

Richard Petty Faces Challenge

CHARLOTTE, N. C. --Only two obstacles appear in the path of Richard Petty that could keep him from continuing his winning ways into the National... 500 race at Charlotte Motor Speedway on October 15. Those obstacles are his record at the track and the challenging field of top drivers!

The demanding banked turns and swift straightaways of the mile and a half super track have never hosted Richard Petty into the winner's category in a big race. Charlotte Motor Speedway is the only remaining big track where the remarkable second generation driver has not recorded a win in either of its big races, although Petty did win a 100-mile preliminary race in 1961.

The likeable young professional racer, who has won over \$120,000 during the current NASCAR season ranks sixth in the money winners column at Charlotte with \$40,090 to his credit. Petty ranks highest in this department of those who have now won and has gained this position through three second place finishes including the first two editions of the fall speed classic.

The Randleman, N. C., native has already proven this season that history is not a barrier to the blue Plymouth by taking his first Southern 500 win at Darlington on Labor Day. He has also led the way to the checkered flag in several other races which had previously eluded him.

The other drivers may prove to be more difficult to overcome. Among the notables who have already filed entries for the \$100,800 event at Charlotte are Indianapolis and LeMans winner A. J. Foyt, Daytona 400 winner and defending USAC champion Mario Andretti, sports car and Indianapolis veteran Jerry Grant, Don White the 1967 USAC stock car champion, defending National 500 winner Lee Roy Yarborough, qualifying record holder, Daytona 400 and Atlanta 500 winner Cale Yarborough, two time World 600 winner Jim Paschal, Dixie 500 winner Dick Hutcherson and a horde of the NASCAR regulars.

--Buddy Baker, the huge second generation NASCAR driver came in first at Charlotte Motor Speedway followed closely by rookie star Bud Moore. The pair were racing to sign entry blanks for the \$100,800 National 500 race racing to sign entry blanks for the \$100,800 National 500 race set for the mile and a half track on October 15.

Both of the young professional racers hope that their signing order is an indication of the standings at the end of the 150 mile an hour chase in mid-October.

Baker, 26, is the son of two time NASCAR champion Buck Baker and is still looking for his first grand national win despite having led nearly every race he has entered in the Dodge Charger built by master mechanic Ray Fox of Daytona Beach, Fla. The six foot five inch, 240 pounder, who had attracted the

attention of several college football and basketball scouts before deciding to follow the tire tracks of his famed father, teamed up with the fabled Fox for the first time at Charlotte Motor Speedway in the 1966 World 600 race. In that event the husky astonished the experts by jumping to the lead early in the race and staying their until sidelined by a broken engine.

Prior to joining the wily Florida car builder, the handsome father of two sons had scored a pair of impressive second place finishes while driving a 1965 Dodge for his father. Young Baker was second the A. J. Foyt in the July 400 miler at Daytona, Fla. and followed that up with a second place finish to Ned Jarrett, now retired, in the Southern 500 at Darlington, S. C.

Bud Moore, a native of Charleston, S. C., who now resides with his wife and daughter in Charlotte, filed his entry for the 500 mile event just seconds after Baker. He returned to grand national competition, the 26 year old Moore has attracted a great deal of attention from the fans, press and his fellow competitors by driving the A. J. King owned Dodge Charger to fifth place finishes in the Dixie 500 at Atlanta and the Southern 500

The driving performance by the bespectacled in the Darlington event on Labor Day earned him the Bob Colvin "Little Guy" Award as voted by the members of the press covering the race.

Many of the knowledgeable in racing are predicting a brilliant future for the young professional and have tabbed him as one of the future stars of racing.

--Despite Petty and Plymouth, Ford drivers have served notice that they have every intention of winning the \$100,800 National 500 race at Charlotte Motor Speedway on October 15.

During a series of tests for the racing division of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company at the mile and a half track last week, Ford drivers Darel Dieringer of Charlotte and Dick Hutcherson of Camden, S. C., put in some 1,500 miles of testing at speeds in excess of 152 miles per hour.

