



It came down to the wire, and it was Ed Lojak capturing the Devil's Ridge win and the National Hare Scrambles C'ship over Kevin Brown.

AMA National Championship Hare Scrambles Series: Final round

Lojak captures title in Devil's Ridge

By Davey Coombs

RALEIGH, NC, OCT. 11

Team Husqvarna's Eddie Lojak closed out the 1987 AMA National Hare Scrambles Championship Series with the overall victory at Devil's Ridge. The win also allowed

the Pennsylvania cross country ace to claim the 250cc National Championship as well, with his Husky teammate, Mark Hyde, clinching the 500cc title. Hyde was not on hand in North Carolina as he is still recovering from a broken wrist suffered in the Polish Six-Days, but his previous scores maintained his lead through the series finale. Other riders claiming A class titles, though unofficial at press time, were 200cc A winner Scott Wolfersberger, Four-Stroke Scott Summers, Senior champ Henry Stankiewicz, 125cc A rider Eldon Keen, and Super Senior A winner Jeff Smith.

Following overall winner Lojak home at Devil's Ridge were Can-Am mounted Tony Hendon, Lojak's shop teammate Duane Conner, Honda-mounted Summers, Ohio's Kevin Brown, and another Husky fast guy, New Jersey's Fred Hoess. Class winners in North Carolina included Lojak and Summers (250cc and Open A, respectively), David Shelly in the 200cc A ranks, 125cc A winner Steve Genter, Kentucky Honda pilot Carey Stump in the Four-Stroke As, Stankiewicz, and Super Senior A winner Harry Greenlee. Amateur class winners were Open B rider Timothy Terry, 250cc

B pilot Buren Hamrick, Glenn Foster Rector in the 200cc B division, Four-Stroke B leader Kevin Howser, Senior B rider John Kubli, West Virginia's Johny Lee in the Super Senior B, Master's winner Charles Hawk, and Team DNF's Don Cannon in the Juniors.

Going into the final round, Brown maintained a slight points lead on Lojak and all Brown needed, if Lojak won, was a second place at Devil's Ridge. But late in the race, while running second and being pursued by Hendon, Brown and a lapped rider tangled, sending Brown into a tree and breaking his Honda's front brake. Brown finished fourth.

The Devil's Ridge course proved to be a fast one. Incorporating the motocross track with the nearby woods, the promoters were able to put together a trail that measured approximately five miles in length, with lap times for the leaders running near 12 minutes. Overall, the riders seemed to be indifferent to the course, depending on how they felt about trails that were more open as compared to the ones used at the other facilities on the circuit. What the track may have lacked for some was more than made up by the fine Atlantic coast weather that greeted the participants. Warm and cloud-



Duane Conner piloted his Yamaha YZ250 to a third overall.

less skies made the ride a comfortable one throughout.

The riders left the starting area for the three hour event in waves, with the dead-engined 250cc and Open A riders leading the way. Honda-mounted Brown made it to the scoring barrels first, followed 30 seconds later by Hendon, Lojak, and Amateur National Motocross Champion Robbie Neeley. Open A leader Summers was next. The Kentucky Honda pilot had put away the Thumper title a round earlier and was gaging his talent with an Open A ride in the final race aboard his XR600.

Pennsylvania's Craig Seifert put his Yamaha into the early lead in the Junior class, with Husky-mounted Lee Hermansen 10 seconds down after a lap. Cannon was all the way back in ninth after the first loop, and it was not until the eighth lap that the Yamaha-mounted winner moved into the lead, replacing Hermansen and Seifert. In all Cannon would complete 13 laps to the overall winner's 15. He was followed in the class standings by Seifert, Can-Am rider Michael Paynter, Husky-mounted Marty Strouse, and Hermansen.

Brown continued out front, though Hendon was soon cutting into the large early lead that the Honda rider had earned, and Lojak was right on the contender's tail. When the three hit the barrels for the fifth lap check the count between first and third was just five seconds. Summers continued to lead the Open A class, with Yamaha's Stan Lojak two minutes down in second. Behind him came North Carolina native Steve Arthur and Pennsylvanian John Vincent.

In the 200cc A class Kawasaki's Ben Hamrick and Wolfersberger were giving Shelly all he wanted until Hamrick dropped completely out of the race while leading the fifth lap. From there Shelly and Wolfersberger went one-on-one, swapping the lead right up until the checkers. Shelly was the man on top at that time, with Wolfersberger just 30 seconds back in a close runner-up spot.

