

☐ We got our first glimpse of the 1987 GTs at the Interbike trade show in Reno. Nevada, last October. We were fully stoked with the new models. GT has a lot to offer in the complete bike department for 1987. They've revamped their American manufacturing operation and will be making frames in the USA. One of the frames that GT will be building here is the Pro Freestyle Tour. The frame is different from the 1986 Performer in a lot of ways. It has two bends in the down tube-one at the bottom and one at the top. It also has a top-tube platform. The angles on the bike are also totally new. A steeper head and seat-tube angle makes the bike feel 1000 percent more responsive. GT has also lowered the dropouts on the forks. This will allow your bolt-on fork standers to go lower on the fork than before. The bike we were most impressed with was the ultra-trick. high-zoot Pro Freestyle Tour Team Model. The Team Model will be an exact replica of the bikes the team is riding. In the words of GT President Richard Long: "If the guys change a component on their bikes, we'll change it on the Team Model; we want the public to be able to buy the exact same bike Eddie, Josh and Martin are riding."

To us, that was impressive. For so many years (in our pre-magazine days) we'd pick up a magazine, see some factory star blasting airs and say, "That bike he's riding is cool. I have to have one." So we'd look through the mag, find an article on this super-hot factory star, read through the "Bike Setup" section, take it to our local bike shop with cash in hand, and say, "I'll take it." More times than not, the bike shop owner would say, "Sorry kid, the bike he's riding isn't available-it's a custom works bike made for him!" Now you can walk into any shop that carries GT bikes and buy a bike exactly like the factory guys ride. THE TEST THAT ALMOST WASN'T

Once we had seen the 1987 Pro Freestyle Tour Team Series and listened to the sales pitch on it from the man who runs the show at GT, we found ourselves trying to sell GT on the idea of giving it to FSS before any other mag in the whole wide world. They agreed, and we set up the date. The first date came and went, and no sign of the bike. "Sorry, guys, we have to get this bike 1000percent perfect before we let you cut loose on it."

PRO FREESTYLE TOUR-TEAM MODEL

In search of excellence!

Walking around the Team Series wasn't much trouble. Mike usually snags a few pieces of anatomy on something but didn't on the GT. The fork standers came dangerously close to totaling his leg once, but he got lucky. The standers do have some edges on 'em; if you use them, keep an eye out for sharples!

Mike Loveridge's Miami hop-hops have to be the most treacherous trick to freestyle equipment. Front wheels are usually written off after a few attempts, but the GT Super Lace hubs hung right in there. Mike showed us high-flange hubs which were totally destroyed doing this trick. Impressive!



Two days before deadline, the bike arrived. We had to wait almost two months to get it, but we'll tell you this with no hesitation: Once the first parking-lot antics were through, we decided that whether we had to wait two months or two years. it was well worth it!

A CRITIC'S NIGHTMARE

The bike was a freestyler's dream but a critic's nightmare. What do critics do best? They criticize things. They love to be able to say, "Well, the handling isn't exactly great, and the paint chips easily. and" But, with the Team Model, every time our renowned Test Force critics tried to say something about the bike, they stopped themselves until finallynearly at their wit's end, they said, "Aha! That frame sticker is bubbled!" That goes to show you how much of a fine-tooth comb these guys covered this bike with. A bubbled sticker on the down tube was the only thing they could find fault with. PAY ATTENTION, THERE'S GONNA

BE A TEST!

The Test Force was speechless. They're not used to having a bike that is so perfect. From the Hi-Torque parking lot, it was off to Camarillo to subject the GT to merciless torture. Doug Randazzo had just built another ramp right alongside of the now-world-famous "Big Blue." Locals were clearing the six-foot canyon on their bikes by millimeters. Once the GT arrived on the scene with our test battalion, the locals took the helm and were then clearing the canyon with miles to spare. Confidence at its highest level. Were they able to clear it only becase they knew it was okay to thrash this bike or because they trusted the GT's stability?

Don't answer that until we tell you that Josh White was going to take this very bike to Australia the next day. Josh is by no means a 98-pound weakling, so when he says, "Guys don't kill my tour bike." you know not to thrash beyond the boundaries.

