

Oswego's Super Modifieds make cents for drivers

Raiders of the Empty Wallets: (A true story).

When we last tuned in, our Modified heroes were being plagued with high engine bills, and were dying one by one. Their situation had just come to the attention of the stodgy King NASCAR, who ruled over their land from an ivory tower on a sunny beach far, far away.

The Modifieds' cries became more than the King could ignore, and he dispatched his blindly loyal messenger, Cook, to the city of Albany. There, Cook met with the Promoters, for whom our heroes performed, and presented the King's proposal. Expensive parts, such as \$5,000 heads, were to be banned. And the promoters saw that this was good, as the decreasing number of performers was affecting their own incomes.

But the King, being none too bright, also showed his proposal to the evil Engine Builders. They wanted no changes in the rules, lest our heroes be able to afford and build engines on their own. So the Builders told the King these changes would cost too much money, and would defeat his purpose.

By this time the Modifieds demanded an audience with the King. The King again sent his messenger, who met (by invitation only) with the very richest. And lo and behold, he presented the King's latest idea: The 11:1 Compression Engine.

Cook also produced a new tool he said could be used to verify the legality of any engine. Of course, each promoter was expected to purchase one for his own track.

Our heroes were worried upon hearing this turn of events. They remembered only too well the failure of the King's last invention, which would test a brand new 390 cfm carburetor straight out of the box and say that it was illegal.

And Hutter, the head of the evil Engine Builders, told them, "Within two weeks, I can make one of these new engines put out as much horsepower as the old 13:1."

Meanwhile, some promoters, fearful of a confrontation, took the easy way out and found cheaper performers elsewhere. Only Shangri-La, Riverside Park (Mass.), and Riverhead (Long Island) believed the Modifieds were the best, and stuck by their sides.

But many of the Modifieds grew worried. "Even though those three tracks are separated geographically, they all run on Saturday nights. Can we survive performing only one night a week?"

Then their thoughts turned north, to that magical land made of boiler plate — Oswego. And they remembered how it has long stood alone and through hard work successfully nurtured a unique group that called themselves Super Modifieds.

They knew then that there was still hope, provided the three promoters worked just as hard



MOTOR SPORTS

By Michael J. Marrer

as Oswego in keeping costs low and purses high. And they slept a little better that night.

Around the track

Local speedway motorcycle rider Tuff McBride continues to do well after relocating to the West Coast. He finished 12th in the final Division 1 point standings, and was the first rider from the East to qualify for the West Coast National championships. He was hindered by mechanical problems throughout the series.

Five time World Champion Ivan Majors is putting together another Australia and New Zealand tour, and has contacted McBride about possibly being on the six-man team representing the U.S. Majors reportedly is ill and has not finalized preparations, and McBride is still waiting to hear from him ...

The Square Deal Riders will be holding a 1½-mile speedway exhibition at their Belden Hill course 1 p.m. Sunday. They are looking to see if there is sufficient interest to run this division on a regular basis next year. Admission is \$5.00.

The club begins its nine-race winter series at 12:30 p.m. on November 9, featuring ATV's and all classes of motorcycles ...

It seems hard to believe that next week marks a year since the racing world lost Richie Evans ...

Five Mile Point will again try to run its season-ending enduro at 7 o'clock tomorrow night. The winner will receive a six-foot trophy, along with \$500. Admission is \$5.00 ...

There will be a meeting at 2 p.m. on Nov. 1 at Castle Fabricating (Commerce Road, Vestal) to establish the four-cylinder modified rules for 1987 ...

The Five Mile Point banquet will be held Nov. 8 at E & T Catering. Tickets are available at Doug's Speed Shop and Castle Fabricating. Banquet Masters is the site for Shangri-La's awards on Nov. 15 and tickets can be obtained at the Skylark Diner. Admission for both affairs is \$17. No tickets will be sold at the door.

(Mike Marrer is a freelance writer who covers motorsports for the Press & Sun-Bulletin. His column appears monthly).