



**SE
RACING'S**

QUADANGLE

FREESTYLE

Fred Blood has been keepin' himself busy by playing a bit part in an upcoming movie called "3:15" which is about high school gangs. Fred, committing a lawn mower on location.

PHOTO BY BOB OSBORN

NEW AGE MACHINERY FOR THE MODERN DAY AGGRO BOY

"UPS. I gotta package here for FREESTYLIN' MAGAZINE. Will one of you guys sign for this thing?"

Silence. Every head in the Wizard offices turns to look at the man in brown overalls holding a clipboard and the large box that's sitting behind him. Could it be what we've been waiting for?

"Listen, I gotta get runnin', I've got more deliveries," he repeated. "It's from, ah, let's see . . . SE Racing."

Collective intake of breaths. "THAT'S IT!" someone yells. Almost instantly the whole throng of office personnel attacks the box with much the same enthusiasm that we attack El Gordo's for lunch. Rip, tear, shred . . .

Collective intake of breaths number two, heavy gawking and gasping. Yes, it is the bike we've been waiting to get our hands on for so long, and it was well worth the wait — it's beautiful. Gleaming turquoise frame and fork with just about all the other components in white. The SE freestyle machine — a modified Quadangle BMXer with modified Landing Gear. Too cool.

MOD QUAD

If you sit down and really look at the Quadangle frame, you'll notice all kinds of nice touches, clean detailing, and excellent welding. You get the impression a lot of care and thought went into it. Great workmanship.

The Quad is a truly unique beast. When the prototype was first seen being raced by The Man, Stu Thomsen, late in 1979, it blew minds. The double down tubes, the bizarre top tube configuration — heck, the whole front triangle was completely different than anything seen before. It still is — there is nothing like it — including the material it's made out of. It's not 4130 chrome-moly. Not aluminum. It's Reynolds 531, which SE tells us has a higher tensile strength than 4130, enabling them to use thinner gauge tubing while retaining the strength of chrome-moly. Translation: weight loss. The Reynolds diet lets SE weld on add-ons without making the Quad overweight.



The SE Quad Freestyle. The complete kit goes for about (gulp) \$440.

The Quad seemed like the obvious choice for SE to designate as their official freestyler — its strength and good looks were the clinchers. With a few changes on the BMX version, they did it (the Quadangle is still available as a BMXer too). The first and foremost alteration was the head tube angle — it was steepened from 72 to 75 degrees, which is WAY better for freestyle pounding.

Second on the list of mods are the chain stay platforms. These dealies are the cleanest welded-on chain stay stands we've seen yet. One problem SE ran into here was that when they welded the stands onto the Quad's rear dropouts, it shortened the usable amount of the dropout to about 3/4 of an inch. Oops. But don't worry, the problem is being solved on later production models by reducing the diameter of the stands' tubing.

A final detail is the addition of a coaster brake mount — a must for

any serious freestyle scoot.

THE LANDING GEAR

Like the Quadangle frame, the forks are a unique SE design. The first thing you think of is BEEFY. The first thing you NOTICE are the standing pegs. ANOTHER original. Story has it that Mike Devitt, one of the head honchos over at SE Racing, was goofing around in the warehouse trying to figure out some sort of platform for the Landing Gear when he picked up a scrap cut off from the bottom of the forks, upside down. SHAZAM! He welded 'em on, stuck in plastic caps with grip tape on 'em and voila' — boss standing platforms and a good way to get rid of some Landing Gear scraps.

THE FRED FACTOR

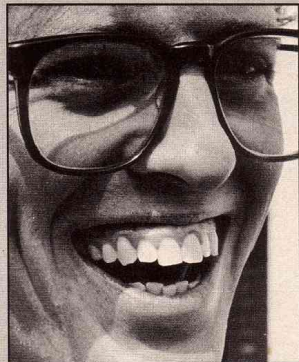
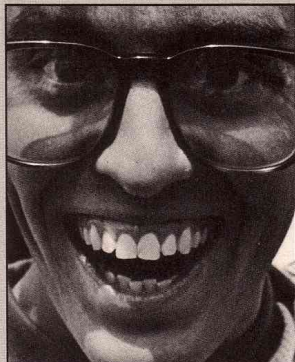
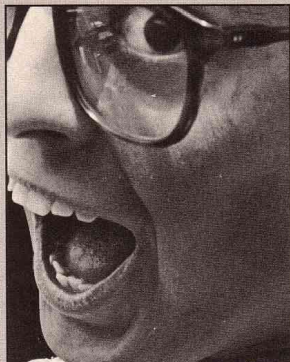
Enter SE factory freestyler and all around wild and crazy guy, Fred

"Freestyle is the art form of extending body and mind over bicycle." Fred, practicing what he preaches.





