

Official Program '74

Terre Haute Action Track

4th TONY HULMAN CLASSIC



APRIL 14, 1974

AUTOGRAPHS



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Editor's Note: Pete Johnson, Art Director of WTHI-TV has been responsible for all Action Track Art Work, including Program Covers for the last 6 years. Pete's excellent work stems from a professional art background as well as a love for the sport of auto racing.

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"1973 in Review"

by JOHN A. FUGATE

Another year of racing is upon us, but let's pause a moment and reflect on the 1973 "Action Track" racing season.

Leading off the year was the third annual "Tony Hulman Classic." This event is known far and wide as the greatest sprint car race in the world. "A.B.C. Wide World of Sports" was again on hand to televise the proceedings to millions of viewers across the United States.

Everyone was there, including a very familiar figure in white uniform and red handkerchief across the lower part of the old style, open faced helmet. You almost couldn't believe it when track announcer Bob Forbes said, "Next out to qualify in the red #17 will be A. J. Foyt." He qualified at 24.92, way off the quick time of 23.57 set by Greg Weld, but A. J. Foyt was back in Terre Haute and the fans loved him for that alone.

Little Joe Saldana won the 40 lap feature. It was a very popular young man that was greeted in victory lane by the Weaver Excavating crew. Saldana, in his second year of USAC sprint car racing, is an odds on favorite to drive in the Indianapolis "500" some day.

Second place in the feature was taken by Rollie Beale who was to go on and capture the 1973 USAC sprint car driving title.

Because of the T.V. coverage the feature was run first. In the heat races Saldana took the first and Johnny Parsons beat Jim McElreath to the checker in the second. The third event found Mel Cornett in the only Offy here taste his first sprint car victory in USAC. The final heat was taken by Easterner Fred Linder after a duel with USAC regular Bill Puterbaugh. Larry Rice, who eventually won the 1973 USAC midget title, won the non-money winners race on Friday. So drivers if things don't look good at the beginning of the season hang in there, it just may get better.

The sprint cars and their loyal fans returned to the Wabash Valley Fairgrounds on June 9th, for the "Jim Hurtubise Classic." Hurtubise you may recall almost got the deed to this track after posting 5 sprint feature wins in a row back in the early 1960's.

Don Nordhorn set the fast time of the day at 23.91 in the red, white and blue Van Winkle sprinter.

Parsons, Charlie Masters, Cornett and west coast newcomer, Steve Chassey, won the heat races. Nord-

horn took home all the "goodies" in the semi-feature over two young men on the way up, Billy Engelhart and Duane Carter Jr.

The main event was captured by Cornett in that Offy, with Bruce Walkup, Nordhorn and former USAC sprint champ Larry Dickson trailing in that order. A lot is to be said for winning car owner, Ralph Wilke. He gave Cornett his first really good ride in a USAC sprint car and it paid off.

The final appearance of sprint car contingent took place on a very warm August 5th. Saldana was again the man to beat with 23.31 time on the clocks.

Only three heats were run. Beale, Carter and a man from the original "Larry & Gary Show" Gary Bettenhausen put their names in the record books as the winners.

Half brothers Carter and Parsons gave the fans a cardiac arrest with their wild flips. Both came out O.K. but Carter destroyed his Steve Stapp chevy after clearing the turn one outer rail like a hurdler. Parsons just ran over a wheel and went over on his top on the back stretch.

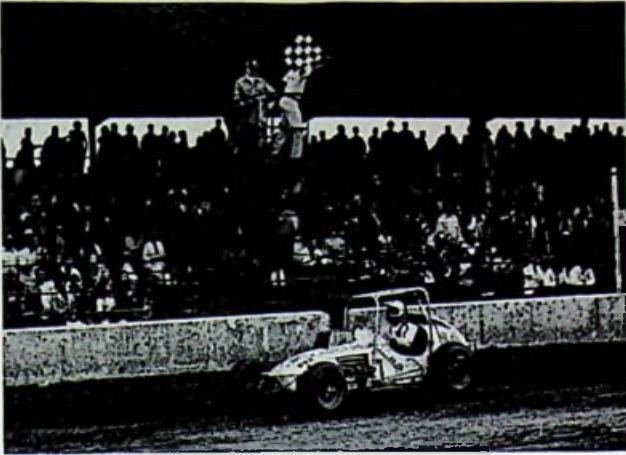
Defending USAC sprint champion Sam Sessions took the checker first for the victory in the 40 lap feature event.

