

# Young racer Gault hit by tyre choice blow

**CARLUKE racing ace Alex Gault suffered a big blow at the Scottish Championships at Knockhill last weekend**

Hotly tipped for the win at his local round of the National Super Stock 600 championship, the teenage motorcycle racer was very disappointed when he finished in ninth place.

The wrong tyre choice put an end to any thoughts of glory as he slipped back lap after lap from his start position on the front row of the grid.

The weekend had started very well for the talented 17-year-old, posting a fastest time in Free Practice from the 53 entries, the only rider to post 52 second lap times.

In qualifying in very difficult damp conditions, he qualified in fourth spot which was the inside line for the start of Sunday's race.

However, on Sunday the weather conditions were very unsettled and the local knowledge of the team made them decide on a wet front tyre and a dry rear.

But this decision turned out to be the completely wrong choice.

As Alex lined up on the grid, almost everyone else had gone for a com-

pletely dry set-up.

The result does not serve the youngster justice, as this without doubt was one of the teenager's best rides of his racing career and was a very gutsy effort.

He managed to set lap times similar to the front runners who were on dry set-ups... but with the wet tyre failing lap by lap, Alex gradually slipped back to ninth.

He was, incidentally, the only finisher with a wet tyre, as all the others using them had either crashed out or retired.

The result was not what his team had hoped for but was still good enough to preserve his eleventh place in the championship overall and third place in the championship for 16 to 19-year-olds.

Last month, Gault was re-united with his former mechanic Geoff Coxon, who had been brought out of retirement following the Astro Kawasaki team's problems with bike set-up in recent races.

This result was a setback for the pair after they secured Alex his best-ever finish of sixth at Oulton Park in Cheshire in the last round of the British Super Bike Championship. That was one of his best displays of his career.



**WET CONDITIONS:** Despite the unsettling weather, Gault's decision to race on wet front tyres fail to pay dividends at Knockhill on Sunday.