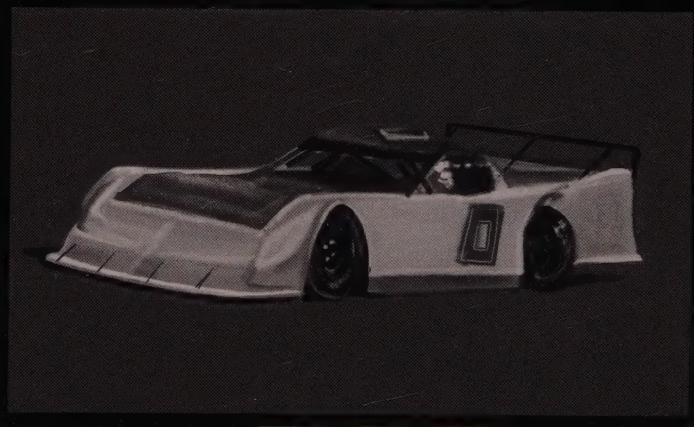
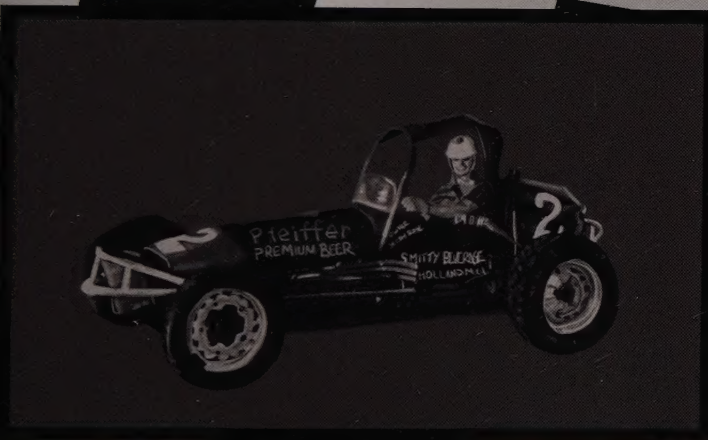
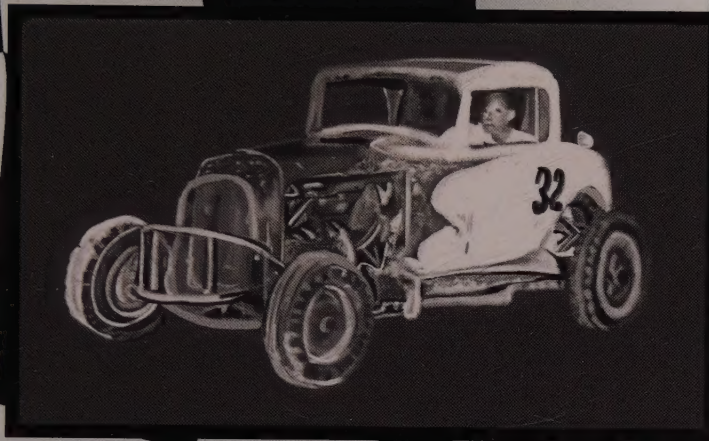


# Berlin Raceway

## 1951 to the Present

Volume I



Jalopy/Stock Cars/Modifieds – 1951 - 1957  
Supermodifieds (Dirt) – 1958 - 1965  
Supermodifieds (Pavement) – 1966 - 1968  
Semi-Late Model Stock Cars – 1966 - 1969  
Late Model Stock Cars – 1970 to Present

Dick Lee





# Berlin Raceway

## 1951 to the Present

**“There are only three sports:  
bullfighting, motor racing, and mountaineering;  
all the rest are merely games.”**

**—Ernest Hemingway**

---

VOLUME I

---

*Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present*  
Copyright © 2020 by Trackside Topics LLC

No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise, without the prior permission of the Publisher.

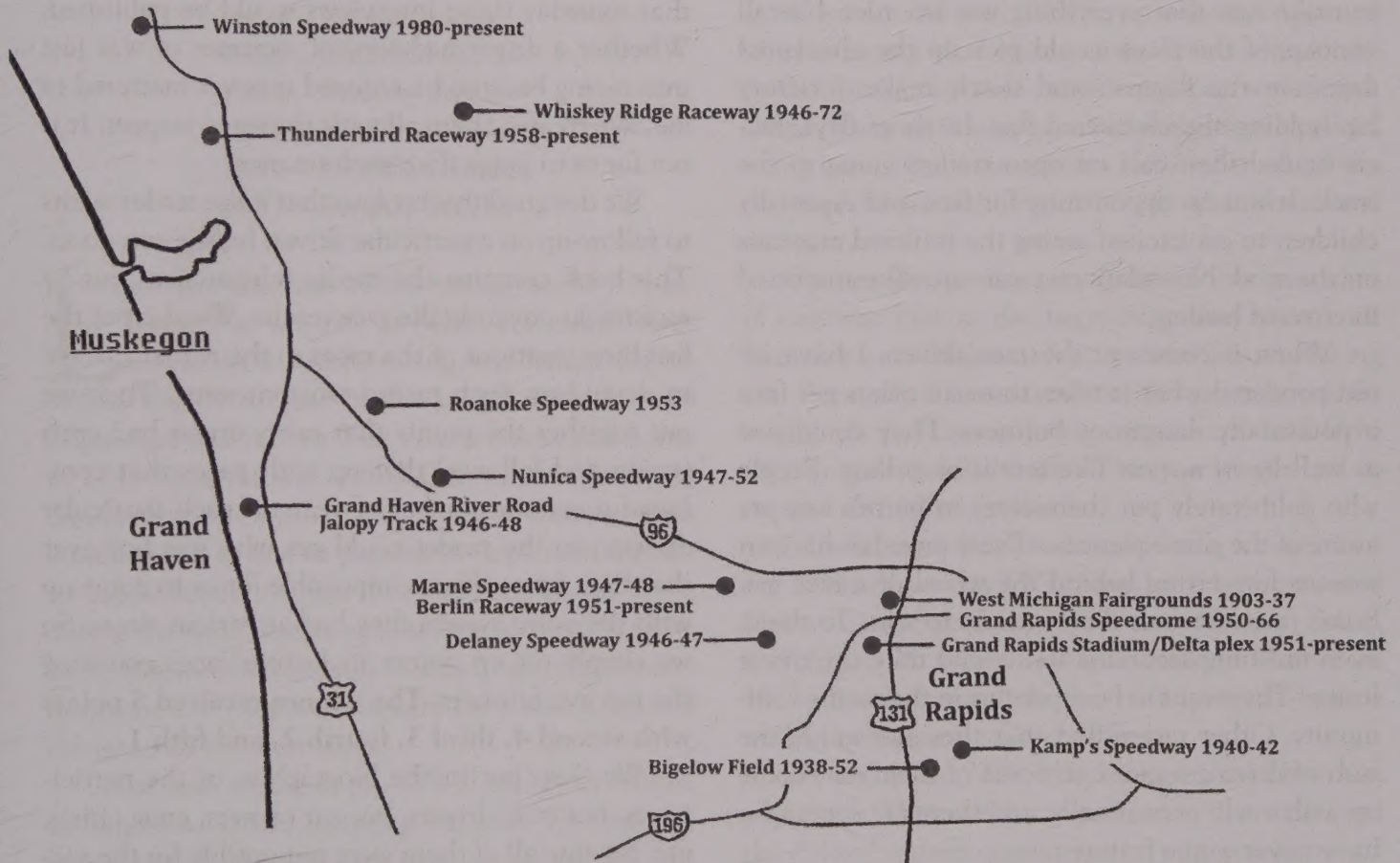
Trackside Topics LLC  
dlee5436@gmail.com  
616-481-1835

Interior Design & Typesetting — Michelle VanGeest  
Cover Design — Susan Haring  
Cover Drawings — Kristen Lee

Printed in the United States of America



# Map of West Michigan Race Tracks





## *Lee's Ramblings on Racing*

I want to use this space to just ramble on a bit about racing from my perspective. Since 1950 when racing found me, racing has made leaps and bounds of changes. Many old time racing fans still look fondly on those early days of racing.

I remember racing in its early days, and I miss some things that were prevalent at that time and are now gone. For example, I remember the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department that patrolled the race track grounds at Berlin Raceway on horseback to make sure that everything was in order. I recall winners of the races would pick up the checkered flag from the flagman and slowly make a victory lap holding the checkered flag. In those days, racers hauled their cars on open trailers going to the track. It was an opportunity for fans and especially children to get excited seeing the trailered race cars on the road. Nowadays race cars are all transported in covered haulers.

When it comes to the race drivers I have often pondered what it takes to make racers get into a potentially dangerous business. They could just as well be in a sport like tennis or golfing. People who deliberately put themselves in harm's way are aware of the consequences. Every racer has his own reasons for getting behind the wheel of a race car. Some racers are out there strictly to win. To them, even finishing second is losing and they can't bear losing. They want to be superstars in the racing community. Other racers find that they just enjoy the rush of driving a race car. Some of them may come up with a win occasionally, and there are some who have never won a feature race.

We approached each racer by telling them that we would not put our personal viewpoint in their bios. We tried very hard to stay neutral with the racers. Each racer was also told that it was up to them how much text ended up in their bio. In other words, we would use whatever they shared with us and that we would not add any personal thoughts regarding their career. So if you think some of the bios are too lengthy and some too short, we could only write the information they each gave us.

Bear with us as we share with you, the reader, what our experiences have been in publishing this book. First of all, it took forever to dig up the historical data. Finding usable photos was difficult. In the early days of racing, a lot of the photos were snapshots taken by the family and for printing they were questionable. So we had to work with what we could get. We were fortunate to know the early drivers personally. I interviewed them because I worshipped them as my idols at the time and never thought that someday those interviews would be published. Whether a driver had tons of victories or was just into racing because he enjoyed it never mattered to me. We treated them all with the same respect. It is not for us to judge their performance.

We designed this book so that if the reader wants to follow-up on a particular driver, he/she can do so. This book contains the media releases sent out by race tracks covering the race results. We also put the finishing positions of the races so the reader can see in detail how each racing program went. Then we put together the points that every driver had each season and followed that up with pages that combined a certain number of years in each particular division so the reader could see who was hot over that time frame. It was impossible for us to come up with the point system they had at various times. So we simply set up points in feature races counting the top five finishers. **The winner received 5 points with second 4, third 3, fourth 2, and fifth 1.**

We then put in the biographies of the participants, not only drivers, but car owners, crew chiefs, etc. because all of them were responsible for the victories. Included also are bios of track promoters and officials.



# Berlin Raceway History

1951 – Present

## Dirt fifth-mile track

1951 – Jalopy Stocks  
1952 – Jalopy Stocks  
1953 – Jalopy Stocks  
1954 – Modified Stocks  
1954 – Jalopy Stocks  
1955 – Modified Stocks  
1955 – Strictly Stocks  
1956 – Modified Stocks  
1957 – Modified Stocks  
1957 – Strictly Stocks

Let's put the late 1940's racing world in perspective as we look at Berlin Raceway's birth and growth. Auto racing was halted during World War II because of the armed services' need of gasoline and rubber. The veterans returned home in 1945 when the war ended. Business was good and families had money to spend. The auto factories were building cars as fast as possible to replenish the automobile buying market that had been closed down during the war. Houses were selling as they could be built. Families had enough money to spend on entertainment and they were hungry for places to go and things to do for recreation.

Most auto racing in pre-WWII had been limited to fairground tracks featuring big cars. The big cars were open wheeled cars very similar to the cars running at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway at that time. Each fairground had one week for their annual fair where big car racing was the highlight of fair week.

The car owners and drivers came from long distances to compete at the fair dates and were looked upon as sports heroes to the spectators in the grandstands. They would be representing states from all over the nation. Many of these race drivers were full-time racers, which meant that auto racing provided them their sole livelihood. They were true profes-

sionals. It was tough living for the crews of the big cars, because they were on the road so much and we have to remember that in those days there were no expressways, just two-lane roads leading from one city to the next. It was a tough business for racers back then.

Then in the mid 1930's, something happened in auto racing that changed the sport completely. In California, new and smaller race cars were introduced. They were simply called midgets, as opposed to big cars. They were smaller, but kept much of the standard design of the big cars, with open wheels and no top.