Goodyear engineers noted that the tests were run in ideal weather conditions with cool temperatures and partially cloudy skies. Hutcherson, who scored his first super speedway victory in early August by winning the Dixie 500 at Atlanta's one and a half mile oval, broke into the 155 MPH bracket while at the wheel of Bondy Long's 1967 Fairlane. The tall former citizen of Keokuk, Iowa, boasts one of the best finish records among the NASCAR grand national competitors.

Also shattered, although unofficially, were the track qualifying standards established by Ford driver Cale Yarborough turned in a 4 lap, six mile, qualifying run of 154.385 MPH including a fast single lap of 154.816. Lee Roy Yarborough's marks



THE COUNTRY MUSIC SHOW AND THE GOSPEL SING, two of the annual highlights of the Georgia Mountain Fair, will be repeated this weekend during the height of the fall color season in Hiawassee, Ga. The Fall Country Music Festival will be held Friday from 7 to 11, Saturday, 10 to 4, and Saturday night 7 to midnight. On Sunday, The Singing Rambos (pictured above), the Chuck Wagon Gang, and the Gospel Tones will highlight the Gospel Sing from 2 to 5 Sunday afternoon. Proceeds from the gospel program will go toward the rebuilding of the Towns County Hospital. All shows will be in the big tent on the fairgrounds.

are sure to fall when time trials, used to determine starting positions in the 44 car field, get underway on Wednesday, October 11.

Goodyear representatives also stated that Cale Yarborough's marks should also be surpassed provided the same cool temperatures prevail in Oct.

"We fully expect it to take a speed of about 156 miles an hour to win the pole position for the National 500," stated a Goodyear representative. "Of course that speed will require the same ideal weather and track conditions which we have had during this test program." He added.

The record for the 500 mile distance stands at 130.743 MPH set by Yarborough in the 1966 event. Other drivers filing entries for the eighth annual edition of the fall classic at Charlotte included Wendell Scott in a Ford, James Hylton in a Dodge, Roy Tyner in a Chevrolet, Clyde Lynn in a Ford and Bobby Johns in a Chevelle.

Over 60 cars are anticipated Oct. 15 at Charlotte.

Richard Howard, vice president and general manager, commented last week that he is expecting one of the largest fields of entries with the larg-

est percentage of outstanding drivers in the eight year history of the Charlotte track. "It looks like we will have more than 65 cars trying to get into the starting field of 44," stated the portly track

official. "This is the kind of entry field every promoter dreams of but seldom gets. The racing fans are for one whole of a show here on October 15," concluded Howard.

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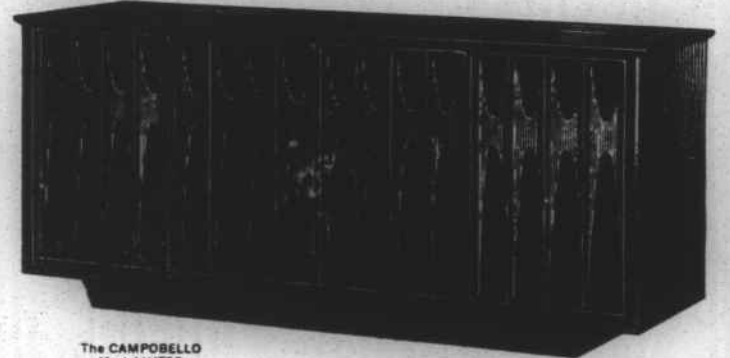
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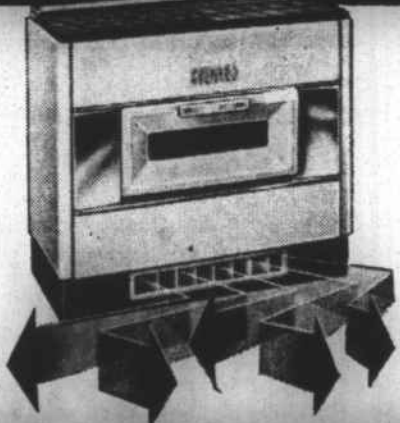
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