Dunlap and Exum

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which produces faster times and allows them to compete against cars with bigger engines and more elaborate automotive systems.

"At the time we got together," recalled Exum, "Paul had already started building his car and I was thinking about building another one myself. I think that along the way, Paul realized that there was so much more to putting together the type of car he had envisioned for competition. So that's where I came in.

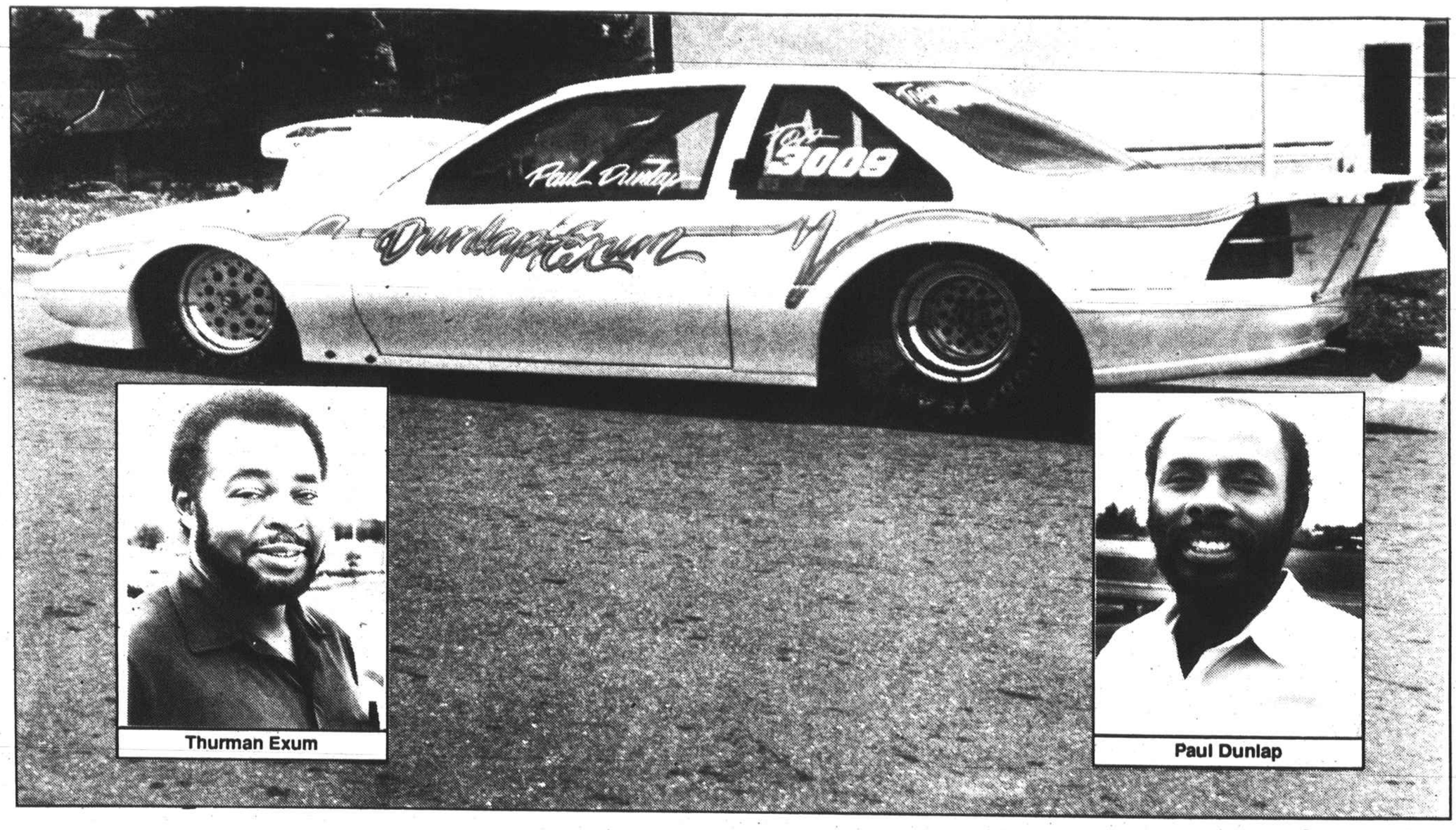
"People around the track were familiar with my work on building cars, so we eventually got together and things have worked out OK for the both of us."

Dunlap has had racing fever since he was a youngster. He has always wanted to be a driver. "I've always had that need for speed," he said jokingly. "When I was a kid, the thing was NASCAR. But that was so expensive, still I found that I could get intothe sport less expensively by being a drag racer instead."

The Dunlap-Exum team is one where responsibilities are clearly defined. Even though Exum has driving experience dating back to the late '60s, the crew chief wasn't interested in getting behind the wheel. But his insights have helped Dunlap's continued development.

"It takes a special talent to watch me as the driver and at the same time be able to tell me what I'm doing wrong," Dunlap said. "And you can only do that if you've been a driver yourself."

When zooming down the track in around five seconds, there's little time to think if you're behind the wheel. Dunlap explained that he has to follow a system that allows him to operate his vehicle safely and at maximum speed. "When I'm on the inside of the car, I have no idea how fast I'm going," Dunlap said. "We figure that the Chevy engine is around 900 horsepower and that's a lot of power under the hood. I hav e to have a routine, there's no time to think. I'm alredy programmed to do what I have to do once I get in the car."



Thurman Exum

Paul Dunlap

Photos by Max Dunhill

Dunlap and Exum have been together for only a year. But already it's clear that they have been able to compete against more well-financed teams. Evidently, Dunlap and Exum are getting the most out of their resources.

