



1976
INDIANA
SPRINT
"100"



Official Program
\$1.00

There's MAGIC at the

fair

AUG. 19 THRU AUG. 29

BOX OFFICE
OPEN 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
STATE FAIRGROUNDS

\$250,000 ENTERTAINMENT BONANZA



Coliseum

Neil Sedaka
Saturday, August 21
Reserved Seats \$5.00-\$4.00

Johnny Cash
Sunday, August 22
Reserved Seats \$5.00-\$4.00

Roy Rogers & Dale Evans with
the Steiner Championship Rodeo
Tuesday, August 24-Friday,
August 27
Reserved Seats \$4.00-\$3.00
General Admission \$2.00

Mac Davis
Saturday, August 28
Reserved Seats \$5.00-\$4.00

Bobby Vinton
Sunday, August 29
Reserved Seats \$5.00-\$4.00

Grandstand

Bachman Turner Overdrive
Friday, August 20
Advanced Sale \$5.00
Day of the Show \$7.00

"Chicago" Rock Show
Friday, August 27
Advanced Sale \$5.00
Day of the Show \$7.00

Plus These Outstanding ATTRACTIONS!

Western Horse Show
Jack Kochman's Hell Drivers
Championship Harness Racing
Million Dollar Midway
Quarter Horse Racing
Giant Balloon Race

COLISEUM

	DATE AND TIME	NO.	PRICE	TOTAL
Neil Sedaka	Sat., Aug. 21 at 4:00 PM			
	Sat., Aug. 21 at 8:00 PM			
Johnny Cash	Sun., Aug. 22 at 4:00 PM			
	Sun., Aug. 22 at 8:00 PM			
Roy Rogers & Dale Evans with the Steiner Championship Rodeo	Tues., Aug. 24 at 3:00 PM			
	Tues., Aug. 24 at 7:30 PM			
	Wed., Aug. 25 at 3:00 PM			
	Wed., Aug. 25 at 7:30 PM			
	Thurs., Aug. 26 at 3:00 PM			
	Thurs., Aug. 26 at 7:30 PM			
Mac Davis	Fri., Aug. 27 at 3:30 PM			
	Fri., Aug. 27 at 7:30 PM			
Bobby Vinton	Sat., Aug. 28 at 4:00 PM			
	Sat., Aug. 28 at 8:00 PM			
Bobby Vinton	Sun., Aug. 29 at 4:00 PM			
	Sun., Aug. 29 at 8:00 PM			

GRANDSTAND

	DATE AND TIME	NO.	PRICE	TOTAL
Bachman Turner Overdrive	Fri., Aug. 20 at 8:00 PM			
	Fri., Aug. 27 at 8:00 PM			
Order Advance Sale Ground Admission Tickets with Show Tickets			1.25	

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ Zip _____

Check or money order enclosed (Make payable to Indiana State Fair).

Mail to: Tickets, Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis, Indiana 46205 with self-addressed stamped envelope

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Publicity-Advertising

**YOUR
1976
INDIANA
STATE FAIR
BOARD**



INDIANA STATE FAIR OFFICIAL PROGRAM

Published By

PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT

State Fairgrounds
Indianapolis, Indiana 46205

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Indiana State Fair Board
Auto Racing Department



ABOUT THE COVER

Top Left: Johnny Parsons No. 33 leading Dana Carter No. 19, Bruce Walkup No. 6, Gary Bettenhausen No. 24 and Pancho Carter No. 4.

Top Right: Karl Busson in No. 30 while Roger Rager No. 14 slides sideways.

Middle: Larry Dickson No. 1 leading Joe Saldana in No. 7.

Bottom: Chuck Booth No. 121 leading Jack Hewitt in No. 65, Larry Rice in No. 98 and Bobby Olivero in No. 86.

Photo credit to Trotty Heck, John Mahoney, Steve Lingenfelter and Carl Canfield.

OFFICIAL
STATE FAIR CARS
ARE
1976 OLDSMOBILES

NOBODY LIKES TO POSTPONE

Nobody likes to have a racing event cancelled or postponed, no matter what the reason. However, it does occasionally happen—usually in the form of rain. And when this does occur, everyone comes out on the short end of things; the race promoter who has to pay again for a rescheduling date; the racing fraternity and costs to owners, drivers, etc. and most importantly, you, the loyal fan.

The fact of the matter is, there isn't a thing anyone can do about it. Or is there? We can all gather in prayer that the rain stops, allowing the track to dry enough to get the show on the road. Or if this fails, the race is postponed to another date, if not the next day (assuming we are discussing a weekend) then the succeeding weekend. Needless to say this does not endear the fan from out of town, but if it is any consolation to

these people, no one is more unhappy about it than the promoter or anyone involved for that matter.

The general idea is to have the race when you, the guy who laid down hard cash can, in fact, come and see what you originally paid for—namely the race.

Unfortunately, there is no refund for those fans who are not able to attend the rescheduled event, and this is printed on each ticket. And only as a last resort, will the promoter decide to cancel a race, in which case, money will be refunded at the Administration Building on the first business day following a cancellation. Remember, this is done only as a last recourse. END OF SUBJECT . . . NOW ON WITH THE RACE!



Photo by Steve Langenfeller

Roy Hicks No. 81 dueling with Larry Rice in No. 98 as Jack Hewitt trails. Hewitt was really flying both before and during his crash.



Photo by John Mahoney

Tommy Astone No. 8, Billy Engelhart No. 18 and an unidentified driver working each other over.



Photo by John Mahoney

Friendly adversaries during the recently completed "Hoosier Sprints" Larry Dickson and Gary Bettenhausen pose during Larry's victory circle stint for winning the second 50.



Photo by Steve Langenfelter

Indianapolis Racers goalie, Andy Brown in a crouch but not to stop a puck. Andy proved that he can really stand on the gas when he ran the twin 50's.



Photo by Bill Rester

The very lovely Betty Rutherford, wife of two-time Indianapolis 500 winner Johnny Rutherford, being interviewed by Bob Forbes during the "Hoosier Sprints."

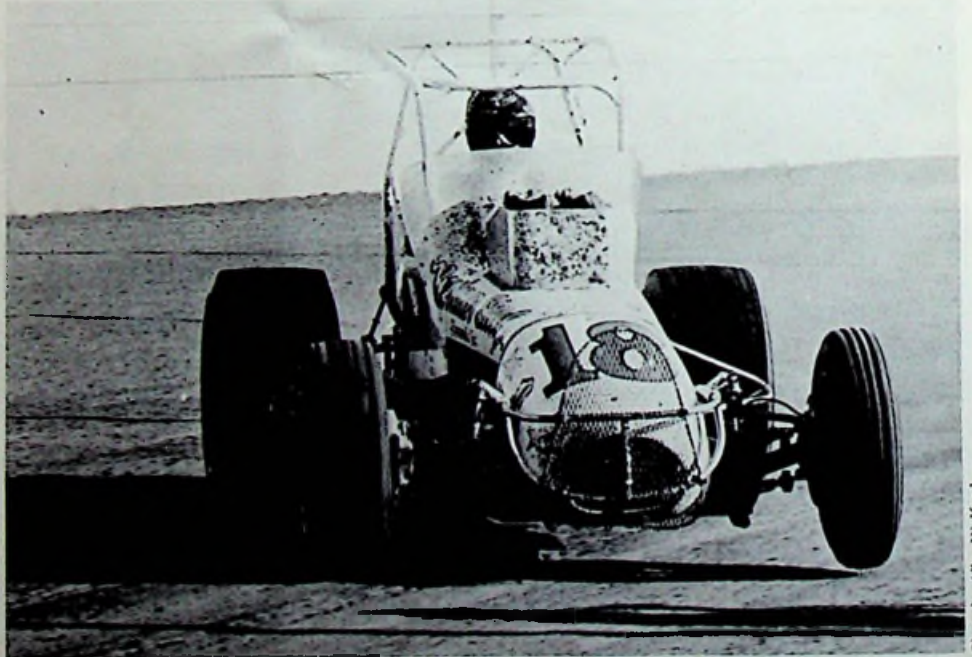


Photo by Allen Wolford

Billy Engelhart three wheeling it through a corner during hot laps at the "Hoosier Sprints."

