

# Sportsweek!

## Cornwell on U.S. circuit

### A learning experience for Canadian motorcycle team

Some of the most concentrated and hotly contested flat-track racing occurred in Florida between Feb. 25th and March 7th during Daytona Speedway's famous Speed Week for motorcycles.

Several Canadian racers of note trekked to the AMF Harley-Davidson Dirt-Track Series to compete with the best American professional riders in the quest for prize money totalling in excess of \$72,000.

The Canadian contingent consisted of: Peter Grant of Woodbridge, Ont., the current holder of the Canadian half-mile and short track championships who has held an American Motorcycle Association expert professional license for several years; Jon Cornwell of Georgetown, Ont. the 1979 Canadian Short-track champion who, last year, raced extensively in the U.S. as a junior professional and earned enough points to be classified as an expert in 1981.

The AMF Harley-Davidson series consisted of nine races, beginning with two back-to-back half miles on Feb. 25th and 26th and the Jacksonville Florida Speedweek. The Canadian riders arrived to discover that virtually all the top dirt-trackers in all three professional classes (Novice, Junior and Expert) from all across the U.S. were entered for the series.

Approximately 55-60 expert riders, including most of the contenders for the AMA national championship showed up, and 120 to 150 riders in each of the other classes were also on hand to contest each race for which they were eligible. With so many riders competing it was necessary at each race to hold preliminary eliminations to reduce the field to manageable size.

The novices and juniors were eliminated in a series of "scratch" heats from which only the first and second place riders were determined by timed laps of the course and only the 24 fastest riders qualified to ride the program.

Jacksonville, Feb. 25th - Warm enough for the Canadians to strut around in shorts - everyone from south of the Mason-Dixon line wearing jackets and complaining of the cold. Jax speedway a baned oval of oiled sand... riders and bikes come in from practice plastered with greasy grit.

Canadian results: Chris Evans won his scratch heat but failed to transfer from program heat; Pete Thompson holed a piston in his Harley, Royal Adderson and Todd Sharpless failed to transfer from heats.

John Cornwell missed qualifying by about two tenths of a second. Peter Grant's truck broke down on the way so he didn't arrive until the next night. The main event was won in decisive style by a revitalized Springsteen wearing gunfighter eyes, followed by Gary Scott and Randy Goss.

Jacksonville, Feb. 26th - Still warm, track a little less greasy and developing some interesting holes in the corners. Peter Grant arrived with his second best Harley and went out for practice. He proceeded to fall into one of the holes which promptly spit him back out on his head. Still a little shaken by the spill, he failed to qualify. Springer, out for his qualifying lap fell afoul of Peter's eating hole and cart-wheeled spectacularly around the corner, doing grievous damage to his bike and putting some interesting marks on his body.

Cornwell managed to qualify in 17th position for the program but failed to transfer from his heat. Chris Evans, Royal Adderson and Todd Sharpless stopped at heats. Thompson still hunting a piston. Big winners. Randy Goss, Poovey, Gary Scott.

Barberville, Volusia County Speedway Feb. 27th. - Track is a great banked oval of red clay must have imported it from Georgia - only track in Florida not made of sand. Pits in the middle of track look like Death Valley, barren sand, not a blade of grass, no shade. Canadians starting to look slightly par-boiled.

Both Cornwell and Grant managed to qualify. Cornwell with 14th fastest time snared a front row start for his heat, was just taking over the last transfer position during the race when he crashed. Grant couldn't resist it and crashed in the same corner a lap later. Thompson, with newly rebuilt engine failed to transfer. Adderson won scratch heat, 2nd in the program heat but didn't make it out of the semi.

"If this is Tampa, it must be Saturday (Feb. 28th) - Short-track time. Another banked oval, long, wide and rough. Pits outside packed to the gunnels, only bare minimum of equipment allowed on the infield. Grant involved in tangle with another rider in practice and crashed hard, putting himself out for the rest of the series.

Cornwell the only Canadian to make it through the heats but started dead last from the penalty row after tangling with the worst starter we've seen at the AMA race. He spent the whole racing fighting to get



Jon Cornwell places well with the Canadian team in the United States motorcycle track circuit.

out of last place and finally managed it on the last lap. The main event was won by native son Billy Labrie, chased the whole way by a charging Randy Goss.

Barberville, Volusia County Speedway, Feb. 28th. - The Busch Invitational - big money up for grabs, same old Death Valley pits. Tool boxes full of sand, van full of sand, teeth full of sand. Running order slightly different for this race. Forty experts qualified to ride, four heats of ten riders each. First three finishers transferred to the MAIN main event (biggest share of the pot) next three to the "A" main and next three to the "B" main (with decreasing shares).

Cornwell only Canadian expert left, qualified 21st finished 5th in his heat and 2nd in the "A" main. Peter Thompson found another black cloud when another rider crashed into him in practice cleaning off shift lever and side case. Chris Evans didn't transfer out of his heat. Sharpless and Adderson didn't enter.

