

# Daniel Proves Tuff Enuff

BY RON POCHER

LUCERNE VALLEY, CA, JAN. 21

John Burr Cycles' Rick Daniel continued his recent run of top finishes by taking the overall win at the 29th running of the United Enduro Association's Not-So-Tuff-Enuff Enduro. The race was run in honor of one of the club's founding members and was simply named "The Ed Butler Memorial." Daniel, the 1999 and 2000 District 37 overall enduro champion, never trailed during his mistake-free ride.

"I'm proud to be the winner of the first Ed Butler Memorial," said Daniel. "This race was a fitting tribute to a great person that will be missed by many."

All three loops of the 80-mile enduro started in the heart of Cougar Buttes, a maze of rock structures.

The 34-mile first loop headed east toward Soggy Dry Lake along a ridge trail through the sand hills before popping into a slightly rockier section that then dropped down onto the dry lake bed. Riders then scooted down a couple of miles of dirt roads.

After crossing Bessemer Mine Road, the course zigzagged through the sand hills just east of the Rock Pile before doubling back across Bessemer and back toward Soggy. Racers then entered the eastern mouth of the rocky Truck Canyon, continuing to bounce along in a westerly direction before entering a refreshing stretch of big, high-speed rollers.

This part of the course carried the riders into the old quarry section in the rock hills just north of Cougar Buttes, where they wound around a

few miles before heading south and into the east end of the Buttes. This final section through the big boulders provided a foretaste of the upcoming loops.

Most of the top Expert riders zeroed the first loop, but a surprising number of seasoned enduro racers were caught napping and burned the first check. The loops' two longest special tests, a 21-mph section from mile marker 12.3 to 18.8 and a 27-mph dandy from 23.0 to 34.2, failed to take points from the usual contenders.

The 34-mile second loop headed east from Cougar Buttes as well, but this time riders were sent into the technical Wilson Mountains before veering north just west of Bessemer Mine Road. Racers started a 36-mph special test at mile marker 7.4 that wound north through the Wilsons, mostly on rocky ridge trails, and then finished at the bottom of a big, sandy downhill at Anderson Dry Lake.

Racers were then treated to a run through the Slot Car Track, a twisty, banked-turn groove on the south edge of the lake bed. After a short reset, riders then left Anderson and headed in an easterly direction toward the Gum Drop hill, where they enjoyed a nice mixture of medium and high-speed sand washes.

The course then traveled south-east, meandering its way through the infamous Cinder Cones just north of the Rock Pile at Bessemer. After a little high-speed resting, riders were then sent west into the treacherous Fry Mountains, where the toughest test so far took points from the entire field. Daniel checked out just a hair faster than Husky rider Chuck McBurney, and these two gents were the only racers able to escape with only one point lost, but burned checks had dropped McBurney out of contention.

After leaving this check, which was located at the bottom of a gnarly, rocky downhill, riders headed back into the eastern end of Cougar Buttes and up the same return trail that was incorporated in loop one.

At the end of two loops, Daniel sat on top with just the previously mentioned one point, while Erik Mattson, Robert Baehr and Chris Blais were all nipping at his heels with only two points dropped.

The 12-mile third loop also started in an easterly direction, but this loop



Not-So-Tuff-Enuff Enduro: Rick Daniel put in a mistake-free performance to win the opening round of the District 37 Enduro Series in Lucerne Valley, California.

stayed within the cozy confines of Cougar Buttes. Racers traveled in a somewhat clockwise direction. There were tight, rocky ravines with drop-offs and stair-steps that would have made any weekend trials rider proud of cleaning. There were momentum-robbing uphill and white-knuckle downhills and enough rocks for even the most die-hard stone lover. The technical loop, which also had a surprising amount of high-speed bursts sprinkled throughout, was topped off with several spectator sections.

The IMS/Torco-sponsored Daniel had the top score in the difficult final special test, and this helped propel him to the overall and A Vet Open wins with a total of 10. Mattson held on for second and first A 250 with a score of 12, while Baehr grabbed the final podium spot and second A Vet Open with a 13 on his Honda.

Ron Shuler, third A Vet Open, rolled home fourth overall on his KX500, with A Four-Stroke winner Brent Farrell not far behind in fifth. Bill Fullmer Jr. won the A 200 class at sixth overall, while Jim McGrath finished seventh and second in the A Four-Stroke division. Ed Hoffman took fourth in the A Vet Open class and eighth overall. Blais posted another top finish on his XR650 at ninth overall. A Senior Open winner Ron Pocher rounded out the top 10 on his Z Racing KTM.