One reason for the popularity of this new class of cars was that in the beginning, they were built in each racer's shop at a fraction of the cost of a big car. Secondly, if someone wanted to promote midget racing, all they had to do was construct a small fifth-mile or quarter-mile track. They no longer had to depend on fairground tracks.

The first race track built specifically for auto racing in Michigan was VFW Speedway, later renamed Motor City Speedway. Don and Carson Zeiter, brothers, built a dirt half-mile track in Detroit in 1932, the track was built for the big cars and many well-known racers competed there.

By the mid-1930's, the midgets had grown in popularity. They were racing all across the nation and the Zeiter brothers quickly saw an opportunity to expand their racing programs at Motor City Speedway. They constructed a quarter-mile dirt track inside the half-mile track and brought the midgets to Motor City Speedway.

Midget auto racing became so popular after World War II, from 1946 through 1948; a team could race seven nights a week, racing at different tracks. Michigan saw fifth-mile and quarter-mile tracks built all around the state. Then two things happened starting in 1949. Opportunities for entertainment opened up



for families across the state, such as drive-in movies and the mass production of television sets.

When midgets first came out they were home-built by individual owners. But when their popularity increased Frank Kurtis, of California, began building midgets on a virtual assembly line. His Kurtis-Kraft cars coupled with an Offenhauser racing engine were unbeatable. The bad news was that the Kurtis-Kraft midget combinations with the Offy engine were so closely matched that racing became follow-the-leader shows with little or no passing. Fans soon began to lose interest and the mighty midgets lost their popularity. Midget racing was dying out.

Since World War II had ended, the auto manufacturers had built so many new cars that people who still owned the old 1930's models found that they no longer had any resale value. They were simply parked somewhere and left to rust. So there was a glut of old cars available by the late 40's, and now promoters found a new class of race cars to promote. They were called jalopy stock cars.

They were called jalopy stock cars and just like midget racing they became so popular that race tracks appeared all over Michigan. Some were simply bulldozed in a field and inexpensive wooden grandstands were thrown together. The best part of racing stock cars at that time was the low cost of getting into the sport. A person could buy an old junker and a flat-head engine to drop into the car with less than \$200 invested. The engine could be left stock and run that way until the driver had some track experience. Then, if he was committed to staying in the sport, he could order some racing parts to 'soup' up the engine and get serious about racing.

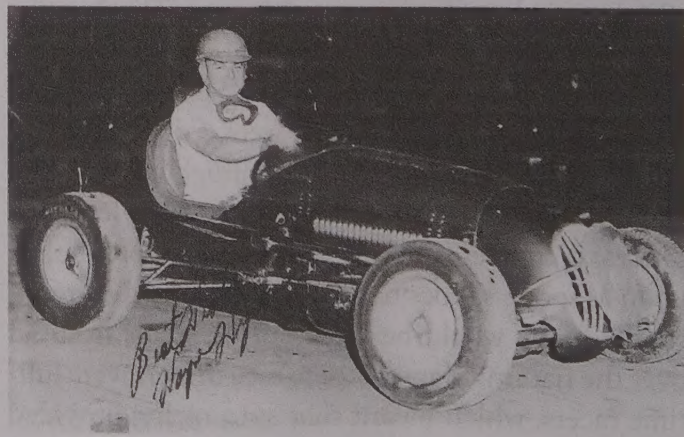
Did it cost much to prepare the car for racing once the engine was installed? Not really. All of the glass was removed from the windows; a safety belt was installed for driver safety. The doors were welded or strapped shut so the doors would not fly open and expose the driver to possible injury in an accident.

Finally the car was painted a flashy color. If a team could not afford a professional sign painter to letter and number the car, it would be done with a big paint brush. Because all of the cars of the 1930's were painted black at the factory, the North Michigan Stock Car Club had a stipulation in their rule

book stating that a stock car could not compete if it was painted black. (See separate article on stock car rules in 1950 put out by the North Michigan Stock Car Club).

The driver or car owner would go out and try to find a sponsor that would assist them in some way with their cost of racing. A few teams could locate sponsors that would fund the team in a big way, but most went to smaller sponsors that would contribute to some of the racing costs of the team. If you drove around West Michigan in the early 1950's, you would notice that numerous gasoline stations had a stock car bearing the station's name and address. Their only contribution was to supply the stock car with fuel each week. If the gas station owner liked the driver or car owner, he would allow them to park the car at the station and pull it into the garage to work on it during the week.

We all know how big a part sponsorship plays in racing today. Back in the jalopy era, it seemed that everybody wanted to sponsor a stock car, such as motels, bars, radio stations, automotive garages and used car lots. Some teams abused their sponsors when, after picking up their sponsorship money, they would get involved in a racing accident that totaled out their car. The team would build a new car and go out and find new sponsors for the cost of building a new car. If the original sponsor complained, they'd say, "Well, the car was wrecked beyond repair and we couldn't race it anymore. We needed a new sponsor to build another stock car." Finally some of the sponsors got wise to that game and they would say, "All right, we'll give you half the money at the beginning



Speedy Wynn in Chet's Midget

Dick Lee Collection



of the racing season and the other half towards the end of the season if you complete the racing season.”

Chet Mysliwec, a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, had been active in auto racing most of his life and owned a big car back in the 1930's. He hired a driver and they raced at the Kalamazoo Fairgrounds and the West Michigan Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids. When the midgets became so popular after World War II, Chet owned one of the hottest Ford 60's in the Midwest. In 1949, when the bottom fell out of midget auto racing, he sold his midget.

Mysliwec saw that jalopy stock car racing was coming on the scene. He and Hank Russ, who had been racing midgets, formed the North Michigan Stock Car Racing Club. They held meetings with racers, organized them and signed them up for their club. An interesting side note: when a stock car team signed up for the club, they were issued car numbers. So when you check out the car numbers in the early 1950's you can tell who signed up right from the beginning.

At the same time, in 1949, construction began on the new Grand Rapids Speedrome which opened up in 1950. O.C. Hall, the promoter at the Speedrome, signed up with the North Michigan Stock Car Racing Club to sanction the racing, which meant that Mysliwec would supply the cars and drivers for their races. As part of the contract, Mysliwec was being paid a sanctioning fee for each racing program

at the 'Drome,' as it was nicknamed, for supplying the cars and drivers for the track. So on top of the normal racing purse that the Drome paid to the racing teams participating, Hall also had to pay Chet Mysliwec the sanctioning fee.

By late August in 1950, the Speedrome management decided that they no longer needed to pay Mysliwec the sanctioning fee. They believed that enough of the cars and drivers would stay and race with them without Mysliwec and his sanctioning fee. So one night when Chet pulled into the Drome, he was told that he was no longer welcome and the track would be racing without him and his sanctioning fee.

What the Speedrome promoter, O.C. Hall, was not aware of was that Chet Mysliwec never ran away from a fight and never gave up the battle. It was a fatal decision for the Drome and its future. Chet promptly contacted the car owners and drivers in his North Michigan Stock Car Racing Club and informed them that he had rented the paved quarter-mile track at Nunica Speedway which was located near Nunica, Michigan, halfway between Grand Rapids and Muskegon. He finished the balance of the 1950 season at Nunica.

What O.C. Hall, the Speedrome promoter, did not realize was this would be the beginning of a fight between the Drome and Berlin Raceway for the next sixteen years for race cars, drivers, and fans. The two



Covered Grandstands at Berlin Raceway

Dick Lee Collection



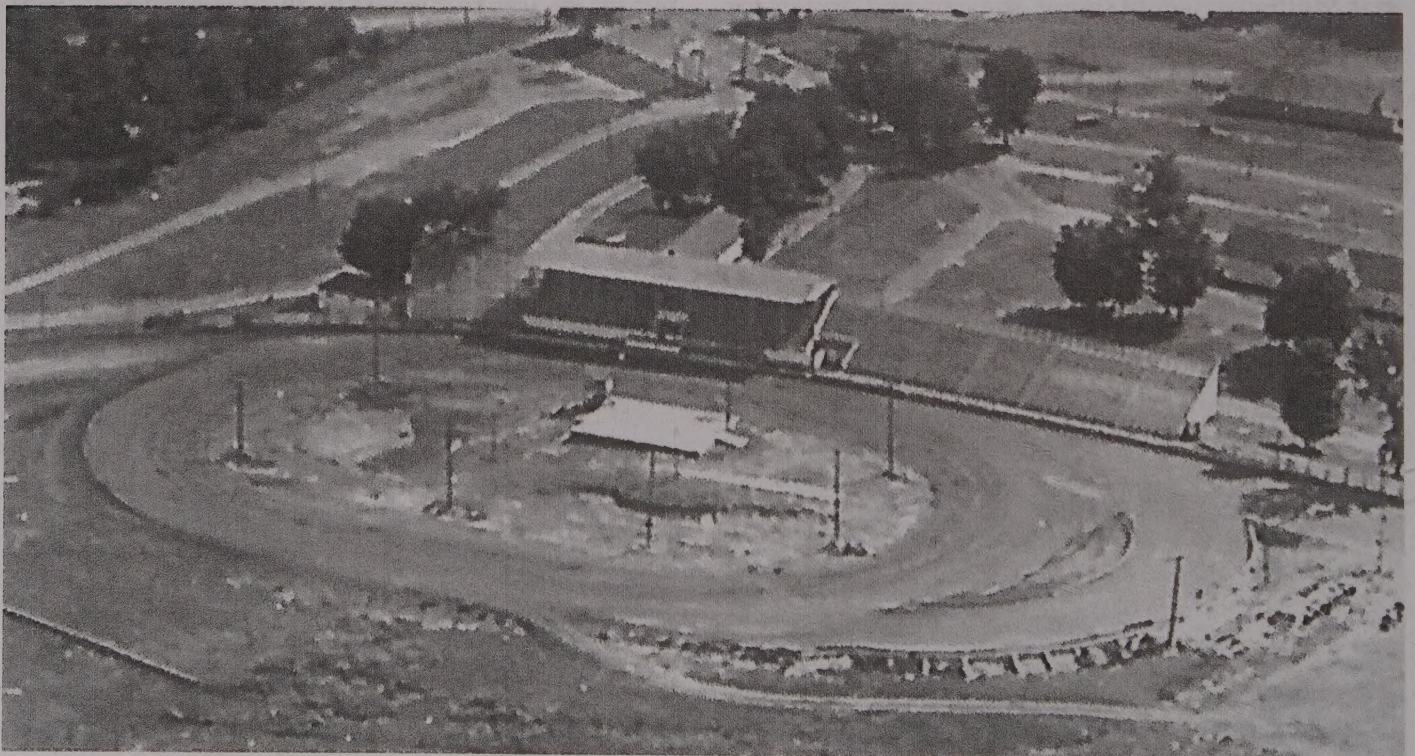
tracks, approximately ten miles apart, would be racing on the same day of the week, Saturday, so the participants and fans had to make a choice between the two tracks. The Speedrome management suffered the most between the two tracks. They were unable to promote the track successfully. In fact, they did so poorly that Chet Mysliwicz leased the track from them in 1953.

After Chet Mysliwicz finished out 1950 at Nunica Speedway, he met with the Berlin Fair Board and put together a lease of the fairgrounds property in Marne, Michigan. The small town had originally been named Berlin, Michigan until World War I. In 1919, the townspeople made a patriotic decision to change the town's name to Marne, which was where the surrender of the war was held ending World War I. At that time, the fairgrounds had a half-mile dirt track which held horse racing during fair week. The Berlin Fair has been held annually since 1855.

An interesting side note is that former General Motors President, Ed Cole, was born and raised near the Berlin Fairgrounds. Cole co-headed a team

that developed the 1949 Cadillac V8 engine. He became the chief engineer of the Chevrolet Division of General Motors in 1952. Cole then went on to replace the old stove-bolt six cylinder engines. The new engine was the famous 1955 small block V8 which has become the engine of choice of racers ever since. Cole retired from General Motors in 1970 to become CEO of Checker Motors Company of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Unfortunately, Cole was fatally injured in a light plane crash before taking control of the company. He was flying solo in rain and fog on his approach to an airport in Mendon, Michigan, near Kalamazoo.