1976 INDIANA SPRINT "100" ENTRY LIST

CAR. NO.	DRIVER/HOMETOWN	SPONSOR	TIME
134.777 (34.318)	Larry Dickson, Marietta, Ohio <i>Jimmy McElreath</i>	Polak Sprinter	33.719 - 6
235.293 (34.965)	Rollie Beale, Toledo, Ohio	Weaver Special	33.788 - 55
3	Billy Cassella, Weirton, W. Va.	Donahue Chevrolet Co.	34.001 - 4
4 34.322 (34.001)	Duane Carter Jr., Brownsburg, Ind.	Dobbins Chevrolet Co.	34.001 - 4
6 33.760 (33.719)	Ian Opperman, Noxon, Mont.	Longhorn Racing Team	34.048 - 85
8 34.534 (34.507)	Gary Bettenhausen, Monrovia, Ind.	Leffler Special	34.318 - 1
10 36.111 (35.924)	George Snider, Bakersfield, Cal. <i>Howerton</i>	Ben's Tire Clinic	34.416 - 29
14 35.342 (35.207)	Clark Templeman, Reseda, Cal.	Smith Speed Shop	
16 35.048 (34.983)	Chuck Gurney, Hayward, Cal.	Siebert Oldsmobile Co.	34.442 - 7
18 34.737 (34.812)	Billy Engelhart, Madison, Wis.	Kershner Steel Co.	
19 35.476 (35.223)	Dana Carter, Brownsburg, Ind.	Linsmeyer Special	34.499 - 56
20 36.351 (35.941)	Jerry Weeks, Indianapolis, Ind.	McIntire Chevrolet Center	34.507 - 8
21 34.999 (34.811)	Lee Kunzman, Guttenberg, Iowa <i>Astase</i>	WD Racing	
23 35.920 (35.547)	James McElreath, Arlington, Texas <i>SALDANA</i>	Bill King's Brake-O/Amox Coal	34.565 - 89
24		City of Syracuse	
25	SCRATCH - KARL BUSSON	Easton Special	34.728 - 30
27 36.312 (36.147)	Jerry Nemire, Toledo, Ohio <i>Schultz</i>	Nothing Special	34.737 - 18
30 34.728 (34.750)	Roger Rager, Mound, Minn.	Gasket Sealants Special	
33 35.883 (35.508)	<i>HURLEY</i>	Jones Radiator Service	
35 35.086 (35.095)	Steve Chassey, Indianapolis, Ind.	Bowen Oldsmobile Co.	34.811 - 2
38 37.910 (37.475)	Gary Irvin, Lafayette, Ind.	Hodson Special	
41	Bob Frey, Elyria, Ohio	Shores Racing	
45	Mike Schiesel, Oak Creek, Wis.	Oak Construction Co.	
46	Steve Schultz, Indianapolis, Ind.	Miss Blue Eyes Dodge	34.846 - 52
48	Jackie Howerton, Speedway, Ind.	Longhorn Racing Team	
49 36.628 (36.303)	<i>BOB HARVEY</i>	Mayhew Special	
50 37.393 (37.307)	Gordy Lee, Indianapolis, Ind.	Myers Trucking	
53	Jim Hettinger, Ypsilanti, Mich. <i>Jim McElreath</i>	Hettinger Racing Ent.	34.965 - 2
55 34.961 (33.788)	Tom Bigelow, Whitewater, Wis.	Elder Cadillac Co.	34.983 - 16
56 34.499 (34.650)	Sheldon Kinser, Bloomington, Ind.	Genesee Beer	
58 34.997 (34.846)	<i>Roni REA</i>	Cookie's Special	
59	Larry Cannon, Danville, Ill.	Hoffman Auto Racing	
60 36.339 (36.274)	Dick St. John, Milwaukee, Wis.	Wisconsin Industrial Testing	
61 35.674 (35.005)	Rich Leavell, Elwood, Ind.	Welch Trucking Co.	
62 36.183 (36.003)	John Lucas, Speedway, Ind.	D. J. Construction	35.005 - 6
65 35.702 (35.477)	Jack Hewitt, Troy, Ohio	Lubrication Engineers	35.086 - 3
66 36.068 (36.215)	Mark Alderson, Timberlake, S. D.	Enslow Special	
69 35.246 (35.159)	Greg Leffler, St. Paul, Ind.	Pace Electronics	35.105 - 3
71	Marvin Carman, Union City, Mich.	Dowker Roadster Special	
73		Baldwin Special	35.159 -
74	Ed Lute, Columbus, Ohio	Null's Garage	
75		Forberg Tool	
76 QUIT (36.760)	Steve Cannon, Danville, Ill. <i>PULLED IN</i>	B & R Racing	35.207 -
77 (36.709) 36.844	Dave Peperak, Clinton, Ind.	Peparak Special	35.223 -
78 35.947 (36.201)	Mack McClellan, Dayton, Ohio	Dale's Goodyear	35.277 -
79 37.893 (38.379)	<i>KEN NICHOLS</i>	George Watson Special	
81 35.596 (35.978)	Roy Hicks, Socorro, N. M.	Lyle Dill Chevrolet Co.	
83 35.787 (36.379)	Gary Gray, Indianapolis, Ind.	Gapco, Inc.	35.310
84 36.495 (35.993)	Bick Montgomery, Denver, Colo.	Bland Special	
85 34.049	Bubby Jones, Danville, Ill. <i>blown engine</i>	Bruce Cogle Ford Co.	35.379
89 34.792 (34.565)	Lee Osborne, Jamestown, Ind.	Stauffer Construction Co.	
91 (36.043) 36.271	Andy Brown, Indianapolis, Ind. <i>FORD</i>	Brown Ford Special	
98 35.310 (35.551)	Larry Rice, Indianapolis, Ind.	Gatorade Special	35.477 -
121	Chuck Booth, Indianapolis, Ind.	Georgetown Lounge	35.50
177	<i>BILL ROYNON</i> (All Chevy powered except cars No. 46 and 90)		
28 37.699 (37.494)	<i>KARL BUSSON</i>		35.52
101 (35.217) 35.494	<i>BUBBY JONES</i>		35.54
40 36.405 (35.789)	<i>ARLEN CAPP</i>		35.596

Pancho

7 finisher 34.726 (34.742)

New Truck

New Truck record

36.504 (36.521)



Photo by Carl Canfield

Tom Bigelow sitting among the tires during the "Hoosier Sprints." Tom blew a motor in the first 50 and went home.

CONRAD

DEMOCRAT for GOVERNOR

You'll like him. He's a race fan just like you.

PAID FOR BY CONRAD FOR GOVERNOR COMMITTEE



Photo by Carl Canfield

From the left it's Jan Opperman, unidentified, Joe Saldana, car owner Mauri Amerling and his mechanic Dave McPherson having a little chat next to Opperman's "Spirit of Truth" Special.

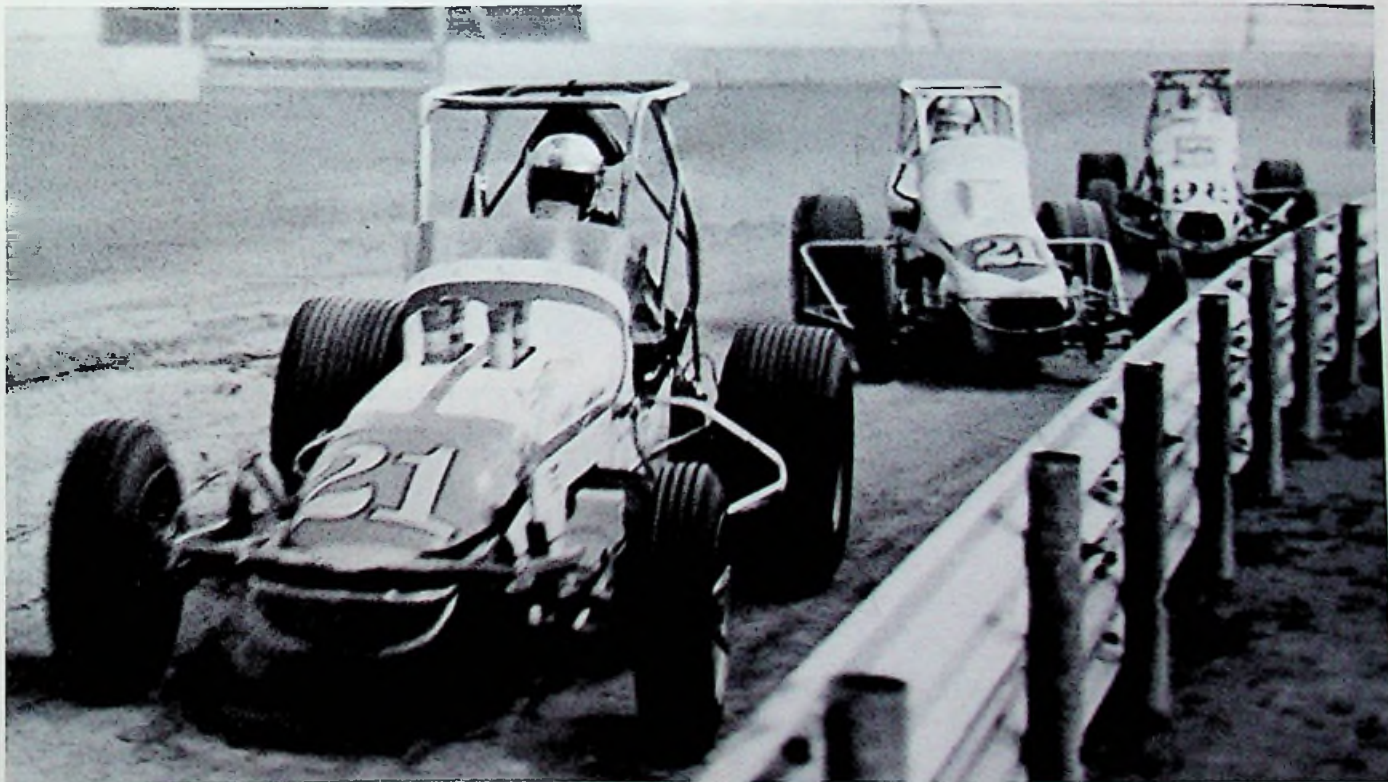
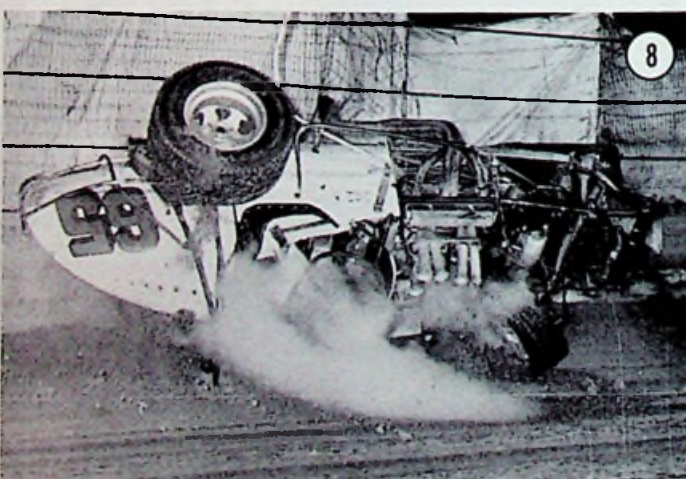
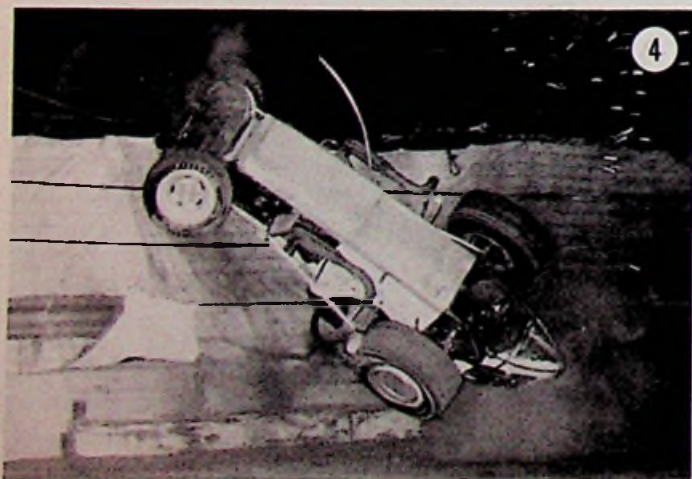
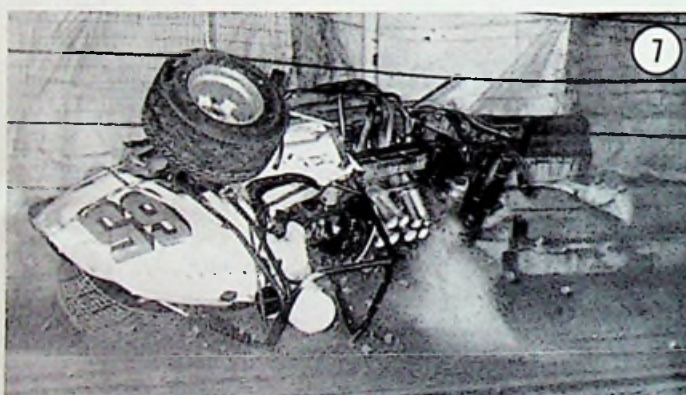
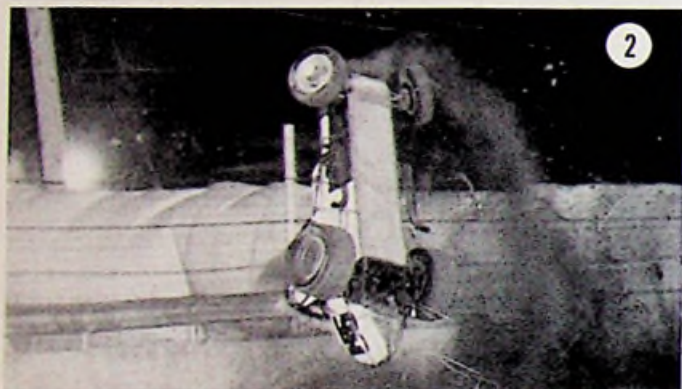


