

Ty Nabs the Nuggets

BY RON POCHER
PHOTOS BY PHOTOS BY GRUMPY

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Montclair Yamaha's Ty Davis avenged his 1999 runner-up finish by taking the overall win at the Y2K version of the Prospectors MC Gold Rush Enduro, which was held at the Spangler Hills ORV area in Red Mountain. Davis, who took the crown in last year's AMA National Enduro Series, used the 45th running of this prestigious event to turn around his recent run of bad luck.

The 42-mile first loop started in the rocky hills at the end of Stevens Mine Road, and speed averages rose steadily from the get-go, with the first special test running 22, 24 and 30 mph. The course twisted through the hills near camp before dumping into a high-speed wash paralleling the railroad tracks and then crossing Trona Road - one of only two pavement crossings. Riders then veered northwest through the fast, rolling hills toward Searles Station Road before circling in a southerly direction past the former site of the old Searles Railroad Station.

After traveling as far south as the Goldberg Mine, racers then bent back north through the moderate terrain toward Boundary Road, where speed averages climbed as high as 36 mph. Riders then headed east through the hills at the northern limits of the riding area and recrossed Trona Road just south of Charlie's Place. Participants were teased with several views of camp, but the course zigzagged through the rock piles for almost two more miles before returning to the pits for the finish of loop one.

Almost half of the A riders zeroed the first loop, but Davis had already set the tone by hitting two of the three tie-breaker checks right on the money and sat in the lead with only eight seconds lost. Bill Fulmer Jr. and Erik Mattson were both in good shape, with only 14 seconds showing, and Rick Daniel sat nine seconds out of first with 17.

The 41-mile second loop crossed the railroad tracks at Pipeline Road and headed southeast to the lone rock hill just south of the tracks in the Teagle Wash Valley. The 2.9-mile marker was on the uphill side and the first check of loop two fell on the downhill side at mile marker three.

The trail then veered south and into the Spangler "Sand Hills." This special test ran in an easterly direc-

tion at speed averages of 24 and 30 mph, with the check-in at mile 6.8. Some new trails were used, and the combination of high speeds and unfamiliar terrain took late points from the entire field.

Racers then turned back north and fed into a long, smooth, extremely fast sand wash that enabled some of them to get back on time before the first reset of the race at mile 16.7.

The longest special test of the day ran through the rocky Rand Mountains north of the railroad tracks at speeds of 27 and 24 mph. Riders weaved through the technical hills and rock-filled washes before sliding down the steep, sandy "Prospectors' Downhill," which was probably the longest rock-free stretch in the whole special, a short quarter-mile. The sand hill fed into yet another rocky gulch, and winded riders were soon greeted with two steep waterfall drop-offs. The 8-mile test finally concluded with a long, rocky, virgin downhill and a check that was plainly visible.

Some riders got back on time at the second of only two resets, just half a mile later, but they were then thrown into yet another 24-mph section that soon had them running late again. Very few racers zeroed the first check after the reset, since it was hard to keep pace on a course that was winding through huge boulders. Some participants missed the 4-mph speed-change sign at mile 43.7 and burned the next possible check, while the faster riders relied on their computers when they should have been using their clocks. Davis was one of them.

"Those 4-mph sections are really tricky," said Davis. "You roll 10 feet and you're 40 seconds hot."

