

## Canucks down under at the Oz Six Days

The Canadian team competing at the International Six Days Enduro at the end of August made a strong showing. Six of the seven team members finished the demanding event, held in Australia this year, bringing home one gold, three silver and two bronze medals.

Pete DeGraaf of Lethbridge, Alta., won gold in his first Six Days attempt. The 37-year-old rider led the Canadian team, finishing 30th in the 250 class on a Yamaha WR200R. Six out of the seven Canadians competed on WR200Rs rented for the Six Days from Yamaha Australia for a fee of \$1,700. "I was surprised how fast everyone was," said DeGraaf. "It was tough mentally but quite an experience. Really good."

Julian Cerny, Lawrence Hacking and Jonathan Galbraith earned silver medals in Australia. Cerny, a 20-year-old rider from Calgary, maintained a gold-medal pace until the end of Day Six, when contact with other riders in the final motocross test damaged the water-pump of his Yamaha and caused a seizure. Cerny had been the leading Canadian team member at that point. "It was very frustrating to be so close to a gold and lose it just 10 minutes from the end. It had been a great event and I'm happy with a silver, but by the sixth day I'd been expecting a gold."

This year's ISDE was the fifth for 37-year-old Hacking, and the fifth finish for the Canadian ex-patriate living in France. Hacking, who rode a Honda CR250, won silver for the second consecutive year.



**ISDE gold medal winner Pete DeGraaf of Lethbridge, Alta.**

Galbraith is a 16-year-old charger from Lower Nicola, B.C., and one of the youngest medalists ever for the Canadian team, but was still not satisfied with a silver. "I expected it to be harder," said Galbraith. "The course was like a hard Canadian event but because it lasts six days it is tough. The top guys are so fast. I'm getting help on my riding from Guy Perrett so next year I want gold."

Geoff Wightman from Calgary and Leon Green of Medicine Hat, Alta., earned bronze medals. "It was a great challenge with a variety of terrain," said Green. "I had no trouble with the bike."

Pat Driscoll of Port Hope, Ont., pulled out on Day Four suffering from tendinitis. Long-time ISDE supporter and team co-ordinator/manager Jim Kelly called the Canadian effort the best medal performance in recent years. "I'm proud and very happy that the team did so well."

In World Trophy competition, Italy edged out Sweden at the ISDE for top honors, while the top individual placing was Giovanni Sala on a KTM, riding for Italy.

—Hugh McLean



**Kevin Hines unbeatable at the Corduroy enduro**

The first Corduroy enduro in 1953 ran from the late Glen Eagles Hotel east of Toronto to the Gold Rock Lodge on Shadow Lake near Coboconk, Ont., and back again. That course used old settlement and hydro access roads, abandoned railway beds and even old sections of log corduroy roads, which gave the event its name. Nine riders started the the first Corduroy, and six finished the two-day, 500-mile round trip. The first Cord was won by Basil Jackson on a Triumph 500. On the first day, Ken Aston riding a 1,000 cc Vincent, led a group of competitors into Gold Rock after dark. It had taken

**Craig Kennedy splashes through the Burnt River at the Corduroy enduro.**

the riders longer than anticipated and Aston had the only headlight.

Over the years, the Corduroy has been dominated by visiting Americans. Riders from south of the border have won the event 23 times. The Penton clan from Ohio have claimed nine overall wins, a record matched by Bill Sharpless and his son Blair. Bill won three times between 1955 and 1967, while Blair has won a record six times since 1983.

At its peak in the late '60s and '70s the Cord attracted 300-400 riders a year. It continues to be Canada's premier enduro, and the only two-day event on the sched-



uie. More than a hundred riders entered the 39th running of the Cord this year.