Exum's expertise in building and designing automotive systems is a key element in how the racing team has fared so far. "They call Thurman 'the Wizard'," Dunlap said. "He has a tremendous knowledge of the nitrous oxide system and to make it work for what we need from the Beretta."

Dunlap explained that Exum's work with the nitrous oxide system centers on building the combusition chamber. It's Exum's job to come up with the right mixture of gas and nitrous oxide to that the engine will run at peak efficiency without being damaged.

"Thurman's like a point guard in basketball," Dunlap said. "He sets things up and I execute. It's that simple."

Both men say that they aren't always in agreement about how things on done on the track and with the Beretta. However, they have agreed to disagree. "We've always been able to sit down and discuss any differences," Dunlap added. "Our is a good relationship. It has to be in order for us to be functional as a team in this sport."

One bit a slight twist with the racing team is that the pit crew often has members who are students in A & T's Automotive Technology program. Being a pit crew member isn't a glamor job, despite of what folks see on TV and in the movies. "It's a lot of hard work," Dunlap said. "And a lot of times, things are said and they sound harsh, but they really are not. It's just that there is not a lot of time to deal with. Still, the students who've worked the pits have learned a lot about what it takes to keep a race car going and all of the elements invovled in auto racing. They certainly get a good outlook on what this sport is really all about."

Murphy

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on the opposition.

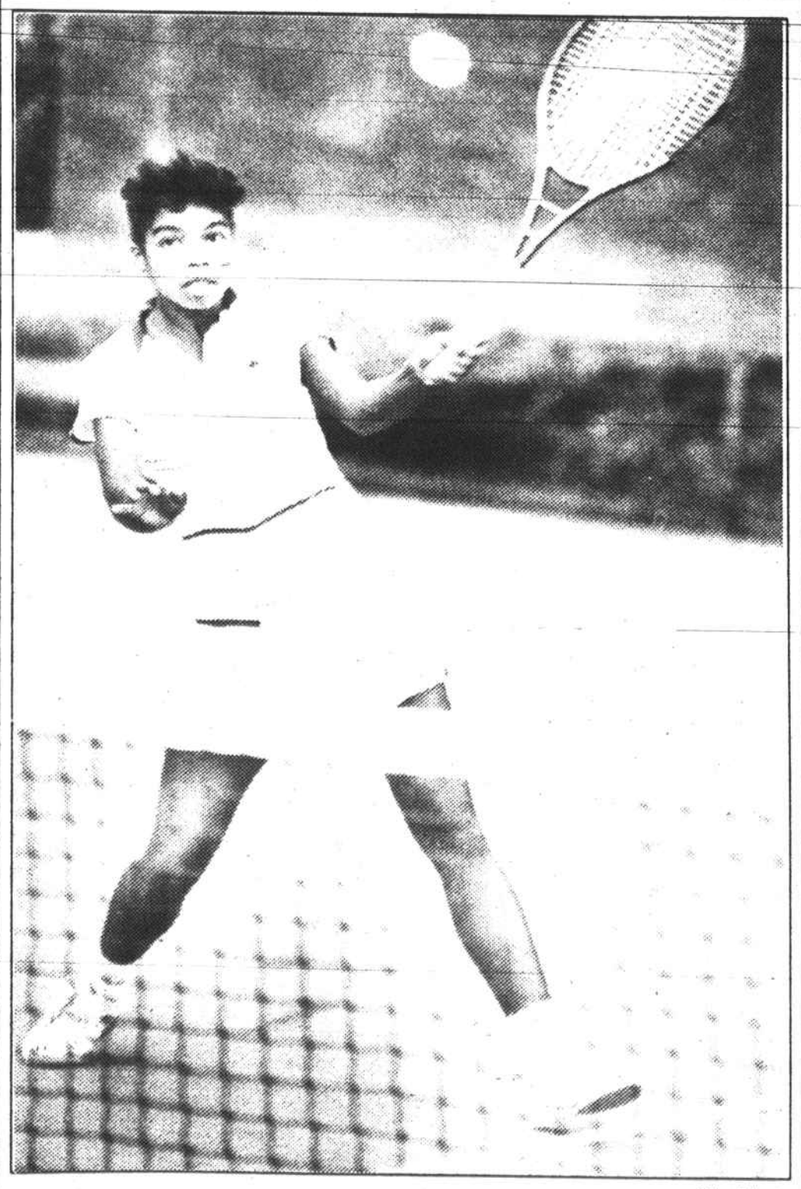
In recent years, she has demonstrated the ability to hit a variety of shots from the baseline and has continued to improve on the volleying aspect of her game.

"I'm looking forward to the tour," Murphy said. "I'll be on my own in a lot of ways, so that will help to make me more independent. Plus I'll be playing a lot of tennis."

Quite the opposite.

During the tour, team members will play in at least one tournament each week in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles competition. When they aren't competing, there are three hour practice sessions scheduled for the mornings.

But the group will have ample time for sightseeing and touring during the afternoons in-between tournaments.



File Photo

Brett Murphy

During her three-and-one-half weeks stay in Europe, Murphy will be part of a touring tennis squad that will play tournaments in Copenhagen, other cities in Holland, Sweden, and Niece, France.

Murphy, who will graduate from Bishop McGuinness this Sunday, plans to continue playing tennis at the collegiate level. This fall, she will attend Tulane University in New Orleans on an academic scholarship. She will be a pre-med major. Her ultimate career goal is to be a child pyschiatrist.