Another key member of the SE freestyle contingent, Todd Anderson, on a Ripper. And yes, he does aeriels the same way he jumps – very aggressively.



FREESTYLIN': "What's new with Fred Blood?"

BLOOD: "I don't know. The old Fred Blood was kinda wild, that's kinda the reputation I have — as being a wild and crazy guy. When I was real young in skating I was always wild, and then I tried to grow up a little bit, being wild sometimes and a businessman sometimes. Now I'm venturing more into the businessman sort of thing."

FREESTYLIN': "Okay, what do you want to be asked?"

BLOOD: "EVERY interview I've done in my life has been, 'Okay, Fred, what do you want to be asked?' You're supposed to be an INVESTIGATIVE reporter here (laughter)."

FREESTYLIN': "How do you see freestyle in general?"

BLOOD: "That's better. I see freestyle as a fun way to ride your bike and express yourself. I freestyle and I get paid a salary, and I'm probably the most lax of any individual freestyler who gets paid because I freestyle when I want to freestyle. I don't freestyle 'cause I think I have to. If I want to ride my bike, I'll ride my bike; if I don't want to ride my bike, I don't. That's how it is. As long as I get coverage, make sure the kids want to buy what I ride, and get back to my sponsors with the proper research and development stuff to make the things on the market better for everyone involved, then I've done my job."

FREESTYLIN': "We notice that you're always wherever the freestyle happenings are happenin'. You seem to get around."

BLOOD: "I want to be a main

figure in the sport, so I go to everything."

FREESTYLIN': "How's this for a question? Do you think freestylers are developing their own unique lifestyles?"

BLOOD: "The fact that you want to ride a freestyle bike is something that goes against the norm. The norm in the United States is team sports, and freestyle is not a team sport. I guess there're people who'll wear Town & Country shorts because I wear Town & Country shorts, or who'll wear Dyno pants because that's what Eddie wears."

"With music, you've got Wilkerson who's into new wave stuff. I'm definitely into new wave and anything that's danceable, but then you've got Mike Dominguez who's the hard-core heavy metaler, and Dizz Hicks who's . . . that guy is off the wall (laughter). It's totally diverse. There is no set thing. It's 'Be what you want to be and ride your bike and have a good time and as long as you make up good tricks, you're in there.'"

FREESTYLIN': "Do you plan on starting to compete?"

BLOOD: "I entered the last two ramp jams at Joe's, but at the second ramp jam I hadn't ridden a ramp since the first ramp jam, and the ramp was WAY different. I have a name, and because I've been a world champion roller skater, I guess inside I feel I should do better; it makes it twice as hard to lose when you've been a winner for four years."

"The only reason I haven't entered any contests to date is because I want to enter a contest and do good. I don't want the kids to think that Fred Blood really isn't

what he is. I want to be in at least the top three. Until I can guarantee myself that, I probably won't enter a contest. That isn't what I think everyone should do — I think they should get in there and get the experience. I've got nine years of professional sports behind me and I just expect more from myself than a lot of other people do. I've kinda fooled myself a couple of times already."

FREESTYLIN': "In freestyle?"

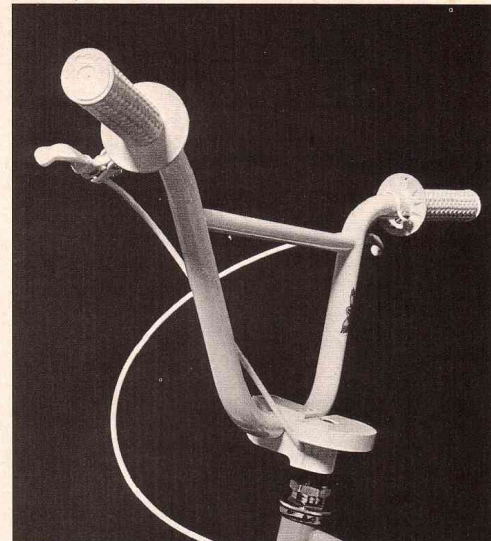
BLOOD: "Yeah. I thought freestyle was a lot easier than it is, and then I thought I could be everything — a ramp rider, a skatepark rider, and a flatlander. I wanted everything real quick and I kept getting better and better at everything, but you've got to zero in. I think flatland is where I'm headed right now. I couldn't make up my mind. Before the Huntington Beach contest I figured I was going to be a skatepark rider so I was riding with Michael and Eddie every day. I rode and rode and rode, and then two weeks before the contest I decided that skateparks weren't for me, that I was going to ride flatland. But I hadn't been practicing at that, sooo . . ."