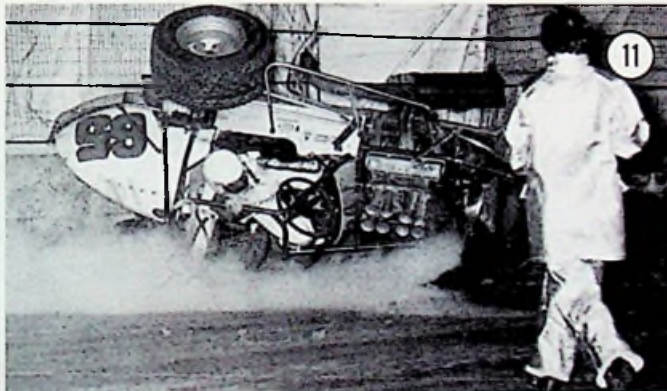
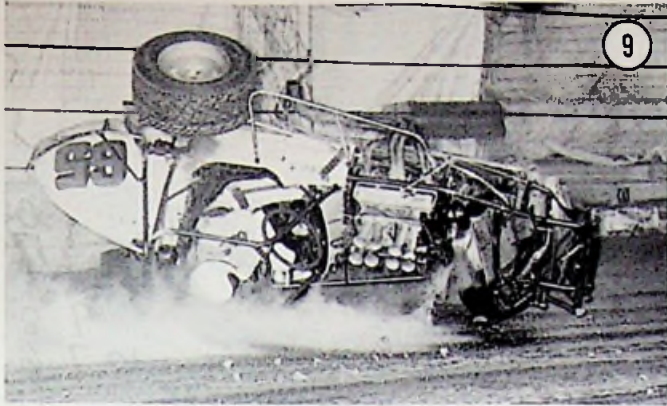
Photo by Carl Canfield

Chuck Booth in the No. 121 Georgetown Lounge Special up against the rail and being followed by Bill Puterbaugh in the No. 21 and Larry Rice in the Gatorade No. 98.

A great sequence of shots showing Jack Hewitt crashing in the third turn. Hewitt moved from 19th to 5th in the semi just to make the first 50.



Photos by Tom Dick



Maplehurst

Milk and Ice Cream
*while visiting
 your great*

INDIANA STATE FAIR
 and AUTO RACES

**MAPLEHURST
 FARMS, INC.**

3745 Farnsworth St.

Phone 244-2841

**Order State Fair Tickets
 for AMA Motorcycle Races
 & Hoosier Hundred**

TRACK RECORDS

Dirt Car	Johnny Parsons	33.31	108.062	1975
Sprint Car	^{JAN OPPERMAN} Duane Carter, Jr.	31.60 33.719		1975 1976
Midget	Tommy Astone	35.53		1975
Motorcycle	Mert Lawwill	37.52	96.250	1973
Stock Car	Butch Hartman	38.80		1974

27 - caution
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19
19

89 40 161
56 34 234 356 101
19 34 10 49 58
225 30 20 77
1622 819 767 84
620 338 781 61
5518 291 66 21
34

Score Card

FIRST 33

STARTING POSITION	DRIVER	10	20	30	33
35	Englehart	2	4	4	16
1681	OSBORN	1	3	6	5
1458	KINSEY	5	2	1	1
12	Cassella	4	5		12
10	P. Carter	7	9		18
9	Opperman	3	1	2	2
8	Rea	10	11	11	9
7	Hurney	6	6	3	3
60	Chassey	8	8	8	7
10	Leffler				10
11	D. Carter	9	7	5	4

STARTING POSITION	DRIVER	10	20	30	33
12	Rice	11			20
13	Hewitt (FLIPPED)				17
14	Raymon	21			21
15	Hicks			9	8
16	Howerton		10	7	6
17	McLellan	18			13
18	Jucas	19			18
19	Alderson			10	11
20	St. John	17			15
21	Peperak	20			14
22	Jee	22			22

16 CAUTION 20 caution
7 83
27 90

SECOND 33

STARTING POSITION	DRIVER	10	20	30	33
32	Astone	1	1	out	
2	Rager	2	2	2	
23	Bottenhan	4	21	out	
33	Snider	13		out	
61	McElreath Sr.	3	13	6	
101	McElreath Jr.	6	4	3	
27	Beale	5	5	4	
7	Seavell	12	7	7	
20	Wallup	7	3	1	
40	Templeman (Blew)	8	20	out	
49	Jones	11	9	10	

STARTING POSITION	DRIVER	10	20	30	33
11-10	Shay			out	183
12	Hurtbuser	10	8	9	9-14
13	Saldana	9	6	5	5-27
14	Capps	16		out	15-6
15	Weeks	14	10		14-7
16	Montgomery			12 out	12-9
17	Brown			out	19-2
18	Shultz	15		out	17-4
19	Harkey			10 8	8-16
20	Cannon			14 out	13-8
21	Bussan	22		out	22

Kinsey had full straight lead over Carter 2 laps to go
CAUTION

LAST 34

STARTING POSITION	DRIVER	10	20	30	34
1	GURNEY	6	6	5	
2	BEALE	7	5	4	
3	OPPERMAN	5	7	6	
4	McELREATH, SR	11	10	7	
5	KINSEY	1	1	2	
6	WALKUP	3	4	22	
7	D. CARTER	2	3	3	
8	McELREATH SR.	10	9	8	
9	HOWERTON	8	8	10	
10	SALDANA	9	11	9	
11	CHASSEY	15		15	
12	LEAVELL				27
13	HICKS	12	13	12	
14	RAGER	13	12	11	

STARTING POSITION	DRIVER	10	20	30	34
15	REA	16			24
16	HARKEY	17			17
17	LEFFLER	20			16
18	HURTEBUISE	18			13
19	ALDERSON	23			21
20	JONES	19			29
21	CASSELLA	14			14
22	ASTONE	out			28
23	McLELLAN	22			20
24	MONTGOMERY				26
25	PEPPERAK				25
26	S. CANNON	21			19
27	P. CARTER	4	2	1	
28	WEEKS				18

25 L CAUTION
56
89
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ORDER FUTURE RACING TICKETS NOW!

AMA CHAMPIONSHIP MOTORCYCLE RACES—TWO BIG DAYS Saturday, August 28—Sunday, August 29

SATURDAY—QUALIFICATIONS 5:00 PM • RACES 8:00 PM
SUNDAY—QUALIFICATIONS 11:00 AM • RACES 2:00 PM
25 MILE USAC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP DIRT RACE

AJ.
ALU.
JOHN COO
JP.
Ruthe

Reserved Grandstand: All Sections, Saturday, August 28, 8:00 p.m. @ \$5.00

No. _____ Total _____

Reserved Grandstand: All Sections, Sunday, August 29, 2:00 p.m. @ \$5.00

No. _____ Total _____

Mail check or money order to Motorcycle Races, Indiana State Fair, State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, Indiana 46205. Please enclose self addressed, stamped envelope.

DO NOT WRITE HERE

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Sum
Dallan
Sisco

14
22

AMA CHAMPIONSHIP MOTORCYCLE RACES—TWO BIG DAYS Saturday, August 28—Sunday, August 29

SATURDAY—QUALIFICATIONS 5:00 PM • RACES 8:00 PM
SUNDAY—QUALIFICATIONS 11:00 AM • RACES 2:00 PM
25 MILE USAC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP DIRT RACE

Mosby
Gehlha
Buggy
Vicky
K...
D...
McClusky

Reserved Grandstand: All Sections, Saturday, August 28, 8:00 p.m. @ \$5.00

No. _____ Total _____

Reserved Grandstand: All Sections, Sunday, August 29, 2:00 p.m. @ \$5.00

No. _____ Total _____

Mail check or money order to Motorcycle Races, Indiana State Fair, State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, Indiana 46205. Please enclose self addressed, stamped envelope.

DO NOT WRITE HERE

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

McClusky

HOOSIER HUNDRED—Saturday, September 11

QUALIFICATIONS 11:00 AM • RACES 2:00 PM
100 MILE USAC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP DIRT RACE

Fast
Rin

Reserved Grandstand: All Sections @ \$8.00

No. _____ Total _____

Uncovered Grandstand: @ \$7.00

No. _____ Total _____

General Admission: Sold Day of Race
Infield at \$4.00 children (12 and under when accompanied by an adult) \$1.00.