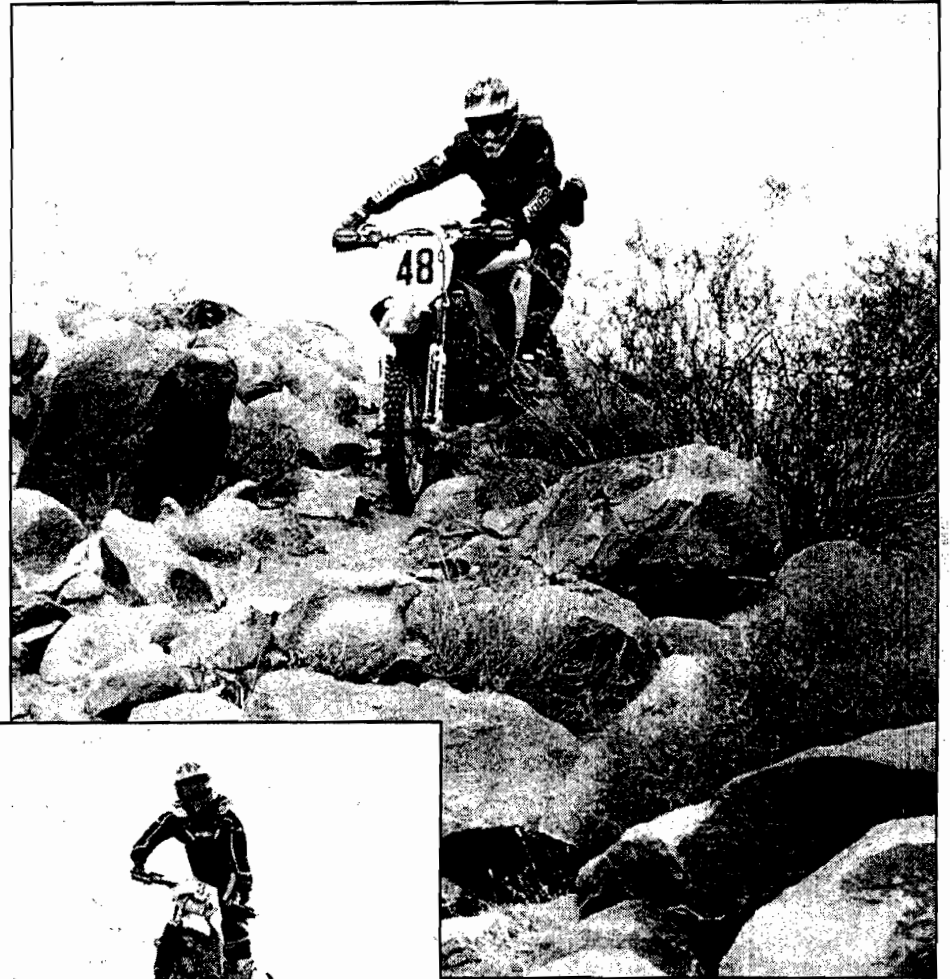
The course then continued south through the Rand Mountains on mostly virgin trails, through a deep, soft-sand downhill slide and then more rocks right before the finish.

Davis brought his Yamaha thumper in on top with a score of nine to take the overall and A Open-class wins. Caselli took second overall and first A 200 with a 10-point card.

A Vet Open-class winner Daniel rolled home third, also with a 10. Chuck McBurney also posted a 10, just one second shy of Daniel's score, for fourth overall.

Fulmer and Mattson stayed close to the top with a fifth and sixth overall, respectively, with Fulmer's 12-point card taking the A Vet 250 class and Mattson's 13 topping the A 250s.

A Vet 250 participant Chris Oswald came in seventh with a score



(Above) National Enduro Champion, Ty Davis, dug down and pulled out the overall at the Prospectors MC Gold Rush Enduro.

(Left) Team Green's Kurt Caselli had the second-lowest score card on the day. Caselli's efforts landed him the 200cc A-class win.

of 16 to just edge class rival Paul Shafer. Rusty Scott won the A Senior 250 class at ninth overall, and Abe Baumann rounded out the top 10. **CN**

District 37 Prospectors Enduro Red Mountain, California Results: March 19, 2000 (Round 2)

