



# FIRST TEST SKYWAY'S ALL-NEW STREET BEAT

This bike flies

□ We don't know how many of our readers will remember this, but back around four years ago Eddie Fiola spent a brief stint as Test Rider for this magazine. He only did it for a couple of months or so before GT decided to sponsor him. GT didn't want its riders testing bikes for any magazines, so Eddie had to leave us.

All the same, we have learned over the years we've known him, that Eddie is one of the most knowledgeable freestyle riders in the world. He's incredibly bright about bikes, extremely innovative, and an extraordinary rider. We asked him a couple of months ago if he'd be interested in testing bikes with us, and he said "yes." We couldn't think of a better place for him to help us than the Pipeline.

## THE BIKE

For this month's test we'd called up Jon Raudman at Skyway and lined up

one of their new all-chromoly Street Beats. At \$399 it's the top bike in their freestyle lineup. The other two bikes in the line are the Street Styler, which features a partly chromoly frame, six-spoke (less expensive) Tuff Wheels, and less expensive components than the Street Beat, and the Street Scene, Skyway's low-end freestyle bike with a high-tensile-steel frame and fork. All three bikes have nearly identical geometry, the main difference being that the Beat has a rear triangle 1/4-inch longer than the other two.

## JUDGEMENT DAY

We lined up a day when Eddie was free and the Pipeline was open but not super busy, and headed out to Upland for the test. The first thing Eddie did was set up the bike to fit himself better. He adjusted the bars, the seat and the seat-post and then went to work on the brakes. The front brakes, Dia-Compe Nippons, were a snap to dial in. The rear brakes took a little more time.

*We jumped at the chance to test at the legendary Pipeline skatepark and so did Eddie.*

*He knows this place so well, and felt so comfortable on the Street Beat, he could have ridden here at night without the lights!*

Nobody had lubed the cables, so Eddie took the cables apart, squirted some WD-40 onto the inner metal cable and reassembled the brakes. The rear brake had felt weak before he started doctoring them. After he finished, which took him about ten minutes, they worked incredibly well. In fact, J.K. put down his cameras, took the bike out for a little spin, squeezed the rear brakes lightly and almost flew over the handlebars. That's how well the stoppers worked after Eddie was done with them.

We decided to take some shots of the components before Eddie cut loose with the bike, just in case Eddie might prove to be tougher than the bike.

First of all, we noticed that the bike looked really good. The graphics were great. The bike was mostly chromed, with paint only on the parts of the frame least likely to get scratched or rubbed. Smart thinking. The grips were genuine A'ME Tris, which was good to see, since they are such good, comfortable grips. The bars were Skyway's dual top-tube freestyle models. The pedals were Victor VP-707s, with alloy cages and

chromoly shafts. They looked good, too. In fact, the whole bike looked good.

Eddie made a couple of last adjustments to the brakes and took it into the skatepark. He dropped into the Pipe Bowl and started carving, feeling out the handling. Within minutes he was flying out of the bowl, hitting limless variations, carving the walls of the pipe itself, and proving that the bike was as good as it looked.

Eddie had warned us earlier that he might need a couple of days to get used to the bike before he could get rad on it, but he found out quickly that wasn't the case. Within half an hour Eddie was so stoked with the bike that he was talking about calling Skyway to see if he could get one for keeps.

Steve Broderson was with us too, so we had him give the bike a workout in the bowl as well. Steve also dug the bike's handling, but because he wasn't able to get nearly as rad at the Pipe as Eddie, Steve didn't want us to shoot him there. He was still able to give us some good evaluations, though.

"It's a good bike," Eddie told us flat out, and Steve agreed about that. The handling was great for aials. The cranks were also good, Eddie told us. He also noted that it was the first freestyle bike he'd ever ridden that didn't have tight spots in the chain. The Skyway Turbo Disc chain ring can take