Mail check or money order to Hundred, Indiana State Fair, State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, Indiana 46205. Please enclose self addressed, stamped envelope.

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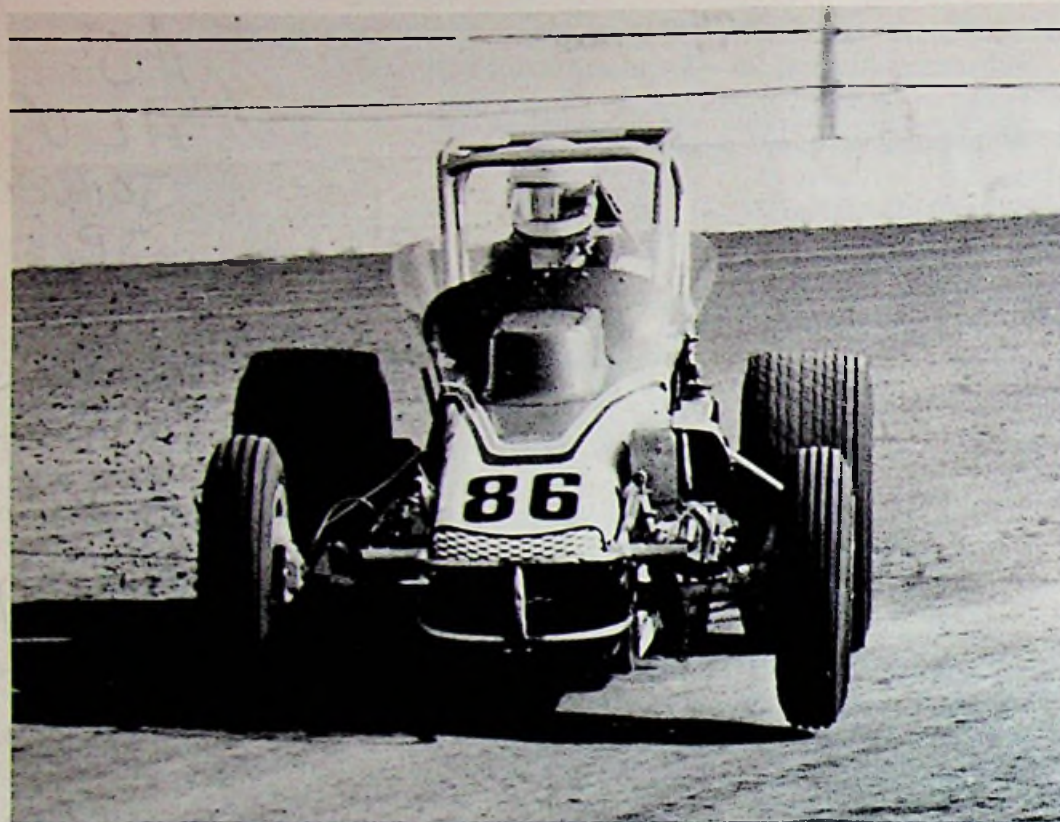
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Address _____

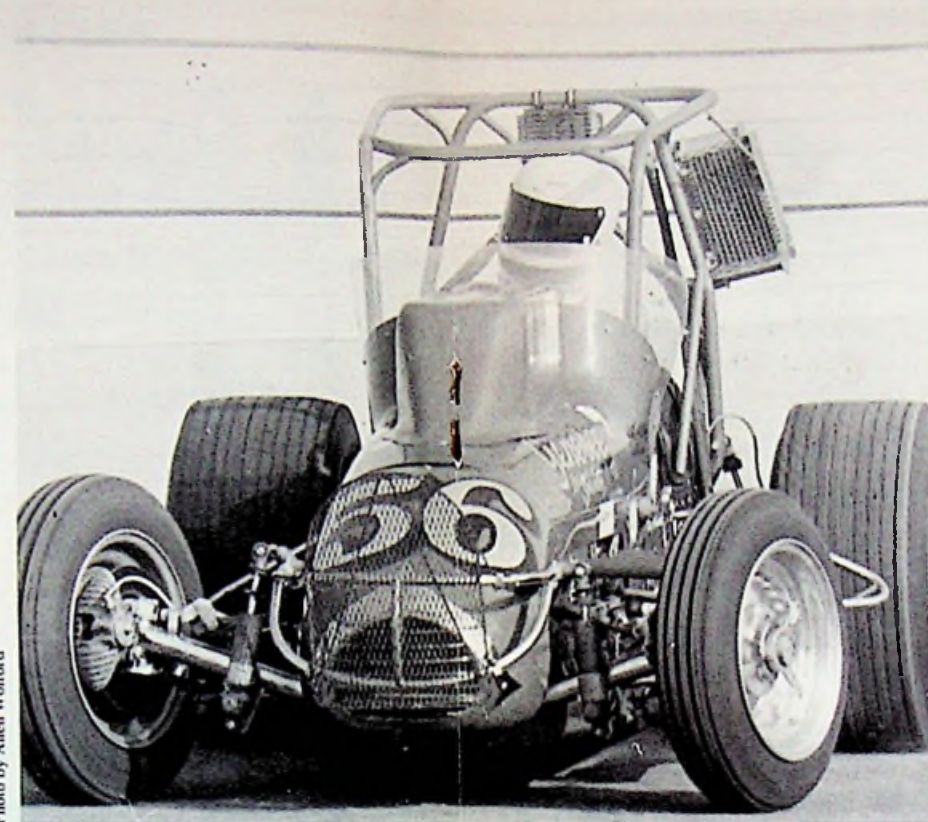
City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

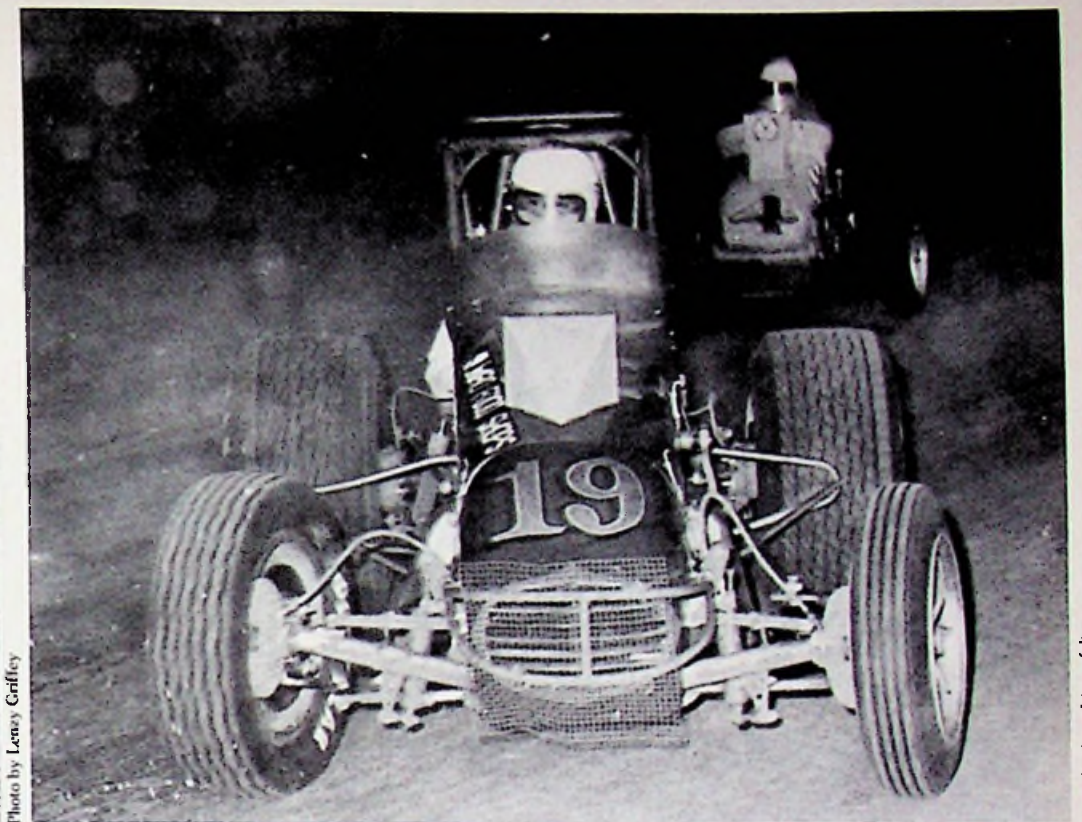
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 1976 HOOSIER SPRINTS



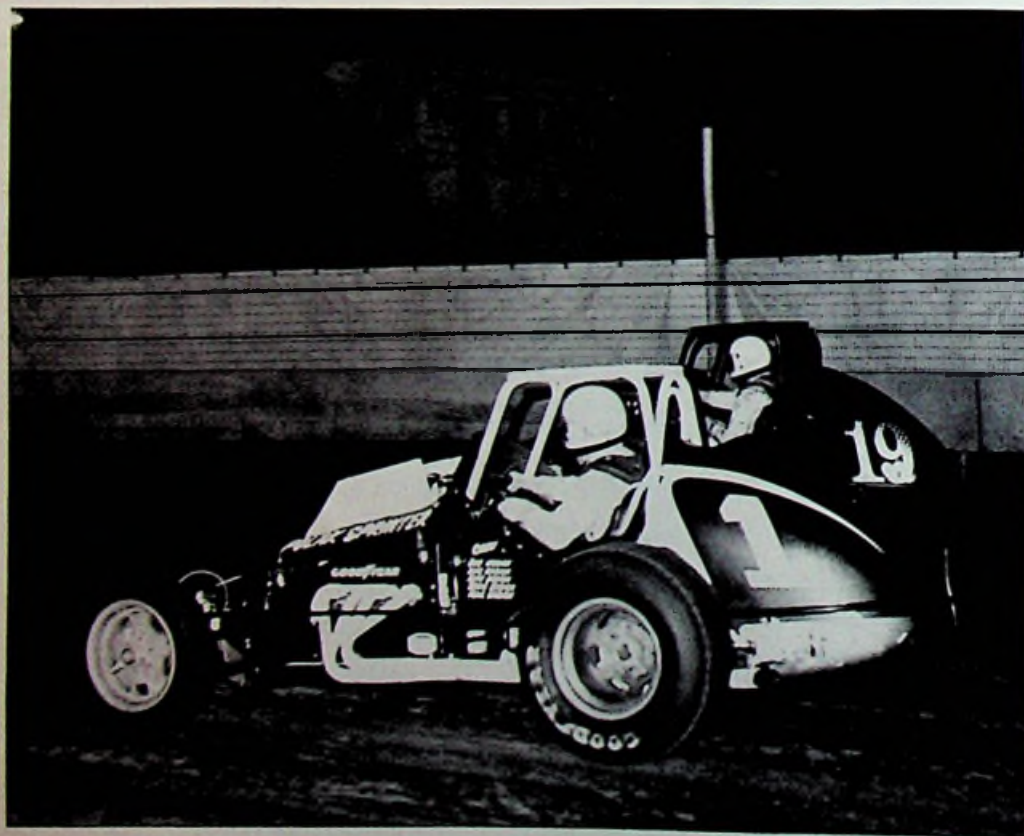
Bobby Olivero in the Morales Brothers Tamale Wagon. This famous car is mechaniced by former sprint driver Johnny Capels.



