

Smith Eyeing Shrine

GASTONIA - If you don't think Freddie Smith of Kings Mountain is dead set on becoming king of the short-track competition in the area, better think again.

So far this season, the Camaro-driving Smith leads in victories at both Metrolina, a highly-competitive track in Charlotte, and at Cherokee in Gaffney, S.C.

And what's significant about his pacing role at Cherokee is the fact that it's considered Mike Duval's own backyard.

All of which brings up another interesting point: Smith apparently has taken dead aim on ending masterful Mike's claim to his 'king of the hill' role at Gaston Speedway, home of the Shrine 100.

The seventh renewal of that splendid event coming up Wednesday night, May 16th in Gastonia with the moustachioed and highly-popular Duval clearly the driver to beat.

Since an inaugural win by Union's Billy Scott in 1978 and a follow-up victory by Stick Elliott, it's been all Mike Duval. The Gaffney speedster has won the last four races at the half-mile track and with room to spare in two of those.

The rivalry between Smith and Duval while friendly, is reaching fever proportions, especially with the way the Kings Mountain man has been pushing his car into victory lane with regularity this season.

Two weeks ago, Smith tore out a transmission and was knocked out of an opportunity to win his fourth at Metrolina and fifth at Cherokee in '79, and it's still early.

"But that's all behind now," said Smith. "We're all cranked up and ready to go again."

The May 16th Shrine 100 will draw an entry field of some of the 25 top jocks in the southeast, all with one big objective and that's to do something about the Duval monopoly.

All three past winners are expected to compete, including Scott and Elliott and, of course, Duval, going for his fifth straight in the Shrine 100.

The total purse for the seventh event has been hiked to \$7,500 with the winner of the 40 lap feature getting \$1,500. An additional \$100 awaits the pole sitter as well as leader of the most laps.

All proceeds will go to the Greenville Unit of the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children.

Horse Shows Slated

Clineland Center, Rt. 1 Cherryville, announces its 1979 Horse Show Schedule. Class sheets will be mailed on request.

These are all regular open shows with games, western and English classes. The shows are all well organized with competent judges and with plenty of concessions available to showgoers. Spectators are encouraged to provide their own chairs for the event.

The schedule: May 12, Shriners of South Mountain; May 18-19, Cherryville High School Basketball Teams; May 26-Clineland 3-C Ranch; July 7-Waco Vol. Fire Department; July 14-Hughs Pond Volunteer Fire Department; Aug 17-18, Clineland Center Horse Show; September 8, Clineland 3-C Ranch

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