Two Loops
WMN A: 1. Anna Cody (Kaw); 2. Rita Morneau (Yam).
200 A: 1. Kurt Caselli (Kaw); 2. Vernon Sorensen Jr. (KTM).
250 A: 1. Erik Mattson (Hon); 2. Michael Tyner (Hon); 3. Chris Dabney (Kaw).
OPEN A: 1. Ty Davis (Yam); 2. Chuck McBurney (Hus); 3. Mike Baskin (Hus).
4-STRK A: 1. Quinn Cody (Yam); 2. George Pennington (Hus).
VET 250 A: 1. Bill Fulmer Jr. (Yam); 2. Chris Oswald (Hon); 3. Paul Shafer (Kaw); 4. Steve Nakamoto (Yam).
VET OPEN A: 1. Rick Daniel (Kaw); 2. Abe Baumann (Kaw); 3. Ron Shuler (Kaw).
SR 250 A: 1. Rusty Scott (Suz); 2. Scott Anderson (Yam); 3. Kevin Hasten (Hus).
SR OPEN A: 1. Ron Pocher (KTM); 2. Mike McGee (Kaw); 3. Mark Ciernia (KTM).
MAG A: 1. Bill Herold (KTM); 2. Dick Cressy (Yam); 3. Mark O'Connor (Hus).
S/SR A: 1. Roy Watson (KTM); 2. Al Guzman (Kaw); 3. Ned Jones (Hon).
WMN B: 1. Cathy Duncan (Kaw); 2. Kim Quinn (Kaw).
200 B: 1. Jacob Cornett (Kaw); 2. Ted Elswick (Hus); 3. Joshua Roche (KTM).
250 B: 1. Christopher Blais (Hon); 2. Michael Candillo (Kaw).
OPEN B: 1. Mark Henry (Hon); 2. Roger Rambo (Hon); 3. Kevin Knight (Kaw).
4-STRK B: 1. Todd Iles (Yam); 2. Lee Cunningham (Yam).

VET 250 B: 1. Tim Spaeth (Kaw); 2. Mike Garvin (Kaw); 3. Jorge Villarrubia (KTM).
VET OPEN B: 1. Russ Stevenson (Hon); 2. Joe Meyer (Suz); 3. Eric Durr (KTM).
SR 250 B: 1. William Lutes (Gas); 2. Ed Regehr (Suz); 3. Roger Beckett (Suz).
SR OPEN B: 1. Jeff Petron (KTM); 2. Mike Moore (KTM); 3. Jerry Coffey (Hon).
MAG B: 1. Dale Gehr (Yam); 2. Bill Richardson (Yam).
WMN C: 1. Frosty Cannon (Kaw).
200 C: 1. Craig Simpson (Yam); 2. David Bamard (Yam); 3. Ricky Mayfield (Hon).
250 C: 1. Nicholas Blais (Hon); 2. Jason Schmidt (Yam); 3. Cameron Brewer (Kaw).
OPEN C: 1. Dennis Mann (Kaw); 2. Jeremy Hoerning (Hon); 3. Robert Flores (KTM).
4-STRK C: 1. Christopher Wacker (Yam); 2. Allan LaFramboise (Yam); 3. Berry Van Fossan (Yam).
VET 250 C: 1. Kenneth Barriault (Hon); 2. Tom Bourbeau (Hon); 3. Curtis Christensen (KTM).
VET OPEN C: 1. Jeff Stiles (Hon); 2. Malcolm Kingsley (Yam); 3. Daniel Lorenze (Yam).
SR 250 C: 1. Dewayne Peyton (Hon); 2. Chris Cumbo (Yam); 3. John Doud (KTM).
SR OPEN C: 1. Bill Volmar (Hon); 2. Joe Anastasio Jr. (KTM); 3. Kevin Beller (KTM).
One Loop
MINI A: 1. Travis Wagschal (Suz); 2. Ryan MacIntyre (Yam).
MAG C: 1. John Henneke (Kaw); 2. Michael Mooney (Hon).
SR OPEN C: 1. Donald Knight (Kaw).
VET 250 C: 1. Rob Quinn (Kaw).
VET OPEN C: 1. Tim Alexander (Hus).
200 D: 1. Dereh Baker (Yam).
250 D: 1. Dan Allen (Kaw).
4-STRK D: 1. Devin Singleton (Yam).
VET 250 D: 1. Ken Eras (Kaw).
VET OPEN D: 1. Anthony Smetona (KTM); 2. Jim Smetona (Yam); 3. Marty Barker (Hon).
SR OPEN D: 1. Dan Johnson (Hon).
VET 250 D: 1. Raoul Lybarger (Yam); 2. Don Meza (KTM).
VET OPEN D: 1. Richard Behnke (KTM).