On Sept. 23 the "Cast Iron Bull Fights" came to town in the form of the mighty midgets of USAC. It was the 20th running of the "Hut Hundred" at the Wabash Valley Fairgrounds. Tommy Astone, subbing for Jimmy Caruthers who was in Trenton, N.J., running champ cars, set the pace in time trials and won the trophy dash. He almost won the 100 lapper, but lost the lead on the last corner of the last lap to Engelhart. It was a very exciting race with George Snider and Engelhart discussing each others driving tactics after the event.

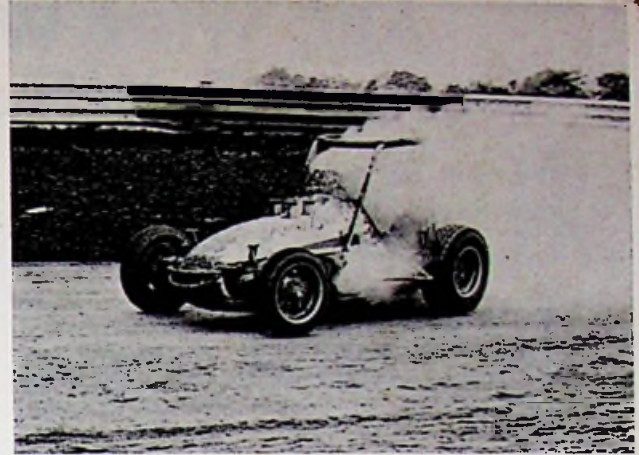
The only thing missing last year was that track announcer Bob Forbes didn't get water tossed at him but then I think we all had enough water in '73.

Even the motorcycles came in for their share of moisture but the National Championship event was finally run and Michigan's Rex Beauchamp, on a Harley-Davidson, won the thrilling main event over teammates Mert Lawhill and Dave Sehl.

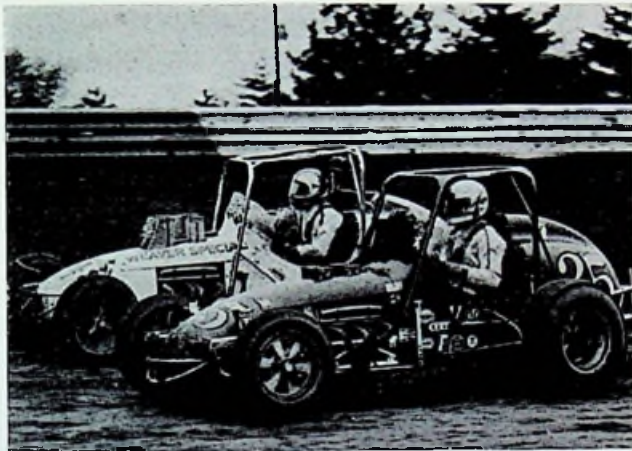
With this event the curtain came down on another great season at the "Action Track," and believe me it had plenty in 1973.



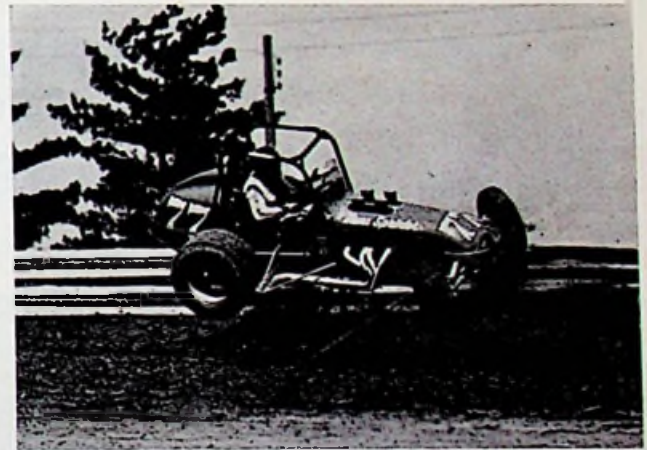
"Hulman Classic" victor in 1973 Joe Saldana receiving the checker for his win in the Lloyd Weaver Chevy.
 PHOTO BY SCATTERGOOD/CHRISTIE



Surprising enough this is Rollie Beale who finished second to Saldana in the 1973 "Hulman Classic." During the late stages of the event it didn't appear that Beale and his Ron Kilman Chevy would finish but they did.
 PHOTO BY TROTTY HECK



