

# Racing With Red

By Red Schuyler

Fain Ledford, the hard charger from Hayesville, N. C. and also the top money winner in the class B Division fattened his earnings by taking the checkered flag in a 100 lap race at Tri-County Saturday night.

Ledford also had the best qualifying time and took the inside pole position. Roger Berrong had the second best qualifying time and had to settle for the outside pole. A total of seventeen cars took the green flag. As the cars rounded the first and second turns, Ledford and Berrong had about a half car lead on Ledford and as they passed the starting line for the first lap, it was Berrong by about a car length.

On the second lap Ledford took the lead and held it until lap No. 11 where Berrong regained the lead.

On lap No. 14 Ledford regained the lead to hold it the rest of the way. Ledford led for a total of 96 laps of the 100 lap affair. These two were the only leaders for the entire race. Only three caution flags were thrown during the entire race.

After Ledford regained the lead on lap 14, Berrong kept the pressure on for the remaining 86 laps and at several times it looked like Berrong would take over at anytime but never managed to do so. Berrong has been one of the most consistent drivers at TCR this year and has been dubbed by the fans as the "driver having the most hardluck." In every race that he has entered he has placed in the money every time he has finished a race.

But thus far has never managed to get the checkered flag and has failed to finish more races than he has finished. Towards the end of every race and most times run in first and second position, he has experienced some kind of car malfunction knocking him out of the race.

Before Saturday night's race, Berrong's car had been painted a solid green color with black numbering and lettering. Saturday night a fan noted that Berrong's car was about half white and half green. Most race drivers are superstitious about a green car. Berrong has never felt this way, but after running a complete 100 laps and finishing very strong and not having any trouble whatsoever, this might be an omen for Berrong. This is the longest race that Berrong and his former-green car has run.

In winning Saturday night's 100 lapper, Ledford picked up \$250.00 increasing his winnings to \$1,305.00 in this division for this season. Berrong's part of the record purse was \$150.00 which was close to half of what he had earned previously. Pinky Orr of Andrews, N. C. was a close third and earned \$100.00. This moved him up close to the \$1000.00 mark. \$920.00 to be exact. In fourth and picking up \$75.00 was Howard Scroggs. Fifth position and \$50.00 went to Walter Ramsey Ramsey has now won \$1050.00 for the season.

In the Class C. race Jimmy Sherrill put two first place wins back to back having won on the previous Saturday night. Sherrill has won six races this year, but this is the first time that he has been able to put two together. In this 30 lap race, Joe Lewis who took the lead on the first lap even though he had the outside pole position, lead laps 1 through 24. On lap number 25, Sherrill took over and led the last six

laps to get the checkered flag. Elmo Wright was third, Johnny Winfrey was fourth and Harry Mauney was fifth.

In the Class A race, in which nine cars started, Leon Owenby led the first 25 laps and then James Lance took over until the 38th lap. These two cars when they were not running side by side were bumper to bumper, and kept the fans on their feet most of the time. As the two cars went into the back stretch on lap No. 38 Owenby trying to pass Lance, the two cars tangled and Owenby hit the wall while Lance barreled into the infield barrier. This put both cars out of the race and a new leader took over for the first position. James Nicholson had been running a close fourth and managed to get by the two cars that wrecked without hitting them. 13 Laps later the

checked flag fell and Nicholson won his first Class A race of the year at TCR. Second Position went to Jack Killian, with third and fourth going to Curtis Long and Ralph Herrington.

This Saturday night, and incidentally this will be the only race on Saturday night in the area, an added attraction will be a horse race. Never before in this area has a horse race been run. If you would like to be in the crowd to see the first horse ever run, you will be given that opportunity Saturday Night. The Sugar Creek Raceway, near Blue Ridge, Ga. have switched their racing date from Saturday night to Sunday afternoon beginning this Sunday.

AT CANTON, GA.  
With a standing room only crowd, racing fans at the Canton International Speedway Friday night witnessed one of the most thrilling and exciting races ever staged in the Southeastern U. S.