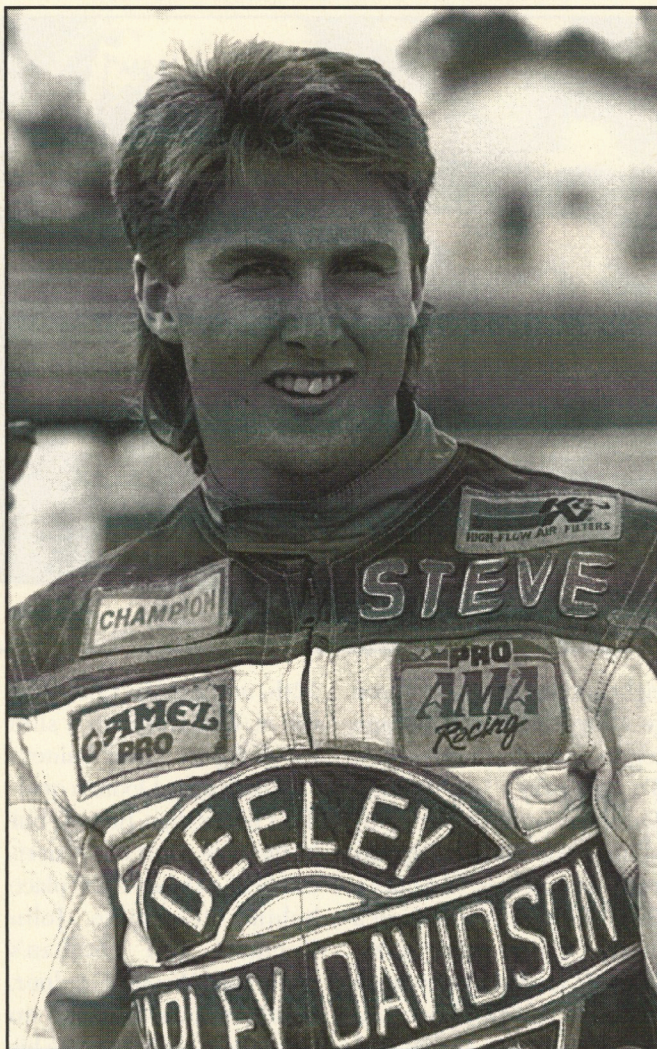
Enduros are not easy to watch, and the Cord is no exception. The only spectator access on the second day is the Burnt River water-crossing, where fifty feet of slick rock under two feet of cold water promise some excitement for the 25 or so die-hards who have come to watch.

American ace Kevin Hines on a Husqvarna 350 is the first rider to come flying down the hill to the river. He pauses briefly at the edge, chooses a line and surges through cleanly with precision. Fresh from a gold-medal performance at the ISDE in Australia, this is the American's first event since his return.

Current Canadian enduro champion Craig Kennedy charges into the river soon after Hines has disappeared into the woods. Kennedy is pushing hard, throwing a huge roost that engulfs him in sun-sparkled water. He clears the river on his Honda CR250 and hurries through the trees.

Next is a hard-riding Blair Sharpless, who seized the motor on his Suzuki RMX within sight of the start on Saturday and lost 44 minutes fixing it. He is pushing now to defend a points lead in the enduro series.

By the end of the day, Hines has proved unbeatable. The rider from Massachusetts is in great spirits after losing only 18 minutes over the two-day schedule. It's been his first time competing in Canada. "It was good fun, very relaxing," he said after collecting his trophy. "The only difficulties were the water-crossings. I've never had to deal with



**Steve Beattie wrapped up his first CMA dirt track No. 1 with a conservative ride at the final national at Trois Rivieres.**

such long sections before. I just took it slow in the water and had a great time."

Kennedy lost 32 minutes over the two days and just edged out Marc Giroux for second. Third was an improvement for Giroux over last year, when he'd been fifth, but was still disappointed. "It was worse than last year. Starting last hurt." Finishing fourth was Yves Ducharme, while fifth-place David Marr closed to within three points of Sharpless in the points chase. Sharpless hung on to his lead with a sixth.

Before heading back to do battle in the U.S. enduro championship, Hines was

last seen heading off to explore the Montreal night life and to do some trail riding in Quebec with Giroux. "I'll be back," he said.

The CMA enduro championship was decided at the final Primrose, Ont., round in October, where Blair Sharpless won ahead of Craig Kennedy, thus regaining the enduro title he lost to Kennedy last year.

—H.M.

## **Beattie takes his first CMA dirt track No. 1**

Heading into the final dirt track round at Trois Rivieres, Que., on Aug. 8, Steve Beattie held a slim points

lead after his win at the previous week's round at Kawartha Downs in Ontario.

The fast kid from Burlington had been perfect on the hot dusty oval near Peterborough. He capitalized on the misfortune of first-round winner Chris Evans, whose Honda RS750 had broken in practice. Evans was forced to ride the wheels off a borrowed 600 Rotax in the final to keep his title hopes alive against Beattie.

At Trois Rivieres, Beattie knew the championship was his if he could keep no more than one other rider between himself and Evans. In the final, Evans who was the top-qualifier, put on a charge, using all of the track trying to catch a flying American, George Roeder. Evans knew he had to lose Beattie and tried everything he could on his Honda to create a gap. But Beattie tucked in behind Dan Koelsch, and the order at the finish was Roeder, Evans, Koelsch and Beattie. When Evans looked back at the finish and saw Beattie, he knew the championship had slipped away by one point.

"We'd talked it over before the final," said Beattie's tuner Brian Olsen. "Steve knew what he had to do."

"As long as Chris was only one rider ahead I wasn't going to push it," said Beattie. "I was almost too cautious."

But after throwing away the championship on the last turn in the last race of '91, Beattie can be forgiven for calculating exactly what was needed to win his first CMA national dirt track championship.

—H.M.