Another shot of Saldana this time dueling with Larry Dickson and the Easton Chevy (#25).
 PHOTO BY RAY ALTENSCHULTE



Jerry Mann backs it onto the fence during qualifications during the Saturday portion of last year's "Hulman Classic."
 PHOTO BY SCATTERGOOD/CHRISTIE

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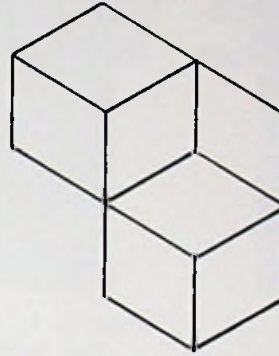
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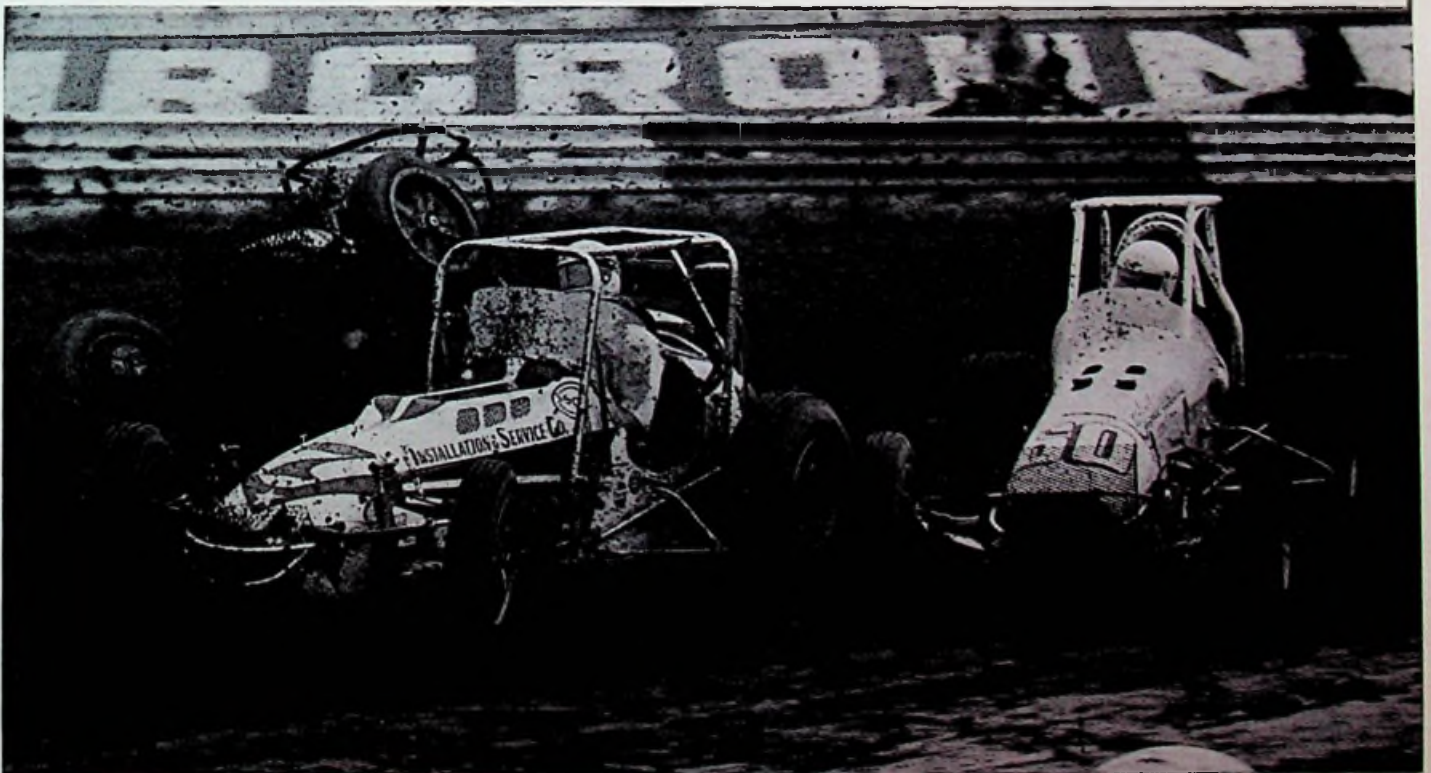
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During the running of the 1973 "Classic" feature event Greg Weld rode up over a wheel of Don Nordhorn and appeared to be on his way out of the park. He miraculously controlled it, however. Also pictured is Bruce Walkup (#60).

