



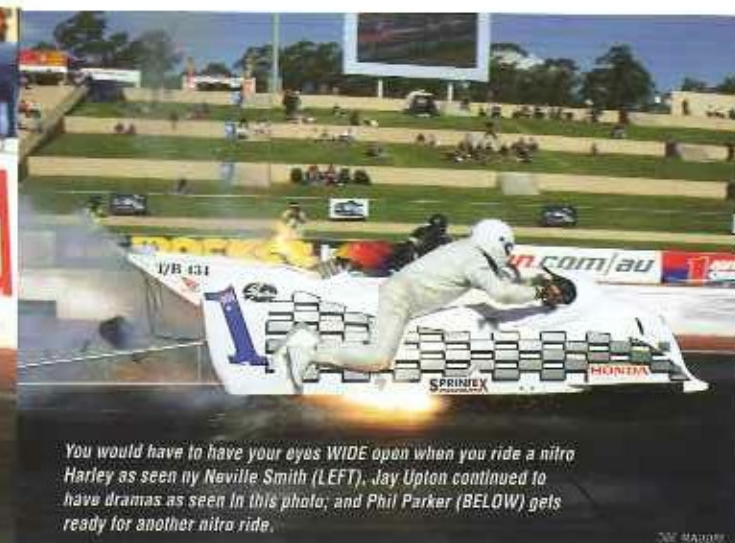
KIWI WILLIAMS CREATES HISTORY WITH FIRST TOP BIKE WIN

Ahh, the smell of nitro wafting through the staging lanes, that means Top Fuel is in the house, TOP FUEL MOTORCYCLE that is. The two-wheeled nitro warriors turned up at WSID ready to perform, and with an oversubscribed field of ten scooters the pressure was going to be ON.



With Jay Upton, Athol Williams, and Leonard Azzopardi in the pits, the question was how quick would we see these two-wheeled rockets go. Just around five PM Friday evening the first round of Top Bike qualifying started with Neville Smith from Queensland on his Harley and the Stig, aka Jay Upton, Smith running a 7.511 at 190.32 mph

while Jay had another of those Ka-Booms and ran a 4.3 second ET, not a good way to start the day for the Upton team. South Aussie Dennis Grant was back in the thick of the action aboard his Overkill Harley and was paired up with Troy McLean on one of the Jack Daniels machines. Grant recorded a 7.486 whilst McLean went into the sixes



You would have to have your eyes WIDE open when you ride a nitro Harley as seen by Neville Smith (LEFT), Jay Upton continued to have dramas as seen in this photo; and Phil Parker (BELOW) gets ready for another nitro ride.

with a 6.847 at only 178.76 mph. The third pairing saw "The Boss" on his Jack Daniels Harley paired up with another Harley, this time the Overkill with Rod Salvestro at the controls. Stevens was away first and ran a 6.964 at 201.31 mph to a 7.492 at 165.07 mph from Salvestro.

Next out in the first round of Top Bike qualifying had Kiwi Athol Williams on his RBP Special against Phil Parker riding the Parker Pumps Yamaha. Williams took the top qualifying spot with a great 6.664 at 181.47 mph while Parker slowed to a 9.975 at 147.04 mph. The final qualifier for round one saw the Puma Yamaha of Leonard Azzopardi get on

TOP BIKE QUALIFYING

1	ATHOL WILLIAMS (NZ)	RBP SPECIAL	6.562	197.42
2	L. AZZOPARDI (NSW)	PUMA/ YAMAHA	6.728	165.80
3	BRETT STEVENS (QLD)	BSR H-D	6.799	205.07
4	TROY McLEAN (QLD)	BSR H-D	6.833	196.99
5	NEVILLE SMITH (QLD)	HARLEY	7.132	177.02
6	DENNIS GRANT (SA)	H-D	7.483	168.51
7	R. SALVESTRO (NSW)	HARLEY	7.492	165.07
8	SAM PARKER (VIC)	KAWASAKI	9.091	156.81

