

SPORT

Three-way fight for title

BENCRANSTON

TWO Bunbury drag racers are in the running to take out the Modified Bike State Title with just two rounds of competition left.

Adam Ewing is ranked second on 500 points, just 20 points ahead of third-placed Wayne Patterson and 20 points behind leader Les Holden, after the last round held at Kwinana's Quit Motorplex on the long weekend.

Patterson said reaction times were everything in drag racing, after losing his last race by just 0.005 seconds, and said all three riders were in a chance of clinching the title.

"It's like a jumbo jet has just taken off and you've grabbed hold of the tail," Patterson said of riding his monster Ducati.

"You have to be absolutely focused."

Riders must dial in a time they think they can run as close as possible to without beating it, and more often than not a head-to-head round is decided by the start.

Once the bikes have moved into stage they sit on full throttle and wait for three yellow lights before the green.

"You grab a gorilla handful of throttle and go," Patterson said.

Riders dumped the clutch once they had seen the last yellow because the green would be on by the time they reacted.

Patterson's weapon of choice is a fuel injected, methanol drinking, 204hp rocket with a huge Garrett turbo bolted on the side averaging.

It averages about 245kmh down the



Wayne Patterson is involved in a three-way fight for the Modified Bike State Title at Kwinana's Quit Motorplex on board his 204hp Ducati. PICTURE: RICK MCDOWELL

quarter-mile strip and covers the distance in just over nine seconds.

"There's a lot of luck involved but I rate myself an even chance of taking it out," Patterson said.

"It just depends on who is good on the day."

This would be his first State title and

Patterson says it usually takes about three or four years of competition to fine tune all the skills needed to succeed in modified bikes.

"It takes a while to get all those things working at once," Patterson said.

Nailing starts and riding fluently can prove difficult while demonic

speeds work to pull a rider off the back of their bike, but if all goes to plan this year two Bunbury competitors could finish first and second.

The next round on March 25 will form part of Nitro Funny Car Fury at the Quit Motorplex with the final round on April 8 at the same venue when the USA Jet Cars roll into town.

Friskies charge to favouritism in badminton

THE Fridge and Washer Friskies have stamped themselves as favorites after charging to the top of the table with a hard fought 8-7 victory over the Rosemont Park Studs in the Bunbury Badminton Pennant competition on Monday night.

Stef Bacon proved to be the difference for Friskies with a clean sweep of her games while George Coleman was in fine fettle with three wins.

Tony Shaw was also a strong contributor, halving his games with the dominant Rob Italiano.

Best for the Studs was Andrew Briedis with a polished four game effort while Moni Erehi was solid with three wins.

The second match saw the DBC Shanks consolidate their No.2 spot on the ladder with an 11-4 thumping of cellar dwellers the Condello Lickers.

The "Smiling Assassin", Tanya Hamilton, was in an unforgiving mood with a clean sweep of her games while Tim Draper, Chris Perella and Christine Adams all fired up with three wins for Shanks.

Best for the vanquished Lickers was Nathan Papas and Keara Robertson, who managed to halve their games.

The final match was also a drubbing with the Power Tool Probers far too classy for the drained Victor Sports Vampires, winning 11-4. Nathan "Twinkle Toes" Campbell and Bethia Bryant stole the starring roles for Probers with runaway four game efforts while Tammy Blatchford, Joyce Johns and Sam Coulson provided the back-up with three wins apiece.

Best for the Vampires was Kiel Jackson with three wins, but he had little support.



City of Bunbury Surf Life Saving's Jenaya Attwell, Leia Hadden, Ryah Hadden, Laura Babich and coach/sweep Rob Drummond make up the women's open surfboat rowing team. They won silver recently at the Country Championships, but found the going a bit tougher at the State Championships, on Scarborough Beach last week, being knocked out before the semis. There were 23 women's teams in the field, including Australian and world champions. The team is going its separate ways due to work and study commitments, but may get back together for next season.

Lifesavers planning a big city assault

THE City of Bunbury Surf Life Saving Club's juniors will be let loose on Scarborough Beach this weekend in the Junior State Championships.

They will have big expectations after the club's senior members recorded their best ever senior result in their State Carnival at the same venue last weekend.

Leading the way was under-19s James Duncan with three gold medals, showing why he is a member of the State team.

Bunbury won five gold medals in its tally of 17 medals and a sixth placing in final standings. It also won six silver medals and five bronze. It scored a massive 117 points between its 17 members.

Duncan was outstanding in winning the under-19 men's surf ski, board race and ironman.

The other gold medal performances came from Kimberley McKay (under-15 women's beach flags) and the under-15 female beach relay team, which consisted of Emma and

Naomi Cooper, Nicole Hueppauff and McKay.

Other individual medal winners were: Cooper, silver in the under-15 female beach flags; Patrick Godsell, silver medal in the under-17 male board race; Emma Cooper, silver in under-15 female beach sprint; Nicolas Godsell, bronze medal in the under-15 male beach flags.

In teams, the following won medals: Under-15 male board rescue, silver (Nicolas Godsell and Mathew Duncan); Under-19 male taplan, silver (James Duncan, Patrick Godsell and Lachlan Carey); Under-19 male double surf ski, silver (James Duncan and Lachlan Carey); Under-17 male beach relay, bronze (Dean and Grant Earnshaw, Jason Lenard and Mathew Hueppauff); Under-19 male board relay, bronze (James Duncan, Patrick Godsell and Lachlan Carey); Under-19 mixed doubles surf ski relay, bronze (Hailey McGinty and Lachlan Carey); Under-19 surf ski relay, bronze (Hailey McGinty, James Duncan and Lachlan Carey).

O'Dea and Gornall duel a highlight

BENTON O'Dea, on Regurgitator, made the most of the brisk winds last Saturday to win in the junior dinghies on Koombana Bay.

There was a bigger-than-usual fleet on the water, but the highlight was some exciting duels between O'Dea and his crew (first on handicapped) and second-placed Leigh Gornall (This Way Up) and crew.

Michael Dwyer had some bad luck when the mast on his Jay Dee came down and he and his crew had to be rescued from the beach.

Competition was lively among the Division Four yachts with the leaders crossing the line in quick succession. Handicap honours went to Rival Eight (David Pyke) from continuous improvers Arabella 11 (Jonas Blandford) and Avanti (Des Depiazzi).

The name Depiazzi is synonymous with the Koombana Bay Sailing Club and still is today, with Des Depiazzi actively participating each Saturday.

The Cruiser class revelled in the conditions and line honours went to The Liquidator (Darryl Slee) who was relegated to third on handicap.

First placing (on handicap) went to Ocean Cowboy (Fred Talbot) with Bad Habits (Brian Allen) second.

The Catamarans class is looking to increase its numbers and is extending an invitation to anyone with a Windrush 14 in their backyard to try their hands at this exhilarating sport.

Strawberry Blonde, with Mark Smith at the helm, made a return to the Twilight winners list on Wednesday night.

With the nights drawing in, this week brings an end to the twilight races but organiser Jeff Clifton said another may be scheduled for the following week should there be the demand.

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