The Berlin Fairgrounds covers a total of thirty-five acres of land. In 1951, it had a covered grandstand seating about eight hundred fans. The only negative aspect of the layout was that the grandstand faced to the west directly into the setting sun. Before auto racing came to the Berlin Fairgrounds, the horse racing events were held during daylight hours thus there had been no reason to consider the issue of fans having to look directly into the setting sun to watch auto racing.



Fifth-Mile Track

Dick Lee Collection



It should be mentioned that prior to Chet Mysliwiec's opening of Berlin Raceway in 1951, the fairgrounds had been used for auto racing in 1947 and 1948 by the Trackmasters Racing Club. The Trackmasters had used the existing dirt half-mile track that existed from the horse racing days.

Mysliwiec decided that racing the jalopy stock cars on the dirt half-mile track was not wise for two reasons: one, that the construction of the cars made them unsafe for the high speeds gained on the big track, and secondly, it would be too easy for the cars to get spread out on the big track and fans would find that aspect too boring.

As soon as winter was over and the ground had thawed out in 1951, Chet had earth-moving equipment at the track with trucks delivering the clay with which he built a new fifth-mile dirt track directly in front of the grandstand.

Bob Bagin, who had been involved with Berlin Raceway all of his life, working with Mysliwiec, said, "I was at the Berlin Fairgrounds playing baseball with some other guys. We were playing in the fourth turn of the old horse racing track. All of a sudden dump trucks started rolling in and dumping dirt in front of the grandstands. I walked over to see what was going on and met Chet and Rose Mysliwiec for the first time. They were telling the trucks where to dump the dirt and then directed a bulldozer where to move it around as they constructed the fifth-mile track."

The track was laid out to use the front straightaway of the old half-mile track and the infield held the scoring and announcing posts. There already existed a large infield platform for use as a stage for acts during the Berlin Fair. The pits were located near the fourth turn of the half-mile track. Lighting equipment was installed for evening racing and the first program was held on Saturday, April 28, 1951, with Gene Farber, from Muskegon, winning the feature in a 1932 Ford coupe stock car powered by a flat-head engine. Berlin Raceway was born.

The period of racing between 1951 and 1957 was probably the most fun time of racing for the competitors because the cost of racing was so low. The cost of getting into racing at that time was somewhere between \$200 and \$500.

In the beginning, Chet Mysliwiec handled the job of directing pit operations and the line-ups of the cars for the various races. Later, Forrest House took over that position.

One person who helped give us the history of Berlin during the 1950's was Mrs. Allen, who kept track of the finishes of the races and the points the racers scored.

The first track announcer was Noel Black, who was a college student at the time.

Hank Heald took over the mike later on that year and held the announcing post till 1958. Hank was at his best when groups of traveling racers visited Berlin Raceway because he followed many of the big car and midget racing groups around to other tracks where he was also the track announcer at those events. So when those teams appeared at Berlin, he could talk about each driver as they appeared on the track. Heald could tell the fans which of the teams were hot and who were not. He also could point out who had had bad luck recently and crashed and what injuries the driver suffered.

The next announcer at Berlin was John Shipman, who took over in 1958 and stayed as Berlin's announcer till he retired in 1998.



Ma Allen Dick Lee Collection



Noel Black Dick Lee Collection



Hank Heald Dick Lee Collection



John Shipman Dick Lee Collection



The first flagman at Berlin was Ben Crampton who had been involved in auto racing for many years. Crampton had tried racing big cars before World War II, but soon determined he was better off as a car owner, hiring drivers for his car. After the war ended, Ben sold off his racing equipment and began his career as a flagman. He was a professional at his job of flagging races and was well liked by the racers. Gordy VanderLaan said of the well-liked Crampton, "Ben just had a certain way of handling the flags. I could look at him and see how he was snapping the green flag between his hands to tell whether he was going to throw the green flag on that lap." Crampton retired to Arkansas eventually. We kept in contact by mail until one day I received a letter from his wife telling me that Ben had passed away.

There were several photographers at Berlin who produced some very professional photos during this time period. Louis Branch of Muskegon, along with Leon Borucki and Marv Laninga, who worked as photographers for the Grand Rapids Press, teamed up to produce outstanding racing photos.

Don and Margie Sollenberger did the scoring for Berlin from 1951 up through 1967 when they were forced to leave because of a serious illness which prevented Don from carrying on his job as scorer. When the Sollenbergers first began scoring at Berlin in 1951, they were working under the di-



The Sollenbergers

Dick Lee Collection

rection of Clare Stader of Stader Timing Service, so they were not only scoring Berlin but also several other tracks in Michigan. Chet Mysliwicz finally hired them directly to work only his track, so from then on they worked directly for Mysliwicz. Diane Mysliwicz, who married Bill Mysliwicz, the son of Chet and Rose Mysliwicz, is a daughter of Don and Margie Sollenberger. Moore's Hobby Shop handled the sound system for Berlin when the track opened in 1951. Later on, George Volkema took over the sound system.

At one point an issue arose concerning the amount of purse money Berlin paid out. Traditionally, racers felt that race track promoters in general were not paying a fair purse to the race teams. The racers decided to push the envelope by signing a paper indicating that unless their demands were met they would not race at Berlin. Of course, Chet said, "Fine, do what you gotta do." We have included a copy of the signatures of the drivers in the protest. Some of the names that stand out are: Bob Knight, Glen Rockey, Jack Smith, Mort Anderson, Dick Carter, Lee France, Jackie Lindhoudt, Bob Clover, Norm Brown, Bill Sherman, Bill Wiltse, Jack Sanborn, Ray Flannery, Harold Ende, Jack Beduhn, George Roberts, Jimmy Rinner, and Johnny Johnson.

So how did the organized effort of the racers do in their attempt to force Chet to up the ante? The Saturday evening of the strike, some of the ring leaders pulled their trucks and trailers to the track and parked on the shoulder of Berlin Fair Drive in front of the track. However, more and more of the racers



Ben Crampton

Dick Lee Collection



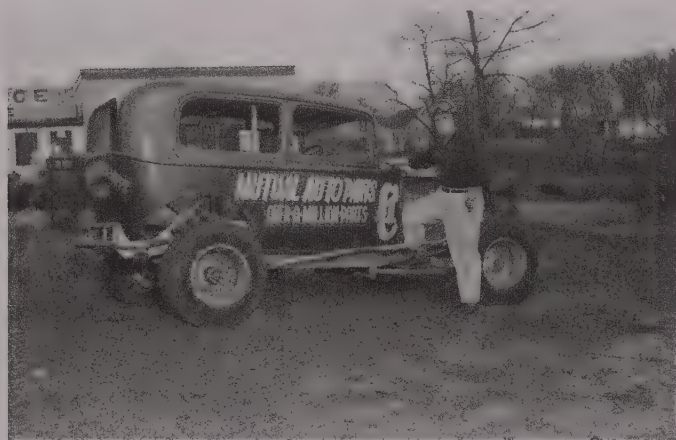
turned into the track's entrance intending to race. When the ringleaders realized that the strike had

failed, they gave in and raced and no more was heard about the issue.

[illegible]



In that era, there were some cars and drivers who stood out. One of the best looking cars was the #C1, owned by Ed Krupp and Bob Marz, sponsored by Junior Hosford, who owned Mutual Auto Parts. The car was a 1932 Ford two-door sedan, painted blue with a professional painter doing the lettering and numbering in yellow and the interior painted aluminum. The car was driven primarily by Jimmy "Ping-Pong" Rinner, along with a host of other front-runner drivers.



#C1 Car

Dick Lee Collection

Jack Cummiford, who raced the blue and grey #24, had a used truck lot on South Division Avenue in Grand Rapids. You couldn't miss his location because he had placed one of his stock cars on the roof of his office. The business was entitled 'Truck City' and, for a while, Cummiford had track announcer, Hank Heald, as a business partner.



Stock Car on Roof

Dick Lee Collection

A stock car that stood out was the car owned and driven by Roger Joneson from Muskegon. It was a 1932 Ford coupe that was chopped and channeled. Joneson had set a large bucket, filled with nuts and bolts, in the trunk area. Roger would use the bucket to adjust the weight around on the rear of the car by either adding to or subtracting from the contents of the bucket.



Roger Joneson

Dick Lee Collection

Another personality at the track was Bob Whitcomb, who went by his Polish name of 'Jasiu.' He was a part-time announcer at Berlin, but his real job was at radio station WGRD, where he was a disk jockey. He had a weekly program called "Polka Time." Because of his love of racing, he gave a lot of free air time talking about Berlin Raceway.

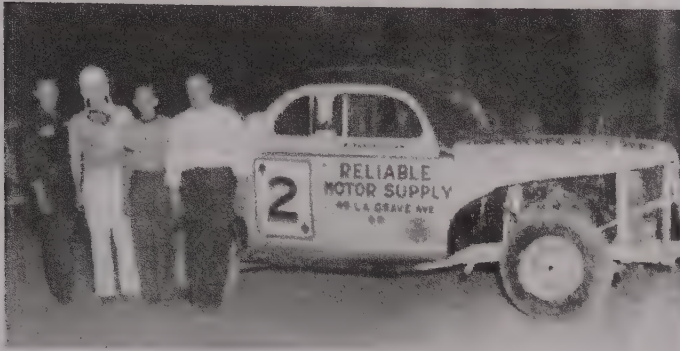


Bob (Jasiu) Whitcomb

Dick Lee Collection

The racers of that time came with all kinds of personalities. Gordy VanderLaan, with his good looks and feature-winning ways, was cocky, but in a good way. Gordy has the distinction of winning the longest short-track race in Michigan when he took the checkered at the Ionia Fairgrounds in the 500-lap stock car race on the one-half mile dirt track in 1951.





Gordy VanderLaan

Dick Lee Collection

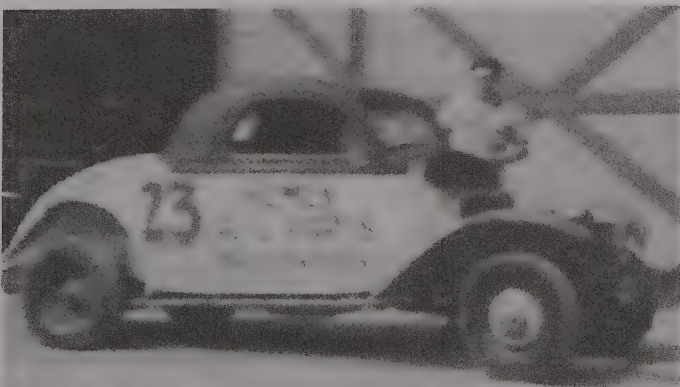
Bill Sherman lived right in Marne, Michigan and it took him less than five minutes to get to the track from his home. Sherman was a nice, quiet guy who loved to race.



Bill Sherman

Dick Lee Collection

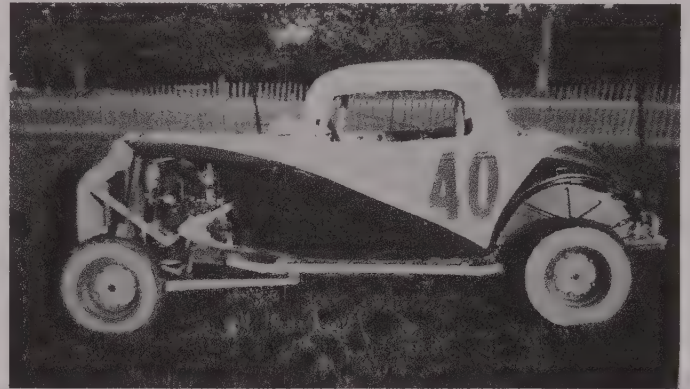
Willy Wik was a veteran of racing across the nation. He always had interesting stories to tell about the month-long activities at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway where he crewed for several teams in the 1950's. He was crewing for Bob Sweikert when the team won the Indianapolis 500 in 1955.