NON QUALIFIERS: PHIL PARKER (VIC) - 9.502, 148.31; JAY UPTON (WA) - 9.722, 89.01

TOP BIKE ELIMINATIONS

ROUND 1

ATHOL WILLIAMS	0.388	6.602	197.74
PHIL PARKER	0.233	8.844	114.19

LEONARD AZZOPARDI	0.163	6.813	159.23
RODNEY SALVESTRO	0.200	7.616	147.21

TROY McLEAN	0.104	6.917	186.95
NEVILLE SMITH	0.278	7.530	189.15

BRETT STEVENS	0.148	6.800	205.26
DENNIS GRANT	0.294	7.879	167.74

ROUND 2

ATHOL WILLIAMS	0.150	6.569	201.67
TROY McLEAN	0.084	6.874	181.08

BRETT STEVENS	0.160	6.734	206.23
LEONARD AZZOPARDI	BROKE		

FINALS

ATHOL WILLIAMS	0.161	6.654	199.70
BRETT STEVENS	0.134	6.71	208.91

LOW ET: 6.562 Athol Williams
TOP SPEED: 208.91 Brett Stevens



Brett Stevens



out there running a 6.728 at 165.80 mph to jump into the number two spot.

Qualifying round two style kicked off with very good conditions available for the riders so some exciting times were expected.

At 7.25 pm Top Bike rookie Sam Parker came out for his first quarter mile pass on his new Fuel Bike and an 8.728 at 160.65 mph was the result, however an oil spill was an unfortunate result. Phil Parker and Athol Williams were next up and Williams recorded a 6.562 at 197.42 mph with Phil Parker following with a 9.502 at 148.31 mph.

The next pairing saw Leonard Azzopardi and Dennis Grant with the Harley of Grant running a 7.793 to Azzopardi's 7.175, no help for either rider on that pass.

Troy McLean and Neville Smith were next up with a 6.845 at 189.42 for McLean and an improved 7.132 at 177.02 for Smith.

Rod Salvestro and Brett Stevens were the final pairing in round two qualifying and the Gulf Western Oils Salvestro

ridden Harley ran an 8.092 to Brett's 6.799 at 205.07 mph from the Jack Daniels machine.

So now it's crunch time, the final round of Top Bike qualifying is kicking off at 9.30 pm.

First pairing out has Brett Stevens, currently in the third spot and Rod Salvestro who is in seventh. After the usual burnout procedures neither bike does anything useful with ten second ET's up on the scoreboards.

Athol Williams, the current top qualifier and Leonard Azzopardi the number two were now out to improve their times and although Williams ran a 6.769 it did not help while another ten second time was recorded for Azzopardi.

Third pairing out saw the Troy McLean (the fourth qualifier) and fifth qualifier Neville Smith. McLean ran a 6.833 at 196.99 mph while a 7.232 from Smith did not improve his position.

Jay Upton was out on a solo and the hump spot was an 8.728. A 9.722 and some more

expense was all the Upton team could muster, and they were not going to qualify.

The final run saw Sam Parker on his new US Kawasaki record a 9.091 to stay on the bubble.

So after three rounds of qualifying Williams was on top, followed by Azzopardi, Stevens, McLean, Smith, Grant, Salvestro and Sam Parker with Phil Parker and Jay Upton on the outside.

Round one of Top Bike eliminations kick started with Athol Williams and Phil Parker, Dad Phil in as first alternative after Sam could not front. It really didn't matter however as Williams blasted into the semi finals with a 6.602 at 197.74 mph to Phil Parkers 8.844 at 114.19 mph.

Leonard Azzopardi and Rod Salvestro were the second pair out with a great 6.813 at only 159.23 mph advancing him to the semi finals while Salvestro ran a 7.616 for the lose.

Troy McLean and Neville Smith were the third pairing up and A 6.917 from McLean advanced him into the semi finals while Smith ran a 7.530 for the lose. The final round one pairing

saw Brett Stevens and Dennis Grant line up. A pair of Harleys side by side and Stevens advances with a 6.800 at 205.26 mph to Grant's losing 7.879.

Semi final time now and first pairing out was Athol Williams and Troy McLean and in a great drag race the Kiwi on the RBP special takes the win with a 6.569 at 201.67 mph to a losing but close 6.874 at 181.08 mph, McLean's holeshot just nearly enough.

The second semi final had Brett Stevens and Leonard Azzopardi, but unfortunately for the Azzopardi team they broke, allowing Brett to solo to a spot in the final with a 6.734 at 206.23 mph.

The final looked like it would be a great race, both riders having run in the sixes and Stevens a few double ton passes as well.

Again a really close race with the power of Athol Williams just getting the win, a 6.654 at 199.70 mph defeating Brett Stevens 6.710 at 208.91 mph, the margin of victory a 0.029 seconds, a great final round to a great Top Bike bracket.