

Adding spice to the affair was visiting American trio Phil Larson, Eric Eaton and Eric McKenna, riding French "Motocross Marketing"-backed Hondas. The boys had had a rough ride into Europe. Eaton had broken a toe in a French International; McKenna had joined the infamous (and uncomfortable!) downhill club at Hawkstone Park, hurting so badly he couldn't race the following day; and Larson, after becoming one of the first people ever to clear the double jump at Hawkstone, twisted an ankle during the first race round the rough, tough British circuit.

McKenna failed to make the cut at Marche en Famenne, but while Larson and a recovered Eaton showed good form, their troubles were not over yet. This was Belgium, after all! During Saturday training, the crowds, unruly as ever, swarmed every-

where through the pits, especially around Jobe's camp. Briefly emerging from his huge awning, Georges shook his head. "Too many people," he muttered darkly.

Rival Malherbe had seemed unusually nervous during practice, collecting yards of course marking from unscheduled excursions. Teammate Thorpe was surprised. "Did you see me run over Andre? At the top of the steep drop, I went to square it inside him, and he fell. I couldn't avoid going over him, and he was trapped under my bike.

"Second session Andre fell again at the bottom of the hill, and I only just missed him. Later on, he seemed to sit back suddenly on his bike, lose his balance and swerve through the ropes, just like a novice!"

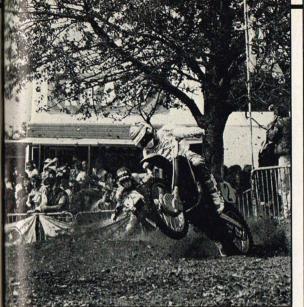
During timed training, Malherbe wound further reams of Camel tape round his rear



Jobe powers past the rabid Belgian fans, wishing for more laid-back racing circumstances.



After the skies opened up and turned the track into a quagmire, Thorpe came alive, holding off Jobe and Malherbe for the moto win



A nervous Andre Malherbe spent much of the Belgian round out of control, but still moved forward a few more points toward his eventual



Eric Eaton, another American, ran well in the first moto, only to be greeted by Belgian "hospitality" before the start of the second race.



American Phil Larson had an awkward spot after being nipped by Jukka Sintonen (7)

hub as he forced through 19 unavailing laps. "That was a complete moto he ran," gasped

disbelieving Team Green manager Alec Wright.

#### HOME-COURT BLUES

Whoever claims that home territory is always an advantage, has never endured partisan Belgian spectators in a frenzy. "Super Jobe! Super Jobe!" howled the commentator. But it took Georges half the first race to pass Nicoll, Michael Heutz and Perry Leask, by which time Malherbe, Thorpe and Vromans were long gone.

"Not so good," said a despondent Jobe. "Someone stole my gloves just before the race. I went to start the bike and go to the line, and they were gone. My mechanic Jean-Marie had to run back for a new pair. It made me nervous, and I missed the start and had to come back through the dust. The track is only one line, so I lost much time passing second-class riders, and it was too late."

Nineteen-year-old Nicoll had led bravely for four laps before Malherbe and Thorpe thrust by. Three laps later Thorpe shaped up Malherbe in masterly fashion, feigning a move to the left before cutting inside the confused Belgian. Andre clung on, but Dave had pulled out a convincing 12 seconds at the flag.

Larson, despite a late clash with the Flying Finn, rode determinedly through from 16th to 11th, just losing out on the final lap to galloping giant Jaak Van Velthoven (KTM). Eaton, gating a bright tenth, hung in for 13th-place points at the flag, inches ahead of another tall Belgian, Stephan Desmare (Yamaha).

#### **RACE TWO HASSLES**

But the Americans never made race two! "They wouldn't let us out onto the line," explained an exasperated Larson later. "Said

parc ferme." Bikes had to be in the "closed park" 20 minutes before the race. "In England they constantly reminded us how much longer we had." Just another example of Belgian hospitality. We all love it. Alec Wright missed the first half of the first race in police custody. I missed the last two laps of the second after being sprayed in the face by a Belgian cop armed with a CC gas canister. As I said, we all love Belgian hospitality.