Willy Wik

Dick Lee Collection

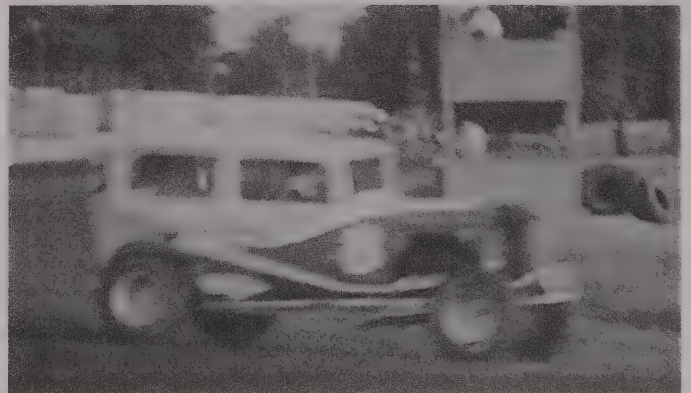
Johnny Johnson had a sparkling personality. His real last name was Briel. Like many other racers of that time, he used an assumed name to race, so his family wouldn't know that he was driving a race car. Racers in those days led a rough life and racing was frowned upon by some people. Not only did Johnny do well at Berlin, but he was also a standout midget and sprint car driver. Johnson was a talker, and especially loved to talk about racing. He always flashed a big smile for fans.



Johnny Johnson

Dick Lee Collection

Wally Sanders had a long and successful career beginning in the early 1950's. He was racing the red #12 supermodified for Jerry Rose at the end of his career. Rose had been a car owner since the early 1950's. He had great success with Gordy VanderLaan, until VanderLaan was injured and could no longer race. Sanders picked up right where Gordy left off and continued to pile up feature wins in the tough supermodified division. In the mid 1960's, the team made a decision together that they had had enough racing and retired.



Wally Sanders

Dick Lee Collection



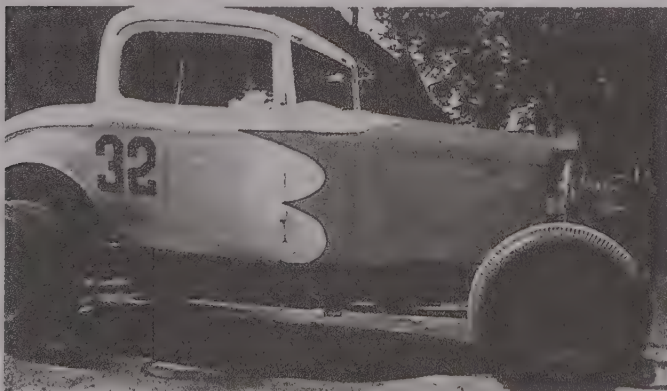
Glen Rockey was always the proverbial hard-charger. He only knew one way to race and that was to stand on it and go full-bore racing. Rockey had an outgoing personality and was a happy-go-lucky kind of guy. He mostly drove his own equipment and might have had a brighter career if he had hooked up with an affluent car owner who had better equipment. Glen also raced sprint cars, again in his own equipment and competed in several "Little 500's." I personally witnessed his tragic death in 1959 when, driving Lefty TerHaar's supermodified, when he slammed into the fourth turn wall at Berlin.



Glen Rockey

Dick Lee Collection

"Wild" Bill Wiltse acquired his nickname from announcer Hank Heald. He was a very determined racer and was at his best on smaller tracks. Wiltse drove for Lefty TerHaar toward the end of his career. In 1959, the team split. Bill continued his racing career at the Grand Rapids Speedrome after leaving TerHaar.



Bill Wiltse

Dick Lee Collection

Jimmy "Ping Pong" Rinner was well-liked by fans. He did his best racing while in the #C1, a 1932 Ford sedan sponsored by 'Mutual Auto Parts.' Later in his career, Rinner drove for Lefty TerHaar in



Jimmy "Ping Pong" Rinner

Dick Lee Collection

his supermodified, bringing the Mutual Auto Parts sponsorship with him. For a while "Ping Pong," as he was called, was in the U.S. Army. Before he shipped out to Korea, he would come back weekly to race at Berlin and used the assumed name of Art Rinner. I would guess that maybe the Army frowned on his racing while on leave.

Bob Knight had a stellar racing career and for a good deal of his racing career drove for Chet Mysliwiec in the yellow #1. Bob 'Smokey' Steele was listed as the car owner because Chet didn't want the fans to know that the track promoter owned the best car at the track. Smokey built the cars and maintained them. Knight was very popular with the fans; unfortunately his racing career was cut short with medical problems.



Bob Knight

Dick Lee Collection



"Tailspin" Tommy Lane, from Muskegon, began racing right after World War II ended. Small in stature, Tommy looked just like a kid but he had a heavy foot. His car owner, Irv Finkler, spent a ton of money on the supermodified cars that Lane drove for him. In 1955, when the Chevy small block V8 came out, Finkler spent over \$10,000 trying to get his cars into victory lane. That was a lot of money in those days.



Tommy Lane

Dick Lee Collection

Eddie VanderLaan came into racing a few years after his brother Gordy. Eddie had a strong racing career starting with the jalopies, modifieds, supermodifieds, and then late models. He had one of the longest careers of Berlin Raceway drivers. Eddie was one of the few drivers who raced on the fifth-mile, the half-mile and the paved .438 mile tracks.



Eddie VanderLaan

Dick Lee Collection

Bill Rider was an easy-going racer who was one of the smoothest drivers at Berlin. He never took unnecessary risks, never drove erratically on the race track. A bad crash on Berlin's



Bill Rider

Dick Lee Collection

big half-mile convinced Bill to hang up his helmet. On the one-fifth mile track, Rider was a master.

Mort Anderson was a well-liked racer at Berlin. Always smiling, Anderson ran up front of the pack. I will share a personal story about Mort Anderson: It was 1957 and I had just started racing that year. I drove at Berlin, the Grand Rapids Speedrome, the Ionia Fairgrounds and a couple of other tracks. I had been racing on the fifth-mile and then Chet opened up the half-mile for a few shows. Being a rookie, I qualified poorly and started the B feature near the front. I got by the cars in front of me and, wow, I was leading! I heard a car coming up on me and when I got to the third turn, I slid up the track somewhat and Mort Anderson slipped under me to take the lead. I knew that Mort was a good driver and then



Mort Anderson

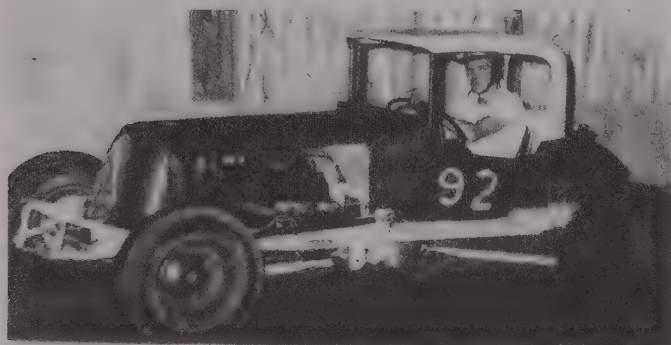
Dick Lee Collection

remembering what I had always heard veteran drivers say to rookies, "Find a good, fast driver and follow him and do what he does and learn from him." I put this advice to work immediately after he passed me. I got right behind him as we approached the treacherous fourth turn. I thought to myself, I won't back off the throttle till he does. We went into the turn all bent for hell when, all of a sudden, Anderson did something I had not envisioned. He stood on the binders and in that instant I was heading for him at full throttle. By then it was too late to hit my brakes and I instinctively pulled out to the right instead of just hitting him in the rear of his car. From that point on it was all a blur to me, till I found myself sitting in the middle of the track facing the wrong way. I had come close to making it between Mort



and the wall, but unfortunately my right rear wheel took the brunt force of the crash. Obviously, the veterans had forgotten to tell me, "the rookie", about brake checking.

Jack Beduhn was a typical racer who built and owned his own racing equipment. Beduhn was not at Berlin to compete with the front running cars owned by owners who had excess money to dump into racing. That kind of money was just not available to Jack and he single-handedly struggled, working on his car all by himself both to build it and then to race it. But Jack loved racing and hung in there. He finally won a Berlin Raceway supermodified feature on August 30, 1957. I remember that night well because I was crewing for Jack and he and I went to a bar after leaving the track to spend his winnings. After that I was cheering for Beduhn to win the feature every week.



Jack Beduhn

Dick Lee Collection

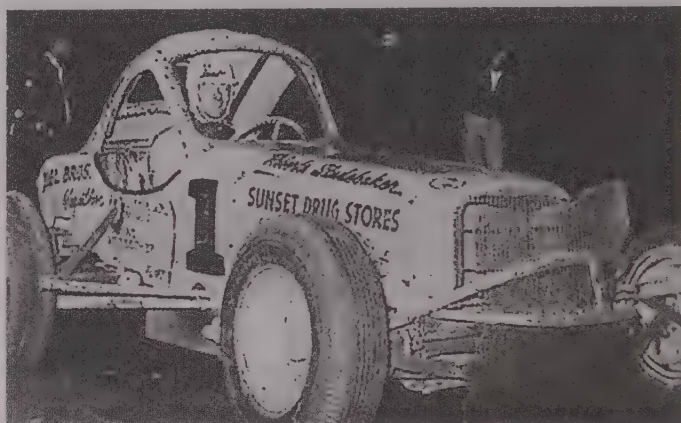
During the mid '50's, the stock cars began to take on a new look as the guys began modifying the cars. One car builder who was a master at building a modified was Bernie Shimmel. Shimmel was meticulous in his work and built a number of front running cars.



Bernie Shimmel

Dick Lee Collection

When Johnny Roberts brought his newly-built supermodified to Berlin in 1957, he changed the direction of racing at the track. It was the first true supermodified race car at Berlin and soon all of the modifieds were being rebuilt into supermodifieds. The beautiful yellow #1 had a radically scaled down Crosley body with an overhead Studebaker V8 engine. Roberts brought the supermodified era to Berlin single-handedly, which would change the looks and performance of the cars and cause Chet to open up the large, fast, dirt half-mile.



Johnny Roberts

Dick Lee Collection

A well-known driver who was racing during this time period was Sam Ash, a black man. Sam had a very positive attitude and was very colorful and well liked. There was another black man that raced at Berlin by the name of Olie Johnson.



Sam Ash

Dick Lee Collection



## TRACK SLANG

Skins	-	Shoes	_____	Tires
Pots	_____	Carburetors		
Stick	_____	Camshaft		
Igniter	_____	Distributor		
Cog	_____	Rear Axel Gear		
Alligator	-	Pie	_____	Slow Car
Bomb	_____	Fast Car		
Stroker	_____	Slow Driver		
Hot Rock	_____	Fast Driver		
Buckets	_____	Pistons		
Breaking Loose,		Ringing	_____	
_____		Spinning	_____	Wheels

"There are bold race drivers and there are old race drivers but there are no old bold race divers."



**WM. MYSLIWIEC'S SONS' SUPER MARKET**

For the Finest

Home Made Sausage and Smoked Meats

Lucky      N? 5479      Number A

744 Michigan, N.E.

Phone S-3120

In this part of the Berlin Raceway, we are taking you from April 28, 1951 to October 12, 1957. Chet saw the writing on the wall when Roberts pulled in with his radical new race car and watched other car owners frantically rebuilding their modifieds to supermodifieds. Mysliwicz knew that the speeds of the newly reconfigured cars were beyond the limits of the small fifth-mile track. He began working on the half-mile track and on July 27, 1957 he opened up the big track for competition. The big track was perfect for the faster supermodifieds. Both the drivers and fans loved the fast and wild action—and the die was cast. The supermodifieds ran the half-mile on occasional shows in 1957 when Chet ran the supermodifieds early in the show before the sun went down and finished the program with the other classes on the fifth-mile track under the track lights. Mysliwicz bought the lighting system from the defunct Bigelow Field track to install on the half-mile in time for the opening of the 1958 season.

When jalopy stock car racing began in West Michigan in the late 1940's and early 1950's the cars were really stock. Except for gutting the interior, removing headlights, fenders, and glass windows, there wasn't much more that could be done with the car. Engines, transmissions, and rear ends had to be stock. The flathead engine could not be larger than 251.5 cubic inches and the bore could only be .080 over stock. One stock carburetor was allowed, but no magneto, special camshaft, or special pistons were allowed. Slowly, year by year, the specs were changed and by the mid 1950's the name of the division went from jalopy stock car to modified stock car. The flathead engine became so powerful that alcohol was burned instead of gasoline. The stock bodies were undergoing changes also, as they were chopped and channeled. As overhead V8 engines came out of Detroit on new cars, the racers replaced their flathead engines with the new overhead V8's along with fuel injection. From 1957 on, the race cars at Berlin made a giant leap in evolution when the supermodifieds appeared. These cars were specially built from the frame on up instead of starting with a stock car. It became the era of "Run what ya brung."



