

THE DUCATI RACING SCENE



Rich Schlachter (48) tucks in as Mike Baldwin (43) goes wide around John Fuchs (87) in the closing laps.

The following collection of racing news was borrowed from the June 20, 1979 CYCLE NEWS weekly newspaper, and collected here for you all to enjoy, laugh at, stick your tongue out at or whatever. Only reason I stuck it here was on account that we won or did very well in these racing events, you can rest assured that if we bombed you won't find it within the DIOC pages, no sireeee. I mean who the hell wants to hear a bunch of bad news anyway?...right?

AAMMRR CELEBRATES MEMORIAL DAY AT THE BRIDGE

by JOHN PATRICK CLARKE

Kicking off the weekend's action Saturday was a four hour endurance race with a cast of 74 teams.

Richard Schlachter, minus his beard, and Dave Roper teamed up on one of George Vincensi's expertly tuned Ducati 860's and showed everyone just what it takes to win. Vincenci said that the bike was running his mild engine. In that case, we wonder what his wild ones are like.

Schlachter then put the Duke through its paces in the Modified Production Expert class where he chased Dwight Roy, on a hot Suzuki 1000. On lap six, Schlachter got by Roy's Superbike entry for the upcoming Loudon National and began to really lower his laps times. In the end he held an 11 second lead on Roy.

Jimmy Adamo, aboard one of Reno Leoni's Moto Guzzi's finished third 10 seconds down. Adamo spent his time not trying to catch the leaders, but trying to learn the bike which he will ride in Loudon Superbike race. Leoni will also field a mount for Freddie Spencer at Loudon. Although Leoni denies that his Ducatis are of the Mike Hailwood Replica mold, they are suspiciously similar.

Kurt Leibmann was also cruising around in the Modified Production event. He was doing a little R&D on a 997cc 4-cylinder RCB Honda.

The Formula 1 event provided another round of Roy/Schlachter show only this time it was Roy's race from the start. Second was a toss around between Schlachter, John Bettencourt and Rich Chambers. Bettencourt went out with tire problems on lap seven leaving Schlachter and his Ducati to hold off Chambers' YAMAHA TZ750. Chambers eventually got by to finish second.

RESULTS

Endurance: 1 Richard Schlachter/Dave Roper (Duc); 2. Al Curry/John Fuchs (Kaw); 3 Wayne Sullivan/John Bettencourt/Dwight Roy (Suz)

Mod. Prod. Exp; 1 Richard Schlachter (Duc); 2 Dwight Roy (Suz); 3 James Adamo (M.G.)

Mod Prod. Jr; 1 Keith Barrett (Hon); Ron Stordone (Duc); 3 Kirk Guay (Suz)

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SCHLACHTER DUCS IT OUT WITH BALDWIN

BY Gary Van Voorhis
Photos by Mary Grothe

Superbike Production

Loudon, NH, June 17

Richard Schlachter won the shortened Superbike Production race in what could be considered a hollow victory for the Connecticut rider. When the red flag came out on lap 21 of the 25 lap event, Schlachter, aboard the George Vincensi sponsored and tuned Ducati, had a slim margin of breathing room over the Kawasaki Motors Corp, entry of Mike Baldwin.

To make matters more interesting, the Yoshimura R&R of America Suzuki of Wes Cooley was in a similar position with Freddie Spencer and the American Berliner Corp./Reno Leoni Ducati right behind. What was the race strategy of the above quartet? We'll never know.

That accident that brought out the red flag happened on lap 11 and involved Steve McLaughlin and his Racecrafter's International Kawasaki and Dan Chivington aboard his Chivington Honda sponsored Honda. Chivington was the first rider down and it appeared that McLaughlin, with no place to go, hit the downed rider and also went down hard. The area of the accident - a very fast high speed sweeper - did not have an ambulance in it and after examination by medics on the scene it was decided to stop the race so that Chivington could receive further attention.

Earlier in the race: On lap 15 things really started getting tight. Schlachter was putting a wheel on Baldwin wherever and whenever he could, testing and probing. On lap 17 it paid off as Schlachter took over exiting the left hand sweeper coming onto the pit straight,

Cooley had been shadowing Spencer since lap 12 looking for a way back into third. On lap 18 he round it and opened up a little room while Baldwin stalked Schlachter apparently waiting for the right moment.

It never came. Race strategy or no, the red flag in the hand of starter Mike Anthony put an end to the suspense of a last lap duel to the finish.

Results
Superbike Production: 1 Richard Schlachter (Duc); 2 Mike Baldwin (Kaw); 3 Wes Cooley (Suz); 4 Freddie Spencer (Duc).

Well that about does it for this racing section of the DIOC. I've got some more racing results of lesser importance but I'm outa room, so bye ya'll.