

I.K.F. FALL NATIONALS

Oakland Valley Raceway - Cuddebackville, N.Y.

Article by Albert Bender, Photos courtesy of Pete Breitfeld and Photography On Call

The I.K.F. Fall Nationals played before large, enthusiastic crowds on Saturday and Sunday, August 30-31, 1986. Two days of sunny, warm weather only added to the festive mood of the approximately 140 racers who put on a great show while earning one of the three "punches" required for next year's Sprint Grandnationals.

Before taking a look at the races and the personal profile of each class champion, let's pause a minute for a few acknowledgments. Thanks and a checkered-flag salute go to Rich Dunwell and Carl Kushman, 2-Cycle Tech Inspectors, John Ellis, 4-Cycle Tech Inspector, and E.M.T.'s Laurie Stein and Scott Potter. Keeping the racers honest and healthy was an important job and one that these dedicated people did to perfection.

Now to the races:

Saturday, August 30

100 cc Rotary - In a class with a limited number of entries it was a rather easy victory for Charles Cressi Jr. Cressi led all the way in all heats and posted a fast time of 35.62. Marshall Michaelson finished 2nd and Tony Lischak was a distant 3rd.

Stock Light - George Neumann won heats 2&3 to top a talented and highly competitive field. Rich Dunwell, who won heat 1, set a fast time of

35.16 but had to settle for 2nd place. Bob Ianne, Don Cornwall, and Mike Traver were 3rd, 4th, and 5th respectively.

135cc Reed - Larry Shivers set a fast time of 34.97 but eventually was disqualified because of an illegal motor. Philip Browne won all three heats and took the crown in this class which had a limited number of entries.

Junior II - Ricky Bennett was the winner in one of the most exciting classes of the day. Bennett and Derek Kosnoski battled tooth and nail throughout heats 1&2, but Bennett won both heats and forced Kosnoski to 2nd place. Jeff DePolo, who set a fast time of 34.93 and won heat 3, crashed during heat 1 but still had enough talent to take 3rd place. Tom D'Amico finished 4th and Joe Kushman was 5th. Great racing, guys!

Novice Heavy - There were plenty of entries, but it didn't matter to Eddie Schutze, who won the championship rather easily. Schutze won the first two heats and also clocked a fast time of 36.05. His only real competition came from Michael Beakes, who won the third heat and wound up 2nd. Allen Butler, Ed Topak, and Greg Dzielinski finished 3rd, 4th, and 5th respectively.

Rookie 4-Cycle - Although Kevin Furlong and Dana Russo were the only entries, they battled it out all the way throughout all three heats. In the end it was Furlong who, besides winning all heats, set a fast time of 40.43.

Junior 4-Cycle - In a class that provided good, close racing, it was Jeff Nagel who won the title, posting a fast time of 39.70. Nagel had to hold off the hard charging Michael Russo, who finished 2nd, and Dawn Croner (3rd), Chris Dunden (4th), and Timothy Murphy (5th). Frank Bondatti raced well but was disqualified on a technical violation.

U.S. 820 Senior - If you wanted to see a new leader during any of the three heats, all you had to do was blink your eyes. Constant jockeying for position was the feature of this class, which treated the crowd to quite a show. Bruce Giumarra, Rick Keller, and Peter Ortiz each won one of the heats, but Giumarra, because of two 2nd place finishes, took the championship. Ortiz wound up 2nd, Larry Shivers Sr. took 3rd, and Charles Cressi Sr. was 4th. Keller eventually became the victim of motor trouble and had to settle for 5th, even though he had earlier set a fast time of 39.38. That's entertainment!

Yamaha KT100S - The pace was fast, and the competition was hot and heavy with the Yamahas. Paul Menge clocked a fast time of 35.88, but Rick Keller won the title. It came down to the last heat; Keller had won #1 and Menge had won #2. With the crowd cheering wildly, Keller passed Menge on the last turn of the last lap to win the heat and 1st place. Finishing right behind Keller and Menge were Rich Dunwell, Charles Janosick, and Greg Carrino, who took 3rd, 4th, and 5th respectively.