## *Berlin Raceway*

1951 - 1957

### Era of Jalopy & Modified Stock Cars

#### **Berlin Raceway Media 1951**

#### **Berlin Racing Gets Off To A Good Start**

**April 28, 1951 - Berlin Raceway** - Stock car racing at the newly opened Berlin Raceway on the Berlin fairgrounds in Marne, Michigan was away to a successful start Saturday night as an estimated 2,500 people witnessed the card. The track was not in the best condition due to recent rains, but performances generally were satisfactory.

Bob Knight was among the busiest contestants, winning the popular pursuit race, the six lap four car dash limited to the fastest qualifiers and one of the heat events. He was forced out of the feature when engine trouble developed.

Dick Stoddard and Don Green had the fastest qualifying time, tying at 17 13/100 seconds for the fifth-mile track. Gene Farber was victorious in the 30-lap feature, with Dick Peoples placing second and Bill Sherman third. Additional heat race winners were Farber, Green and Willy Wik.

#### **Cummiford Stock Race Victor**

**May 5, 1951 - Berlin Raceway** - Cowboy Jack Cummiford, Grand Rapids' neck-risking stock car racer, gulped up the main share of racing victories this weekend as three scattered tracks ran events in Western Michigan.

First Cummiford won the 30-lap feature event at the Berlin Raceway in Marne Saturday night. Then Sun-

day he followed with a 35-lap feature triumph in Nunica.

Bob Knight won the 25-lap feature race at Big Rapids where Willie Wik, Don Nicholson and Dick Peoples won heat races. Nicholson set a new track record at Marne Saturday, roaring around the one fifth mile oval in 16.30. Ernie Stick set a new mark at Nunica with 16.92. An estimated 3,359 persons saw the three programs.

#### **Dick Peoples Notches Berlin Feature**

**May 9, 1951 - Berlin Raceway** - Dick Peoples from Muskegon grabbed the 50-lap jalopy feature at Berlin Raceway. Art Ayers won the pursuit race while Don Green, Ed Krupp, Wally Sanders, and Dick Peoples were heat race winners.

#### **Berlin Win to Wally Sanders**

**May 16, 1951 - Berlin Raceway** - Wally Sanders won the feature race at Berlin Raceway Wednesday night. Bob Knight broke the track record in qualifying by setting a 16.25 time on the dirt fifth mile track.

#### **Gordy VanderLaan Wins Feature**

**May 19, 1951 - Berlin Raceway** - Gordy VanderLaan was victorious in the 30-lap feature race at the

Berlin Raceway Saturday night as the largest crowd of the season, 1,887 attended. Dick Peoples of Muskegon broke the track record of: 16.25 held by Bob Knight as he qualified in the time of: 16.20. Dick Stoddard came home the winner in the pursuit race.

At Big Rapids Sunday night Willie Wik captured the honors in the feature, with VanderLaan and Wally Sanders in the second and third positions. VanderLaan took the pursuit and Johnny Johnson the four-car dash.

#### **Wik Captures Win**

**May 23, 1951 - Berlin Raceway** - Veteran Willie Wik took the 25-lap feature win at Berlin Raceway Wednesday night with Gene Farber and Glen Rockey trailing him.

#### **Willie Wik Two In A Row At Berlin**

**May 26, 1951 - Berlin Raceway** - Willie Wik took the 30-lap feature by four-car-lengths in Marne stock car racing Saturday night. A crowd of approximately 2,500 saw Gene Farber finish second and Glen Rockey came in third.

#### **VanderLaan Memorial Day Victor At Berlin Raceway**

**May 28, 1951 - Berlin Raceway** - Gordy VanderLaan held off Gene Farber and Leon Bockheim for the



25-lap feature win on Memorial Day at Berlin Raceway. Dick Peoples set fast time for the night of 16.20, which matched his track record of two weeks ago, while Dick Stoddard won the pursuit race.

## VanderLaan Winner At Berlin Raceway

**June 9, 1951 — Berlin Raceway** — Gordy VanderLaan won the 30-lap feature stock car race at Berlin Raceway Saturday, passing Gene Farber and Leon Bockheim who took second and third.

## Feature Honors To CummiFord

**June 16, 1951 — Berlin Raceway** — Berlin's 30-lap feature race honors Saturday night went to Jack CummiFord while Kenny Knoll proved to be another big winner with a win in the heat race and another in the fast-car dash.

On Sunday Bob Knight led the pack at Big Rapids, winning the feature. Willie Wik took the fast-car dash and had a third in the feature.

## Ray Flannery Wins At Marne

**June 20, 1951 — Berlin Raceway** — Ray Flannery of Twin Lakes won the 30-lap feature race at the Berlin Raceway at Marne Wednesday evening. Flannery also won the pursuit and the fourth heat race.

Grand Rapids' Ed Krupp took the semi-final. Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids won the first heat, Ernie Russell of Big Rapids took the second heat and Eddie Shoemaker of Grand Rapids won the third.

## Flannery Wins Second Feature Of Week

**June 23, 1951 — Berlin Raceway** — Ray Flannery of Twin Lakes Saturday night won the Berlin Raceway stock car 30-lap feature before a crowd of 2,132 racing fans.

Flannery was also a heat race winner. Bill Sherman of Marne copped the pursuit race and the semi-final was won by Wally Sanders.

Heat race winners included Sanders, Ed Krupp and Gordy VanderLaan. Johnny Johnson was second in the feature with Don Green third.

## Flannery Three In A Row At Berlin

**June 30, 1951 — Berlin Raceway** — Ray Flannery wheeled to victory in the 30-lap feature Saturday night before a crowd of 1,657 Berlin Raceway stock car fans. Second was Bill Sherman followed by Jack CummiFord. Don Nicholson won the pursuit race and Sherman also copped the semi-final.

Heat race winners included Flannery, Art Ayers, "Tar" Gaylor and Willie Wik.

## Sherman Takes Holiday Feature

**July 4, 1951 — Berlin Raceway** — Bill Sherman splashed through the rain to win the 30-lap feature race of the Berlin Raceway's stock car program at Marne Wednesday night.

Willie Wik was second and Gordy VanderLaan, third, before 1,527 shivering fans. Howard Newland won the pursuit race and Don Nicholson the semi-final. VanderLaan, Kenny Knoll, Leon Bockheim and Gene Farber won heat races.

## Sherman Takes Mid-Season Championship

**July 11, 1951 — Berlin Raceway** — Bill Sherman of Marne dashed across the finish line the winner in a "blanket windup" to the mid-season championship 100-lap race at Berlin Raceway Wednesday night, beating out Johnny Johnson of Grand Rapids by a margin just better than two car lengths. Gordy VanderLaan also of Grand Rapids was a half car length back of Johnson in the third spot.

The event was biggest of the season to date at the track which drew a crowd of 2,007 and carried a total purse of \$1,167, was hotly contested all the way. Sherman took the lead away from Willie Wik in the 56<sup>th</sup> lap when the latter's entry was eliminated by a broken axle. Johnson then forged ahead on the 67<sup>th</sup> lap and was in front until Sherman again took over for the last nine laps.

Bob Bockheim of Grand Rapids was victorious in the semi-final feature, with Kenny Knoll of Muskegon the runner up.

In the heat races, Grand Rapids racers dominated. Kenny Knoll of Muskegon took the first one, and in successive events the checkered flag went to Jack CummiFord, Gordy VanderLaan and Howard Newland all of Grand Rapids.

## Feature Taken By Gordy VanderLaan

**July 18, 1951 — Berlin Raceway** — Gordy VanderLaan won the 30-lap feature stock car race at Berlin Raceway Wednesday night before a crowd of approximately 800 persons. Jack CummiFord was second, Bob Knight won the pursuit and Bill Sherman took the semi-final.



## Ray Flannery Tops Berlin Feature

**July 28, 1951 – Berlin Raceway** – Ray Flannery piloted his stock car to the 25-lap feature triumph Saturday night in the racing program at Marne's Berlin Raceway. Gordy VanderLaan was second and Elmer Lovett third.

Dick Underling won the semi-final and Willie Wik the pursuit. Wally Sanders, Pete Stawicki, Glen Smith and Bob Bockheim were heat race victors.

## Knight Victorious At Berlin

**August 1, 1951 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight piloted his stock car to victory in the 25-lap feature race of the Berlin Raceway stock car program before 1,987 fans Wednesday night.

Johnny Johnson finished second and Paul Tooker third. Kenny Knoll of Muskegon won the semi-final. Heat race victors were Tooker, Knoll, Harley Green and Elmer Lovett.

## Flannery Takes Fourth Berlin Feature

**August 4, 1951 – Berlin Raceway** – Ray Flannery sped to another 30-lap stock car feature before 1,745 fans Saturday night at the Marne track.

Burr Krupp took the pursuit race while Johnny Johnson won the semi-final. Heat race winners included Johnson, Jack Roerig, Lynn Smith and Bob Bockheim.

## Green Wins First Berlin Feature

**August 8, 1951 – Berlin Raceway** – Don Green won his first feature race of the year at the Berlin Raceway

Wednesday night in a contest that saw Kenny Knoll rushed to St. Mary's Hospital after flipping his car on the seventh lap. A crowd estimated at 1,470 persons was on hand. Knoll, of Muskegon, was treated for minor injuries at the hospital and released.

The semi was taken by Elmer Lovett while Whitey Schaap took the pursuit race.

Heat races were won by Gordy VanderLaan, Elmer Lovett, Leon Bockheim and Willie Wik.

## VanderLaan Wins Fourth Feature At Berlin

**August 11, 1951 – Berlin Raceway** – Gordy VanderLaan won another feature at the Berlin Raceway Saturday night, finishing first in a close race ahead of Bob Knight and Jack Cummmiford, before a crowd of 1,732 persons.

VanderLaan, driving #2 —his Deuce of Spades— started tenth in the 30-lap race; took the lead at the half-way mark, and was never headed.

Howard Newland won the semi-final and Elmer Lovett took the pursuit race. Heat winners were Willie Wik in the first, Pete Deacey in the second, Leon Bockheim the third, and Whitey Schaap in the fourth.

## Fourth Feature Win For Flannery

**September 1, 1951 – Berlin Raceway** – Ray Flannery, one of the year's most consistent stock car winners, wheeled to another Berlin Raceway 30-lap feature victory here Saturday night. A crowd of 1,237 saw Flannery win with Jack Cummmiford finishing second. Flannery also won the pursuit race with Willie Wik coping the semi-final.

## Cummiford Wins Holiday Race

**September 3, 1951 – Berlin Raceway** – Jack Cummmiford won the 30-lap feature Monday night before 1,921 Berlin Raceway stock car fans. Second on the Labor Day program was Ray Flannery. Cy Hueckels took the pursuit race while Gordy VanderLaan copped the semi.

## Cummiford Captures Second Berlin Feature Of The Week

**September 8, 1951 – Berlin Raceway** – Jack Cummmiford, starting fifth in a field of 20 cars, took the lead at the halfway mark and went on to win the 30-lap stock car feature Saturday night before 1,019 fans. Bob Knight finished second and Gordy VanderLaan third.

Rockford's Orville Vogal won the semi-final in a close duel with Willie Bernbrook. Wally Sanders won the pursuit race. Knight, Sanders, Leon Bockheim and Joe Provonzoni were heat victors.

## Cummiford Wins Third Berlin Feature In A Row

**September 15, 1951 – Berlin Raceway** – Jack Cummmiford roared around the 30-lap distance at Berlin Raceway Saturday night to win his third straight feature stock car race.

Two Muskegon daredevils dogged his tires, Ray Flannery, who finished second, and Kenny Knoll, who was third.

Knoll won one semi-final race and Gordy VanderLaan the other. Glen Rockey won the pursuit race and one of the heat races. Other heat victors were Wally Sanders, Bill Sherman and Flannery.