"I got a better start and was riding well. I came back on David fast and tried to pass him. Andre was behind me, I made a mistake, and he passed. I passed him back, then I got a front wheel puncture. I still tried to pass David, but it was too one-line and so slippery everywhere. There was no way with a flat tire!"

Andre had crept two vital points further ahead. Georges shook his head. "I fought we were five minutes late getting into the very hard today. But for me, I like better



to be alone, in the USA or Canada, where no one is around. So many people here, so many questions being asked and always the same questions. Sometimes there are so many people hanging over the tapes that I cannot see my line.

"When I came on Wednesday with Malherbe, we said they have to put down water. They said yes. We came back Thursday. No water. They don't care. Organization is very bad in Belgium. They think they can get away with everything because they have such good riders. And they are quick to make problems for everyone." (This latter remark was a reference to the luckless Yanks.)

Halfway through the second moto, with Thorpe narrowly leading Jobe and Malherbe, an absolute deluge burst over the Ardennes, soaking the track in seconds. Thorpe had just cracked his left foot hard against a trackside post and, slowing suddenly, welcomed the downpour. Malherbe

briefly took the lead, but he, too, was in trouble. "I bent my gearshift lever after passing Georges," explained the championship leader. "It was so dangerous in the wet, stuck in second gear. He and Thorpe were faster on the straights, and I caught them through the turns, but eventually I had to let him go."

and couldn't figure out why his Honda wasn't handling right.

#### THE REST OF THE BATTLE

Behind an unusually solid Sintonen, the seesawing three-way battle for fifth place was won by Spence, over Van Velthoven and Nicoll. With Persson ripping off a fingernail and failing to finish either race, Kurt Nicoll was suddenly just five points adrift.

The sad Swede, Carlovist, had retired from ninth place after four laps of race one, unable to hold on with his injured right hand. His year as reigning champion has been disastrous, but his legendary popularity amongst the masses remains undiminished. They hope the big man will be back.

Meanwhile, his likely successor planned a gentle prelude to Italy's final round, "I am going home to Monaco. I need to rest and enjoy some sunshine on the beach for a week. Then I will start practicing for the last GP."

Barring the sort of appalling tragedy which struck Italian Corrado Maddii at the last 125 GP of 1984, the smiling Belgian should be a worthy winner of his third world

PRESS-TIME FLASH! Andre Malherbe wrapped up the World 500 title in Italy, making him one of the elite group of threetime World MX Champions. Looking back, Andre noted that the pivotal round in his pursuit of the title was in Belgium. "Without a good finish in Belgium, Italy would have been a nightmare. I really won the title in Belgium."

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Now Jeff's book is printed and ready to go. It's a slick-looking product loaded with photos and drawings, and is even refined a bit more than the prototype book we read. At \$14.95 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling (California residents add 90 cents tax), it's a must-have for any rider about the casual level.

This is a good book and just might be the perfect Christmas present for that rider in your life. Grab it! Available from Total Training, P.O. Box 3721, Glendale, CA 91201.



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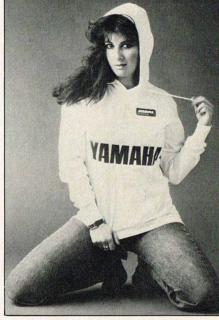
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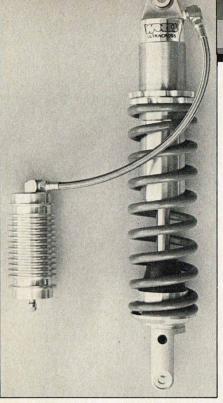
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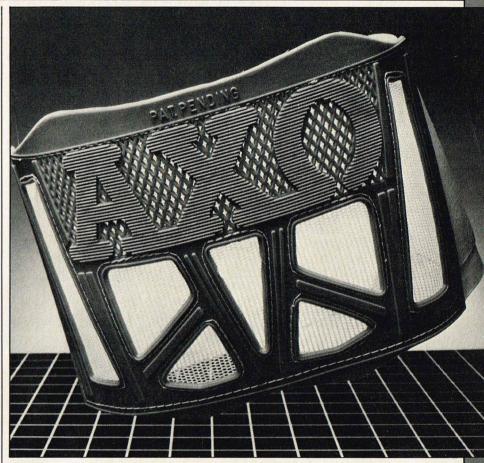
#### **ULTRACROSS, TOTALLY BOSS** AND GUARANTEED