PHOTO BY JIM CHINI

ACTION TRACK FIRSTS

MOST OVERALL WINS 7
MOST STOCK WINS 3
ROGER McCLUSKEY



MOST SPRINT WINS 5
 In a row: 8-21-60; 6-11-61; 8-13-61;
 6-17-72; 8-12-62 (4 events in be-
 tween).
JIM HURTUBISE (5)



GARY BETTENHAUSEN
 (5)



MOST MIDGET WINS 3
BOB TATTERSALL



Most Sprint Wins in a Row: No
other event in between 10-12-52, 6-
18-53; 7-19-53.
JIMMY BRYAN



Longest Time Between Sprint Wins
7-20-52 and 8-17-58
TOMMY HINNERSHITZ



PAST HULMAN CLASSIC WINNERS

1971



GEORGE SNIDER
 Bakersfield, Calif.

1972



BRUCE WALKUP
 St. Paul, Ind.

1973



JOE SALDANA
 Lincoln, Neb.

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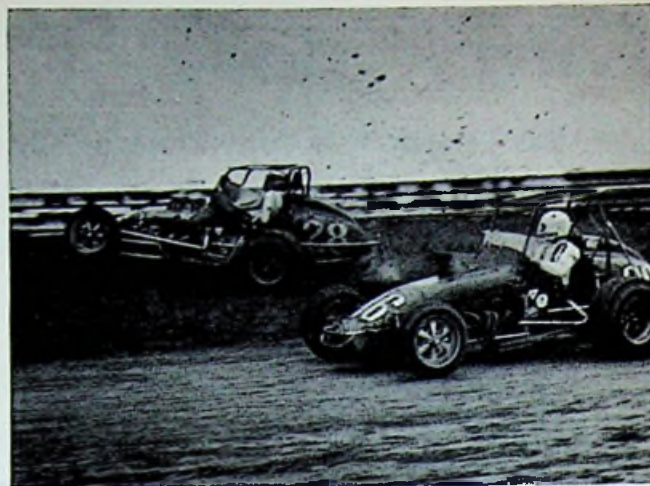
1300 on Your Dial
WAAC Radio



Bruce Walkup explains the finer points of Dirt Tracking to Jackie Stewart, ABC commentator — Hut 5/5/73.
PHOTO BY JOHN MAHONEY



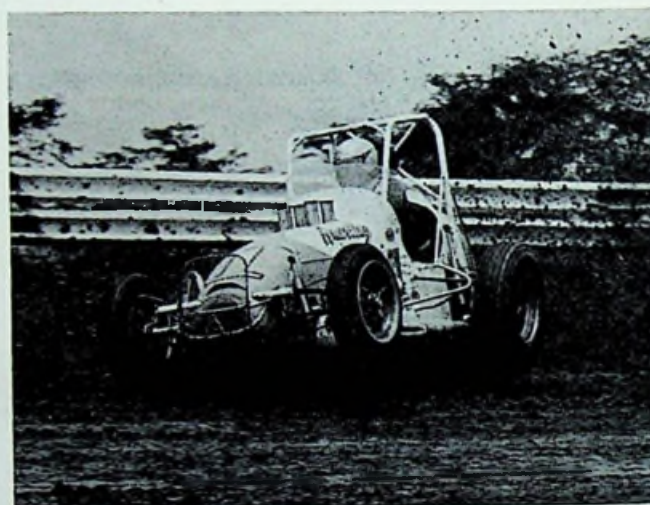
The "King", A. J. Foyt, making a rare appearance in a sprint car during the running of last year's "Classic" under the watchful eye of the ABC "Wide World of Sports" camera.
 PHOTO BY SCATTERGOOD/CHRISTIE



Sheldon Kinser (#28) heading for the fence and trying hard to avert the problem last year during the "Classic" main. He missed it as Johnny Toth watches.
 PHOTO BY LEW CLINE



Rich Leavell, sprint car rookie-of-the-year in 1973, showing you why he won the honor. This time he is on a qualifying run during last season's "Classic."
 PHOTO BY RICK LANE



1972 USAC sprint car titlist Sam Sessions in the Mauri Amerling #1 showing the "Hulman Classic" crowd why "Dirt-is-Beautiful."
 PHOTO BY "BRIZZ" BRIZZOLARA

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TIME..... NO. LAPS.....