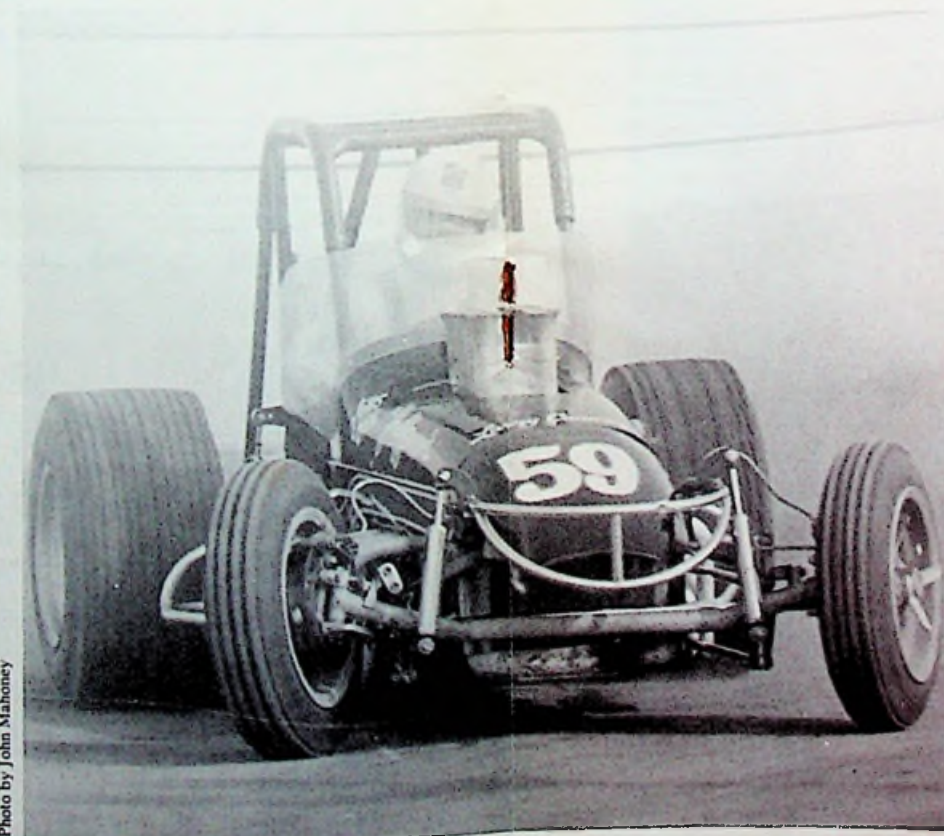
Sheldon Kinser in the Dick Hammond owned Genesee Beer Wagon.



Brothers Carter, Dana in the No. 19 Linsmeyer Special and Pancho in the Dobbins Chevrolet Co. No. 4 owned by Steve Stapp and John Conger.



Larry Dickson in the No. 1 Polak Sprinter battling with Dana Carter.



Larry Cannon in the Hoffman Car out of Cincinnati, Ohio.



Olivero in close competition with Gary Gray in the Rufus Gray No. 83 and an unidentified car.

Time-Speed Conversion Table For One Mile Dirt Track

TIME	SPEED	TIME	SPEED	TIME	SPEED
33.00.....	109.091	35.00.....	102.857	37.00.....	097.297
33.10.....	108.761	35.10.....	102.564	37.10.....	097.035
33.20.....	108.434	35.20.....	102.273	37.20.....	096.774
33.30.....	108.108	35.30.....	101.983	37.30.....	096.515
33.40.....	107.784	35.40.....	101.695	37.40.....	096.257
33.50.....	107.463	35.50.....	101.408	37.50.....	096.000
33.60.....	107.143	35.60.....	101.124	37.60.....	095.745
33.70.....	106.825	35.70.....	100.840	37.70.....	095.491
33.80.....	106.509	35.80.....	100.559	37.80.....	095.238
33.90.....	106.195	35.90.....	100.279	37.90.....	094.987
34.00.....	105.882	36.00.....	100.000	38.00.....	094.737
34.10.....	105.572	36.10.....	099.723	38.10.....	094.488
34.20.....	105.263	36.20.....	099.448	38.20.....	094.241
34.30.....	104.956	36.30.....	099.174	38.30.....	093.995
34.40.....	104.651	36.40.....	098.901	38.40.....	093.750
34.50.....	104.348	36.50.....	098.630	38.50.....	093.506
34.60.....	104.046	36.60.....	098.361	38.60.....	093.264
34.70.....	103.746	36.70.....	098.093	38.70.....	093.023
34.80.....	103.448	36.80.....	097.826	38.80.....	092.784
34.90.....	103.152	36.90.....	097.561	38.90.....	092.545

The TEE PEES

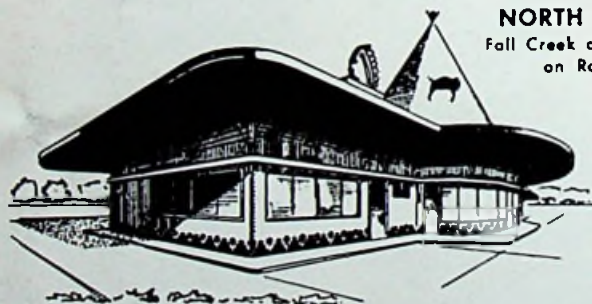
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DRIVERS BLAZE TRAIL THROUGH 1975 USAC SPRINT CIRCUIT

By Bill Hill

INDIANAPOLIS—The United States Auto Club's "Thunder and Lightning" sprint car division lived up to its nickname in 1975 as "Lightning Larry" Dickson won the title and Rollie Beale "thundered" through for a league leading six victories and a close second in the final tally.

Third Title

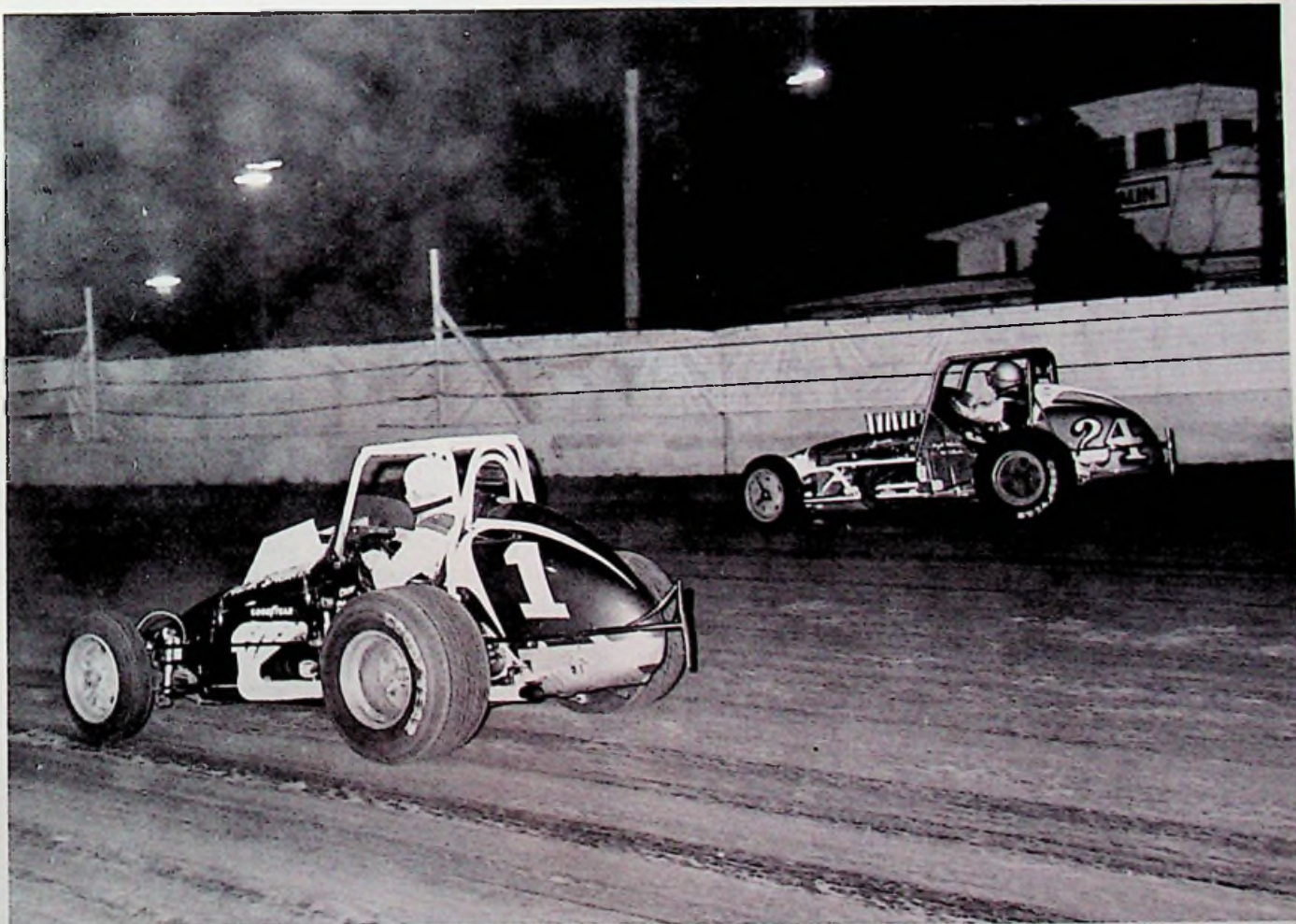
For Dickson it was an unprecedented third USAC sprint car title bringing his career from the depths of despair, a place it had been ten months earlier.