Sunday, August 31

100cc Reed - This class featured great competition from some of the best

racers in the Northeast. Doug Gutberlet, a 4th place finisher at W.K.A.'s Grandnationals, ran a fast time of 34.84 and won the class championship, but it wasn't easy. He had to withstand the aggressive charges of Eric Schweinberg (2nd at W.K.A. Grandnationals) and Matt Beck, who took 2nd and 3rd respectively. Bill Havel, who was right up there all the time, was disqualified (light weight) on the third heat and had to settle for 4th. Mike Traver wound up 5th. This class promises to be a great one at next year's I.K.F. Grandnationals.

Junior I - Although here was a talented field of teenagers, this day belonged to John Bonanno Jr. Bonanno easily won all three heats and notched a fast time of 36.23. Louie Bray, a consistent winner, this time provided only a modest challenge and finished 2nd. Gregg Shivers took 3rd, Tom D'Amico was 4th, and John Burroughs rounded out the place winners with a 5th.

Stock Heavy - Again, here was a class with more than enough talent, but it was smooth sailing--make that KARTING--for Larry Shivers Jr. Except for the first lap of the third heat, Shivers led his competition all afternoon and ran a fast time of 35.28. The runner-up places were much better contested. John Baio's steady racing in all heats enabled him to finish 2nd, and it was Kent Fromm (3rd), Paul Menge (4th), and Scot Carapellatti (5th) taking the remaining spots.

Unlimited - Doug Cressi's fast time of 33.48 was the best one recorded either day of racing. Cressi set a pace a bit too grueling for his challengers, and he won his class quite handily. Once again, the

runner-up positions generated the only real competition. Bill Salisbury fought off the constant challenges of Dan Schmidt and George Salvato, and his skillful driving earned him 2nd place honors. Schmidt edged out Salvato for 3rd, and Rich Dunwell finished a distant 5th. With all the speed this class provides, fans can look forward to some blazing laps at next year's Grandnationals.

Rookie Junior - In a class with only two entries it was Phillip Elefonte winning all three heats and setting a fast time of 39.85. Not bad for an 11-year-old! John Sanzari was 2nd, and both guys are looking forward to more competition in their class next year.

Limited Modified 4-Cycle - John Ellis was unfortunately the only entry in his class and ran a fast time of 38.95 on his way to an uncontested victory.

4-Cycle Medium - Here was a class plagued by misfortune. Pat Hagerty, the eventual champion, won heats 1&2 but was unable to finish the third heat. Bill Bitting, who would wind up 2nd, ran fine in heats 1&2 but couldn't even start heat three. However, the jinx of heat 3 didn't affect Brian Carlson - Or did it? He made it through the entire race without any mechanical problems, only to be disqualified (light weight) after the last heat and dropped to 3rd. Hagerty had notched a fast time of 40.27 before Fortune frowned.

4-Cycle Heavy - Only two entries, Ed Heim and Bill Henry, made up this class. Heim, although recording a fast time of 42.16, was unable to pass tech inspection and had to relinquish 1st place to Henry.

Novice Light - Eighteen entries, the largest field either day, treated the fans to some great and wild racing, but it was all for the runner-up positions. Mike Horton absolutely dominated, clocking a fast time of 35.54 and blazing his way to an easy victory. Horton, though only 18, has made a smooth transition from Trikes and ATC's to karts, unfortunately for his competition. And speaking of competition, the battles going on behind Horton were furious! After an opening heat without mishap, heats 2&3 featured spin-outs and crashes all over the place, and only 12 of the original 18 survived to finish the race. However, the driving skills demonstrated by these talented youngsters received quite an ovation from the spectators, and when the dust and smoke cleared, Mike Elefonte took 2nd, Greg Lee was 3rd, Don Denges was 4th, and George Elefonte finished a respectable 5th. What a show!

Oakland Valley Raceway salutes all of the class champions at this year's I.K.F. Fall Nationals:

- 100cc Reed - Charles Cressi Jr. (Glen Cove, L.I., N.Y.) - 8yrs. in karting - 1983-85 I.K.F. Region 1 Super Stock Light Champion.
- Stock Light - George Neumann (Commack, L.I., N.Y.) - 18 yrs. in karting - 1985 I.K.F. Region 1 Stock Light Champion.
- 135cc Reed - Philip Browne (Roosevelt, L.I., N.Y.) - 3yrs. in karting - 4th Place in W.K.A. Manufacturers Cup at Avon.
- Junior II - Ricky Bennett (Danbury, CT) - 15 yrs. old - normally a dirt racer - win at Fall Nationals was first regional race on asphalt.
- Novice Heavy - Eddie Schutze (Woodbury, L.I., N.Y.) - 3yrs. in karting - 1st yr. in 2-Cycle - 1st Place Piston Port Heavy at Rutland, VT - also won regionals at Avon and West Hampton.
- Rookie 4-Cycle - Kevin Furlong (Smithtown, L.I., N.Y.) - 11yrs. old - 1½ yrs. in karting - 1986 Points Leader at Nutmeg Karting Assoc. - 1986 I.K.F. Region 1 Champ - 1985 Rookie Champ at L.I.K.A.

- Junior 4-Cycle - Jeff Nagel (Rochester, NY) - 16yrs. old - 3yrs. in karting - won I.K.F. Region 1 Championship in Junior Stock class - 2nd Place in 1986 I.K.F. Spring Nationals at Avon.
- U.S. 820 - Bruce Giumarra - TRACK OWNERS DO NOT HAVE A PROFILE!
- Yamaha KT100S - Rick Keller (Northport, L.I., N.Y.) - 12 yrs. in karting - 2nd Place in Spring Nationals at West Hampton - 2nd Place at Rutland, VT.
- 100cc Reed - Doug Gutberlet (Webster, NY) - 21 yrs. old - 14 yrs. in karting - 4th Place at W.K.A. Grandnationals - 1st Place at Dausman, WI (W.K.A.).
- Junior I - John Bonanno Jr. (Bordentown, NJ) - 14 yrs. old - 2 yrs. in karting - 1st Place at L.I.K.A. Spring Nationals (West Hampton) - 3rd Place in W.K.A. National Points.
- Stock Heavy - Larry Shivers Jr. (Miller Place, NY) - 8 yrs. in karting - 1st Place in I.K.F. Region 1 at L.I.K.A. - 2nd Place in 135cc Reed class at 1986 I.K.F. Fall Nationals (Oakland Valley).
- Unlimited - Doug Cressi (Glen Cove, L.I., N.Y.) - 25 yrs. old - 12 yrs. in karting - 3rd Place at W.K.A. Grandnationals - 2nd Place at Oakland Valley Opening Day race series.
- Rookie Junior - Phillip Elefonte (West Hempstead, L.I., N.Y.) - 11 yrs. old - 2 yrs. in karting - 1st Place in Dunlop Series at Avon.
- Limited Modified 4-Cycle - John Ellis (Brentwood, L.I., N.Y.) - 10 yrs. in karting - Track Director at West Hampton - 1st Place at L.I.K.A.
- 4-Cycle Medium - Pat Hagerty (Westport, CT) - 17 yrs. old - 7 yrs. in karting - 2nd Place in W.K.A. Horstman Gold Cup - twice won Mifflintown Triple Crown Series.
- 4-Cycle Heavy - Bill Henry (Landing, NJ) - 4 yrs. in karting - won 4-Cycle Heavy class at Great Meadows in 1985 - won 4-Cycle dirt championship at Oakland Valley in 1985.
- Novice Light - Mike Horton (Cuddebackville, NY) - 18 yrs. old - 9 months in karting - 3rd Place at W.K.A. Grandnationals - 1st Place at Oakland Valley Opening Day race series.

All of the 2-Cycle champions profiled here are looking forward to competing against the best American and Canadian racers at the 1987 Sprint Grandnationals in August. This is the big one; don't miss it!

Photos

- #1. Comin' at you from all angles.
- #2. Announcer Joe Claudio and scorers Karen Burroughs, Lisa Mitchell, Liz Kelly, and Jenny Grant keeping tabs on all the action.
- #3. Michael Beakes and Eddie Schutze battle for control in the Novice Heavy class, won eventually by Schutze (#8).
- #4. Through a cloud of smoke the traffic roars.
- #5. Pit Steward "J.R." Rooney ready to let 'em roll.
- #6. Rich Dunwell and Eric Schweinberg negotiate S turn and new curbing.
- #7. A race is over--time to socialize and check weight.
- #8. Mike Horton buries the field in the Novice Light class.
- #9. Doug Gutberlet sets a blistering pace down the straightaway.
- #10. It's GO--and the Junior II class gets off to a fast, smooth start.