

BEHIND THE SCENES

by John Janisaitis

As hard as it seems the 1979 racing season at the Waterford Speedbowl has reached the halfway mark. Following a one week set back due to rain the Ocean Auto Parts Night was a big success, with the complete run-down on the nights activity elsewhere in this issue. All of us at the Speedbowl, however, would like to take this opportunity again to thank Pete and Mary Manguesse and James and Nancy Kinder for their continued support of auto racing at the Speedbowl.

One hundred laps for the Super Stocks "You've got to be kidding" was a common pre race statement, but the Super Stocks did it on Tuesday night July 3rd, and what a program it was. Three heats, two semi-finals, twin consolations, plus the 100 lap feature went into the books, and only eight caution flags were waved throughout the entire night.

Every car owner, driver, and mechanic, in the Super Stock divisions deserves credit for the professional show that was staged. If you missed the race, you only have yourself to blame.

The big one of the year for the Modified division, the third annual Waterford 200 is set to go on Saturday night July 21st. The winner along with earning the top end of the championship points and purse will also receive a guaranteed starting position in the Race of Champions, to be held at the Pocono International Raceway this fall. This one will be the major stepping stone to the 1979 Modified crown so don't miss it.

Entries are continuing to pour in for the annual Most Popular Driver contest, following last weekends balloting the standings have tightened up with Rick Donnelly leading the Modified ranks, Bob Gada is the Grand Am leader, and Ed Reed heads the Super Stock ranks.

With all the excitement that centered around the Firecracker 100 one disappointing note should not go unmentioned. Bobby Lee, who went into the event as the point standing leader qualified his number 23 Ford for the century grind, but lost the motor in doing so, and as a result dropped back in the standings.

John Anderson, although relatively unknown in Modified racing at Waterford took over the wheel of Jim Vecce's Vega 82 on Saturday night June 23rd. Anderson better known for his accomplishments at Plainville and Riverside drove to a strong fifth place finish the first time out. John, however, is reported to be out of action for two weeks as he was recently hospitalized. Watch this driver, as Anderson should be a man to contend with in short order.

Mike Gada who held one victory in the Super Stock ranks and was riding fifth in the point standings recently made the transition to the Grand Am ranks. Mike's car has been numbered 36M so as not to be confused with Dad's Grand Am. Good Luck Mike, at 17 you show alot of promise.

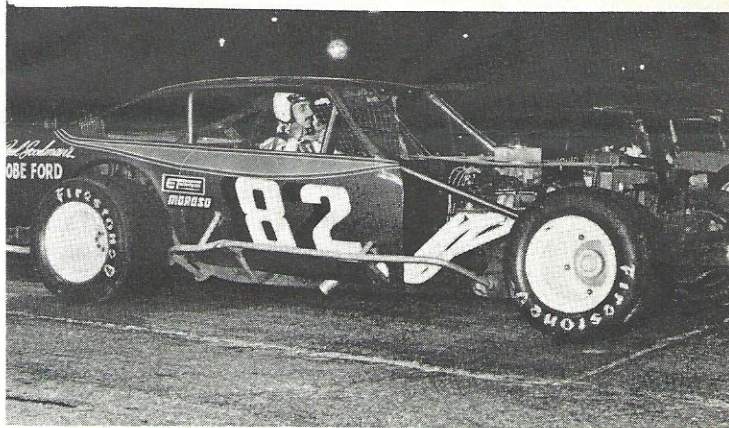
Don Fowler made his return to the Speedbowl payoff as he cashed into victory lane the first time out with the new number 26. Fowler of course is a former Grand-Am champion at the Bowl, and an asset to the starting lineup.

The biggest driver change of the season goes to the Super Stock division as Scott Poirier vacated the number 66 prior to the July 7th show. Bob Faiella has taken over as the wheelman on the 66 and is expected to turn in some strong performances.

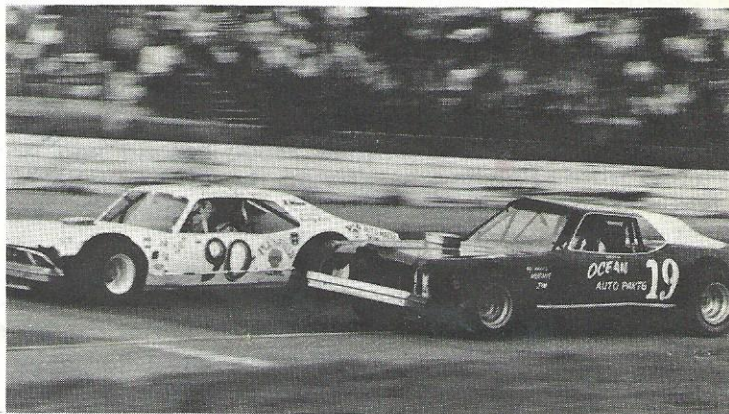
On his first week out of the car, Poirier drove the 31 usually driven by Sly Fox to try and keep his spot in the point standings. Now he informs me that he will be taking over the number 21 vacated by Faiella. Best of luck to both drivers and owners.

Birthday wishes go out to Wayne N. Smith a hard charging late model driver on July 27th--many many more happy days.

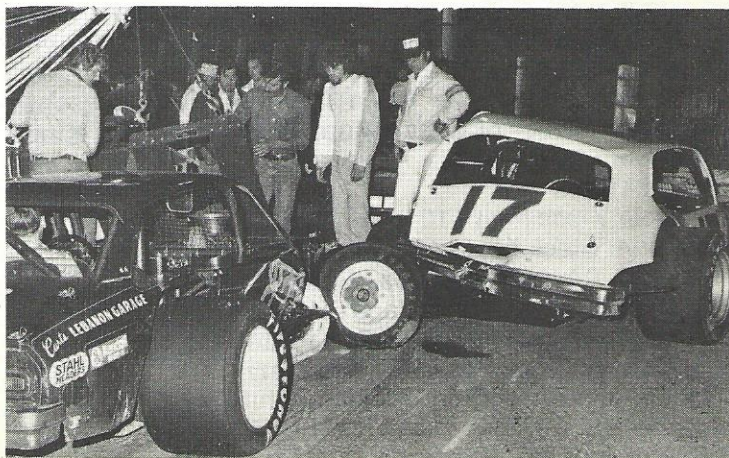
Veteran Speedbowl race fans and collectors of nostalgia if you have a favorite photo(s) from years gone by, like Charlie Webster in the Simmons 9 or 716, Dick Watson in the V4 or whatever, just stop by the Souvenir Stand with your request as chances are we may have them. A complete set of photos dating back to the early fifties has recently been acquired and though they have not been catalogued as yet, we just have the shot you want.



John Anderson is a new name in the lineup with Jim Vecce's 82.



Keith Eves dices with Ron Cote (90) in homestretch action.



Mark Lajeunesse (33) and Joey Trudeau ran out of racing room.