"That was a really fun race, but I especially liked the spectator sections," said Daniel. "Us enduro riders usually ride for hours without anyone seeing us, so to have people yelling and cheering for you like that was really a treat."

## Johnson Valley OHV Area Lucerne Valley, California Results: January 21, 2001 (Round 1)

MINI A: 1. Ryan McIntyre (Hon); 2. Lee Bunting (Kaw).

WMN A: 1. Anna Segale (Gas); 2. Michele Cassella (Kaw); 3. Kristen Southworth (Kaw).

200 A: 1. Bill Fullmer Jr. (Kaw); 2. Vernon Sorensen (KTM); 3. Travis Wagschal (Yam).

250 A: 1. Erik Mattson (Hon); 2. Jeff Meek (Yam); 3. K.C. Maw (Kaw).

OPEN A: 1. Kurt Hintz (Kaw); 2. Mike Baskin (Kaw); 3. Chuck McBurney (Hus).

4-STRK A: 1. Brent Farrell (Hus); 2. Jim McGrath (Yam); 3. Matt Freeman (Yam).

VET 250 A: 1. Mike McGregor (Hon); 2. Mike Rusiewski (Kaw); 3. Ron Warren (Kaw).

VET OPEN A: 1. Rick Daniel (Yam); 2. Robert Baehr (Hon); 3. Ron Shuler (Kaw).

SR 250 A: 1. Tracy Walters (Suz); 2. Kevin Hasten (Yam); 3. Rusty Scott (Suz).

SR OPEN A: 1. Ron Pocher (KTM); 2. Chip Howell (KTM); 3. Mark Clemia (KTM).

MAG A: 1. Dick Cressy (Yam); 2. Bill Herold (KTM); 3. Phil White (Hon).

S/SR A: 1. Roy Watson (KTM); 2. Ned Jones (Hon); 3. Walt Baehr (Suz).

WMN B: 1. Magdalena (Yam).

200 B: 1. Jeff Dillon (Kaw).

250 B: 1. Nicholas Blais (Hon); 2. Jess McKinley (Kaw).

OPEN B: 1. Kevin Knight (Kaw).

4-STRK B: 1. Christopher Blais (Hon); 2. Allan LaFrambone (Yam); 3. Chris Wacker (Yam).

VET 250 B: 1. Doug Imhof (Hon); 2. John Sutherland (Kaw); 3. J.B. Brown (Kaw).

VET OPEN B: 1. Lawrence Ensign (KTM); 2. Charles Wolfson (Hon); 3. Eris Durr (KTM).

SR 250 B: 1. Roger Beckett (Kaw); 2. Gary Gartside (Hon); 3. Ed Regehr (Kaw).

SR OPEN B: 1. John Pujol (Yam); 2. Bill Bateman (Hon); 3. Mike Moore (KTM).

WMN C: 1. Amy Hasten (Kaw).

200 C: 1. Ryan Baker (Hon).

250 C: 1. Brett Ribeneck (Yam); 2. Kent Watson (KTM); 3. David Smith (Hon).

OPEN C: 1. Wayne Vogler (Hon); 2. Eric Hawner (Yam); 3. Mark Salmon (KTM).

4-STRK C: 1. Alex Morales (Yam); 2. Kyle Weaver (KTM); 3. Sean Grattan (Yam).

VET 250 C: 1. Jorge Villarrubia (KTM); 2. Wayne Cook (Yam); 3. Scott Rickett (Suz).

VET OPEN C: 1. Tom Hopkins (Yam); 2. Van Richardson (Kaw); 3. Peter Brillinger (Hon).

SR 250 C: 1. Robert Rossitto (Yam); 2. Mark White (Kaw); 3. David Johnson (Suz).

SR OPEN C: 1. Jay Betker (KTM); 2. Brent Ross (KTM); 3. Daniel Clements (Hon).

WMN D: 1. Kim Liptak (Hon); 2. Tyrell Gallian (Kaw).

200 D: 1. Brian Costello (Hon).

250 D: 1. Yamaguchi Toshihiro (Hon); 2. Dane Johnson (Suz).

OPEN D: 1. Cannon Schramm (Kaw); 2. Joshua Hall (Yam).

4-STRK D: 1. Akiro Ito (Hon); 2. Brian Koneval (Hon).

VET 250 D: 1. Don Meza (KTM); 2. Kohji Tochigi (Hon).

VET OPEN D: 1. Terry Remy (Hon); 2. Ralph Torres (KTM); 3. David Kohler (Hon).

SR OPEN D: 1. Jay Leishman (Hon); 2. George Hamill (Yam); 3. Keith Martin (KTM).