Dickson didn't do it alone however. . . . Nice guy Ernie Ensign provided a Leffler built Chevy powered, "Torsion Bar" sponsored machine that ran like a Swiss watch under the touch of his wrenches. Together this fine combination won five features.

This crown gives the 37-year-old "Lightning Man" another chance at the Indianapolis 500, a race he has qualified for five times but never since 1971. On the road to his diadem Larry's five wins also put him far ahead on the all-time sprint victory hit parade with 40.

The race for the championship was in doubt right up to the final program of the year and could have been even closer had Beale and his car owners, the brothers Kilman, run a few more races. As it was Rollie's six main event triumphs put him third on the all-time list with 31.

For the more statistically minded a total of 29 programs were run which produced 34 features. A better mix this season than in years past showed with 18 on-pavement races and 16 on dirt. A total of



Dickson locked in combat with Gary Bettenhausen.

Photo by John Maloney

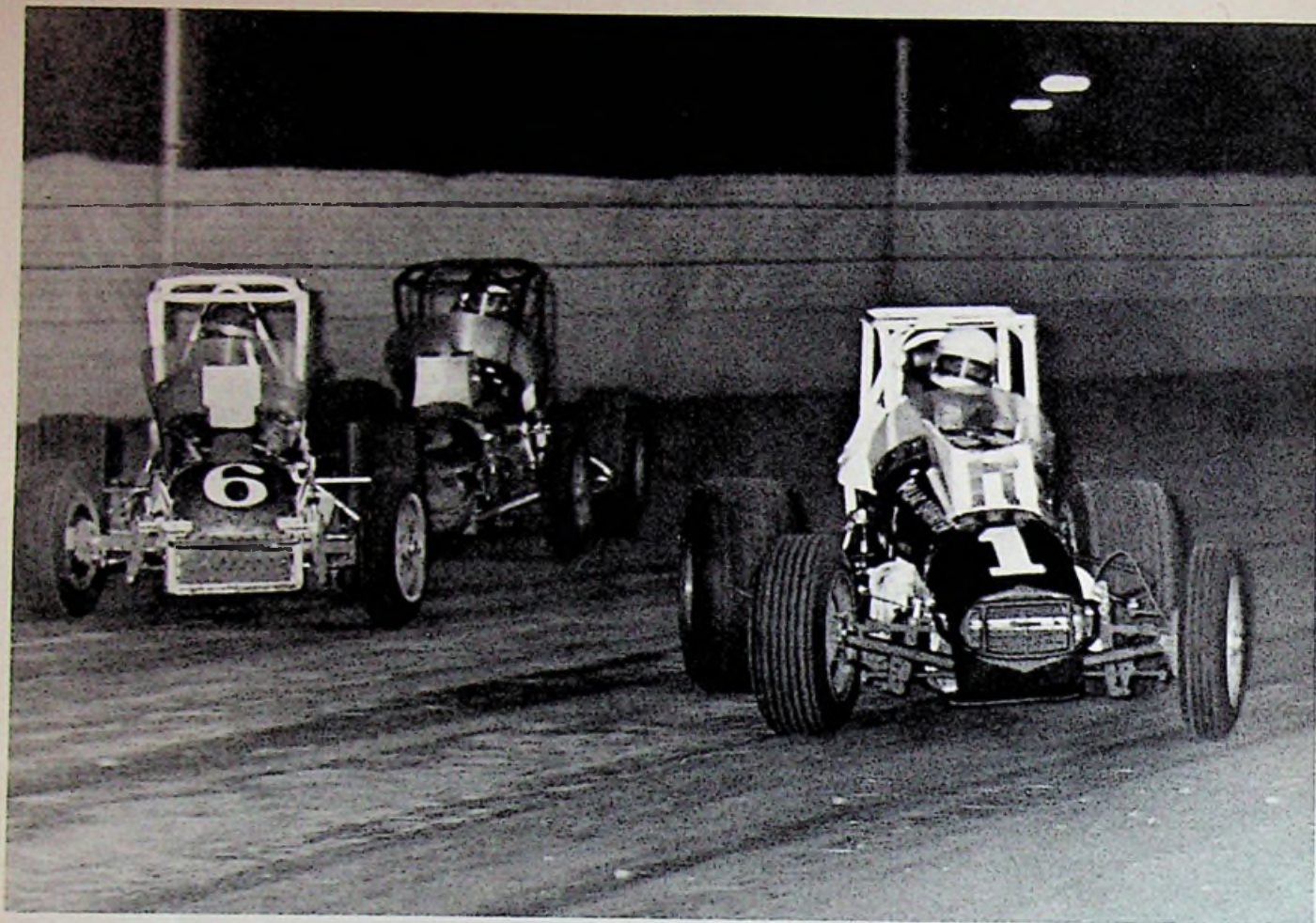


Photo by Troaty Heck

Dickson fighting it out with Bruce Walkup No. 4 and Billy Cassella in No. 3.

eight drivers won on both surfaces which shows USAC sprint car pilots as the most proficient of all.

Billy Cassella finished third in points followed by "Pancho" Carter, Tom Bigelow, Bruce Walkup, Joe Saldana, Sam Sessions, Sheldon Kinser and George Snider.

Many Winners

Everyone in the top ten won at least one feature as 15 drivers including three first timers scored main event victories.

Dickson opened the season by winning for the seventh time in his career at Reading, Pa. then watched Rossburg, Ohio (Eldora Speedway) get snowed out the next weekend.

Another stop at Reading was next and Fred Linder won his first USAC feature in the J. T. Engines special after a stirring duel with Saldana. "Lil Joe" did become the new point leader.

Back to Rossburg and it was Bigelow, the Wisconsin strongman, in the Weaver No. 2 taking the victory as Linder flipped violently six or seven times without injury. Shortly afterwards Linder left USAC to return to his more lucrative open-competition ways.

The "Hills" of Winchester and Salem, Ind. were up

next and Dickson won the former with Sessions and the L. G. Hamilton Co. No. 9 taking the latter.

From there the troupe moved on to the Terre Haute "Action Track" and the nationally televised "Tony Hulman Classic." Carter won that one in the Dobbins Chevrolet No. 1 and appeared to be on the road to his second straight title. "Pancho" also became the fifth different driver in five races to win this prestigious event and take home the biggest portion of the \$34,000 purse. Jim McElreath was injured during the main putting him out for most of the year.

Lee Osborne then notched his first pavement victory as he won the "Indy Sprints" at Indianapolis Raceway Park before an SRO crowd. Lee was driving the Stauffer Const. No. 81. John Lucas suffered hand injuries in a crash that kept him out for a while.

SRO Crowd

Beale then won before another SRO crowd as the USAC sprints made their first appearance at Millstream Speedway in Findlay, Ohio. This was followed by the annual "Twin 50's" on the mile at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Sharing the \$17,500 purse was Saldana in the Amerling No. 16 and

Snider in the Elder Cadillac No. 55. Larry ("Boom-Boom") Cannon boomed end for end a few times in the first 50 and broke his lower back.

Terre Haute was revisited and Saldana won as six drivers led a total of nine times. Gary Bettenhausen then ended a win drought which started 12 months earlier with his accident at Syracuse, N.Y. by winning the 40-lapper at Illiana Speedway in Sherville, Ind. Finishing second to G. B. and his Miller Plating/Ben's Tire Clinic No. 4 was Snider. Dave Gable was unhurt in a flip.

Up to this point Dickson had been the only repeater in 12 programs. That's when Beale decided to go on a three feature binge which included Rossburg, Winchester and IRP. In doing so he pulled up close to point leader Saldana who had retaken first place when Carter fell on evil times. Larry Rice, subbing in the Kershner Steel No. 18, did a magnificent job for second at IRP.

Action moved east for the next program which was at Reading. This one lasted until the milkmen came out and Osborne won again. Lee was to last with USAC another six weeks or so before he too headed for more lucrative places.

Cassella and the Donohoo Chevrolet Co. No. 29 then won Rossburg before Dickson nailed down Toledo-Ohio and Beale repeated at Winchester. For Billy it was his first USAC dirt victory, for Larry his first ever win in the "Glass City" and for Rollie his first checker during an "Old Timers" program. The Winchester show was costly as both Snider and Gordy Lee was hurt. It may have cost George the championship as he was leading in points at the time. Dickson, however, was unscathed in a Rossburg tumble.

August dawned with Bettenhausen winning career sprint race number 33 at Terre Haute in Willie Davis' No. 24. This was also Gary's seventh sprint victory at the "Action Track." The next weekend it was pavement and dirt back to back with Kinser winning Illiana in the Genesee Beer No. 56 and Sessions taking the main event at Findlay. Sheldon and Sam also each had a second. Jimmy Caruthers was not injured in a flip at Illiana.

Double Header

A double header at New Bremen, Ohio made up a July rainout. Walkup in the Longhorn Racers No. 48 and Dickson were victorious. For Bruce it was his first New Bremen win but for Larry it was his fifth.

Twin features were on tap two weeks later at the Minnesota State Fair in St. Paul. Bigelow and Saldana took home the lion's share of the spoils. Both were in different cars than when they won their earlier races. Tom had returned to the Elder Cadillac Co./Junior Knepper No. 55 and Joe was in the Siebert Oldsmobile Co. No. 3.

Greg Leffler in the Larry Davis No. 69 became 1975's second first time winner as he won at Illiana. A three-week layoff set the stage for Bigelow's first

ever win at Terre Haute as Carter did the supposed impossible by breaking Johnny Rutherford's 10-year-old one lap mark. Carter then won Salem to make it two "James-O'Connor Memorial" victories in a row.

