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CAN-AM COMMUNIQUE

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SALT LAKE CITY, UT...Can-Am teammates Gary Jones and Jimmy Ellis -- fresh from an impressive showing in the Canadian GP of Motocross -- lead a newly-directed assault by Bombardier (Bom-bar-de-yay) Limited of Canada on the AMA 125cc national title beginning Sunday, June 30 at Widowmaker Cycle Park.

In a surprise move, Richard Lague, Marketing Director for Bombardier Limited, announced Friday that both defending 250cc AMA national champ Jones, from Hacienda Heights, CA, and Ellis, an 18-year-old sensation from Cobalt, CT, will compete in the three remaining AMA 125cc national championship motocross events aboard Can-Am's 125MX model, and will by-pass 250cc action in the Inter-AMA series.

Originally, plans called for Ellis -- now fully recovered from a fractured pelvis suffered Feb. 10 in the Florida Winter-AMA series -- to contest the 125cc AMA series, with Jones going in the Inter-AMA, which he won in 1972.

Lague pointed out that the change was made to "promote the strongest challenge possible in an effort to win the 1974 AMA 125cc title." He added that "marketing studies indicate the 125cc on/off road market to be the most competitive of all categories at present, and it is a vital one to our U.S. expansion program. A win in the series would open lots of eyes to the quality and performance virtues of the rotary valve Can-Am 125MX," Lague concluded.

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In addition to the Widowmaker meet, both Jones and Ellis will ride in AMA 125cc events at Baldwin, KS, July 7, and Lexington, OH, on July 21. The duo will also team up again on July 28 for the 125cc World Cup Motocross at Springville, NY.

Jones, 22, will continue to defend his AMA 250cc title when that series takes up again August 11 at Delta Motorsport Park, OH. He currently ranks second in the series, trailing Husky's Billy Grossi by a scant 23 points (390-367) after nine events.

Making their first appearance in Canada, June 24, the Jones/Ellis Can-Am combo figured prominently in the 250cc Canadian Grand Prix event, finishing 3rd/10th respectively against an international field. Ellis, who earned eight New England region championships before he was 18, actually led eventual winner Jaroslav Falta of Czechoslovakia in the early stages of the second moto, and was denied a certain top-5 finish when the chain broke on this Can-Am GP250.

On the sour side, Jones will be somewhat handicapped at Widowmaker on Sunday by a broken left hand suffered in a testing accident in Canada last Wednesday. Doctors who fitted a special splint and wrist cast, say the break was not a serious one and shouldn't appreciably hamper Jones' performance.

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