





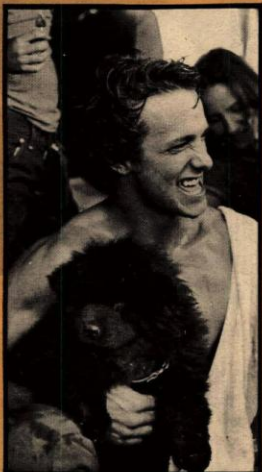
1978 Women's Motocross National Championship

October 28-29, 1978

Carlsbad International Raceway

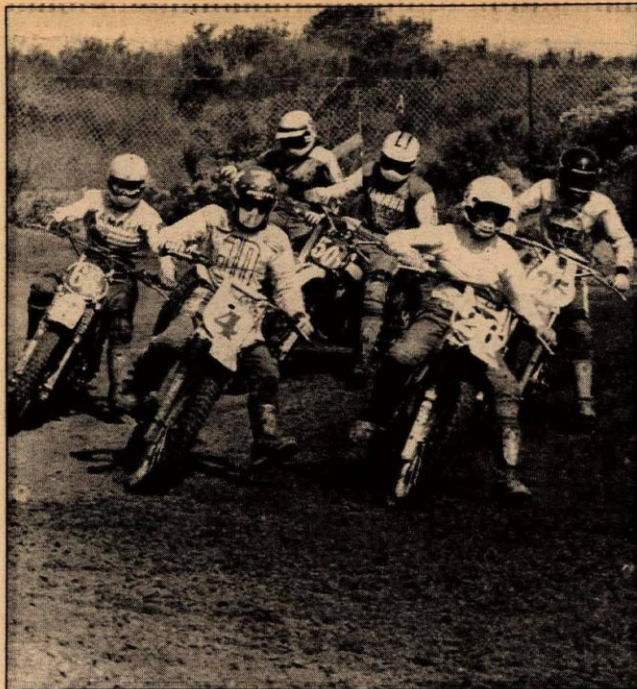
CYCLE NEWS
WEST Volume XV : Number 44 : November 15, 1978 **75c**

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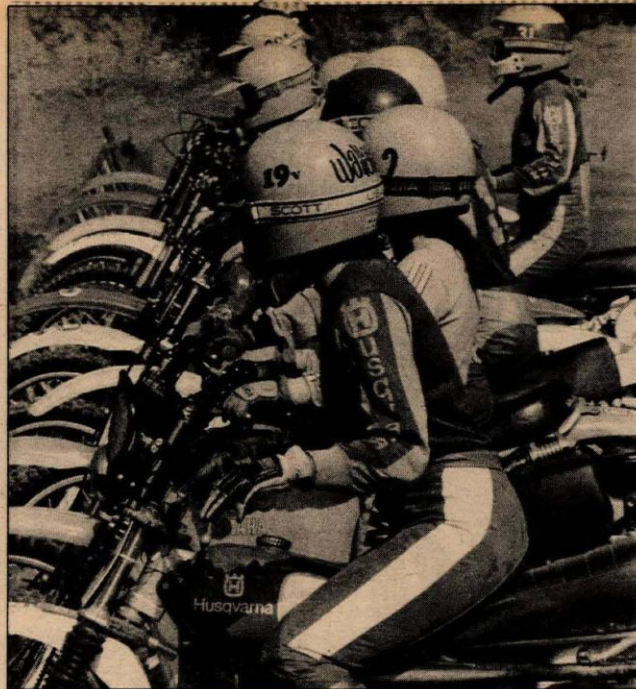


Plus:
Shultz super at Sears Point
Steiner finer at Women's Nationals
Balentine blasts Cal City GP

NEWSPAPER



Rhe Helms (4) and Diane Cox (66Q) take the outside line at the start.



Chris Wallace (inside) and others await the Amateur start.

Steiner triumphs at Women's National

By Patti Firth-Trotter

Photos by Mark Kariya and Patti Firth-Trotter

CARLSBAD, CA, OCT. 28-29

Sugar and spice and everything nice is what girls are supposed to be made of. Add a well-tuned body and a love of motorcycles and you have some of the prettiest, fastest women motocrossers in the U.S. at Carlsbad Raceway for the Kawasaki Women's Motocross Nationals.

Carey Steiner took home the Women's National number one plate with a steady two-day showing. Defending champ Sue Fish dominated the show on Saturday, but suffered a hard getoff while leading the first 125cc Pro moto.

Vicki Miller Haag, with the help of her friends, put together one of the best run races held in these parts in a long while. Kawasaki Motors Corporation and Russ Darnell MX School were the major sponsors with Torco and Champion adding trophies, finishing pins and products. Close to fifty sponsors contributed to the success of these two days of racing. In addition to the money and motocross schools Russ Darnell offered, he was ever ready to help riders, mechanics, scorers, and Vicki.