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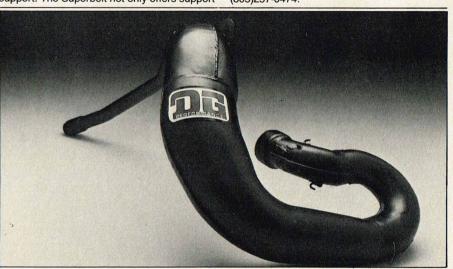
Klotz fast-acting Contact Cleaner is now available in the gimendo size for those heavy-duty plug and parts cleaning types of people. This econo-sized package comes with an attached pump sprayer for easy parts dousing. The smaller 20-ounce size is still available, and it contains the same fast evaporative, environmentally safe solution as the mongo size. For more on Klotz products, contact Klotz Special Formula Products, P.O. Box 11343, Fort Wayne, IN 46857.



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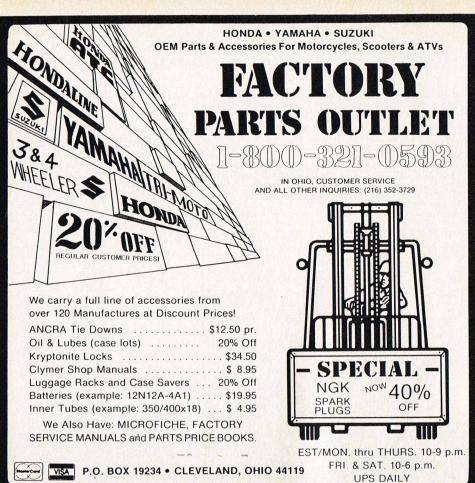
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AMA NATIONAL (continued from page 37)

with us. Their suspension sure wasn't stock, and except for the fact that my bike's water-cooled, as far as power goes, they were close. I could tell from his starts that it wasn't slow. I think it had more off the bottom than ours, but ours revved out further. I could never use the top end on the Honda; it was too fast. I mostly short-shifted it."

#### WHAT HAPPENED TO EVERYONE ELSE?

Why did Bailey dominate with such apparent ease? Whatever became of Kawasaki's Goat Breker? Glover's theory is, "David brought a new attitude into the 500 class. His riding style, fluid and regimented, changed how I rode an Open bike. Right off the bat, he was aggressive, attacking the course. At first I was bummed; he seemed almost too good. Eventually, his technique rubbed off on me. I started getting faster and more aggressive. Both of us ran away in almost every single moto and simply outclassed the rest of the guys. I know David Bailey is the reason. He forced me to get with it."

David feels his practice technique helped. "At first I thought riding a 500 would make me more aggressive, but it was the opposite. I got lazy on the 500 and started cruising through the corners. I switched to riding a 125 and 250 during the week, and that helped keep me on the throttle when I rode the 500. That's where Glover is tough, all those years of riding 125s shaped his style. He gets on the gas early in the corners."

In Colorado, Broc was like a man possessed. A fast track was to his liking, and except for less horsepower, he'd be letting it hang all the way out. His pride was on the line; Bailey had won 15 out of 16 motos, meaning Broc had one moto win to his credit. Broc's a winner, and being dominated so easily was making him a little bit more than irritated.

Bailey took the holeshot; Glover was rubbing the knobs off the Honda's rear tire. For the entire moto the two superstars were never farther than three bike lengths apart. Through the dust and slower riders, David won. Broc wildly berserked it back to the pits. There were tears in his eyes. Even his best shot wasn't enough.

David's win clinched the 500 title for him. With one round left, there was no way Broc could win. The second moto was a matter of pride for both riders. Broc desperately needed an overall win. All throughout the season he'd steadily gotten faster. "I typically start off slow. As the season progresses, I get in the flow of things and usually start winning. This year I was way too late with the charge."

Broc and David fought fist and gut in moto two. Glover won and finally took an overall win. "David didn't have to win, I know that. The championship is his and he deserves it. He's a great rider, a great competitor and a great champion." That just about says it all.



