

# Nugent Rocks At Barstow As 'Dirt Tester' Vinje Eats Big Chunk Of Desert

By BILL CENTER

Staff Writer, The San Diego Union

BARSTOW — Off-road racing attracts the unlikeliest of competitors.

Take San Diego's Malcolm Vinje for example. Yesterday's Baja Bug winner of the inaugural, 265-mile SCORE Barstow Classic is a civil engineer by trade.

"During the week I test dirt," assessed Vinje. "On the weekends I eat it."

But the cast expanded this weekend as hard rock star Ted Nugent took his first fling at off-road racing and finished a respectable sixth in the limited horsepower, single-seat Class 9.

Earlier in the morning, when not chanting phrases of the song *My Love Is Like A Tire Iron* written especially for the occasion, Nugent was readying his psyche for the four laps of the treacherous Mojave Desert terrain.

"Got some gonzo four-wheel trucks back in Michigan," he said "I climb trees with 'em. I mean, what can happen."

Meanwhile, back in the outback, the desert was singing its version of *Hit Me With Your Best Shot*. The Barstow circuit is the roughest of anything this side of next

month's Mint 400 in Las Vegas. Heck, Lemon Grove's Johnny Johnson broke a front end leaving the starting line and later watched as co-driver Doug Fortin rolled his Baja Bug with Mrs. Johnson inside. Perennial four-wheel driver winner Don Adams hit a rock so hard that the front end broke in two. "To do that again, I think I'd have to drop it four stories," lamented Adams.

It didn't take Nugent long to get the point. Desert racing extracts a toll from a rookie. And Nugent paid.

"This was probably one of the top two or three enduro physical putdowns I've ever been party to," Nugent said as he slumped his aching bones into a "cushy-comfy" seat.

In the course of the day — and he was on the course exactly 10 hours while the fastest were competing in

5:17:16.25 — Nugent had knocked both rear tires off his buggy, gone through some six shock absorbers and knocked a section of the frame off the car.

"I had an acute spinal condition throughout lap four," he lamented. "I have a wango-tango headache ... it's something gonzo."

"Oh man, the shocks weren't shocking. All the course went right to my body. I have six acres of desert in my system. I could start a small farm in my mouth."

The overall title went unexpectedly to Jack Motley and David Kreisler, who averaged 49.17 miles per hour. After ranking no better than ninth overall after one lap, they took the lead just 25 miles from the finish when the teams of Frank Arciero-Dan Cornwell and Bob Leighton-Ron Graham both ran out of gas battling for the lead. In all, six leading Class 1 cars bit the dust at some point, including the Arizona team of Jim Halford and Larry Ragland, who were gunning for an unprecedented third straight overall win. Halford flipped the car on the first lap while ahead and Ragland broke the axle for good measure on the second tour.

Besides Vinje, the county's only other winner was Bob Sherwood, who co-drove the winning Class 1-1600 with Dave Mansker of Chatsworth.

## Marcis Makes It Look Easy In Winning 200

DARLINGTON, S.C. (AP) — Dave Marcis, driving a Pontiac, lapped everyone in a 24-car field yesterday and breezed to victory in the \$42,600 TranSouth 200 for late model sportsmen.

Marcis outfinished David Pearson by 18 seconds in a race which served as a preliminary for today's Rebel 500 at Darlington International Raceway.

Darrell Waltrip was third, two laps behind. Mark Martin finished fourth and Glenn Jarrett fifth.

Marcis, a 40-year-old driver from Wausau, Wis., had constructed a healthy, 17-second lead by the midway point of the race, but lost it during a 37-second pit stop on the 72nd lap.

Waltrip led for the next six laps but, when he visiting the pits on lap 78, Marcis regained the lead for

good. Marcis, who averaged 141.993 miles an hour in a race slowed by just one yellow flag, had lapped the field when he passed Pearson on his 133rd trip around the track.

His lead was so big that Marcis made a precautionary stop to top off his fuel tank just four laps from the end. That's when Pearson got back on the same lap with the leader, but he was still far behind.

The victory was worth \$7,650.



The San Diego Union/John Gibbins

Jean Willrich's penalty kick skips past Seattle goalie Jack Brand.

## Sockers Silence Sounders

(Continued from H-1)

And, when Seattle went ahead on a blackboard-perfect play at 29:36, Newman admitted he was concerned. On the play, Mark Peterson was awarded a free kick on a roughing call. He passed it down the right side to Kevin Bond who deftly lobbed a centering pass to Roger Davies, who headed the ball past Volkmar Gross.

It was Gross' lone lapse and he more than made up for it with an outstanding game in goal.

San Diego scored in a familiar manner to tie it. The two previous wins were in shoot-outs. A penalty kick is even better. Willrich caught Brand guessing right, drilled it to the left-center and set the cannon roaring.

The second half was all San Diego as the Sockers outshot the Sounders 9-6 for a 21-13 bulge in the game. This with a patchwork front wall.

This is the best win since I've been

here," said Newman who took over mid-season last year and had some memorable wins. "If you'd have told me before the game we'd beat this team 3-1, I'd have called you crazy."

The Sockers clearly looked more comfortable with the 35-yard offside line instead of the international offside line at midfield. The Sockers penetrated well and seemed on the attack more in their first game since the offside line was returned to its original 35 yards two days ago after getting FIFA approval.

"It was more than that, though," said Newman. "The team passed well and really came together. They stopped Davies on defense, that was a key. These fellows know how to play and they showed it tonight. All of them."

Especially the quiet one in the semi-dark cubicle.

## Whitecaps Blank Aztecs 3-0

From The San Diego Union's News Services

The Vancouver Whitecaps, exerting sustained pressure from a midfield that constantly surged forward, downed the Los Angeles Aztecs 3-0 in a North American Soccer League game played last night in Vancouver.

Timbers 3, Boomers 1

Dale Mitchell scored a pair of goals in the opening half and the Portland Timbers proceeded to stop the Calgary Boomers 3-1 in Portland. Only 8,524 viewed the winning side's home opener.

Strikers 2, Drillers 0

Teofilo Cubillas scored his fourth goal in three games and, with it, the Fort Lauderdale Strikers stepped to a 2-0 victory over the Edmonton Drillers in Florida.

Chiefs 3, Rowdies 1

David Byrne scored one goal and assisted on another as the Atlanta Chiefs captured a 3-1 decision from the Tampa Bay Rowdies before 23,807 in Tampa.

Sting 3, Roughnecks 2

Chicago's Arno Steffenhagen sprinted around the Tulsa defense for a tying goal with nine seconds left in the second half, and Steve Long then gave the Sting a 3-2 win over the Roughnecks in overtime in Tulsa.

Diplomats 1, Manic 0

Malcolm Waldron slipped a free kick past goalkeeper Bob Rigby at 56:27 and Washington Diplomats made it stand up, edging the Montreal Manic 1-0 in Washington. It was Waldron's third goal of the year.

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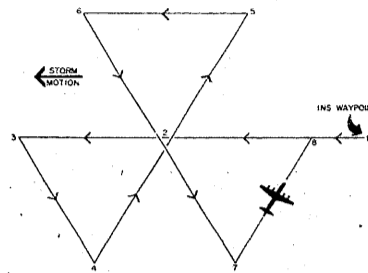
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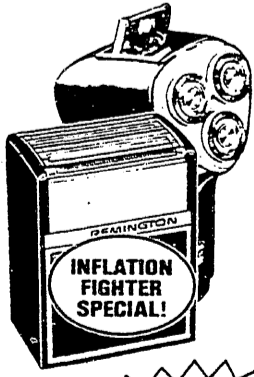
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