This event will also be remembered as the longest and

richest race around a 3/8 mile high banked dirt track ever to be seen in these parts.

Charlie Padgett, who only led the last few laps of the race had the honor of winning first place and took home \$1000.00 for his night's work.

Thirty-five of the fastest cars and drivers from three states took the green flag for 100 miles or 250 laps.

Jodie Ridley, by having the fastest qualifying time during the time trials conducted Thursday was the inside pole sitter. Ridley qualified at 17.37 seconds or 78.005 miles per hour. Sitting on the outside was Billy Smith. Smith's qualifying time was 17.48 seconds or 77.345 miles per hour. Smith got the jump on Ridley and led the first few laps. Leon Sells who qualified at 17.53 seconds to be the fourth fastest qualifier passed Smith at the end of the eighth lap and led for the next ten laps. In the meantime Ridley managed to get by Smith and was in second place behind Sells. Just as the caution flag fell, Ridley managed to get the lead from Sells.

At this point it was Ridley,

Sells, Smith, Charles Padgett and Joe Lee Johnson in that order holding down the first five positions. At about the half way mark, Smith developed engine trouble and had to drop back at which point Joe Lee Johnson was running third and Charles Padgett fourth, with Ridley still leading and Sells in second position. When the race was about at the 200 lap mark, and Johnson trying to avoid another car in the first and second turn spun out and lost valuable time. In the ensuing laps run, Johnson managed to work himself up into contention again but could get no closer to the first position car than fifth. A few laps later coming out of the fourth turn with Ridley still running first, Sells was second, Charlie Padgett was third, T.C. Hunt was fourth and Johnson fifth. Sells and Ridley were running side by side and both cars went into a spin. Ridley recovered quickly and was back in the race but lost his first position to Padgett. Leon Sells got straightened out and was running about eighth at about the 238th lap, with Ridley

trying to regain his first position and really pouring it on, he lost his car on the end of the back stretch and spun into the infield just before entering the third turn. He failed to get back in the race before it was over and lost his chances of picking up the first place money of \$1000.00. When the checkered flag fell, it was Padgett by about three car lengths ahead of Joe Lee Johnson, the driver that won \$28,500 for winning the first world 600 race at Charlotte, N.C. in 1960, then, and still now the world's longest race for stock cars.

Third position in the race Friday night went to Leon Sells, T. C. Hunt fourth, Rudy Burrow fifth, and Gordon Jones sixth, Hoyt Turner, seventh Gene Cline eighth, Joe Abercrombie ninth, Sam Gates, tenth, Ralph Herrington eleventh, Dan Lingerfelt twelfth and James Lance thirteenth. These thirteen drivers divided \$5,079.00 among them with Padgett getting \$1,000.00 Jodey Ridley received \$100.00 for the fastest qualifying time. A

total purse of \$5,490 was divided for the night. Other drivers awarded money for the first two events were John Henry Maddox \$97.00 for first place in the lakopy race, Ruford Martin, \$72.00 for second, and Harold Ingram, \$47.00 for third. In the Cadet race, James "Frog" Hendrix \$50.00 for 1st, Doug Bryson \$40.00 for second and Donald Ingram \$20.00 for third.

Only four caution flags fell during the race and only once was the race stopped. This was due to an accident in the pits. One of the cars came in for some fuel and as the mechanic was filling the car, some of the fuel ignited. As the mechanic threw the gas can on the ground some of the gas got on his clothing and caught fire. He immediately ran a few feet and fell on the ground and extinguished the flames. The race was stopped so that the ambulance could take him to the hospital. The last report on his condition was that he suffered some burns on his arms, but was dismissed from the hospital. This was the only casualty for the night.

### 4 Square Board Of Directors To Hold Meeting

The 4-Square Community Action, Inc. Board of Directors will hold their regular monthly meeting at the Community Center in Andrews, N. C. on Monday, September 30 at 7:30 p.m. The public and all members are urged to attend.

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