On the seventh lap Lojak moved into the lead for the first time, putting 10 seconds between himself and Hendon. But on the very next lap Brown moved back into first and added five ticks on Lojak. Hendon was still close, while a few more seconds back came Conner, who was

starting to make his presence felt. Greenlee had completely wrapped up the Super Senior A win by this time. Early 125cc A leader Greg Erwin had fallen off the pace by the eighth lap, and Honda-mounted Steve Genter was soon making his move. Genter took over at that point and would stretch his ride into a 15 lapper, besting Kenneth Gillum and Tommy Houston in the process. David Fallas and Henry Snuggs rounded out the first five.

Stump's Four-Stroke A win saw the big Kentucky racer take a lap one lead all the way home. Stump was challenged by Honda riders Charles Dailey and Chris Walton, but by the final check he was four minutes up. His four stroke counterpart Summers was having an even better day at the top of the Open A ranks. Summers challenged for the overall lead past the one hour mark, then backed off slightly in order to preserve his class win. Stan Lojak, Steve Arthur, KTM-mounted John Rutherford, and John Vincent clocked in behind the fourth overall Summers in the Open A final count.

Stankiewicz moved into the Senior A class lead early in the day and was never removed from that top spot. KTM's Joseph Hull and Michael Reynolds, aboard an M-Star were close throughout, but neither could match the frontrunner's pace. Those three held down the front positions at the finish, with Mike Parks and Peter Watkins staying in the front five after three hours.

Rector's 200cc B win did not come quite so easily. Starting out just barely in the top 10, Rector began displacing riders early, and it wasn't until two laps from the end that he reeled in Kawasaki pilot David Davies, who attached himself to Rector's rear fender. At the flag the leader's lead read exactly two seconds, Rector's win being the closest first prize of the day.

Brown's lap eight pass of Lojak would be the last time any rider got in the Husky tough guy's way. On the very next loop he displaced Brown and began turning up the pace. It was at this point when Brown said he collided with the lapped rider, giving Hendon second and Conner third. The mishap cost Brown the championship title.

By the 13th go-around "Fast" Eddie was a minute up, with Hendon second. At the checkered flag Lojak's lead read just over 60 seconds on Hendon, and the National Championship was his. Conner, Brown, and Hoess, rounded out the 250cc A top five.

Results

OPEN A: 1. Scott Summers (Hus); 2. Stanley Lojak (Yam); 3. Steve Arthur (Hus); 4. John Rutherford (KTM); 5. John Vincent (Hus).

250 A: 1. Edward Lojak (Hus); 2. Tony Hendon (C-A); 3. Duane Conner (Yam); 4. Kevin Brown (Hus); 5. Fred Hoess (Hus).

200 A: 1. David Shelly (Hus); 2. Scott Wolfersberger (Kaw); 3. Ben Hamrick (Kaw).

125 A: 1. Steve Genter (Hus); 2. Kenneth Gillum (Hus); 3. Tommy Houston (Hus); 4. David Fallas (Kaw); 5. Mike McCarren (Yam).

4-STRK A: 1. Carey Stump (Hus); 2. Charles Dailey (Hus); 3. Chris Walton (Hus); 4. Henry Snuggs (Yam).

SR A: 1. Henry Stankiewicz (Hus); 2. Joseph Hull (KTM); 3. Michael Reynolds (MST); 4. Mike Parks (KTM); 5. Peter Watkins (Yam).

S/SR A: 1. Harry Greenlee (Hus).

OPEN B: 1. Timothy Terry (Hus); 2. Farrell Smith (Hus); 3. Paul Michels (C-A); 4. Gregory Bunn (C-A); 5. Kevin Condon (Hus).

250 B: 1. Buren Hamrick (Hus); 2. Craig Brooks (Hus); 3. Jim Miller (Hus); 4. Jeffrey Wright (KTM); 5. Michael Saravalli (KTM).

200 B: 1. Glenn Foster Rector (Hus); 2. David Davies (Kaw); 3. William West (C-A); 4. David Kendrick (Kaw); 5. George Pollard (KTM).

4-STRK B: 1. Kevin Howser (Hus); 2. Mike Dinger (Hus); 3. Tracy Warrington (Hus); 4. Mike Johnson (Hus); 5. Mark Niggemeyer (Hus).

SR B: 1. John Kubli (Hus); 2. Steve McSwain (Hus); 3. Darrell Hilliard (Hus); 4. Fredrick Huth (Hus); 5. Richard Scott (Hus).

S/SR B: 1. Johnny Lee (Yam); 2. F. Hammond (Hus); 3. William Miller (Hus); 4. Roger Rhoades (C-A).

MSTR: 1. Charles Hawk (Yam); 2. Bill Hartsell (Yam).

JR: 1. Don Cannon (Yam); 2. Craig Seifert (Yam); 3. Michael Paynter (C-A); 4. Marty Strouse (Hus); 5. Lee Hermansen (Hus).