Car No. Driver Start Finish

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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TIME.....

NO. LAPS.....

Car No.

Driver

Start

Finish

_____	_____	_____	_____
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Remember 1973 and our problem? We learned a lot from the sad experience. Pictured on the grader among others is Larry Dickson. Watching is Billy Shuman, Willie Davis, Mauri Amerling and A. J. Foyt. Larry said it handled like a truck.
PHOTO BY JOHN MAHONEY

REMAINING 1974 ACTION TRACK SCHEDULE

Sunday afternoon, June 2 USAC Stocks
 Sunday afternoon, July 28 USAC Stocks
 Tuesday afternoon (twilight)
 July 30 USAC Midgets
 Sunday afternoon, August 4 USAC Sprints
 Sunday afternoon, September 8
 (Hut Hundred) USAC Midgets

TICKET PRICES FOR REMAINING EVENTS

PLACE	JUNE STOCKS	FAIR STOCKS	FAIR SPRINTS	FAIR MIDGETS	HUT HUNDRED
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Box Seats	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$2.00 all seats	\$4.00
Reserved Bleachers	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00		\$4.00
Unreserved Bleachers	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00		\$3.50
				\$1.00 all infield	
Children — (unreserved bleachers, 12 and under)	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00		\$2.00
Infield	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00		\$3.00
Children — (infield, 12 and under)	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00		\$1.00

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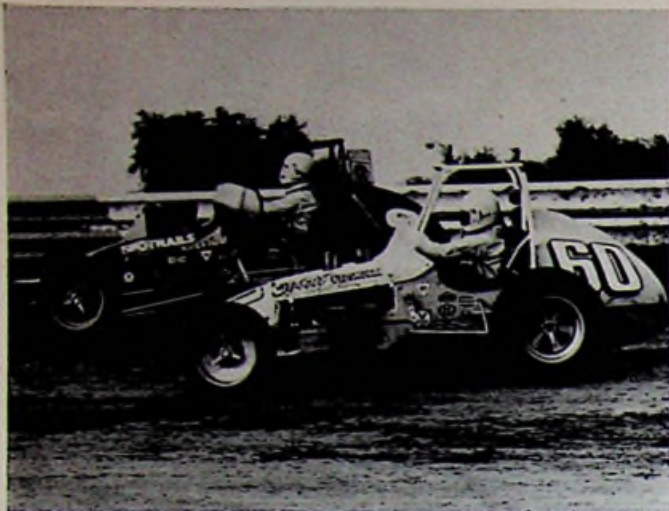
1973 "Hulman Classic" winner Joe Saldana working out in a new type machine with an aluminum tube frame.

PHOTO BY JOHN MAHONEY

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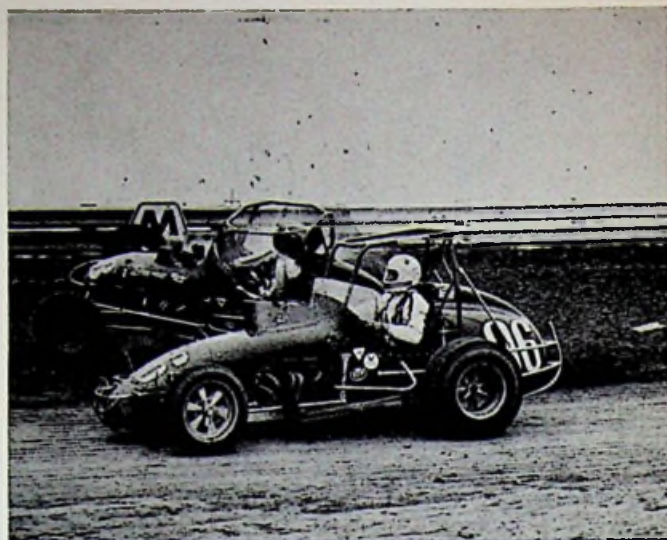
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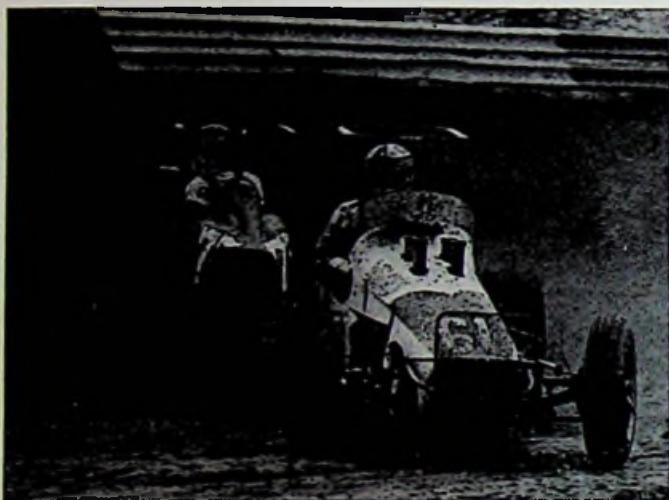
Crowd favorite Lee Kunzman and 1972 "Hulman Classic" victor Bruce Walkup during the '73 event.