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

The Camarillo locals were stoked about the Team Model's handling and compo-



Josh was leaving for the Australian tour with this bike the day after we shot this test. At the time, it was the only bike like it in the world. If it thrashed, Josh didn't have a bike to ride. Josh tore it up in Australia-get the message?

nentry. The GT cranks were drawing the most attention by everyone-even the racers who were present. If you haven't seen the cranks yet, they have two pinch bolts to keep them from loosening up, a sealed B/B set and a beefy spindle. A definite thumbs-up on the cranks. The new GT high-flange "Super Lace" hubs were also pretty hot. According to GT, they're supposed to make 36-hole rims as strong as 48's. Guys were hanging up the rear wheel, left and right (due to the new ramp), and the rims only showed a little hop. Everyone on the scene at Doug's house who could freestyle was joining in to offer input on the Team Model. The bike was put through every ramp creation from fakies to flyouts to 540s to Fi-minguezes and ground destruction which included front-wheel lawnmowers, backwards infinity rolls, Miami hop-hops and scores of other flatland freshness. The GT made Rambo. the Terminator and Magilla Gorilla look like charm-school teachers. This bike is built to withstand nuclear Armageddon.

Genuine A'ME grips impressed our test guys. The bike comes stock with an Odyssey Gyro, a pair of fork standers, a pair of rear platforms and a pair of alloy Tube Rides axle pegs. You'll have plenty of standing room-whether you prefer



The GT Power Series cranks are gonna be chasing after Red Line's Flight Cranks like Tom after Jerry. Stock stuff on the Team Series. If this bike were a girl, we'd marry it!



Team Series came with three sets of standing devices (axle pegs, frame standers and fork standers), considering that some bikes don't come with any. You have the freedom of choice on what goes where. We opted for the standers on both front and rear.



Stopping the Team Series was a dream. Dia-Compe's new AD-990 cross-pull rear brake is so positive it's like having a hydraulic braking system. The FS-883 Nippon front binders were as good as expected. Want something better? Weld the wheel in place, cause you're gonna have a hard time findin' any system that locks better!



axle pegs or platforms. The Team Model also comes equipped with Dia-Compe's new AD-990 cross-pull rear brake-a system which is regarded as the best rear brake on the market today. You'll see a lot of them out there on the '87 bikes. GT's using Dia-Compe's FS-883 Nippon brakes for the front. We also like the new Tech-7 lock levers. So many locking levers these days have locking mechanisms you have to use two hands to operate. You could easily engage these with one hand. The Team Model uses a GT Stem and GT Pro Performer handlebars. We did have a little trouble with slippage on the bars. After taking off the bars and adding grip tape to the clamping area, the bionic man couldn't budge those bars. The stem held great in the forks.

A LASTING IMPRESSION!

One thing for sure, the Team Model made a solid impression on our Test Force. The only thing we're worried about is that they'll compare the other test bikes to this one and give the other bikes a lower score as a result. It's a good thing that our guys are like computers: Once they test a bike, we can delete the test from their memories and move on to the next bike. The majority of '87 bikes are looking red hot. We think 1987 will be a great year for freestyle.

THE FINAL CHAPTER

Once back in Mission Hills, we asked our official test guys to rate the bike on a one-to-ten scale-keeping in mind that the bike cost \$495 and it was box stock as it stood. Here were the scores: Mike Loveridge, 10; Larry Manayan, 9.5; Steve Broderson, 9.5: Jeff Cunningham, 9.5: and so it goes!

GT PRO FREESTYLE TOUR TEAM MODEL

I. FRAME AND FORK Type: Freestyle. Frame design: Single top and down tubes; top 1-1/4" O.D., down 1-3/4" O.D.; 5/6" O.D.

chain stays. Frame construction: 4130 chromoly throughout. Fork construction and design: Leading-axie, 4130 c 1-1/8" O.D. fork legs.

II. WHEELS Rims: Ukai, shiny side, alloy Spokes: Generic, stainless

Huba: GT Super Lace, 36hole, alloy. Tirea: GT Freestyle. III. DRIVE TRAIN Pedala: SR Model 474, alloy

withromoly shaft. Cranks: GT Power Series. Cranks: GT Power Series. cold-lorged alloy, 175mm. Front sprocket: GT, alloy, 43T w/GT alloy disc. Bottom bracket: SR, sealed

Chain: GTitrumi, 1/2" v 1/8" Freewheel: Sunfour, 16T.

rips: A'ME Round, rubber Handlebars: GT Pro Per-











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