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SPORT

Glover Sweeps 125 USGP As Hannah Plays The Spoiler

It's hard to say what would have happened if the Russians had come and Bob Hannah would have stayed home. Crumbling political relations between Russia and America prevented the appearance of Iron Curtain riders at round 10 of the World 125 GP Motocross Series held at Mid-Ohio, so there were only seven international riders there to battle the Americans. One could say the whole field, imports and domestics com-

bined, was against Bob Hannah, a former Mid-Ohio winner who was there for the money only since his designated FIM class this year is 250cc and this made him ineligible for points. In fact he even had to start "at the back of the pack," along with Jim Weinert, who normally rides 500s in GPs.

Hannah turned-out to be an unwelcome spoiler. While teammate Broc Glover was turning a brilliant hole-shot into a 25-second lead, Hannah berserked from 23rd place to fourth in just four laps. Then, riding a year-old bike hastily prepared by Keith McCarty, he methodically moved into second, having zapped the first four in World Standings: Akira Watanabe (Suz), Gaston Rahier (Suz), Gerard Rond (Yam) and Siegfried Lerner (KTM). After trimming 10 seconds off the Glover lead, Hannah crashed twice, forcing him to repass Rond and Honda's Warren Reid to salvage second place at the line. Rahier, riding with a highly bandaged broken finger was slowed to seventh by its pain, and Watanabe dropped-out due

Kenny Roberts Scoreboard

Kenny's luck was mixed during his fifth month overseas in pursuit of World Championship titles in Formula 750, 250 GP and 500 GP. A crash and the rigorous schedule took their toll. On the disappointing side, he will not continue racing in the 250 class, but he did move-up to the jugular vein of Johnny Cecotto's season-long 750 points lead. Here's the lowdown on his progress.

Formula 750, West Germany

Kenny would like to forget the first 84-mile leg over Hockenheim's fast 4.2-mile course. He finished eighth in the rain after struggling with a fogging visor and sticking carburetor slides, a problem which forced Johnny Cecotto out completely. Frenchman Christian Sarron picked the right tires and splashed to an easy win. Kenny battled Cecotto for a few laps in round two before the Venezuelan dropped-out, giving Kenny the lead, which he held. Sarron's second was enough to make him the overall winner, followed by Franco Bonera, Gregg Hansford and Roberts. Cecotto's DNF put Kenny just one point back with three rounds to go.

250 Grand Prix, Sweden

A crash in the Friday practice session at Carliskoga knocked Kenny unconscious and injured his thumb, so he decided not to ride the 250 class to save his strength for the 500 race

on Sunday. That left the door open for Kork Ballington and Sweden-winner Gregg Hansford to pull away in what was once a real points tussle between them and Roberts.

500 Grand Prix, Sweden

Barry Sheene closed on Kenny's point lead by easily winning while Roberts, still dazed from his crash, hobbled home in seventh. Following Sheene were Wil Hartog, Takazumi Katayama, Steve Baker, Bruno Ferrari and Johnny Cecotto.

250 Grand Prix, Finland

Mechanicals forced a Roberts DNF at Imatra, and it was decided after not collecting points for two weeks in a row that he should drop-out of 250 competition. Racing the 250 class in the morning and the 500 class that same afternoon is simply too tough to do both classes justice, and Roberts feels the 500 is the most important.

500 Grand Prix, Finland

An ignition failure in Kenny's Yamaha meant another DNF, but the points lead remained intact because Barry Sheene also failed to finish. Wil Hartog won the race, followed by Katayama and Cecotto.

Formula 750

1. Johnny Cecotto Yam 66
2. Kenny Roberts Yam 65
3. Christian Sarron Yam 47

250 GP

1. Kork Ballington Kaw 84
2. Gregg Hansford Kaw 79
3. Kenny Roberts Yam 54

500 GP

1. Kenny Roberts Yam 85
2. Barry Sheene Suz 82
3. Wil Hartog Suz 65

Below—125 World Champion Gaston Rahier (Suzuki) zips past a large crowd on the picturesque Ohio track. In the lower photo Gaylon Mosier grabs the hole-shot. Right—Weinert's Kawasaki had an experimental water-cooled head.



PHOTOGRAPHY: DENNIS FLANDERS



to heat, though the thermometer only read 80 degrees. Rond held-on for third to give Yamaha a top-three sweep.

Gassin' Gaylon Mosier led Glover, Watanabe and Steve Wise on the second moto start, but suddenly Hannah appeared in fourth from his back-row grid position. He literally ran-down Watanabe in the air as the two sailed over a jump and both landed in a heap, Watanabe's throttle broken and his temper hot, and Hannah dazed, but quickly up and back running in 15th place. He showed no mercy as he passed riders in a frightening charge, one of whom was Warren Reid, who got clipped into a giant get-off which injured his wrist. By this time everyone at Suzuki and Honda were mad at Hannah, and even teammate Rond wasn't pleased with his rough riding. It ended with a flat front tire a few laps later. Glover

went on to win again but there were still rumors of a pushing match between him and Hannah after the race. Bob seemed happy, however, for he gave away his nylon leathers by throwing them out of his van, along with bunches of Hannah Hats.

Valvoline 125 USGP

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Broc Glover, U.S. | Yam |
| 2. Gerard Rond, Holland | Yam |
| 3. Marty Moates, U.S. | Suz |
| 4. Mark Gregson, U.S. | Suz |
| 5. Mike Guerra, U.S. | Yam |
| 6. Siegfried Lerner, Aus | KTM |
| 7. Danny Turner, U.S. | Yam |
| 8. Ron Turner, U.S. | Yam |
| 9. Evan Alborghetti, Italy | Apr |
| 10. Gaylon Mosier, U.S. | Kaw |

125 GP Points (two events remaining)

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Akira Watanabe | Suz | 217 |
| 2. Gaston Rahier | Suz | 212 |
| 3. Gerard Rond | Yam | 201 |
| 4. Siegfried Lerner | KTM | 86 |



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