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Racy weekend with 300 fast ladies

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A racy weekend with fast women:

Nancy Paynes the competition

By Dale Brown

VALENCIA, CAL., JULY 6-7

Nancy Payne won the title of National Powder Puff Champion by accumulating the greatest number of points in Expert competition during this two day event.

Payne did it by totally dominating the 250 motocross, taking a third in 125 motocross, and finishing in the top ten in both Grands Prix, despite bike troubles.

Also in contention for the top prize were Lorie Watson, Janette Turton and Janine Kline.

Lorie Watson, who had been favored by many, took the Overall win, was bothered by the flu all weekend, but still made a creditable showing.

Motocross competition ran Saturday and Sunday morning produced some exciting battles, particularly in the first moto of the 125 Experts. Lorie Watson charged into the lead followed by Janette Turton. Honda-mounted Watson kept the lead for three laps before relinquishing it to Turton, the Bultaco bullet. She was out in front for only three laps before Watson regained the lead. All that time, they were less than a split second apart and that's how they finished. Bothered by the flu and chills, Watson wasn't in contention for the two remaining motos and Turton won easily. Aggressive riding by Juana Madrid (Hon) moved her into second overall ahead of Nancy Payne.

Payne hopped off her Honda onto a Maico and made a shambles of the 250 class. Janice Kline (Hon) led for awhile in the first moto until her tranny got troublesome. After that it was Nancy's show. Head-up riding by a telephone line-person from Oregon named Nancy Thomas moved her into second overall, ahead of Kline.

After the motocross it was off to the sandwash for the Grands Prix. The first race, for 250, 100, Minis and Grandpa, was run for an hour. Then those girls in contention for the title were moved back to the 125s for a two-hour bash. 125 winner Lorie Watson made 33 laps of the almost four-mile course, which works out to over 125 miles. Right after she had two more laps with the 250s. When was the last time you rode fast for over 200 miles? This writer tips his hat in admiration of those ladies. (He, now, . . . Ed.)

Special mention should also be made to Nancy Thomas and Cherry Stockton. Nancy did a get-off during the 250 GP and injured her knee. But she kept on riding very fast. During the 125 event, she crashed again. Stockton, running fourth, stopped to help her. Although she would be unable to walk after the race, Thomas continued, still riding fast. Cherry got an award for good sportsmanship.

After the races were over, everybody waited for what seemed like an eternity for the Grand Prix results. P.U.R.R. (Powerpuffas Unlimited, Riders and Racers) had the results in three hours, unlike the Viewfinders, who took three weeks.

The Overall winner was to receive a Can-Am 125 from Gary Jones, a complete riding outfit from Norton and other contingencies. Nancy Payne looked to be in shock, but she soon regained her composure and motored off into the sunset on the new bike. She soon returned however, for Sue Hall had gathered an almost inexhaustible collection of contingencies for the winners. P.U.R.R. also had cash for the Experts (first time ever for a girls race).
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