PHOTO BY HARRY GOODE



Sheldon Kinser after colliding with Johnny Toth (#96). Toth finished the "Classic" and was named the rookie of the race.

PHOTO BY TROTTY HECK



Jim McElreath (#75) and Rich Leavell (#61) in a double spin. Leavell went on to become the 1973 USAC sprint division rookie of the year.

PHOTO BY JOHN MAHONEY



Joy Wilkerson, Actress, Racer, Host of own TV Show, Lecturer.

PHOTO BY ANTHONY CARDOZA



Wheel-to-wheel sprint car racing like this is commonplace at the "Action Track". Shown here is Billy Koepfer leading Jerry Nemire, Lee Kunzman (#3) and Larry "Boom-Boom" Cannon (#5).

PHOTO BY JOHN KOZY

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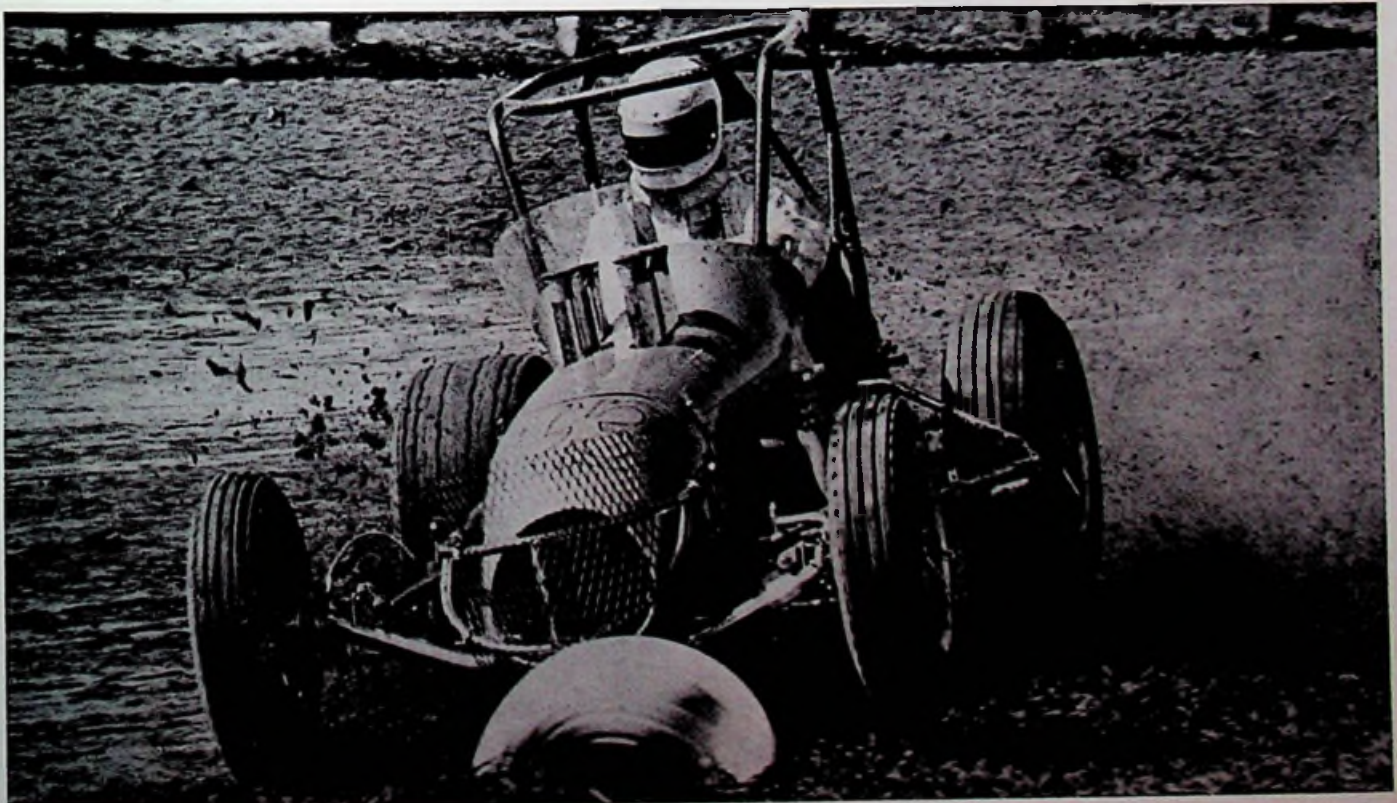
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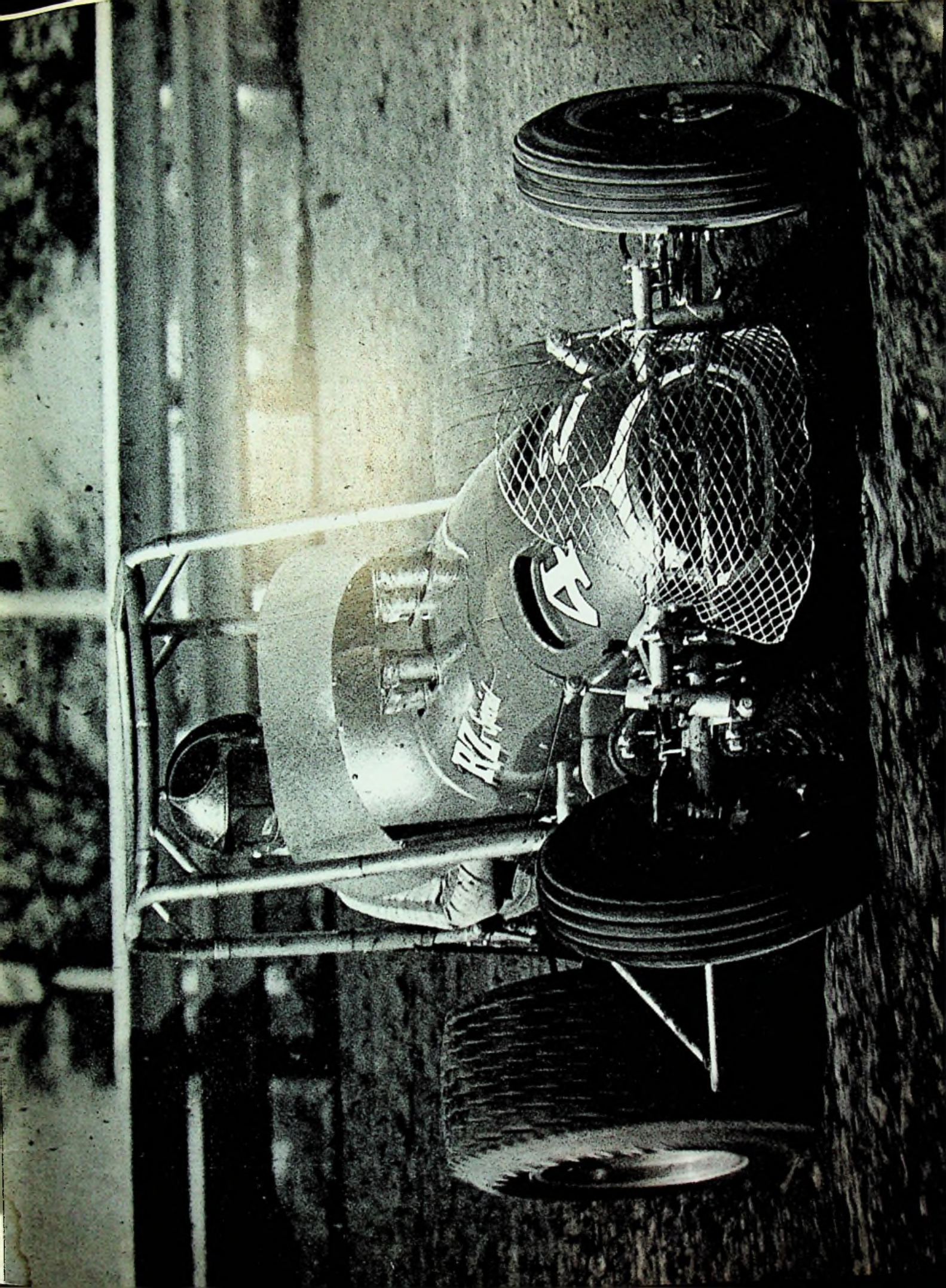
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Duane "Pancho" Carter 5 tiring it through a corner during the 1973 "Hulman Classic."
PHOTO BY STEVE LINGENFELTER



