

Although Hurricane Allen loomed a few miles to the south, the Oklahoma weather was hot and dry as the National Motorsports Association convened their annual National Championships at Ponca City the second week in August. 1400 class entries from across the U.S. competed on the fast and sometimes dusty track, set amidst a sea of motorhomes and cheering spectators.

Primary sponsors of the event,

Yamaha International, provided several mechanics from the Competition Services Department along with a truck laden with parts to assist riders of the yellow and black minibikes. Yamaha riders captured a majority of the event's classes but, without minicycle master Eric Kehoe (now old enough to compete in the AMA) there to humble the Experts as in the last year's races, top honors fell to Suzuki R&D rider George Holland.

Holland swept all three of his classes, the 83cc Stock and Modified Expert, and the 105cc Expert, in devastating fashion. A typical scenario had Holland in the lead and pulling away by the first turn, and a five-second cushion over second place as the pack completed the first lap.

Suzuki's R&D program had true depth of talent, and the only time Holland was seriously challenged, the effort came from fellow R&D rider

By Terry Whytall



PONCA  
NMA GRAND

Rick Hemme.

Hemme held off Holland's charges for several laps in heat two of the 83cc Modified Experts before Holland's line selection catapulted him into the front spot. Suzuki riders finished 1-2-3 in the 83cc Stock Experts and the 105 Experts, with Kawasaki rider Sam Storer breaking up the 83cc Modified sweep, by finishing third behind Holland and Kenny Dunlop.

Storer's third place was the best

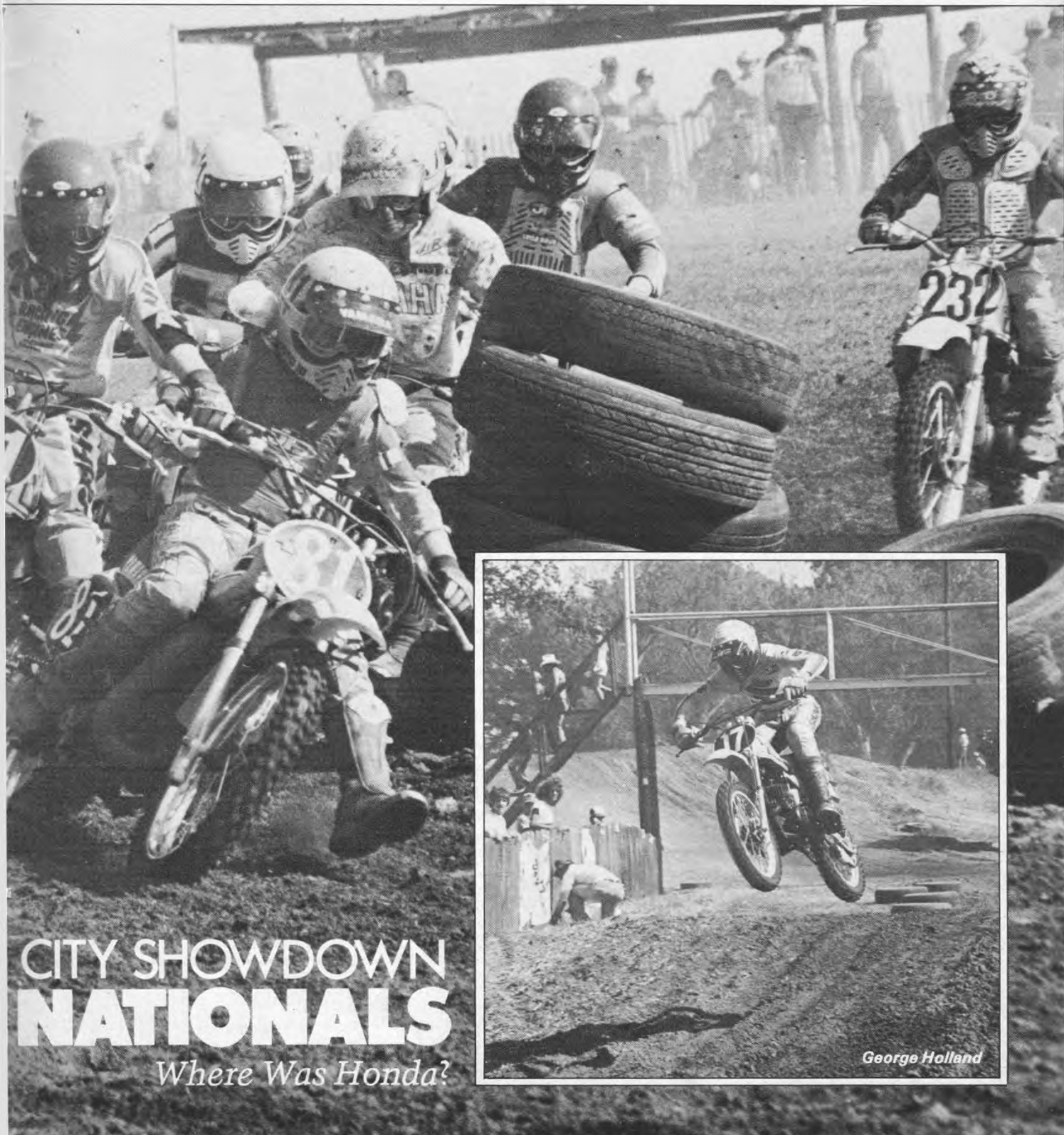
finish of the weekend for Kawasaki's new Uni-Trak 80. (See side-bar) Bad luck, bad starts and bad falls plagued the riders from Team Green as they debuted the new single-shockers that showed much promise.