On the first day of the meet, Saturday, the Grand Prix racing was held on the outback section of the infamous Carlsbad course. The 125cc Expert class got the first shot at the dry, dusty, body-thrashing four-mile track. Two time champion Sue Fish looked as serious as ever she has. Sue allowed as to how the pressure this year has been very great for her; the long months of training and competing with the men on the national circuit led to this weekend. Sue's Crown Cycle Yamaha teammate Steiner, ranked second overall Pro at last year's Women's Nationals, was hoping for the number one plate. Sue

showed the other riders and spectators why she is called the "Flyin' Fish." Rhe Helms, sponsored by JD Engineering

and her husband, was second onto the dirt in pursuit of the Fish. Steiner, Vicki Haag (Suz) and 15-year-old Texan Kathy Holman (Suz) had the next places. Peggy Hall and Trudy Beck followed. By the end of the fourth lap Sue was turning three-minute, 45-second laps and had lapped all but Steiner and Holman. Midway through the race DeDe Cates got off hard in one of the granite washes, cutting her chin so badly that she was later to make a quick trip to the hospital for stitches. Roxie Klatt, Haag and Diane Cox finished the race

in the fourth through sixth slots.

Husky-mounted Amateur Kathy Wall went start to stop at the head of the pack of anxious riders. Patty Pruyn (Suz) started the race in fifth, but with a lot of skillful riding and sheer strength finished in second. Chris Wallace (Hus) and Dawn Paiment (Yam) along with San Diegan Julie Brown (Suz) and Lynda Ledlow (Yam) garnered the top honors.

Fred Lewis Racing Team member Marcy Lewis (Suz) got the jump on the other 23 riders in the Novice class to take an early lead with Lisa Delgado in

2000 cc's,
plus
8 Champions
equals: 318 mph.

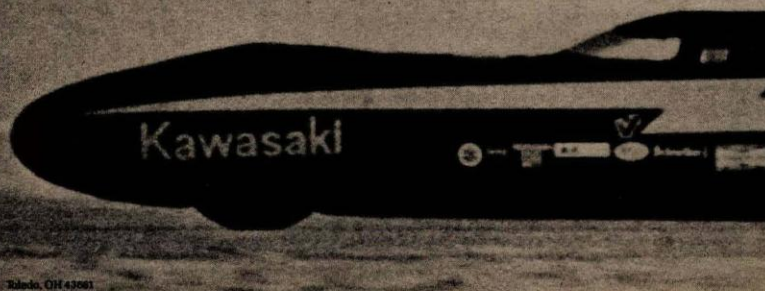
Holy Kawasaki!

On August 28, 1978, this speeding two-wheeled bullet containing two Kawasaki KZ-1000 engines and one Don Vesco broke just about every 2-wheel land speed record there is.

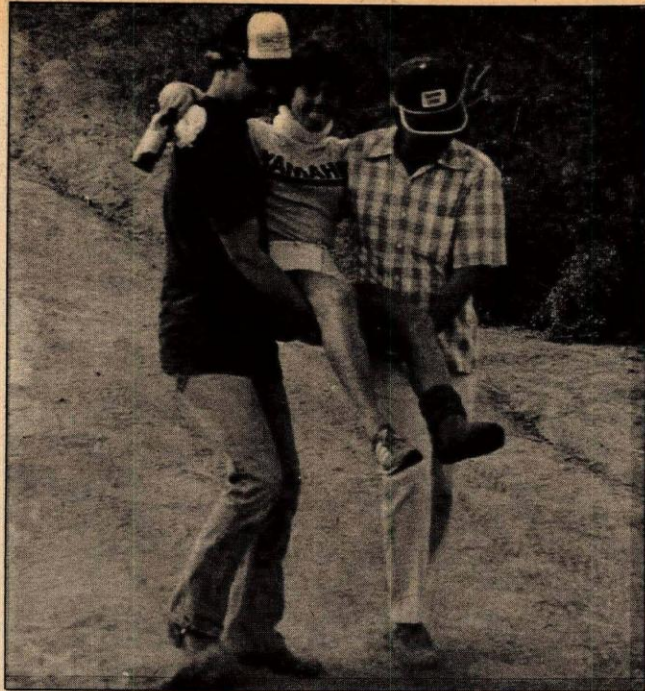
The Flying Mile, first run: 318.330.

The Flying Mile, second run:

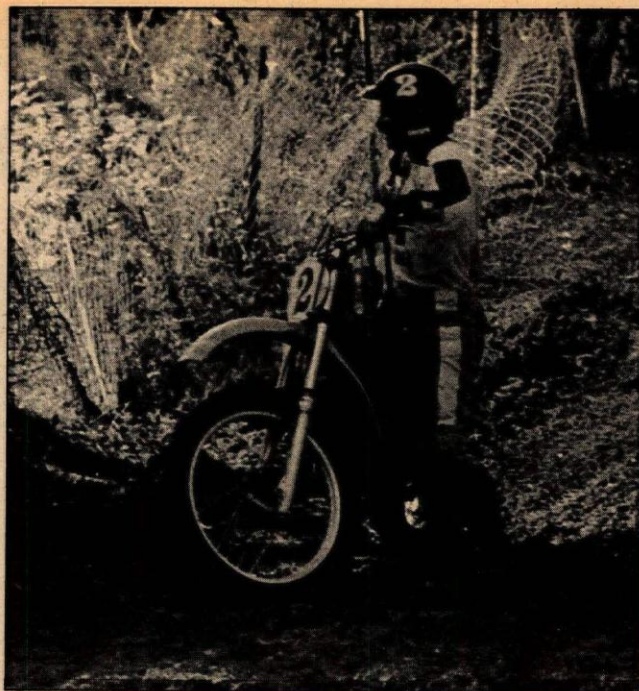
318.866.