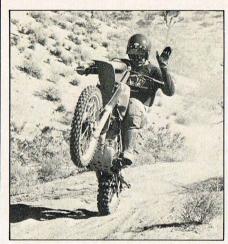
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BITS & PIECES (continued from page 13)



#### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HARE AND HOUND

On January 12, 1985, Whiskey Pete's Casino will be hosting the Best in the Desert race. A \$20,000 purse, the largest for any desert-only event, will seek out the fastest and craziest riders for a share of the mongo payback. Whiskey Pete's put up the purse money and will be the center of the race. The course will be a cloverleaf, centered near the resort. This year the enter fee is \$100. For information write to Best in the Desert, c/o Sportsman Cycle, 3475 Boulder Highway, Las

Vegas, NV 89121; or call (702)457-0343.

FROM THE SADDLE (continued from page 8)

white shirt and that maybe this wasn't such a good idea after all.

Marvin agreed, they said their goodbyes and parted from the Elks Lodge.

Upon arriving home, Marvin positioned his pained body on the softest part of the couch and sagged into a semi-stupor, not even bothering to change the TV from the Pro Bowlers Tour to something worthwhile.

Two hours later, his riding buddy, Chuck, stopped by. "How ya feelin"? You don't look real great, Marv."

Marvin admitted that he had felt better, but that he was on the mend. Chuck scratched his heavily bearded chin and said, "I guess it's out of the question for you to go trailriding with me and Mel. You see, Mel just bought a new IT490, and I know you and I have been thinking about buying one of those things. He said he'd let us ride his a bit. We still got four, maybe five hours of daylight left."

As they pulled out of the driveway, bikes swaying in the back of the old Ford pickup, Marvin wondered if this made any sense whatsoever.

His patient wife shook her head and wondered what kind of looney-tunes those dirt bikers were. And, at the Elks Lodge, Aunt Belinda tossed her considerable bulk around the dance floor, wondering how poor Marvin was feeling.

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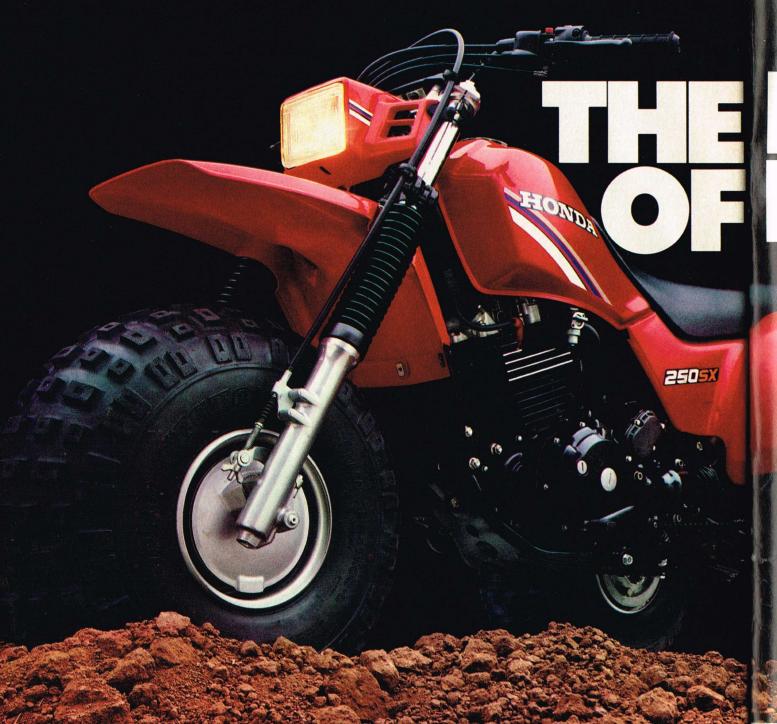
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Crash & Burn



Pockets of New England bog mist have been known to play havoc with early-morning travelers in Maine. However, when the dreaded fog dropped smack onto the third turn at Barfingham Raceway, the resultant chaos was disrupting. Luckily, a nearby flagger threw a steaming cup of clam broth at the swirling mist, and it dissipated, but not before it cost young Marvin Splinzo a first-place trophy.

Photo by Paul Buckley



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