

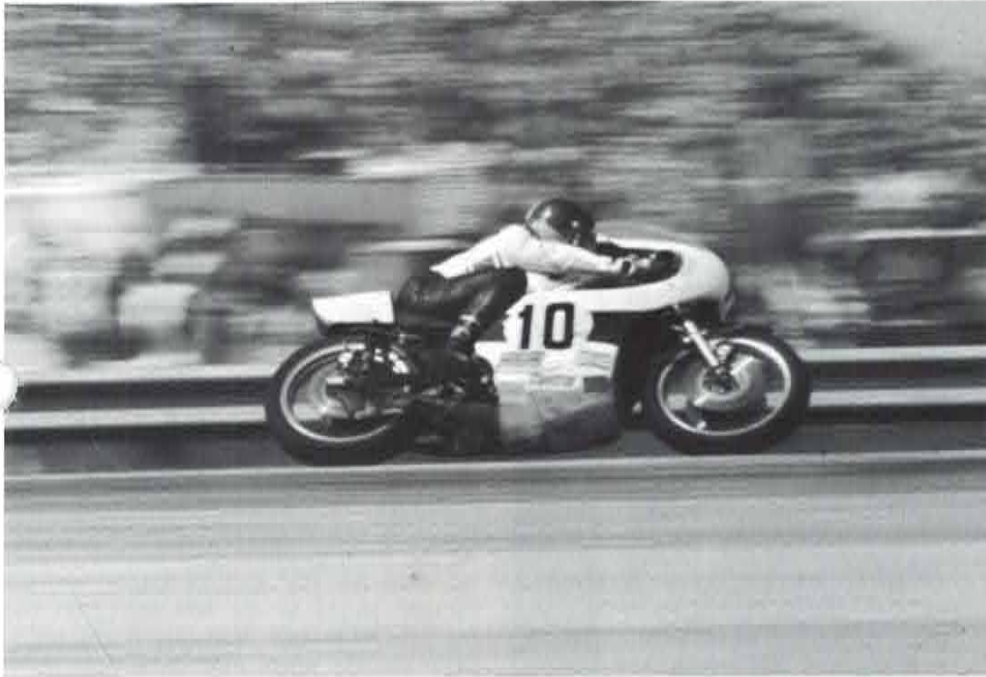
A Monthly Journal for Yamaha World-Wide Dealers



YAMAHA NEWS

1974
Daytona
Special

'74 Daytona 200



Yamaha Scores Third Consecutive Win; Agostini on Yamaha TZ 750 Does It

Yamaha riders take 7 out of the first 10

Giacomo Agostini, idol of world-wide road race fans, blasted his 2-stroke water-cooled TZ 750 to victory at the '74 Daytona 200 which was run at the 3.84-mile Daytona International Speedway in Florida's blazing sunshine on March 10.

He won one of the most important road race events in America despite his first-ever participation in it, setting a new record of race time at 105.01 miles per hour.

Throughout the latter half stages of this 47-lap racing, 54,000 spectators were kept thrilled and excited by a hectic three-way battle, namely, Agostini, American ace Ken Roberts on a TZ 750 and Gary Nixon on a works-prepared Suzuki 750.

Final Results

1st.	Giacomo Agostini	Yamaha	6th.	Gene Romero	Yamaha
2nd.	Ken Roberts	Yamaha	7th.	Ken Araoka	Suzuki
3rd.	Hurley Wilvert	Kawasaki	8th.	Steve McLaughlin	Yamaha
4th.	Don Castro	Yamaha	9th.	Paul Smart	Suzuki
5th.	Teuvo Lansivuori	Yamaha	10th.	Akiyasu Motohashi	Yamaha

Amazingly Cool

Agostini stayed amazingly cool all the way, resting his full confidence on a TZ 750's reliable performance and his own riding skill. Round a tight corner or into a tricky in-field section, Agostini impressively demonstrated his world GP-bred wonderful techniques, piloting a fantastically fast and reliable Yamaha 4-cylinder TZ 750 in a flawless way.

He began to relentlessly accelerate his Yamaha to fight the closing stages of racing with Roberts some 25 seconds astern and Suzuki's hope Nixon dropped out because of crashing on lap 37.

Amidst storming acclamation by spectators including a lot of ardent fans from Europe, Agostini crossed the goal line first and Roberts secured the safest second place.

