

Racing Knows No Race

Anyone who thinks stock car racing is a lilly-white sport should have been on the back stretch of Charlotte Motor Speedway on Sunday May 30 for the World 600. There were no black drivers among the field of 33 who took the green flag for the start of the season's longest stock car race, but that didn't deter an extremely large number of black racing fans from braving temperatures of more than 100 degrees.

Black fans enjoyed watching the cars make 400 circuits around the 1 1/2 mile track at speeds that exceeded 160 miles per hour.

This writer must admit that he was a bit leery about the race some time back amid stories that only "Red-neck hillbillies" watched the sport and only back-woods moonshine haulers drove in the events. This may have been true some years ago but no more.

Today's drivers are articulate businessmen who drive race cars as a career not for the thrill of wrecking the guy along side.

And the fans, well, the fans are probably more friendly than those of any other sport especially if you happen to be a fan of their favorite driver. These fans can not be stereotyped either.

Out of curiosity this writer took a survey of the fans on the backstretch during the pre-race ceremonies. I found lawyers, teachers, pilots, artists, salesmen as well as common laborers.

Also, contrary to what has been said by some, the true race fan does not come to see crashes. He comes to see athletes who possess super talent to drive an automobile just as a football fan goes to the game to see talented football players showcase their skills.

The fans at the race were less unruly than the fans who attended the second game of the Philadelphia-Portland series last Sunday in Philly. Not a single time did a fan come out of the stands nor did a single fight occur in them.

There was plenty of beer and even more chicken. If there had not been a race in progress one would have thought there was a big picnic going on.

The fans are very vocal and they really support their favorite driver whether it be by waving their hats in the air as they roar by or gritting their teeth and clutching a stop watch. There is a lot of good natured ribbing that goes on and all one has to do to make friends is to shout out the number of one of the top drivers cars and he can get a response from someone who is on his side.

Yes, when the green flag is dropped in a stock car race there is no color barrier. As one lady of about 70 said as she opened a big box of fried chicken, "if you want a piece of this chicken just say the magic number." The magic number was 11 for she was a Cale Yarborough fan.

Yes, if what was going on in the stands of Charlotte Motor Speedway Sunday was any indication of what the racial situation in this country is coming too, then Martin Luther King's dream may be closer to reality than many people who have never attended a stock car race realize.

Barn Burners League Set for Patterson 'Y'

by Robert Eller
Sports Editor

The Patterson Avenue YMCA will sponsor a summer basketball league for ninth through twelfth grade students this summer. The league which is called the Barn Burners league will be in its third year of operation at the Y.

Paulin says the format of the league will be changed this year in that the league will not be

divided. "Last summer the league was divided into ninth and tenth graders and eleventh and twelfth graders. This summer all the players will be in the same division. This will be a big help to the ninth and tenth graders because it will allow them to gain experience they will need when they play senior high ball next season. It also will cause the league to be more balanced."

The league will be composed of eight teams

and each team will play 14 games. Paulin says that final details as to how the teams will be stocked will be worked out in the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the league. "We may hold a draft or we may just take the first eight rosters that are turned in. The only objection I have to a draft is that some kids may be cut if we do that."

Last summer many of the top high school players in the area took part and Paulin expects

the league to be even more competitive this year. Some of those players who played in the league last year were East Forsyth standout, Louis Lowrey, Alex Mackey, another East Forsyth star who recently signed a grant with North Carolina A&T, Parkland's David Coleman, and West Forsyth's Charles Denning and Clarence Britton.

Paulin added that the league needs volunteers to work with the program. "That's one of the

biggest problems we have. We just don't have enough people to come out and help us."

The league is scheduled to kick off play on June 20 with games continuing until the latter part of August. "I would encourage any player who plans to take part to begin coming down and working out so they will be ready when the league starts", says Paulin.

Any person who is interested in playing in



Tom Paulin the Barn Burners league should contact Paulin at the Patterson Avenue YMCA or call 724-9205.



Water Fun

The opening of the Winston Salem Recreation Department's swimming pools on Saturday May 28 brought both smiles and relief to the faces to these swimmers seeking refuge from the day's heat

The vested summer suit: important fashion news from Haspel

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CIAA Basketball All-Stars To Play In Africa

A group of basketball players from the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association will travel to Africa in July to play a series of basketball games it was announced last week.

People to People sports organization has apparently worked out details for the trip.

The team is to be coached by Winston Salem States C.E. "Big-house" Gaines, 1976 CIAA championship coach and Harvey Heartley of St. Augustine's who won the league Southern Division championship over Gaines.

CIAA commissioner Bob Moorman said last

week that the team will tour Tunisia, Morocco, Cairo and the Central African Republic during July and August.

The team will be composed of returning 1977 All-CIAA picks Carlos Terry of Winston Salem State, Thomas Blue, Elizabeth City State, Herbert Entzimminger, Johnson C. Smith, Marvin Payne, Hampton Institute, and Jarrell Wilkerson, Norfolk State.

Rounding out the twelve man squad will be 6-11 Jake Rodgers of Shaw University, 6-7 Reginald McCloud of Fayetteville State, St. Augustine's Larry Rhodes (6-3), Melvin Cole (6-4)

and Victor Jones (6-1) of Virginia State, 6-2 Charles Benson of Virginia Union, Paul Hamilton (6-3) of Livingstone, and J.C. Smith's 5-11 Francis Proctor.

Named as alternates were Larry Holmes, and Derwin Lilly of Virginia Union, Hampton's Keith Tolliver, and Jeff Ballard of Fayetteville State.

CIAA Player-of-the-Year Ray Epps of Norfolk State has placed his name on the NBA hardship list and thus will not make the trip.

Coach Gaines said that each conference school is responsible for raising the approximately \$2,000 to send the players representing their institution. People to People is to take care of the expenses during the trip.

Gaines added that the team will play a number of games on the four and will also conduct basketball clinics. "We will actually be working with under-developed countries to promote the sport of basketball through both

games and clinics." The team is scheduled to begin practice together early in June at Elizabeth City State University which has volunteered its facilities for that purpose.

Gaines also announced the signing of four cagers to basketball grants for the coming season. They are 6-8 168 lb. Paul Williams of Claremont, an all-state 2-A selection, 6-3 Arthur Gaskins another all-stater from 4-A Burtee High School,

Duane Bilbo a 6-3 forward from Pontiac, Michigan, and James McPherson (6-2, 180) from Hillsborough. "All of these kids can do the job," he said.

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