## Flannery And Cummiford Tied With Eight Wins

**September 22, 1951 — Berlin Raceway** — Ray Flannery of Muskegon and Jack Cummiford of Grand Rapids are tied with eight feature wins each as the racing season draws near the end for the North Michigan Stock Car Club. The unit conducts races at Nunica, Big Rapids, and the Berlin Raceway at Marne.

Veteran Willie Wik, the daring Grand Rapids driver, leads in the point standings and can't be overhauled by the end of the season. He has a 290-point lead over his closest competitor, Bill Sherman. Just four points behind Sherman is Gordy VanderLaan and Bob Knight who are tied for third behind Flannery and Cummiford in feature victories, with seven.

The three tracks under the North Michigan Stock Car Club's sanction have paid \$22,876 in purses this season.

## Cummiford Captures Ninth Feature Of Year

**September 29, 1951** — Jack Cummiford captured the feature at the last racing program of the year at Berlin Raceway which went for 100-laps. His nine feature wins tops the list of wins.

**Stock  
Car  
Races**

**GRAND  
OPENING  
SATURDAY NIGHT  
APRIL 28**

at the NEW

**BERLIN  
RACEWAY**  
(Fairgrounds)  
**MARNE, MICH.**

**New Track  
and Lighting**

**HOME OF NORTH  
MICHIGAN STOCK  
CAR CLUB**

Berlin Raceway's opening - April 28, 1951

## Berlin Racing Cards Get Off To Good Start

Stock car racing at the newly-opened Berlin Raceway on the Berlin fairgrounds was away to a successful start Saturday night as an estimated 2,500 persons witnessed the card. The track was not in the best condition due to recent rains, but performances generally were satisfactory.

Bob Knight was among the busiest contestants, winning the popular Australian pursuit race, the six-lap four-car dash limited to fastest qualifiers and one of the heat events. He was forced out of the feature when engine trouble developed.

Dick Stoddard and Don Green had the fastest qualifying time, tying at 17 13/100 seconds for the fifth-mile lap. Gene Farber was victorious in the 30-lap feature, with Dick Peoples placing second and Bill Sherman third. Additional heat race winners were Farber, Green and Billy Wik. The racing resumes next Saturday night.



## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1951

### April 28, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast Qualifier:** Dick Stoddard, Don Green – 17.13 – Track Record

**Dash winner:** Bob Knight

**Heat winners:** Bob Knight, Gene Farber, Willie Wik, Don Green

**Pursuit winner:** Bob Knight

**Feature:** (1) Gene Farber (2) Dick Peoples (3) Bill Sherman

### May 5, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Don Nicholson 16.30 – New Track Record

**Feature:** (1) Jack Cummiford

### May 9, 1951 – Wednesday – Jalopies

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Heat winners:** Don Green, Ed Krupp, Wally Sanders, Dick Peoples

**Pursuit winner:** Art Ayers

**Feature:** (1) Dick Peoples



Jack Cummiford

Dick Lee Collection

### May 12, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies

No information available

### May 16, 1951 – Wednesday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Bob Knight 16.25 – New Track Record

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders

### May 19, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Dick Peoples 16.20 – New Track Record

**Pursuit winner:** Dick Stoddard

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan



Ray Flannery

Dick Lee Collection

### May 23, 1951 – Wednesday – Jalopies

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Feature:** (1) Willie Wik (2) Gene Farber (3) Glen Rockey

### May 26, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth mile dirt

**Feature:** (1) Willie Wik (2) Gene Farber (3) Glen Rockey

### May 28, 1951 – Monday – Jalopies

*Memorial Day*

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Dick Peoples 16:20

**Pursuit winner:** Dick Stoddard

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Gene Farber (3) Leon Bockheim



**June 2, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

No information available

---

**June 6, 1951 – Wednesday – Jalopies**

No information available



Gordy VanderLaan

Dick Lee Collection

---

**June 9, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Gene Farber  
(3) Leon Bockheim

---

**June 13, 1951 – Wednesday – Jalopies**

Rained out

---

**June 16, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast car dash: Kenny Knoll

Heat winner: Kenny Knoll

**Feature:** (1) Jack Cummiford

---

**June 20, 1951 – Wednesday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winner: Ray Flannery, Wally Sanders, Ernie Russell, Eddie Shoemaker

Pursuit winner: Ray Flannery

Semi winner: Ed Krupp

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Bill Sherman (3) Willie Wik

**Ray Flannery – Clean Sweep Award**

---

**June 23, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Ray Flannery, Wally Sanders, Ed Krupp, Gordy VanderLaan

Pursuit winner: Bill Sherman

Semi winner: Wally Sanders

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Johnny Johnson  
(3) Don Green

---

**June 30, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Ray Flannery, Art Ayers, "Tar" Gaylor, Willie Wik

Pursuit winner: Don Nicholson

Semi winner: Bill Sherman

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Bill Sherman (3) Jack Cummiford

---

**July 4, 1951 – Wednesday – Jalopies**

*4th of July Independence Day*

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Gordy VanderLaan, Kenny Knoll, Leon Bockheim, Gene Farber

Pursuit winner: Howard Newland

Semi winner: Don Nicholson

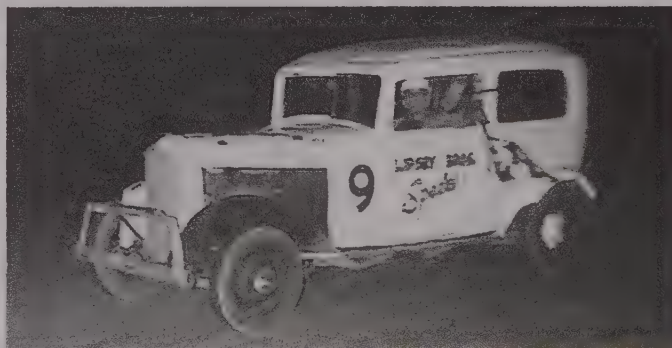
**Feature:** (1) Bill Sherman (2) Willie Wik (3) Gordy VanderLaan

---

**July 7, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

No information available

---



Bill Sherman

Dick Lee Collection



**July 11, 1951 – Wednesday – Jalopies**

**Mid-season Championship**

100 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Kenny Knoll, Jack Cummidford, Gordy VanderLaan, Howard Newland

Semi winner: Bob Bockheim

**Feature:** (1) Bill Sherman (2) Johnny Johnson  
(3) Gordy VanderLaan

---

**July 14, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

No information available

---

**July 18, 1951 – Wednesday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Pursuit winner: Bob Knight

Semi winner: Bill Sherman

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Jack Cummidford

---

**July 21, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

No information available

---

**July 28, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Wally Sanders, Pete Stawicki, Glen Smith, Bob Bockheim

Pursuit winner: Willie Wik

Semi winner: Dick Underling

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Gordy VanderLaan  
(3) Elmer Lovett

---



Bob Knight

Dick Lee Collection

**August 1, 1951 – Wednesday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Paul Tooker, Kenny Knoll, Harley Green, Elmer Lovett

Semi winner: Kenny Knoll

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Johnny Johnson (3) Paul Tooker

---



Willie Wik

Dick Lee Collection

**August 4, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Johnny Johnson, Jack Roerig, Lynn Smith, Bob Bockheim

Pursuit winner: Burr Krupp

Semi winner: Johnny Johnson

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery

---

**August 8, 1951 – Wednesday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Gordy VanderLaan, Elmer Lovett, Leon Bockheim, Willie Wik

Pursuit winner: Whitey Schaap

Semi winner: Elmer Lovett

**Feature:** (1) Don Green

---

**August 11, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Willie Wik, Pete Deacey,

Leon Bockheim, Whitey Schaap

Pursuit winner: Elmer Lovett

Semi winner: Howard Newland

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Bob Knight  
(3) Jack Cummidford

---



**August 15, 1951 – Wednesday – Jalopies**

No information available.

---

**August 18, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Feature: (1) Bob Knight**

---

**August 22, 1951 – Wednesday – Jalopies**

No information available.

---

**August 25, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

No information available.

---

**September 1, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Pursuit winner: Ray Flannery

Semi winner: Willie Wik

**Feature: (1) Ray Flannery (2) Jack Cummiford**

**Ray Flannery – Clean Sweep Award**

---

**September 3, 1951 – Monday – Jalopies**

*Labor Day Holiday*

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Pursuit winner: Cy Hueckels

Semi winner: Gordy VanderLaan

**Feature: (1) Jack Cummiford (2) Ray Flannery**

---



Johnny Johnson

Dick Lee Collection

**September 8, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Wally Sanders, Leon Bockheim, Joe Provonzoni

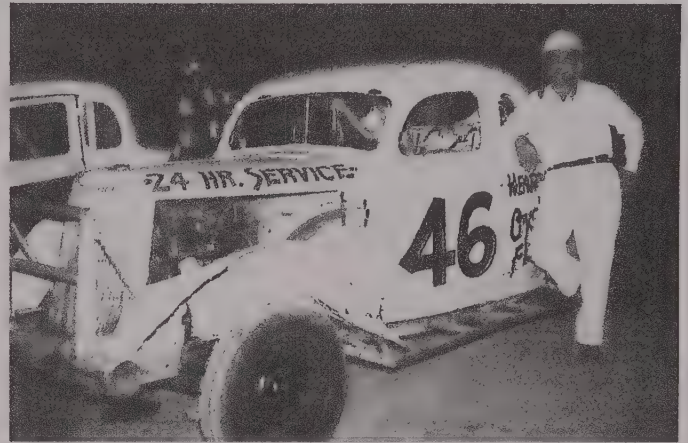
Pursuit winner: Wally Sanders

Semi winner: Orville Vogal

**Feature: (1) Jack Cummiford (2) Bob Knight**

**(3) Gordy VanderLaan**

---



Leon Bockheim

Dick Lee Collection

**September 15, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Glen Rockey, Wally Sanders, Bill Sherman, Ray Flannery

Pursuit winner: Glen Rockey

Semi winners: Kenny Knoll and Gordy VanderLaan

**Feature: (1) Jack Cummiford (2) Ray Flannery,**

**(3) Kenny Knoll**

---

**September 22, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

No information available.

---

**September 29, 1951 – Saturday – Jalopies**

100 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Feature: (1) Jack Cummiford**

---



## Berlin Raceway Points 1951

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Jack Cummingford	44	6				
2	Ray Flannery	38	6				2
3	Gordy VanderLaan	38	5				
4	Bill Sherman	21	2				
5	Gene Farber	21	1				
6	Bob Knight	18	2	1	1	1	
7	Willie Wik	17	2				
8	Johnny Johnson	12					
9	Dick Peoples	9	1	2		1	
10	Don Green	8	1	1		1	
11	Glen Rockey	6					
12	Leon Bockheim	6					
13	Wally Sanders	5	1				
14	Kenny Knoll	3			1		
15	Elmer Lovett	3					
	Paul Tooker	3					
17	Don Nicholson	0		1		1	
	Dick Stoddard	0		1		1	



Wally Sanders

Dick Lee Collection



Elmer Lovett

Dick Lee Collection

### BERLIN RACEWAY FIFTH-MILE DIRT TRACK NEW TRACK RECORDS

Date	Time	Driver
April 28, 1951	17.13	Dick Stoddard/Don Green - Tie
May 5, 1951	16.3	Don Nicholson
May 16, 1951	16.25	Bob Knight
May 19, 1951	16.2	Dick Peoples
April 26, 1952	15.04	Bill Wiltse
May 3, 1952	14.61	Gene Farber
June 21, 1952	14.45	Gene Farber
May 23, 1953	14.29	Jim Rinner
May 22, 1954	14.22	Bob Knight
June 5, 1954	14.15	Gordy VanderLaan
April 23, 1955	13.89	Bill Wiltse
Sept. 29, 1956	13.82	Kenny Knoll
June 15, 1957	13.65	Gordy VanderLaan
July 20, 1957	13.62	Gordy VanderLaan
August 10, 1957	13.58	Johnny Roberts
April 12, 1958	13.06	Dick Carter



# Berlin Raceway — Jalopies/Modifieds, 1951–1957



Fifth Mile Action

Dick Lee Collection



Fifth Mile Action

Dick Lee Collection



Fifth Mile Action

Dick Lee Collection



Fifth Mile Action

Dick Lee Collection



Fifth Mile Action

Dick Lee Collection



Fifth Mile Action

Dick Lee Collection

## BERLIN RACEWAY CLEAN SWEEP AWARDS

Driver	Date	Class of Car/Division
Ray Flannery	June 20, 1951	Jalopies
Ray Flannery	September 1, 1951	Jalopies
Bill Wiltse	May 17, 1952	Jalopies
Dick Nielson	June 14, 1955	Modifieds
Eddie Streck	June 14, 1955	Modifieds
Gene Hartley	August 4, 1955	AAA Midgets
Art Ayers	August 24, 1957	Strictly Stocks
Bob Clover	September 28, 1957	Strictly Stocks





USAC Midgets, June 14, 1956; Gordy VanderLaan in #32

Dick Lee Collection



*Come One! Courtesy Pass Come All!*

**BERLIN RACEWAY, INC.**  
MARNE, MICHIGAN

GOOD ONLY \_\_\_\_\_

**at Berlin Raceway**  
*Chester Myslewic*

SUBJECT TO SERVICE CHARGE OF \$1.00



## Ionia Fairgrounds 500-Lap Race August 26, 1951

**C**het Mysliwiec had opened up Berlin Raceway in April of 1951, but he considered other racing ventures. One such venture was when he promoted a 500-lap stock car race at the Ionia Fairgrounds on August 26, 1951.