DAYTONA VICTOR'S LANE



"I Get More Confidence", Says Agostini

Agostini's sensational win at the Daytona 200 completely swept away doubts about his adaptability to the 2-stroke machine. He proved the champion of champions, indeed, by making his victorious race debut on the 2-stroke TZ 750 at this year's Daytona 200.

It must have been one of the hardest-ever races, but at the same time, Agostini became much more confident about the 2-stroke machines. Congratulations for Ago and Yamaha as well!

"I feel it very happy to start my racing career with Yamaha in such a nice way", said Agostini at press interview immediately after racing. "Daytona 200 was a very hard long race. Very tiring and a lot of work. But, I believe, it was all worthwhile.

At the Daytona 200 I tried hardest to keep the lead for the opening stages, which I thought would be the best and safest way for me. After this most wonderful win, I have become much more confident about my success in the forthcoming grands prix which I am to contest with Yamaha's 350cc and 500cc machines.

I will be riding to win every race, of course."

G. Romero's New Record — Daytona One-Hour Run —

Gene Romero, one of the most competent riders under contract with the Yamaha International Corporation in Los Angeles, set a new record of the Daytona one-hour run at 150.841 miles per hour on March 3. The one-hour run was one of the major events for the annual Daytona Speedweek.

Riding a Yamaha TZ 750 entered by the Yamaha International Corporation, Romero covered a total of 62 laps around the 2.5-mile trioval circuit within an hour.

His record renewed by massive margins an old record which Mike Hailwood had set at 144.829 miles per hour in 1964 on an Italian MV Agusta.

Romero also bettered his own mark for the fastest one-lap speed at 159.807 mph. His old record had been set at 157.342 mph.



Yamaha's One-Two Victory — Combined 250 Race —

Yamaha riders also dominated the Expert/Junior Combined Lightweight 250cc Race which took place over a distance of 50 miles on March 9.

Don Castro and Ken Roberts, both entered by the Yamaha International Corporation with the TZ 250 machines, led the entire field from the start to the finish.

They continued to share the lead just between them lap by lap throughout the 14-lap racing. Roberts nosed ahead on lap 12 and maintained his lead until the finish of lap 13. But, Castro managed to go ahead of his team-mate during the very closing stage of racing and finished first.

Gary Nixon, one of the most famous American riders, kept on trailing a couple of leading Yamahas all the way on his private Yamaha, and finished 3rd, eventually.



Nice Guys in Action



Japanese ace Hideo Kanaya at the pit



'73 AMA Grand National Champion Ken Roberts (runner-up to Agostini)

They fight one of their best races ever

This year's Daytona 200 was run in Florida's bright but red-hot sunshine. It turned out to be a hot race in high temperatures soaking into 33°C, really.

Yamaha entered a powerful factory team of TZ 750 machines ridden by G. Agostini, Hideo Kanaya, Akiyasu Motohashi for this race. Also, a three-man team on similar TZ 750 machines was fielded by the Yamaha International Corporation in Los Angeles. In addition, some 40 privateers of Yamaha machines added extra dimension to this race contested by a total of 80 riders. Each of them fought one of his best races ever, thus contributing to the elevation of prestige and interest for this big international event.



Finnish ace Teuvo Lansivuori on a works-prepared TZ 750 (5th)



Ago's team-mate Akiyasu Motohashi displaying his long-trained skill (10th place)



Gene Romero piloting a YIC-entered TZ 750 (6th place)



Don Castro in action on a YIC-entered TZ 750 (4th place)

AROUND DAYTONA

33rd Annual Daytona Speedweek

The 33rd annual Daytona Speedweek took place for a period from 3 to 10 March at Daytona, Florida, USA.

It was a colorful, gigantic-scale speed festival for motorcyclists.

The program was arranged in wide variety, including the Yamaha International Invitational "Super Series" Moto-Cross.

The Expert 200 was the final and most important event of the Speedweek. Reflecting the current world-wide fuel crisis, the length of distance was reduced to 180 miles from conventional 200 miles, with the number of laps from 52 to 47, accordingly, but this never spoiled public interest in this race at all.

The Daytona 200 has long been famous for big money prize offered. This year, winner Agostini collected 14,960 dollars!

