

New Zealand T.T.

L. V. Perry (Velocette) Wins Junior Race ; Senior Winner is

K. Mudford (Triumph)

AT Lap 15 of the New Zealand Senior T.T., with only 25 miles to go, Rod Coleman was sitting pretty. His close friend and rival, Sid Jensen, had developed a sudden illness and was in hospital for an operation; Len Perry, with whom he had opened the Waikato Island duel, had crashed. Coleman had equalled the lap record and was ten 15a ahead of Ken Mudford, riding an easy race on instructions from his pits. Then, having completed half his 16th lap, Coleman joined the spectators. His Velocette had dropped a valve in. (It was the machine on which Stanley Woods was second in the 1936 Senior T.T.)

A handful of dusty, weary survivors struggled on over the remaining laps of the five-mile circuit, and, after 2h 15m 51a—nearly five minutes slower than the time of the Junior race—Ken Mudford, hitherto only a minor pace-getter, received the chequered flag marking his success in New Zealand's premier race. He had lost five minutes en route by changing the sparking plugs in his G.P. Triumph.

Just short of 30 riders were entered, but 21 machines were finally brought to the line. Leather-clad riders sweated in the boiling sun, feeling ever hotter as they glanced at the spectators, clothed for the most part in swim-suits and beach-wear. Starting No. 1 was A. J. ("Dixie") Dean, who had led for 18 laps in the 1948 Senior. Luck was not with him. With his carburettor flooding, he was out before completing a lap. First round on Lap 1 was Rod Coleman, from No. 9, with a seven-second lead on Perry. Coleman increased his lead to 15a on Lap 2, and, on Lap 3, he equalled it. ("Digger") Hallam's lap record of 6m 15s. However, there would be no chance to see how Perry (Velocette) had met the challenge. One hundred yards short of the start-finish line on his third lap,

Perry, striving to pass a slower rider, misjudged, hit the bank and crashed.

Coleman's pit advised him of the position, and he began to lap 10s slower. On Lap 4 he was leading the eventual winner by 1m 27a. John Dale, of Auckland, was lying second, D. E. Hine, of New Plymouth, was third, and G. B. Stormont, of Auckland, was fourth.

On Lap 8, Mudford came up to second position, 16a behind Coleman. Dale was third, and a comparative newcomer, J. G. Laurent (Vincent) was 1a behind him.

Half Distance

At Lap 10, Mudford had pared down Coleman's lead to 10a. On Lap 11, the guide-red in Coleman's front fork-spring fractured and was splitting his front number plate, but as he could still lap in 6m 18a—only 4s slower than the record—he was not flagged off. Next lap, Mudford came into his pit to change plugs, and when he left again, he was ten 15a behind Coleman, whose pit immediately slowed him. Coleman now led Dale, Mudford and Stormont. Laurent, having overdone things, had crashed his Vincent into road-side heather from which he could not extricate it.

Coleman was well overdrive on Lap 16, and the news came through on the radio that his engine had blown up. Shortly after it was announced that Dale's engine had cried enough a short distance farther on from Coleman. It was the hardest blow of Coleman's Jimmy-Simpsonish racing career.

Mudford, with the fastest lap of 6m 18a on the fifth, had no opposition as he rode in to finish half a lap ahead of Bill Grey, who, with an injured leg, was riding a venerable International Norton. Hine had retired with a fractured petrol pipe. Stormont had broken his timing chain. Third man home, J. G.

Brandon, ran out of fuel 100 yards from the line and pushed in with only 4s to spare.

Two days earlier, Perry had a comfortable win in the Junior—his eighth New Zealand T.T. victory. No. 3, Coleman, led the field at the end of Lap 1, but S. H. Jensen (Velocette) was ahead on time. Starting No. 8, he set a sizzling pace and overhauled Coleman on Lap 3. Next lap, however, he shed a mainshaft nut, shock-absorber and primary chain. From then on Perry, who had notified a practice on machine breakdown only 15 minutes before the race began, led John Dale (7R A.J.S.) and Coleman (7R A.J.S.). At the end of Lap 11 he was less than a mile from Coleman, and he completed Lap 12 in 6m 21a. Meanwhile, Coleman's younger brother, Bob, retired when in fifth place with an oil-pump failure. On Lap 13, Perry led Dale by 53a and Coleman by 5a on uncorrected time. Coleman's rear brake jammed on Lap 18; this enabled Dale to pass, but did not affect the placings. Sixth man to finish changed a K88 Velocette valve-spring on route!

RESULTS

Junior T.T. (100 miles, 50 laps)—1, L. V. Perry (Velocette); 2h 15m 51a; 2, J. G. Dale (A.J.S.); 2h 20m 48a; 3, K. W. Coleman (A.J.S.); 2h 22m 10a; 4, S. H. Jensen (A.J.S.); 2h 23m 10a; 5, D. Brandon (A.J.S.); 2h 24m 30a; 6, W. Vincent (Velocette); 2h 25m 21a. Loss time—Perry, 6m 15s; Coleman, 6m 18a; Jensen, 6m 19a; Dale, 6m 21a; Vincent, 6m 22a; Brandon, 6m 23a; Jensen, 6m 24a; Vincent, 6m 25a; Brandon, 6m 26a; Dale, 6m 27a; Coleman, 6m 28a.

Senior T.T. (100 miles, 50 laps)—1, K. Mudford (Triumph); 2h 15m 51a; 2, W. Grey (Norton); 2h 17m 50a; 3, J. G. Brandon (Triumph); 2h 21m 48a; 4, D. Turner (Triumph); 2h 21m 48a; 5, J. Hadden (Triumph); 2h 23m 10a; 6, J. G. Laurent (Vincent); 2h 23m 10a; 7, J. G. Dale (A.J.S.). A seventh man was flagged off, 100 yards from Coleman, on 15a.

No Show

AN official statement from the Manufacturers' Union issued last week gave the news that it is not proposed to hold a show this year because of manufacturers' "extensive production and export programme for 1950, particularly for the hard currency and dollar markets." Editorial comment appears on page 49.

Mr. C. Douglas Terry, managing director of Herbert Terry and Sons, Ltd., has been re-elected president of the Manufacturers' Union for 1950. Mr. J. Y. Sangster (chairman, Triumph Engineering Co., Ltd.) and Mr. F. A. Kimberley (managing director, James Cycle Co., Ltd.) were re-elected vice-presidents.



Rod Coleman (Velocette) sweeps down the "mountain." He led in the New Zealand Senior T.T. for three-quarters of the distance and then retired.



Ken Mudford (G.P. Triumph), winner of the N.Z. Senior T.T., brakes for the left-kicker at the leader board. It was his first big road-race victory.