Keith Turpin put a Kawasaki twin-shocker in the winner's circle with a victory in the 83cc Stock Intermediates, but it was in the big bike classes that the Unis really wailed as Curt McCustion topped the 125cc

Modified Expert class and heavily-favored Billy Liles ran away with the 250cc race.

The 125cc Expert finals were the closest races of the meet, with Scooter Stafford edging out Billy Liles for the overall points. Liles could finish no higher than fourth after a first turn pile-up left him half a lap behind the leaders.

Stafford was back to battle in the Modified class, but Kawasaki riders



# CITY SHOWDOWN NATIONALS

*Where Was Honda?*

George Holland





**Start of the 125 Mod. Int. with Dennis Daft (219) from Oklahoma on a Yamaha.**



**125cc St. Expert Bryan Taylor on a Yamaha won both qualifying heats but had problems in the finals.**



**Billy Liles**

McCustion and Wendel Semmons held off the charging Stafford. Once again, favored Liles fell victim to problems as his front wheel slowly disintegrated beneath him and he pulled off the track with one lap left in the final. Liles had his victory in the 250cc Expert race as he took the lead away in the first turn and never looked back.

Action continued into the night as the award ceremonies turned into a cheering match between large contingents of California and Texas riders. Yamaha gave away mini bikes, Kawasaki \$1000 checks and savings bonds, and NMA handed out hundreds of trophies, some over six feet high. As the Yamaha, Suzuki and Kawasaki teams drove off through the Oklahoma night, one question was left unanswered. "Where was Honda?" □

## RESULTS

### Jr Cycle St Nov 9-11

1. Jeff Emig ..... Yam
2. Joe Bob Ebers ..... Yam
3. Rob Hamson ..... Yam

### 83cc St Nov 9-11

1. Shaun Wooten ..... Yam
2. Mike Young ..... Yam
3. Doug Hollingsworth ..... Suz

### 83cc St Nov 12 and over

1. Darren Williams ..... Yam
2. Rusty Dovell ..... Suz
3. Jason Upshaw ..... Yam

### 83cc Mod Nov 12 and over

1. Jason Upshaw ..... Yam
2. Vaun Johnson ..... Suz
3. Bubba Ebarb ..... Suz

### 83cc St Int 12 and Over

1. Danny Storbeck ..... Yam
2. John Cook ..... Suz
3. Rudy Dickenson ..... Yam

### 83cc Mod Int

1. Bobby Moore ..... Yam
2. Danny Storebeck ..... Yam
3. Brother Martinez ..... Suz

### 83cc St Ex

1. George Holland ..... Suz
2. Troy Blake ..... Suz
3. Rick Hemme ..... Suz

### 83cc Mod Ex

1. George Holland ..... Suz
2. Kenny Dunlap ..... Suz
3. Sam Storer ..... Kaw

### 105cc 12 and over

1. George Holland ..... Suz
2. Troy Blake ..... Suz
3. Rick Hemme ..... Suz

### 100cc St Nov

1. Jerry Howell ..... Suz
2. Marc Filler ..... Suz
3. Kirk Lawrence ..... Yam

### 100cc Mod Nov

1. Marc Filler ..... Suz
2. James Felt ..... Yam
3. Joe Lenn Flanders ..... Suz

### 125cc St Nov

1. Jerry Howell ..... Suz
2. Darren Terry ..... Yam
3. Forest Clouster ..... Hon

### 125cc Mod Nov

1. Mike Gilliland ..... Yam
2. Doug Fellers ..... Kaw
3. Eric Evans ..... Yam

### 125cc St Int

1. Kieth Elrid ..... Yam
2. Scott Hewatt ..... Hon
3. Mike Kief ..... Yam

### 125cc Mod Int

1. Dennis Daft ..... Yam
2. Floyd Robbins ..... Yam
3. Greg Baker ..... Hon

### 125cc St Ex

1. Scooter Stafford ..... Yam
2. Billy Liles ..... Kaw
3. Randy Bryant ..... Yam

### 125cc Mod Ex

1. Curt McCustion ..... Kaw
2. Wendel Semmons ..... Kaw
3. Scooter Stafford ..... Yam

### 250cc Int

1. David Stearer ..... Hon
2. Eric Stearer ..... Yam
3. Steve Davis ..... Kaw

### 250cc Ex

1. Billy Liles ..... Kaw
2. Clay Hoenshell ..... Yam
3. Dude Hollingsworth ..... Suz