Controversy

Going down the homestretch it was Beale and Dickson sharing the "Twin 50's" at Rossburg before a huge crowd. Newcomer Marvin Carman then won both ends of a similar show at Winchester in Max Dowker's roadster and started another controversy. Should roadsters be banned? Actually it was the first time a roadster has won against the uprights in many a year. If you want to beat them schedule more dirt races. Lost in the hassle was the fact that Dowker had the car running and handling beautifully and Carman did an outstanding job of driving. Jeff Bloom finished second in the first half driving the Roberts Roadster but succumbed to mechanical problems in the second.

The season ended a long way from home a few weeks later—in Birmingham, Ala. Forced to return after a rainout Bigelow scored victory number four which added to his three dirt wins made for a fine year. Rice again finished second this time driving the Aviators No. 98.



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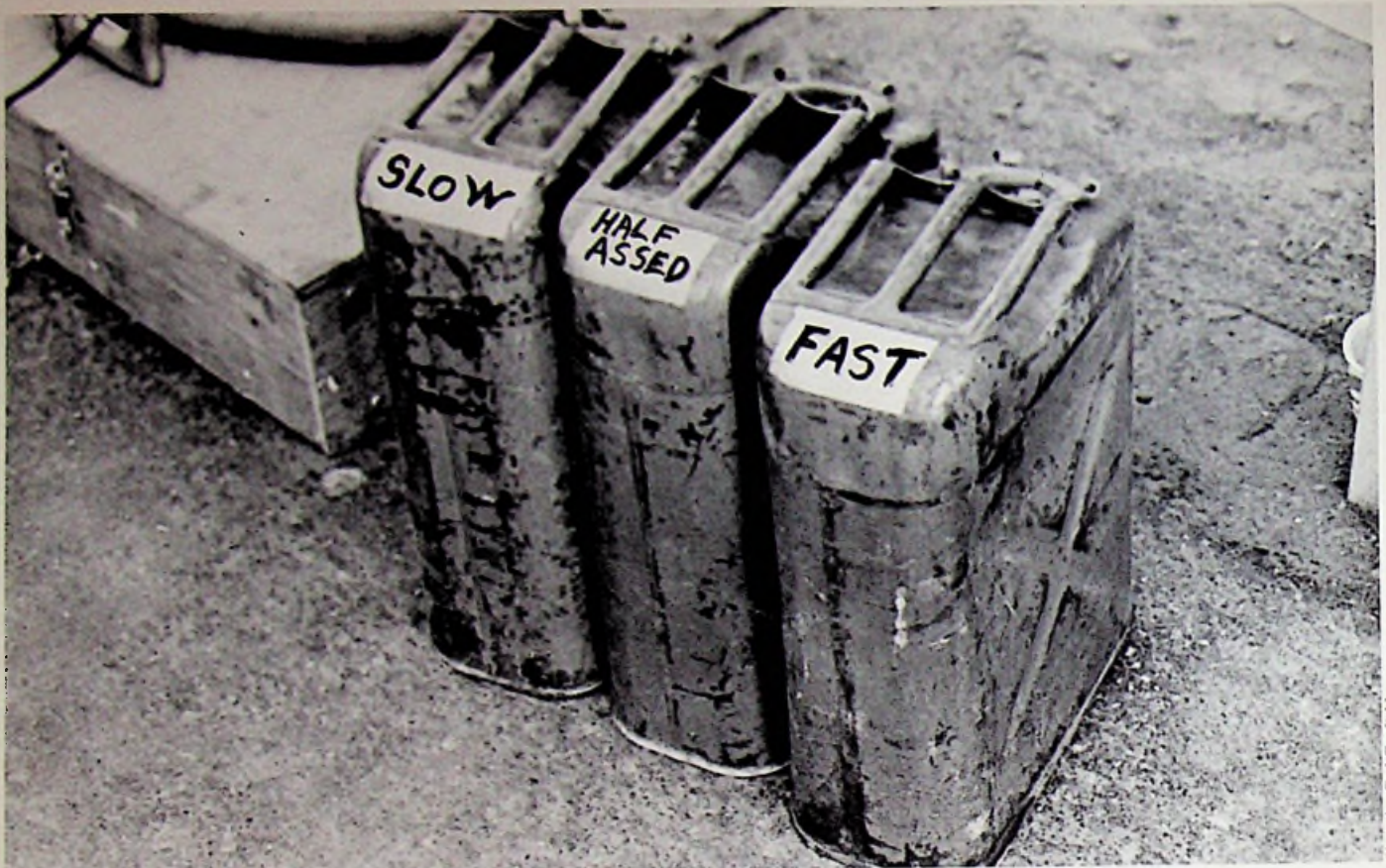


Photo by Carl Canfield

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Wild Hoosier Sprint To Dickson-Carter

By Bill Shand

REPRINTED FROM THE NATIONAL SPEED SPORT NEWS

INDIANAPOLIS—The Larry and Gary Show Plus One returned to the USAC sprint division Friday night as the twice rained out Hoosier Sprints put on another fine program that was a thriller from start to finish.

'NEW STAR'

The new star of the Larry-Gary Show '76 is Duane (Pancho) Carter, heir apparent to the Foyt mystique. The 1974 sprint king took the opening 50 lap race after a tough fight with Gary Bettenhausen and was running away with the nightcap until half brother Johnny Parsons spun in turn three.

"Panch" found no place to go when he arrived on the scene on the 36th lap and slammed into Parsons' Jones Radiator Chevy taking himself out of first place and out for the rest of the night. Also involved in the tangle were Mack McClellan and Ron Rea.

This gave the lead to Gary Bettenhausen's

City of Syracuse car, a lead that was soon to be challenged by his old rival, Larry Dickson.

Round and round the two leaders sped, swapping the lead each time they came into turn one. First Dickson, then Bettenhausen got the edge on the low groove to take the lead.

On the 48th lap Dickson charged into number one, low, and Gary tried to squeeze in even lower twixt him and the inside rail. His mount jerked to the right as his left front wheel made contact with the rail and Bettenhausen became a whirling dervish, spinning crazily across the track coming to rest along the outer concrete wall.

CROWD REACTS

As the race ended under caution the crowd became livid, showering Dickson with boos that could have been heard all the way to Dickson's home town of Marietta, Ohio. As soon as they were let onto the track they surrounded him, the beginning of an angry mob.



Larry Dickson receiving the fast time trophy from Act I Modeling Agency trophy queen Sharon Arndt.

Photo by Steve Langenfelter



Photo by Bill Riser

Pancho Carter receiving his award for winning the first 50. With him are trophy queen Sharon Arndt and announcer Bob Forbes.

It was only when Bettenhausen joined Dickson on the stage and the two drivers started kidding each other that they settled down.

"We never made contact," Dickson said afterwards. "—t got real close at the end: what am I supposed to do, give him the race and forget about it?"

"It's just like old times," Bettenhausen told the crowd over the P.A., and then he and Dickson began kidding each other about the incident in turn one.

Bettenhausen played a starring role in both races. In the opener he battled it out with Pancho Carter before finishing second to the second generation speedster.

And, as in the nightcap, it looked like he had been cheated out of a victory in this one as well. After challenging Carter all through the race he finally got around him coming out of turn two, but unfortunately the yellow came out for Mike Schiesel's wall banging and he had to go back to second. There was some question as to whether or not Gary had passed Pancho under the yellow, but still, second he was, and second he stayed.

TWO STOPS

The opener was red flagged twice for two serious accidents in turns three and four.

Sleepy Tripp, Jackie Howerton, Bob Harkey, and Jack Hewitt were involved in the first mishap that saw Tripp and Howerton flip violently tearing their cars to pieces. Harkey was especially upset with Tripp saying he just drove right into him.

That accident occurred on the fifth lap. On the 15th lap the red flew again when Jack Hewitt did an endo in turn three flipping some six or eight times before landing upright. Earlier Hewitt did a brilliant job of driving to come from 19th in the semi-final to take fifth, moving himself into the first feature.

Chuck Gurney and Sheldon Kinser also performed well in the nightcap. Gurney finishing second from 14th, and Kinser, who went out of the first race on the opening lap, coming back to finish fifth, after starting 19th.

While Pancho and Gary Bettenhausen ran away from everyone in the second race, Pancho's younger brother Dana Carter kept the fans' interest up as he and Bruce Walkup battled for third. Both eventually faded after a 16 lap duel.

Dana blew the engine in the Linsmeyer car trailing white smoke all around the speedway, finally retiring on lap 46. The next time around it was all over for Walkup as he, too, pulled in.

Despite the wild action in both races the only injuries were a damaged knee for Aaron Capps who got involved in a five car tangle in warm-ups, and back and shoulder hurts for midget champ Sleepy Tripp in the first race. Capps was treated at the hospital and released.

Larry Dickson set fast time in the Polak Sprinter at 35.655. Sheldon Kinser won the semi.

The top five in each 50 lap race were: Carter, Bettenhausen, Dickson, Jan Opperman, and Billy Cassella in the opener, and Dickson, Chuck Gurney, Bill Engelhart, Joe Saldana, and Kinser in the finale.

A crowd of 6,500 contributed to a \$16,000 purse that was spiced with an additional \$1,000 in lap prize money.

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Dickson receiving his trophy for winning the second 50 from Miss Arndt and Mr. Forbes.