The Ionia Fairgrounds was a full half-mile dirt track which had been built for horse-racing in 1914, and was actually a 9/16 mile track, so it was big. A short history of auto racing at this track began with big cars first showing up in 1924. Among the entries were Jack Murray and his "Wisconsin Special," along with Earl King and his Stutz and Fred Honey with a Miller.

In 1925, Marian Martin, a woman race driver, put her Bugatti through the fence. The following year, Joan LaCosta broke the track record at 1.08 and redeemed the female's place in racing.

1937 found Barney Oldfield at the track putting on exhibition runs.

IMCA began sanctioning big car racing beginning in the mid-thirties until World War II put a halt to racing. 1946 saw the IMCA big cars racing at the Ionia Fairground annually through 1949.

Some well-known racers from Michigan raced at Ionia—Joe Bisacky, Ralph Donaldson, Norm Rust, Dick Carter, and Jim Murphy among others. ARCA ran a stock car race on July 17, 1960 which was won by Nelson Stacy.

This race has been the longest short track race in Michigan history. It is a wonder that the race was successful. The cars were made up of mostly 1932-34 cars in which the drivers competed weekly at tracks such as Berlin Raceway's dirt fifth-mile track in features of usually 25 laps. So this race was a giant leap not only in track size, but in the length of the race.

Qualifying was held on Saturday, the day before the race. The fastest thirty-three cars would start the race. The teams were allowed to have a backup car in their pit area, so if their original starting car was wrecked or had mechanical problems, the driver could jump into his backup stock car and continue racing.

There were seventy-eight entries for the race, with fifty-two of that number attempting qualifying. Some of the others were used as back up cars in the race.



Ionia Fairgrounds Aerial View

Dick Lee Collection



## Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present

When race day arrived, so did the rain clouds, leaving enough moisture on the dirt track to hold up the show for two hours. Racing was scheduled for 1:30 pm but the green flag didn't drop until 3:30 pm. Six thousand fans filled the stands for an exciting day of racing never seen before or since.

Yes, there were crashes and some teams had to improvise to keep their car running. One example was a driver who had a case of oil in his car with each can punched open. When he sensed that the engine was low on oil, he would pick up a can of oil,

and pour it into a rigged-up funnel hooked up to the engine.

Gordy VanderLaan, the eventual winner, had Jack Cummiford as his hottest competitor for the win. Then Cummiford's car went sour on him and he pulled into the pits and jumped into his backup car to run VanderLaan down for the win. However, the car he returned to the race with was not up to par in speed with the stock car he started the race with and he held onto second place but could not catch VanderLaan.

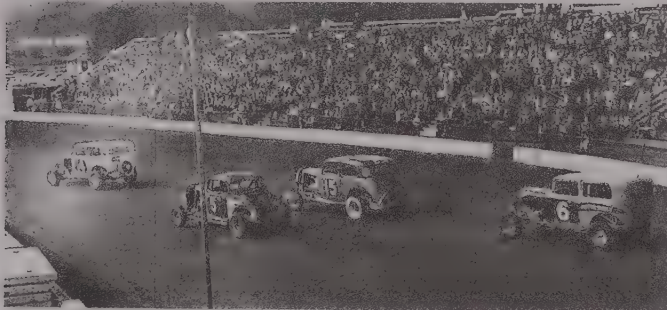
Because of the late start, impending darkness forced the race to end after 420 laps.

Gordy VanderLaan won \$1,000. Jack Cummiford was second for \$500. Flip Thompson third for \$400. Willie Wik, fourth for \$300. Bob Knight, fifth for \$200. Leon Bockheim sixth for \$100. Wally Sanders was seventh, Neil Adgate eighth, Ray Flannery ninth, and Elmer Lovett tenth.



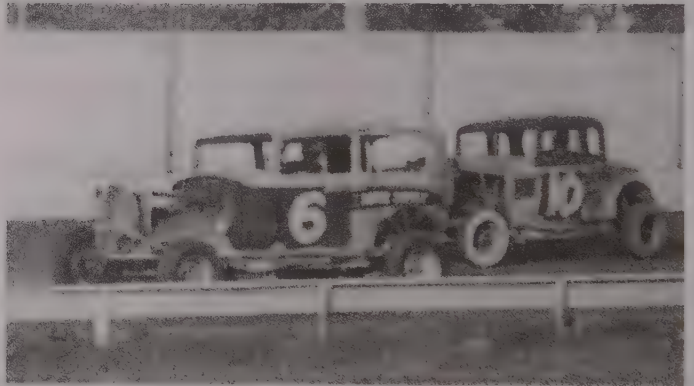
Ionia Fairgrounds crash

Dick Lee Collection



Ionia Fairgrounds

Dick Lee Collection



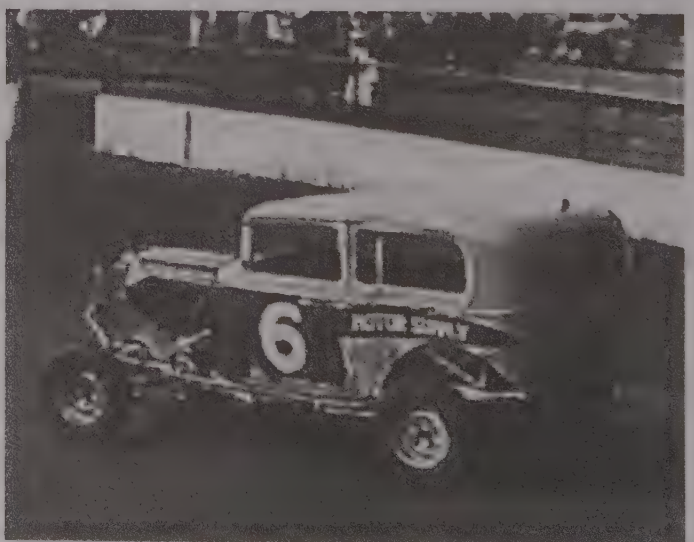
Ionia Fairgrounds

Dick Lee Collection



Ionia Fairgrounds Aerial View

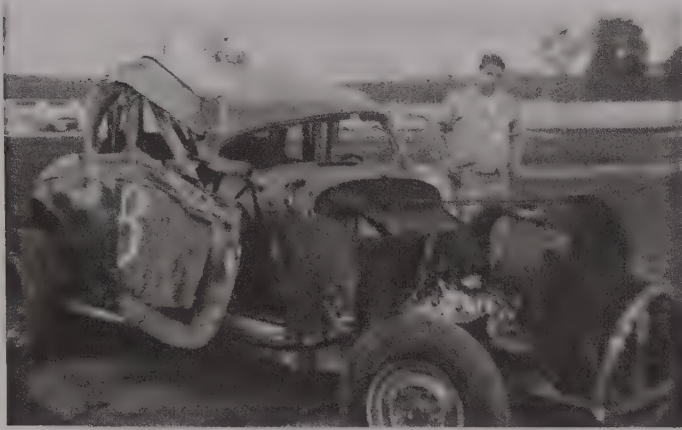
Dick Lee Collection



Gordy VanderLaan (1951) at Ionia Fairgrounds

Dick Lee Collection





Ionia Fairgrounds

Dick Lee Collection



Ionia Fairgrounds

Dick Lee Collection

OFFICIAL PROGRAM  
MICHIGAN STATE  
CHAMPIONSHIP RACE

**STOCK  
CAR RACES!**



IONIA FAIR GROUNDS  
IONIA, MICHIGAN



Ionia Fairgrounds

Dick Lee Collection



**1951**

# 500 LAP RACE

STATE STOCK CAR CHAMPIONSHIP  
**IONIA, MICH.**  
FAIRGROUNDS

OPEN TO ALL OTHER  
ASSOCIATIONS

**AUG. 26**

GRANDSTANDS \$1.80 TAX INCL.  
SEATS

BLEACHER \$1.25 TAX INCL.  
SEATS

RAIN DATE SEPT. 2nd  
QUALIFY ALL DAY SAT. AUG. 25

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF NORTH MICHIGAN STOCK CAR CLUB



Ionia Fairgrounds Memorabilia

Dick Lee Collection



IONIA FAIRGROUNDS  
1951  
STARTING LINEUP 500 LAP RACE

POS	CAR #	DRIVER	HOMETOWN	TIME
1	47	Chuck Neal	South Haven	31.25
2	2	Gordy VanderLaan	Grand Rapids	31.65
3	18	Ray Flannery	Muskegon	31.92
4	7	Bob Knight	Grand Rapids	32.14
5	8	Ken Sutton	Muskegon	32.25
6	24	Jack Cummmiford	Grand Rapids	32.43
7	9	Bill Sherman	Marne	32.46
8	34	Flip Thompson	Belding	32.73
9	5	Gene Farber	Muskegon	32.81
10	89	Frankie Cool	Battle Creek	32.86
11	17	Roger Joneson	Muskegon	33
12	9	Neil Adgape	Lyons	33.13
13	77	Kenny Knoll	Muskegon	33.27
14	98	Bill Rider	Grand Rapids	33.34
15	702	Johnny Johnson	Grand Rapids	33.38
16	100	Ransom Stevens	Muskegon	33.42
17	17	Bud Meyering	Grand Rapids	33.47
18	77	Jack Nelson	Greenville	33.47
19	3	Wally Sanders	Grand Rapids	33.48
20	23	Willy Wik	Grand Rapids	33.54
21	40	Ed Marshall	Lowell	33.67
22	2	O.K. Vogel	Rockford	33.68
23	48	Leon Bockheim	Grand Rapids	33.72
24	85	Clarence Haan	Grand Rapids	33.75
25	10	Howard Newland	Grand Rapids	33.79
26	2	E. Stevens	Jackson	33.9
27	4	Fred Naylor	Reed City	33.92
28	131	Jim Aldred	Nunica	33.92
29	M1	Don Green	Grand Rapids	34.13
30	89	John Stawicki	Grand Rapids	34.2
31	58	W. Fisher	Grand Rapids	34.34
32	57	Elmer Lovett	Grand Rapids	34.47
33	28	D. Dye	Ionia	34.61
		Non Qualifers		
35	13	Len Guernsey		35.02
36	73	Cy Heuckles		35.05
37	7	Don Mursch		35.24
38	7	Dick Stuart		35.45
39	403	H. Green		35.69

## Berlin Raceway Media 1952

### Wiltse Breaks Track Record – Cummiford Wins Race

#### **April 26, 1952 — Berlin Raceway**

— Two track records broken with veteran Jack Cummiford winning the 20-lap feature race in a roaring start to the 1952 stock car racing season at Berlin Raceway Saturday night. A capacity crowd of approximately 3,000 racing fans saw Wild Bill Wiltse whirl around the oval in 15.04 seconds, a single-lap record, in the time trials.

Then in the first heat Glen Rockey piloted his stock car in 2:02.92, new 10-lap standard. Other heat race winners were Harold Ende, who passed the entire field and Kenny Knoll, who had to circumvent a three-car pile-up on the third turn.

Dick Stoddard, one of three finishers in a 14 car field, won the pursuit race. Wally Sanders finished second to Cummiford in the feature and Rockey was third.