Daytona, Memorial Stadium, March 6th - Canadian ranks thinning rapidly. Evans hurtling from previous crashes didn't ride. Royal Adderson bravely upholding Canadian honor, survived the heats in fine style and transferred to the semi - where he put up a good fight,

dinging briefly and gloriously with Randy Goss.

Daytona, Memorial Stadium, March 7th - Last night of short-track, last night of the Harley Davidson Series with the points fund pay-out to be decided by this race. Terry Poovey and Gary Scott fighting it out for \$10,000. The only Canadians left, Evans and Adderson both eliminated in the heats, Adderson by a particularly unlucky chance when a following rider incompetently attempted to push him off the groove and only succeeded in crashing and taking Royal with him. Gary Scott had a bad night and failed to make the final, but in order to take the lion's share of the spoils, Poovey had to win all the way and he did - heat, semi and final, beating Scott by 2 points. Pooh-bear's cat-to-ear grin told the whole story.

Conclusions? Like Canadians in most forms of international level competition our riders showed their talent, guts and determination - but also showed their real disadvantages: lack of experience, inadequate competition, and, compared to the U.S. pros, primitive equipment. In spite of the exhaustion, disappointments and bad luck, everyone learned a lot and most will probably be back next year, better prepared, more determined.

# Raiders prepared for series

"First, say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do."

Epitaphes - The Georgetown Chrysler Raiders now advance to higher competition after blowing away all competition in the southern portion of the Ontario Hockey Association.

In five games the Raiders handled the Owen Sound Greys in convincing fashion to win the league championship and now advance to the OHA finals in Timmins.

The Georgetown Club left last Thursday night at 6 p.m. for Timmins for their weekend series. Captain Juri Kudrasovs is looking forward to the series as it provides true competition for the talented Raider Club.

"When we won the league championship, we were expected to win, Kudrasovs said. "Now there is a possibility of a Canadian championship, but the team will be pushed to its limits from now on."

**INJURIES TO THREE**  
Because of injuries to Gary McFadyen (broken ankle, Ron Fogal (pulled groin) and Dan Eastman (knee problems) the team is not as strong manpower wise as the middle of the season, but some players have come through for the team in the playoffs to make up for the lost players.

As captain Kudrasovs says, "we can go as far as we want to," referring to how strong the Raiders are at this moment.

Two players that have played more than impressive hockey recently are Kudrasovs and Bill Hamilton. Kudrasovs has been hampered through much of the season with annoying minor injuries according to Raider General Manager Dave Kentner, but he has come through in the playoffs to lead the Georgetown club to victory.

Juri Kudrasovs proved to be the big gun for the Raiders in their fourth game against Owen Sound when they eventually beat the Greys 5-4. In the previous game the Raiders were downed 7-3. Before Juri scored with one minute to go in the second period of the fourth game it was 4-1 for Owen Sound. Juri scored just before the period ended to make the score 4-2 for the Raiders. He also scored the

first goal of the game to spark the Raiders initially.

**HERO HAMILTON**  
Bill Hamilton was the hero in the fourth game by scoring the game-winning goal. Hamilton is a Timmins native and once played for the Timmins game. Captain Kudrasovs said Hamilton is enthusiastic about playing and has helped the Raiders in the assessment of how the Timmins team will play against Georgetown.

Hamilton was with the Timmins team when they walked out of the Georgetown arena after finding out they had to play an extra game to decide the winner of the first round of Canadian playoffs. The year was 1976-77 and he still talks about the players pride that was damaged by the incident.

Injured Gary McFadyen remembers Bill Hamilton when he played for Muskegon of the International League and scored 45 goals for the team.

McFadyen thinks the Raiders' strengths are in the team's experience and the goaltending of Peter McDuffe. "McDuffe's definitely one of the best goaltenders in Canada," he said.

Kudrasovs thinks Timmins have improved since the last time they played them two years ago, but he said, "we've vastly improved also." Kudrasovs said he and others who went to Timmins learned that the Northern teams have good, tough hockey players. "The teams are all very good," the Raider captain said.

**DIFFERENT THINK**  
"We'll have to be aware of the rink we're playing in," Kudrasovs said. "The puck bounces off the boards from the corners and last time we played in Timmins we got caught."

Kudrasovs expects the games to be played in a less finesse type of game and a more physical type of hockey.

The kind of hockey that will be played will be like the old Raiders in the Memorial arena rink where the puck goes to the corner, then out to the middle, then shot in their end and then you forecheck their hard, Kudrasovs said. "It will be a crash-bang series," he said.

Last year the Timmins North Stars defeated Dundas and were crowned Ontario Intermediate A champions.

According to some reports, most of the players on the team then are still with the club this year.

The Georgetown club will be playing their game in an

arena with a capacity 3,000 crowd. Raider GM Dave Kentner said. Team members that were playing against Timmins two years ago and still with the team are: Peter McDuffe, John Boyce, Ron Fogal, Gary Landry, Roy Tonelli, Juri Kudrasovs, Colin Gordon and Ron Twiss.

