



A bunch of this year's shows were in shopping malls, like this one in San Antonio, Texas. Freestyle shows in malls are great because they bring in TONS of spectators who, "Ain't NEVER seen NUTHIN' like THEM boys before!" It was also great because the malls were air conditioned and most places the Trick Team traveled to were WAY OVER 100 degrees with KILLER humidity. In case you didn't notice who it is, take a closer look at the announcer. YUP! The Duke is BACK!

**STORY BY STEVE GIBERSON
MOST PHOTOS BY DAVE SIGLER**

Beware! Freestyle fanaticism is spreading across the country like an epidemic! BMX ACTION is partly to blame 'cause the Squiddley Squadron spent the entire summer touring the U.S., carrying with them the dreaded affliction known as "Trick Team Fever."

This fever, unfortunately, is HIGHLY contagious and there is NO known cure.



The crew and rig, fresh and ready to go, just before they hopped in and made a non-stop sprint from Torrance, California to San Antonio, Texas on the first leg of their 20,000 mile summer odyssey. On the left is R.L. Osborn, Captain of the Squiddley Squadron. Then comes Pat Romano, Trick Team part-timer and star of commercials and movies, Dave Sigler, who took most of the photos for this article, and ol' Michael J. Buff, who is ALREADY starting to give everybody a bunch of lip.

Early symptoms include bulging eyes, jaws hanging in disbelief, and fried brains. The disease's intermediate symptoms include the patient beginning to get rad in flatland tricks and small ramp action. Finally, in the terminal stages, the patient experiences an intense desire to duplicate the quarter-pipe insanity that he's witnessed at BMXA Trick Team shows.

The following pages are a chronicle of the spread of Trick Team Fever. Reading this article shouldn't be quite as contagious as a live show, but just to make sure, don't spend more than five minutes staring at any one photo.

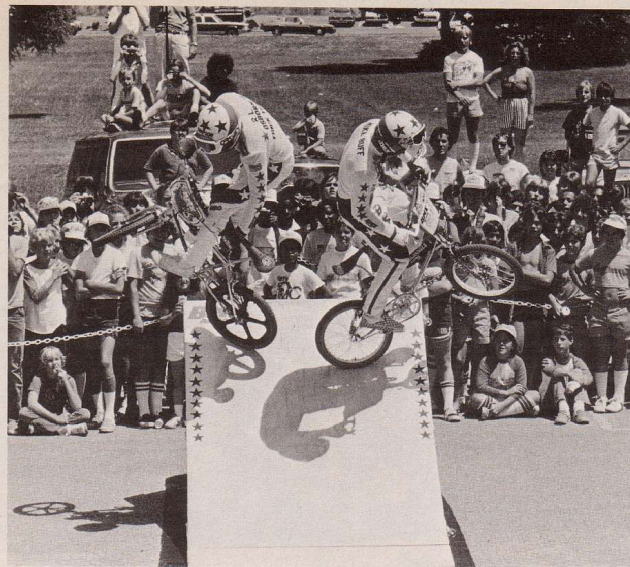
If it's already too late for you, well, just kick back and ENJOY!

Trick Team Fever

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ STARRING THE BMX ACTION TRICK TEAM: R.L. OSBORN, MIKE BUFF, AND PAT ROMANO

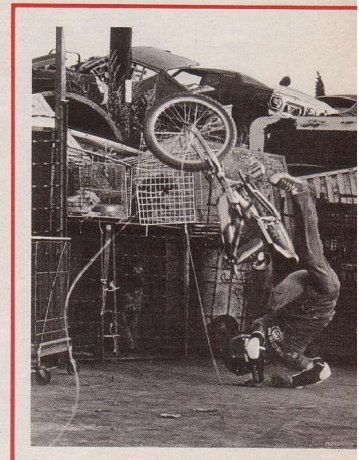
Trick Team Fever

Just before the tour started, **THAT'S INCREDIBLE** set up a race between R.L. and a steeplechase horse for one of their episodes. You talk about big horses, this was a **BIG** horse! Just ask R.L. You'll have to catch it on the boob tube to find out who won. We don't know when it will be on.



Synchro kick turns. Buff and R.L. at the Rockville BMX shop in Maryland.

In the middle of the tour, Pat had to fly back to do some stunt work in a movie titled, **HAMBONE AND HILLIE**, that will be released later this year. Here, he's doing a cable-off crash sequence.



Pat Romano, photoed in the middle of a boomerang. Greenspoint Mall, Houston, Texas.



Buffy getting tabletopped, the **OTHER** way. Marietta, Georgia.

Trick Team Fever

BMX
ACTION

The dreaded Trick Team Fever was spread to a BUNCH of unsuspecting people at the Murray World Cup race in Nashville. What a crowd! Two of those guys holding the quarter-pipe are Rob Fehd and Shawn Texas. No, it did NOT move.



Trick Team Fever

R.L. was also filmed for a short sports flick that is scheduled to show as an added attraction in movie theaters. Buff was dyin' lousy to get in on some of these extra deals, but it's tough to do an aerial with a full leg cast.



It's no bed of roses livin' on the road. You have to grab Zs when you can. These guys were complete basket cases for a couple weeks after they got back.



The pride of San Pedro, Buff the Fluff, catchin' some high altitude air at the Lincolnfest in Springfield, Illinois.

Is this the Titanic, or what? What you CAN see in this photo is our trio of tricksters, and Dave Sigler on a leisurely paddle boat cruise at the San Antonio Riverwalk. What you CAN'T see is all the people dining at the fancy restaurant on this side of the river who are falling out of their chairs laughing so hard.



Cruising into Marietta, Georgia, the Duke spied this OZ sign on top of a huge warehouse. He decided that a souvenir photo to show the REAL Oz, back at BMXA headquarters, was an absolute must. He also decided that the picture wouldn't be any good without him in it. So, while the unsuspecting people in the building were conducting business as usual, the Duke snuck around to the back, climbed up to the roof, struck your basic Sheik-of-the-Burning-Sands pose, and had this picture taken. Nobody found out what kind of business an OZ is.



After the Nurd Herd got back from the first half of their journey, Oz was shooting Buff for a freestyle how-to on doing a 360 jump off a small ramp. Mike was landing on grass and on one of the jumps hit a wet spot under the grass. His front end washed and he landed VERY wrong, breaking his ankle. In the photo he's being hauled to the hospital in the back of his own truck with Oz following in his car ... taking pictures of course. Actually, Oz got a photo of the exact instant when Buff broke his ankle, but it was WAY TOO GROSS to run in here. That's Buff's girlfriend's little brother, Winkle - named after Bullwinkle because of his ears - in the truck with him.