FREESTYLIN': "So you judged that day."

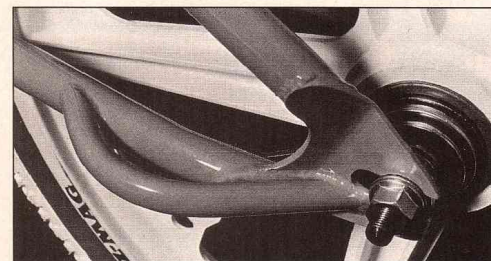
BLOOD: "Yeah."

FREESTYLIN': "What kind of freestyling do you plan on concentrating on?"

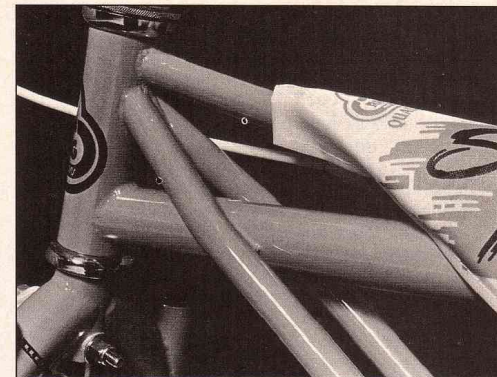
BLOOD: "I don't know. Whatever I have fun doing at the time. Freestylin' to me is I do what I want to do and I don't have to answer to anyone else, and if they expect an answer, that's their problem because they're not gonna get one."



The steering system. SE bars, Oakley grips, and prototype Team Products stem. All systems go.



Sano dropouts, but the platforms restrict rear wheel adjustment. Later production models will have thinner tubing for the platforms, solving the problem. Clean welds.



Yeow! Looks like the L.A. freeway system. This frame is definitely trick lookin'.



SE's answer to fork stands: "Standing Gear."

Blood. "Hey, you guys gotta paint the freestyle bikes wild colors! You know — turquoise, pink, fuchsia . . . and call 'em the Fred Blood series."

SE went for the turquoise; the others, well . . . nice try, Fred. The turquoise finish and look is excellent. The Quad Freestyle will be available in both turquoise and white — with other "wild" colors to come later.

PUTTING THE FROSTING ON THE CAKE

Now all SE had to do was match the Quad frame and Landing Gear forks with qual components. A quick cruise through the parts reveals just that.

The SE bars and lay-back seat post are just what you expect — the

same SE quality as the frame and fork. Genuine Oakley B-2s grace the bars.

Dia-Compe MX 1000 calipers are found front and rear — with a Potts Mod on front. The mod is brought to you courtesy of the Team Products freestyle stem, which works the same way as DK's freestyle model — the cable runs alongside the wedge bolt instead of through it. We think a drilled-out bolt works a bit better because it routes the cable a bit straighter. This method works fine if you can get it dialed in.

Attached to the ACS Z-Mags is a new Oriental freestyle tread by LHR BMX called Space Tread. Funky name, but they work pretty good.

A whole flock of SR components

are on the Quad: 175mm one-piece chro-mo cranks, spider, 44 tooth chainwheel, and seat post clamp. Oh, and the pedals, which aren't red hot — they're a little on the outdated side. A platform pedal would work a lot better.

The SE frame pad is made especially for SE by Flite. Cool colors and graphics. Fred DID get his name on the pad. Congrats, Fred.

That's it. A very well rounded and original freestyle package. A definite must-have for the flashy, attention craving freestyler. This pup WILL get you noticed.

"Listen, that's great, guys, but I've got an urgent delivery to make, so if someone would please sign here . . ." ●