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1974 TONY HULMAN CLASSIC

Entry List

CAR #	DRIVER	ADDRESS	CAR NAME	TIMES
1.	ROLLIE BEALE	Toledo, Ohio	Rodeo Bar Chevy	_____
2.	GEORGE SNIDER	Bakersfield, Cal.	Ben's Tire Clinic Chevy	_____
3.	DON NORDHORN	Evansville, Ind.	Leffler Chevy	_____
4.	BRUCE WALKUP	St. Paul, Ind.	Siebert Oldsmobile Co. Chevy	_____
5.	SAM SESSIONS	Nashville, Mich.	Amerling Chevy	_____
6.	DUANE CARTER JR.	Huntington Beach, Cal.	Dobbins Chevy	_____
10.	JOE SALDANA	Brownsburg, Ind.	Smith Speed Shop Chevy.	_____
11.	A. J. FOYT	Houston, Texas	Foyt Chevrolet Co. Chevy	_____
12.	DUKE COOK	Speedway, Ind.	S & L Truck Stop Chevy	_____
14.	JERRY NEMIRE	Toledo, Ohio	Weaver Chevy	_____
20.	SHELDON KINSER	Bloomington, Ind.	McIntire Chevrolet Co. Chevy	_____
21.	CHUCK BOOTH	Speedway, Ind.	Booth Chevy	_____
24.	GARY BETTENHAUSEN	Monrovia, Ind.	Thermo-King Chevy	_____
25.	JACKIE HOWERTON	Speedway, Ind.	Easton Chevy	_____
27.	MERLE BETTENHAUSEN	Indianapolis, Ind.	Lehmann Chevy	_____
28.	CHUCK MOSLEY	Lapel, Ind.	Watson Chevy	_____
29.	BILLY CASSELLA	Wintersville, Ohio	Seymour Enterprises Chevy	_____
31.	JESSE PLUMMER	Indianapolis, Ind.	Plummer Chevy	_____
32.			Ranch House Lounge Chevy	_____

Welcome Home



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1974 TONY HULMAN CLASSIC

Entry List

CAR #	DRIVER	ADDRESS	CAR NAME	TIMES
33.	BUTCH WILKERSON	Columbus, Ind.	Jones Chevy	_____
34.	CHARLIE MASTERS	Waddy, Ky.	Siebert Oldsmobile Co. Chevy	_____
36.			Wergland Chevy	_____
38.	GORDY LEE	Indianapolis, Ind.	Hodson Chevy	_____
41.	JOHNNY PARSONS	Speedway, Ind.	Kerchner Structural Steel Chevy	_____
49.	JACK POWELL	Covington, Ind.	B & J Chevy	_____
51.	BILLY ENGELHART	Madison, Wis.	Koehler Chevy	_____
55.	TOM BIGELOW	Whitewater, Wis.	Elder Cadillac Co. Chevy	_____
59.	LARRY CANNON	Danville, Ill.	Hoffman Chevy	_____
61.	RICH LEAVELL	Elwood, Ind.	Welch Chevy	_____
65.			Balistreri Chevy	_____
71.	BILL BURKS JR.	Marion, Ill.	White Chevy	_____
79.	GREG LEFFLER	St. Paul, Ind.	G. Watson Chevy	_____
81.	LEE OSBORNE	Lebanon, Pa.	Stauffer Const. Co. Chevy	_____
83.			Nagel Chevy	_____
84.	WES STAFFORD	Vincennes, Ind.	Midwest Mfg. Chevy	_____
85.	GARY PONZINI	Speedway, Ind.	Ponzini Chevy	_____
90.	JAN OPPERMAN	Beaver Crossing, Neb.	Bogar Chevy	_____
96.	JOHNNY TOTH	Northfield, Ohio	Toth Chevy	_____
98.	MEL CORNETT	Speedway, Ind.	Lodestar Chevy	_____

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