One player the Timmins team have new to the club is a former member of the Winnipeg Jets Gerry Rioux. Rioux played nine games for the Jets and thereafter played for their farm club. He is reported to be one of their policemen.

One of the changes that have been reported about the North Stars is that they are a faster club than previous



The Georgetown Raiders are hoping for Captain Juri Kudrasovs' experience and leadership during the Timmins series to boost the Raiders' past the solid play of the North Stars. Kudrasovs and Bill Hamilton have been two outstanding players in recent playoff games.

## Raider Schedule

**FRIDAY**  
6:30 - Wake up call; 7:00 - breakfast; 7:30 - Bus Departure; 12:00 - Arrive Timmins, Bon Air Motel; 1:00 - team meal; 2:30 - Bus departs for McIntyre Centre; 3:00 - practice; 4:30 - Bus departs for Bon Air Motel, rest period; 6:00 - wake up call; 6:15 - Team meeting; 6:45 - Bus departs for McIntyre Centre; 8:00 - game one, bus returns to Bon Air Motel immediately following the game.

**SATURDAY**  
12:00 - wake up call, optional breakfast, free time; 12:15 - bus departs for Archie Dillon Sports Plex; 1:00 - practice; 2:30 - Bus returns to Bon Air Motel; 3:00 - team meal, rest period; 6:00 - wake up call; 6:15 - team meeting; 6:45 - Bus departs for McIntyre Centre; 8:00 - Game two, bus returns to Bon Air Motel immediately following the game. If series is over in two games the bus returns to Georgetown Saturday night time TBA.

**SUNDAY**  
(IF NECESSARY)  
12:00 - wake up call; 12:15 - Bus departs for Archie Dillon Sports Plex; 1:00 - practice; 2:30 - Bus returns to Bon Air Motel; 3:00 - team meal; 5:00 - wake up call; 5:15 - team meeting; 5:45 - Bus departs for McIntyre Centre; 7:00 - Game Three (if necessary). Bus will depart for Georgetown immediately following the final game.

## Sports in brief

### Special achievement awards

John Gibson, president of the Ontario Amputee Sports Association has been nominated to receive the Special Achievement Award at the provinces sports awards banquet on April 10th in Toronto.

Gibson, a Georgetown resident, has been nominated in recognition of his work in the administration of sports for the disabled and in particular for Amputees.

At the same banquet another Georgetown will be receiving a Sports Achievement award for a gold medal performance at the Amputee National champions.

Kim Harnois of 62 Park Avenue, Apt. 307 a high school student and a double leg amputee won both the 100 metre freestyle and 100 metres backstroke events, the latter in a new Canadian Record time.

### Acton skating carnival

The Acton Figure-Skating Club will be holding their skating carnival this April 5th, Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Feature skaters performing will be Kevin Parker, Susan Kinal and David and Cindy McGilloway.

The theme of this year's show will be "Holiday Hi-lites". Skaters will skate their routines to a theme of "holidays from around the world" such as trips to Paris and Los Angeles.

For more information, call Mrs. Cosimo at 853-3686.

### Hockey schedule

Novice vs. Ching. Two games each and a tie 3-3 on Sun. March 22. Sixth game - Men. March 23 - 7 p.m. Earncliffe. Winner to play Brampton in the final series.

Major PeeWee vs. Ching. Two games each. Georgetown won 3-2 in overtime Sun. March 22 and advance to final series against Dundas.

Major Atoms vs. winner of Milton-Streetsville series in final series.

## Georgetown teams out

The Georgetown teams have all been beaten by visiting teams as the Bantam tournament continues this weekend.

Some of the most exciting action for the local Georgetown and Acton teams came in the "C" division where the Acton Bantams lost two close games 7-6 in the morning and 3-2 at night in Unionville. Acton advanced to the second round of play by defeating Oshawa.

The Georgetown Minor Bantams raised a few eyebrows when they advanced

past Oshawa in the first round and beat Stouffville 3-2 last Wednesday morning. In the night game against Stouffville the Minors were blasted 9-3.

Earlier in the week the Georgetown Selects in the 'D' division were downed 7-2 by Malton.

Against Port Colbourne in the first round the Georgetown Major Bantams were defeated 3-1 in the first game but they tied the night game 2-2. Thus Port Colbourne advanced to the next round of play based on a total point system.

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Sat. March 28  
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**SPRING SALE**  
at Oddfellows Hall

**LAST WEEK'S WINNERS**

CARRIE STUCKEY 96 Kingham Rd. Acton	SHERI-LYNN HOPKINS 43 Young St. Acton	MATHEW REMEDOS 45 Regan Cres. Georgetown
RICK ROBINSON 26 Sargent Rd. Georgetown		JASON HOPKINS 43 Young St. Acton

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