Champion Speed Flying Company • Toledo, OH 43601



Sue Fish gets a helping hand off the track after a fall in the MX.



Luckily for new champ Carey Steiner, the busted chain wasn't in a race.

al

second. Reno's Jenni Miles put her Yamaha in third leaving fourth place Miriam Rodriguez to deal with the rest of the pack. Lewis was able to hold the lead for eight laps until Debbie Land, also of the Fred Lewis Team, swooped around her. On the 12th lap Lisa Delgado captured the lead only to have Land take it away from her. On the last lap Delgado took over again with Lewis, Land and Miles finishing ahead of Lana Dunfee and Randi Ehrenborg.

With less than two hours' rest the Expert riders were back on the line.

Fish again dominated the entire race with no one even getting close to her. Rhe Helms, DeDe Cates, Trudy Beck, Carey Steiner and Kathy Holman were Sue's closest competition.

At the 45-minute mark of the race as Sue went by her mechanic, she was heard to yell, "How much longer in this gosh darn race?" With temperatures in the low 80s, the heat was taking its toll of the riders.

After the riders meeting on Sunday the girls lined up at the gate on the motocross course awaiting the signal to go in the 125cc Pros. The holeshot was

taken by none other than Sue Fish with Rhe Helms right on her knobby. Steiner, Klatt, Haag and Holman were jockeying for the front positions.

Fish began to open up another of her unreal leads when a getoff on the downhill sent her to the hospital with possible neck and back injuries. Helms took over as the leader; Klatt, Steiner, Trudy Beck and Maico-mounted Pauline Pitt ended the race in the top places.

Rhe Helms took an early lead in the second 125cc moto with DeDe Cates so close to her that there were times they

looked as if they were riding the same bike. For seven laps the two riders dived with Cates finally getting by Helms as they came through the gully in the back section and Helms went off the track and into a fence.

Once Cates was in the lead she just kept dialing on the power for a half a lap lead. Cates had four lapped riders between herself and second place Steiner. Klatt, Helms, Beck, Pitt and Diane Cox captured the next points. Steiner garnered the 125cc overall win with Roxie getting second. Helms, Beck and Pitt took the next honors.

DeDe Cates completely dominated both 250cc Pros motos to become the Women's 250 Champ. There was just no way any of the other riders were going to catch this 17-year-old rocket. In the first moto DeDe had Helms, Holman, Peggy Hall, Klatt, Beck and Debbie Mathews follow her across the finish line. Moto two top scorers were Cates, Helms, Holman Steiner, Beck and Klatt.

At the end of the day Steiner was the winner of the Kawasaki KE100 and the new Women's National number one. DeDe Cates had moved from last year's number three to two for the coming year and Rhe Helms was changing her number to three.

Amateur Kathy Wall took possession of a new little Kawasaki pit bike, a KV75 by becoming the overall winner in her division. Dawn Paiment and Julie Brown were the happy second and third place finishers.

Debbie Land is now the Novice number one with Lisa Delgado, Mercedes Gonzalez and Jenni Miles getting the second through fourth highest points.

During the trophy presentation, even though it was held in the dark, there was a lot of very happy women who had worked extremely hard for all of the honors that were being given them. Gifts of Barum tires, leathers, helmets, goggles, grips, cases of oil, weeks at the Russ Darnell School were being given to the first through sixth place winners in each class.

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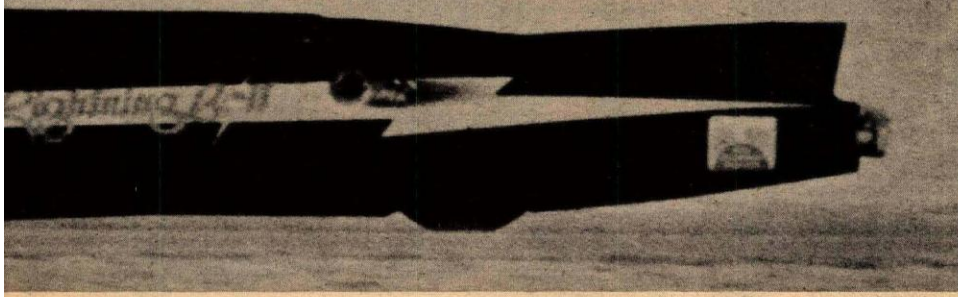
And the highest speed recorded: A very blurry 322.696.

That's hardly surprising. You'll find Champions in just about the fastest gasoline powered anything, including planes, boats, cars and, of course, motorcycles.

So the next time your bike needs plugs, go with the ones that go... Champions.



You can't buy a better plug.



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