

1984

# CYCLESport

## INSIDE LINES

### Malherbe makes it three world championships

Roger De Coster is considered by most to be the best motocrosser ever, winning five world championships. But there's another Belgian rider now at least within sight of De Coster's total.

Honda rider Andre Malherbe topped Kawasaki's Georges Jobe, 370-359, to win his third 500 cc world championship, winning seven of 12 motos in the first half of the season but being shut out the rest of the way. Team Honda rider David Thorpe of Britain won the last six motos to finish third overall with 349 points.

The 250 cc world championship was won by Heinz Kinigadner of Austria on a KTM, who in the process broke the six-year stranglehold by Japanese-made bikes on world motocross titles. Suzuki rider Michele Rinaldi of Italy won the 125 cc championship after series leader Corrado Maddii (Cagiva) broke his leg in timed practice before the final round.

### Labrosse and McMurter hot in the U.S.

Good news again from Canadian Alan Labrosse in U.S. racing; bad news for Harley-Davidson fans.

Labrosse, who earlier won his first AMA Camel Pro Formula Two race at Portland, Ore., took his second checkered flag of the season three weeks later at Brainerd, Minn. He then finished fifth at Willow Springs, Calif., to move into a tie for fifth in the Formula Two standings with two races remaining.

Fellow Canadian Rueben McMurter solidified his third-place standing in the AMA superbike championships with a third at Brainerd behind winner Fred Merkel and a sixth at Willow Springs.

Team Honda rider Mike Baldwin clinched his third consecutive AMA Formula



Andre Malherbe roasts some bubbly after holding off Georges Jobe for the 500 cc world championship.

One title with a win at Brainerd — his fifth win in seven races. McMurter finished eighth at Brainerd and is the top Canadian in the standings, sitting seventh with one round remaining. Art Robbins is 10th despite contesting only three events, Miles Baldwin is 16th and Steve Gervais 20th.

The bad news is that defending U.S. dirt track champion Randy Goss broke his leg in a crash Sept. 16 during a mile race at San Jose, Calif. The injury virtually assures that Ricky Graham will regain the No. 1 plate, and hand Honda its first U.S. dirt track championship.

Goss, Harley-Davidson's top rider, collided with Honda's Doug Chandler on the 16th lap of the race. Chandler was expected to be out two weeks with a broken wrist.

Honda now could sweep the top three placings in the standings. With four rounds left Graham leads with 254 points, followed by Goss with 235, Chandler with 197 and Team Honda's Bubba Shober with 196. Harley rider Scott Parker has the best shot at spoiling the party, sitting fifth at 184.

### Sharpless is tops in CMA enduro title

Can-Am riders took the top three positions in the two-day Corduroy enduro, Sept. 8 and 9 in Haliburton, Ont., with Blair Sharpless of Toronto dominating the event for his first CMA national masters' class enduro title.

Sharpless, who heads this year's ISDE team, lost four minutes on the first day and then cleaned the fast course the next day to take the overall win on a liquid-cooled ASE250. Sharpless also won the special test by at least 10 minutes over the second-place rider.

Steve Langdon of Toronto and Frank Sutton of London, Ont., placed second and third, respectively, both riding air-cooled ASE250s.

The CMA championship shrank from a three-event series in '83 to a single event this year.

The overall champion the last three years, 35-year-old Ross Lennox, finished seventh in the masters' class after apparently riding off the course during the first day.

### Evans No. 1 in CMA short track results

Chris Evans lost his No. 1 half mile plate earlier this year, but at St. Marcel, Que., Aug. 25, the St. Catharines, Ont., rider found a suitable replacement in the form of the short track No. 1.

Evans was defeated in the one-round CMA half mile championship by Jon Cornwell, but won both 500 cc expert races in the two-round short track series to sweep to victory over runner-up Serge Gosselin of Levis, Que. Gosselin, riding a Can-Am, finished second in both races. Evans was on a Honda.

Last year's short track No. 1 John Parker of Hamilton placed second at Welland but slipped to seventh at St. Marcel to place third overall. Perhaps some consolation was Parker's overall win in the 250 expert division.

Triumph rider Matt Russell of Ancaster, Ont., won the 500 senior title. Martin Mobach of Dundas, Ont., rode a Honda to the 250 senior championship and Mark Nasziger of Waterloo won the 250 junior title.