DRAG RACING

WILLIAMS WINS AT WILLOWBANK

Athol Williams blew away Kim Stevens in the final of round four of the ANDRA Top Bike Championship Series at Willowbank Raceway as part of the second and final round of the Nitefire New Year Series on 16-17 January.

Stevens threw everything he had but his 6.85 was destroyed by Williams's 6.32 at 222.9mph run, the latter picking up maximum points including low ET and top speed to lead by 45 points.

Earlier, former Brett Stevens Racing Team members Stevens and Chris Porter, who drove a truck for BSR, lined up – Porter clocked a 7.55 while Stevens moved into second with a 7.49 ET.

In the first round of eliminations Jay Upton rode to a win over Alan Herriman in a 7.30 to 9.83 race. Sam Parker took on Williams, but had problems, leaving the Kiwi to solo to an awesome 6.44 pass at 223mph to reset the track speed record. Neville Smith's 11-second pass was easily snapped up by a 6.84/204 from Stevens and Chris Porter took his first Top Bike win with a 7.18 over an 8.06 from Dennis Grant.

In the semi finals, Perth riders Upton and Stevens lined up, but it was the latter's Harley that took the win with a 6.83 to on-and-off 8.27 from Upton. Porter was looking for his first six but he smoked the tyres and saw Williams win with a 6.37 at 216.

So it was down to Williams and Stevens after the pair had earlier produced the first side-by-side six of the weekend. The Kiwi had got there first with a 6.81 at 205 while Stevens went 6.91 at 206. It wasn't to be that close in the final, with Williams a clear winner.

John Baremans

has joined the MotoGP World Championship as the MotoGP power tool supplier for the 2009 and 2010 seasons.

SCHWANTZ SCHOOL

The US-based Kevin Schwantz Suzuki School (KSSS) is moving from Road Atlanta to Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, Alabama. The KSSS has been based in Georgia since its inception in 2001, but this year the school is moving its two-day riding program to the Barber facility. In addition, 1993 500cc World Champion Kevin Schwantz has created a new program, the Kevin Schwantz Super School, with backing from the Motorcycle Industry Council, Suzuki and Honda.