Photo by Bill Reiser

MORE FROM THE 1976 HOOSIER SPRINTS

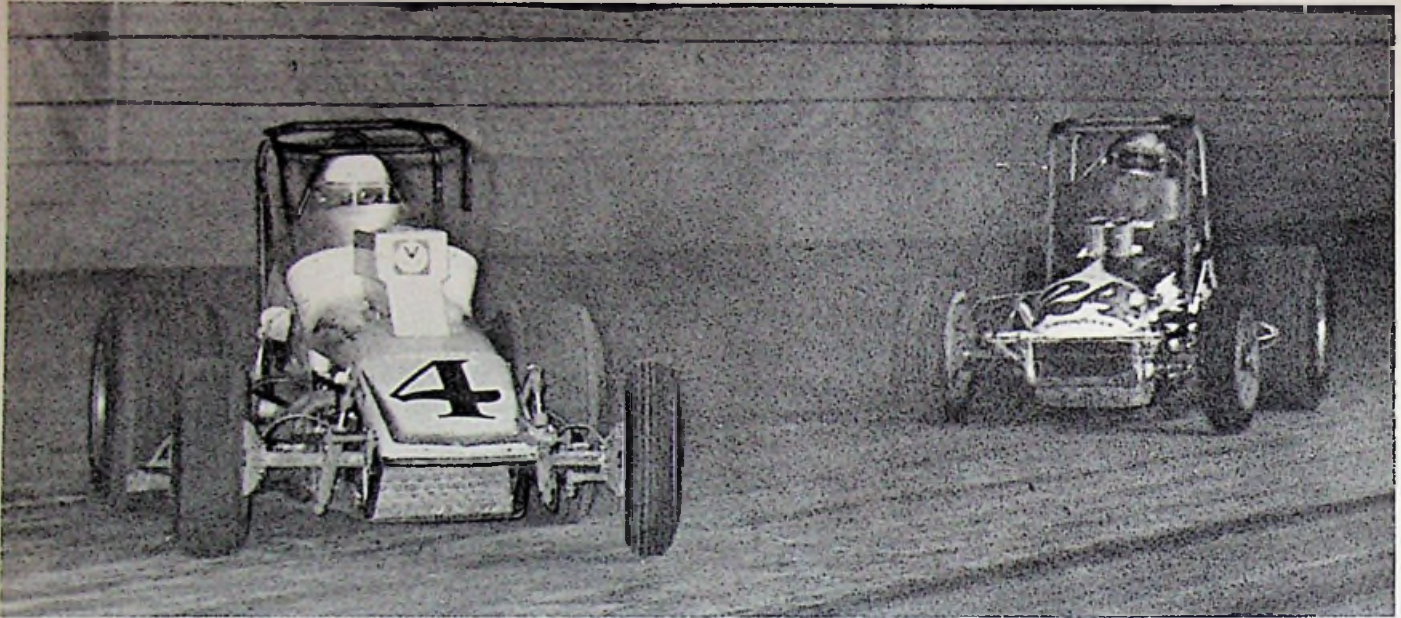


Photo by Troy Heck

Pancho Carter and Gary Bettenhausen dirt tracking it in the first 50.

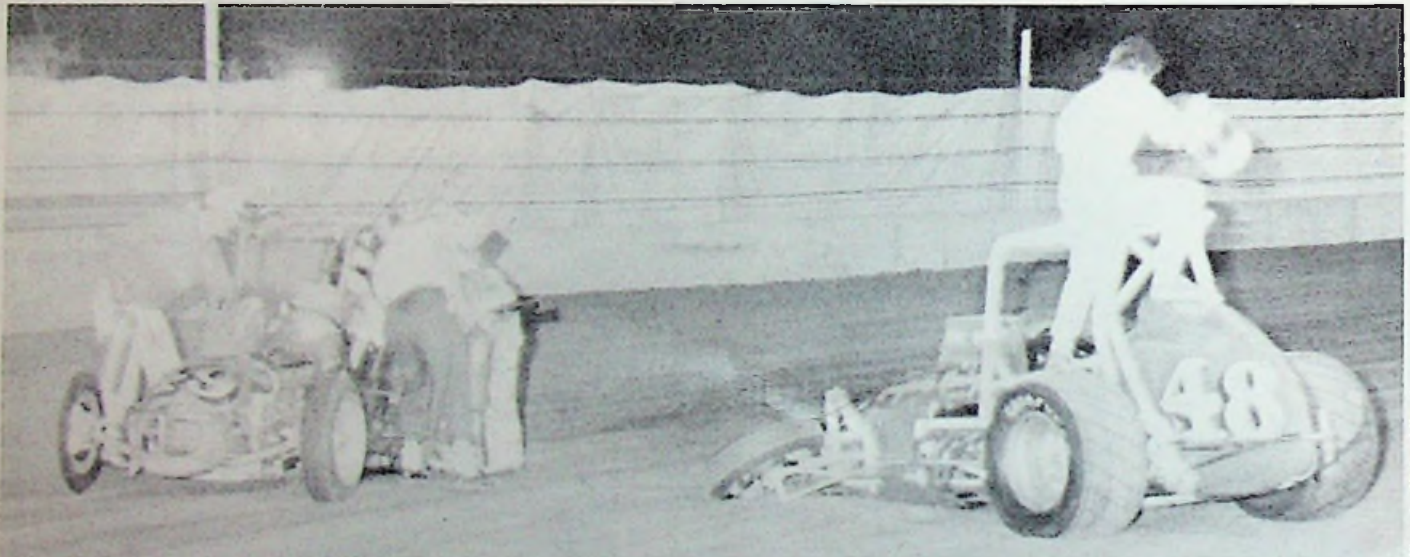


Photo by Richard Barnhouse

Bob Harkey in the No. 49 and Jackie Howerton in the No. 48 after their big first 50 crash with Sleepy Tripp.

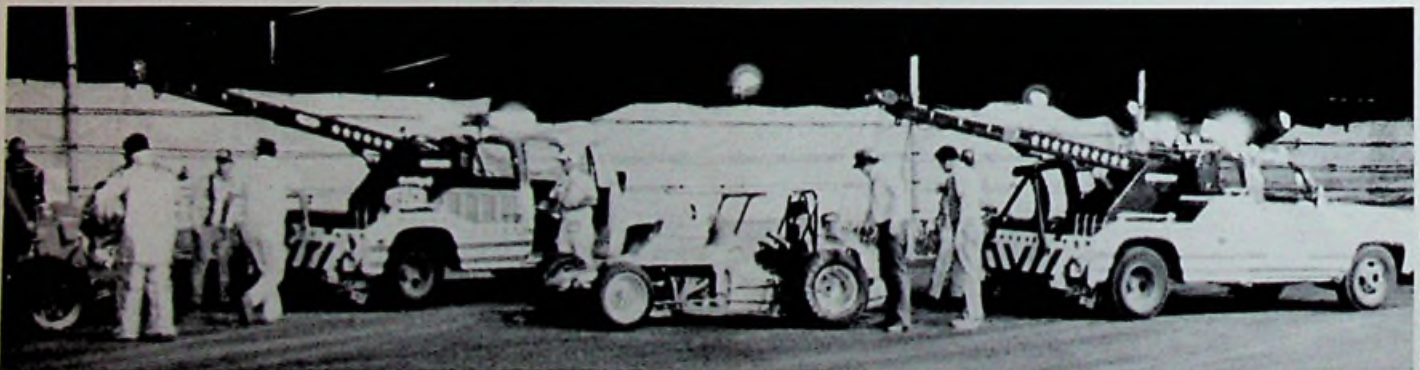


Photo by Richard Barnhouse

Pancho Carter's No. 4 and Mac McClellan's No. 78 about to be hauled in after a second 50 crash. Carter was in the lead at the time.

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MOTORRACING EVENTS BOTH PAST AND IN THE FUTURE AT THE INDIANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS



Photo by Lemzy Griffey

Last year's two indoor midget race feature winners Sleepy Tripp in No. 1 and Gary Bettenhausen No. 93.



Photo by Bob Kluesener

Eventual winner Tom Bigelow No. 2 and A. J. Foyt No. 14 who finished second doing battle during last year's "Hoosier Hundred."



Photo by Scattergood-Christie

The parade lap for this season's "Hoosier Hundred" will be held on Saturday afternoon, September 11. Ticket application blanks are available now.



Photo by Vern Plotts

Gene Romero during last season's AMA National Championship Motorcycle Race program on the mile. This year an unprecedented double national, Saturday night, August 28 and Sunday afternoon, August 29, will be run.

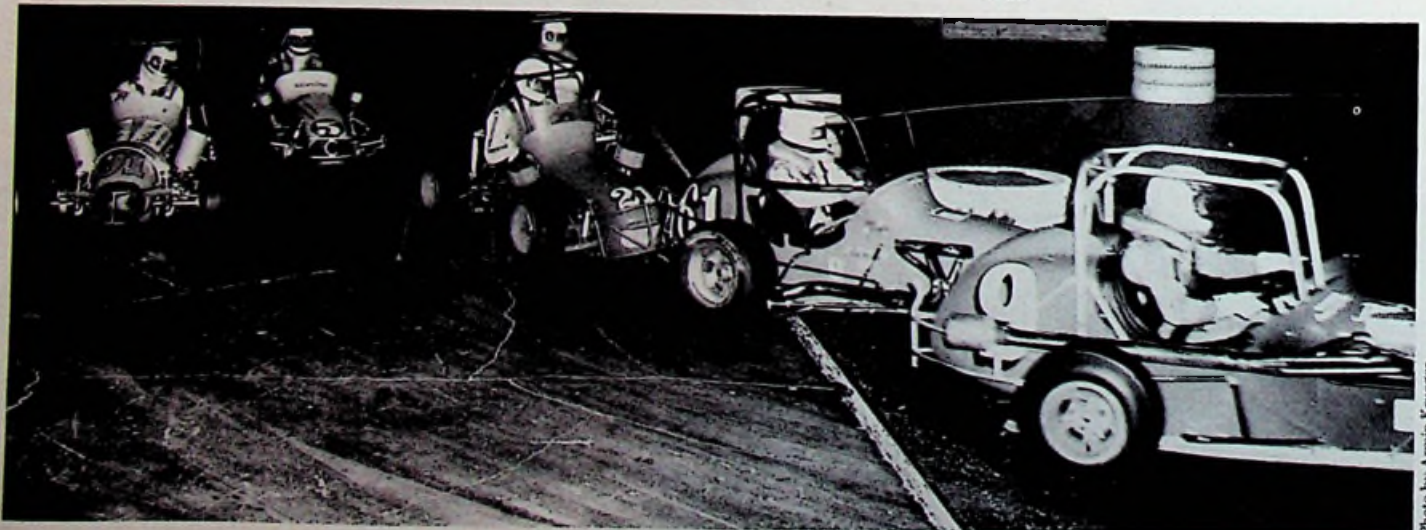


Photo by Armin Krueger

USAC indoor midget racing as seen here will be back on the schedule for the Indiana State Fairgrounds Coliseum next February or March or whenever the snow flies.

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