

Motocross riders in the intermediate 125cc division fight for position after coming off the start. The race was held at a track in Chapman, Kans.

Jeff Korbek/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska motocross losing support at tracks

By Jeff Korbek

Editor's note: This is the last of a two-part series on motocross.

For most people Sunday is a day of rest. But for motorcycle racers, Sunday tends to be their busiest day. Tracks used for grazing cattle during the week are filled with hundreds of people watching and participating in the event.

Competitors look like warriors going to battle, and many times they come away broken and defeated. Motocross is considered by sports physicians to be the second most physically demanding sport, finishing behind soccer but ahead of football and ice hockey.

People unfamiliar with the sport will have trouble identifying some of the words used by the spectators and racers. The riders look for the "whole shot" (first off the start) but worry about being "roosted" (getting dirt in their faces).

For some the sport can be very profitable. Mike Boston, 21, of Crete, earned \$11,000 in 1982, and has earned \$980 in just one day of racing.

Boston has earned the reputation as being one of the best riders in the Midwest. At local races he finishes 20 seconds ahead of the nearest rider. He's raced for 10 years.

"I've been at it so long, always working at it, and I'd rather not finish second," Boston said. "It takes a lot of time and patience and I have kept at it."

Boston races a 125 and 250cc Kawasaki. His father owns Boston Kawasaki and he is in his second year of having a Kawasaki sponsorship. Currently, Boston is working towards nationals at

Ponca City, Okla., Aug. 6 to 12. He will race 125 stock in which the motorcycle must meet special specifications; 125 modified; and 250.

This summer Boston has been racing all over the Midwest, but hasn't stayed within his home state very often.

"Nebraska is losing support in their tracks," Boston said. "They don't pay as much as in Kansas, Missouri, or Oklahoma. It's hardly worth racing."

Boston said the reasons motocross is not as popular here as in the other states are the tracks are trying to make too much of a profit here. Also, there is a lack of publicity, he said.

"They have to push a lot more around here than they do in Oklahoma," he said. "You're lucky if you get an article in any of the newspapers."

Norfolk and Wisner are the two popular places in Nebraska to race, but Boston is working on a project of his own to increase racing in Nebraska.

He and a friend began working on their own track just west of Crete. He said it is complete but now they are working on details such as bleachers and restrooms and will start racing at the end of the summer. Boston said he shouldn't have any trouble in getting people to race at his track. He said he has a reputation for building challenging tracks; he has built tracks at county fairs in Seward and Aurora. The money will be there for the expert racers too, he said.

At 21, Boston is one of the older riders in the region. But he said he plans to continue as long as his body holds up. He wears a brace on his knee to protect it after having surgery three years ago to repair ligaments he injured while riding.

"It's a younger person's sport," Boston said.

Green defeats champ

The finals of the Second Annual Nigerian Tennis Open were held this past Sunday and Monday evening at the Harper Schramm Smith Courts. The finals matched defending champion Marcus Green against Martin Osahor, both of Nigeria. When the match was called on Sunday, due to inadequate lighting, Martin Osahor was leading two sets to one with a score of 6-1, 4-6 and 6-4. Monday's match saw action-packed games with both players aggressive at the net. Osahor was crowned the new champion after defeating Green by three sets to two and a score of 5-7, 6-2.

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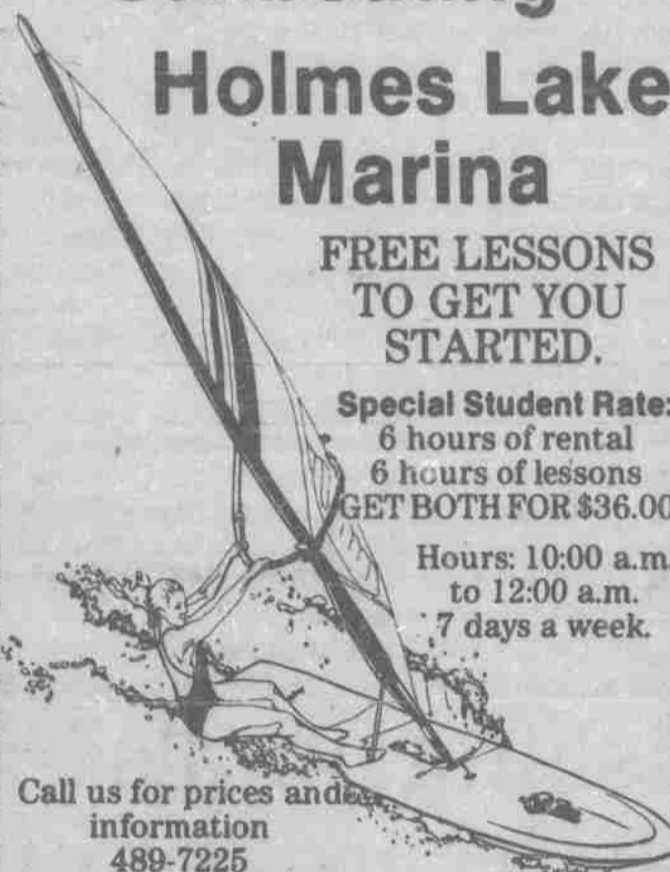
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