### Farber Breaks Track Record – Wiltse Wins Feature

#### **May 3, 1952 — Berlin Raceway**

— Wild Bill Wiltse, roared around 25-laps in a record 5:23.46, to win the feature race of the stock-car program before 2,840 at Berlin Raceway Saturday night.

Wiltse, king-pin of Grand Rapids stock car daredevils, cut more than a minute off the track record of 6:53.46 held by Jack Cummiford. Cummiford finished third in Saturday's race. Jim Rinner was second.

Wiltse also won the pursuit race in which just two of 14 cars finished. Ray Flannery and Wiltse passed each of the other entries.

The consolation race, marked by a spectacular but comparatively

harmless accident, was won by Glenn Smith. On the 12<sup>th</sup> lap Burr Krupp's car broke a wheel on the fourth turn, spun around, flipped over twice and landed on its side. One car hit him, but Krupp crawled out without a scratch.

Rinner won the fast-car dash and Gene Farber, who set a new track record of 14.61 seconds in the time trials, was second.

### Wiltse Repeats As Berlin Feature Winner

#### **May 10, 1952 — Berlin Raceway**

— Wild Bill Wiltse won his second stock car feature of the young season Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. He took the lead on the 16<sup>th</sup> lap of the 20-lap race to finish ahead of Gene Farber and Bob Knight.

A crowd of 1,593 saw Knight win the pursuit and first heat race. Flip Thompson and Harold Ende were also heat winners while Jack Cummiford took the fast-car dash.

Thompson won the consolation with Clarence Haan taking the hooligan event.

### Wiltse Continues Winning At Berlin

#### **May 17, 1952 — Berlin Raceway**

— Wild Bill Wiltse guided his # 22 around 20-laps in 6:29.25, to win the thrilling feature race of the stock car program before 1,800 at Berlin Raceway Saturday night.

Wiltse finished ahead of Jimmy Rinner, Gene Farber, and Johnny Roberts. The quartet was never more than three-car lengths apart during the race. Wiltse also won the fast-car dash and pursuit race. Bob Knight won the consolation.

### Wiltse Again At Berlin

#### **May 31, 1952 — Berlin Raceway**

— The second consecutive evening of competition at Berlin Raceway near Marne was scheduled Saturday after an extra-capacity crowd turned out Memorial Day to witness a tripleheader attraction featuring the regular stock cars, Crosleys and antique automobiles. Saturday's racing was to be topped by a 50-lap feature event, with the time trials at 7:00 pm and first race at 8:30.

Gordy VanderLaan, Gene Farber and Bill Wiltse waged a hot duel for the honors in Friday's feature, Wiltse coming through to a car-length victory over Farber and VanderLaan taking down third spot.

In the pursuit race, Bob Knight was the winner with VanderLaan second. Len Smith took the fast-car dash opening the evening's racing. Heat races were won by Farber, Burr Krupp, Glen Rockey and Knight. In the third heat race, Jack Shear's car was demolished as it rolled over twice, and then upended. The driver escaped without serious injury.

### Bob Knight Wins Four Berlin Races

#### **June 4, 1952 — Berlin Raceway**

— Bob Knight, celebrating a new baby boy in his household, Wednesday night went all out to gain the 25-lap feature, pursuit, and first and third heat races at the Berlin Raceway.

In taking the four events, Knight by far was the big winner of the night. Other winners were Len Smith in the fast-car dash; Dick Stoddard, second heat; Leon Bockheim, fourth heat; Tar Galor, consolation. Finishing second in the feature was Gene Farber



## Gene Farber Wins Fifty-Lap Feature

**June 7, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Husky Gene Farber, who drives for a living, guided his 1932 Chevrolet to victory in the 50-lap feature race of Berlin Raceway's stock car program Saturday night.

A crowd of 2,710 spectators watched Farber take the lead in the sixth-lap and hold it for his second feature victory of the season. Wild Bill Wiltse was second and Jimmy Rinner third.

Wiltse also won the fast-car dash. Kenny Knoll won the pursuit and Ken Merlington the consolation.

Glen Rockey, Dick Stoddard, Lynn Smith and Bill Sherman were heat race victors.

Tony Siciliano suffered face cuts when his car crashed into the retaining wall during time trials.

## Rider Takes Berlin Race

**June 14, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Bill Rider roared to victory in the 25-lap feature event on Saturday night's stock-car racing program before 2,912 fans at Berlin Raceway. Trailing Rider, were Len Smith and Bill Wiltse.

Wiltse and Smith had won heat races, along with Bob Knight and Bob Zomerhuis, whose heat triumph was his second victory in three years of racing.

Other winners were: Gene Farber, fast-car dash race; Ray Flannery, pursuit; Jack Cummingford, consolation race; and Joe Wiedenfelder, the "hooligan" event.

## Wiltse Cops Feature At Berlin Raceway

**June 18, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Bill Wiltse was a two-time winner Wednesday night at Marne's Berlin

Raceway. In addition to copping the fast-car dash he came home the winner in the 25-lap feature race of the evening. His time was 6:19.45.

Ray Flannery, who won the fourth heat and the pursuit race, also registered a new record for the track when he won the 15-lap consolation race in 3:58.15. Gene Farber was second and Len Smith third in the main feature, Flip Thompson, Wayne Kelly and Bob Zomerhuis were the other heat winners.

## Wiltse Continues To Win At Berlin Raceway

**June 21, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Bill Wiltse won another feature Saturday night on Berlin Raceway's stock-car program.

Second in the feature was Jimmy Rinner. Kenny Knoll took the consolation race and won a heat race. Other heat winners were Wally Sanders, Gene Farber, and Gordy VanderLaan.

Wiltse, far back in the field, seized the lead in the pursuit when eight cars were involved in a fender-wrecking crash. A crowd of 1,940 saw the races.

In qualifying time trials, Gene Farber set a new track record of 14.45

## Wiltse Takes Top Honors At Berlin

**June 25, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Bill Wiltse and Gene Farber shared winner honors at the Berlin Raceway Wednesday night, each of the veteran drivers winning two events.

Wiltse copped the 25-lap feature event of the night with Farber trailing in second and Jasper Stykstra third. Farber previously had won the pursuit race. Jack Cummingford was the consolation victor.

Wiltse's other triumph came in the first heat race. Gordy VanderLaan, Farber and Leon Bockheim won other heats. Bud Lindeman took first in a special two car sports car event, with Bob Wickstrom coming in second best.

## Wiltse Continues His Racing Success At Berlin

**June 28, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Bill Wiltse won the 25-lap feature, Len Smith, the consolation race and Jasper Stykstra the pursuit race in stock car races at Berlin Raceway Saturday night. Jack Cummingford and Jimmy Rinner took second and third in the feature.

Heat race victors were Jack Cummingford, Kenny Knoll, Wally Sanders and Don Green.

## Wiltse Takes Holiday Feature Event

**July 4, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — A capacity crowd witnessed the July 4<sup>th</sup> program Friday night. The feature race of 35-laps was won by Bill Wiltse with Ray Flannery second and Wayne Kelly third, had to be restarted after Del Wiersma bounced his car off the retaining wall on the fourth lap and was rammed by Gordy VanderLaan's entry, blocking the track.

Jimmy Rinner was the winner and Wiltse runner-up in the pursuit race and Elmer Lovett captured a consolation event. Joe Bisacky was first in a special owner's race and heat victors were Jasper Stykstra, Leon Bockheim, Burr Krupp and Flannery. Best qualifying time was turned in by Gene Farber.

## Wiltse Wins Two Features In Two Days

**July 5, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Wild Bill Wiltse added, Saturday night, the 50-lap stock car crown to his collection at Berlin Raceway, edging out Gene Farber in a dash to the checkered flag before 1,300 fans.

Third was Glen Rockey, who also won one of the four heat races. Other heat race winners were Jack Cummmiford, Dick Stoddard and Wayne Kelly.

Elmer Lovett outraced Wiltse to cop the pursuit prize. George Barendse was first in the semi-final event.

## \$100 Reward Offered To Beat Wiltse After Wild Bill Wins Another Berlin Feature

**July 9, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — There's a \$100 reward on Wild Bill Wiltse. Berlin Raceway officials posted the reward to the man who beats Wiltse in Saturday night's 75-lap feature — after the heavy-footed racer roared to his 11<sup>th</sup> victory in 16 starts at the Raceway Wednesday night.

Wiltse, one of West Michigan's outstanding stock car pilots, won Wednesday's feature in dramatic fashion. Trailing Jack Cummmiford into the final lap, he whipped his car to the front by squeezing inside Cummmiford on one of the turns.

Wiltse will be battling a big, desperate field of drivers Saturday night. The 75-lap classic is the midseason championship race.

Trailing Wiltse and Cummmiford across the finish line before 1,000 fans Wednesday was Gene Farber. Cummmiford won the pursuit and one heat race in addition to his second in the feature.

Other heat winners were Jasper Stykstra, Len Smith and Tom Daley. Stykstra won the consolation race.

## Wiltse Captures Mid-Season Test At Berlin Track

**July 12, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — A crowd of 4,345 saw Wild Bill Wiltse win the Berlin Raceway mid-season championship Saturday night.

The 75-lap triumph was another feature victory for Wiltse. Gordy VanderLaan was second.

Wayne Kelly won the pursuit race, Glen Rockey took the consolation and Ray Flannery, Bob Knight, Len Smith and Willie Wik copped heat races. The fast-car dash was won by Chuck Phillips.

## Flannery Beats Wiltse

**July 16, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Bill Wiltse, veteran stock car driver, lost his feature racing king crown Wednesday night at the Berlin Raceway, when he placed third behind Ray Flannery of Spring Lake, and Woody Wood of Grand Rapids in a 30-lap affair. It was Flannery's first feature victory of the current season.

Wiltse suffered a wrenched shoulder earlier in the evening when his No. 22 absorbed a rather stiff racing bump, and it was not until after 20-laps that the former champ began to regain his usual racing posture.

Wayne Kelly won the 15-lap consolation race, and Bill Rider, another Grand Rapids driver, captured first in the pursuit race. Flannery, Kelly, and Burr Krupp were heat race winners. Bob Bockheim was triumphant in the "Wreck 'em" derby.

## Ray Flannery Beats Wiltse In Berlin Stock Races

**July 19, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Ray Flannery, the Spring Lake stock car pilot, who cracked Wild Bill

Wiltse's grip on the Berlin Raceway feature events, nosed out Wiltse in Saturday night's 30-lap event here before 2,200 fans.

Flannery and Wiltse stuck together for most of the race which had to be restarted when nine cars piled up on the first turn in the first try. Len Smith led for 18 laps, but his hopes were crushed when his radiator blew up, allowing Wiltse and Flannery to take over.

Less than a car length separated the two speedsters when they flashed across the finish line.

Smith and Bob Knight, who finished third in the feature, were two of the heat race winners. Others were Willie Wik and Burr Krupp.

Wally Sanders won the pursuit race and Jasper Stykstra, the consolation event.

## VanderLaan Takes First 1952 Feature At Berlin Raceway

**July 26, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Gordy VanderLaan won his first feature of the season Saturday night before 3,100 fans at Berlin Raceway in Marne.

Second to VanderLaan was the consistent Ray Flannery with Jack Cummmiford placing third.

Len Smith won the pursuit while Glen Rockey took the consolation race.

Heat race winners were Bill Wiltse, Jasper Stykstra, Don Green, and Johnny Johnson.

## VanderLaan Wins Two Features In A Row

**July 30, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Gordy VanderLaan of Grand Rapids zoomed past Jack Cummmiford on the 25<sup>th</sup> lap to win the 30-lap feature stock car race at the Berlin raceway by a quarter of a lap Wednesday night.



The race was re-started after being stopped in the fourth lap when Del Wiersma of Holland flipped over "six or seven" times on the far corner. He was treated for bruises at Butterworth Hospital and released.

VanderLaan who was in ninth position at the start moved steadily past the leaders until the 20<sup>th</sup> lap when he fought past Cummmiford, who had led from the start. Johnny Johnson came in third.

Frank VerDuim won the pursuit race and Burr Krupp won the 15-lap semi-feature.

Ray Flannery won the first heat race after avoiding a pileup that occurred when a car driven by Elmer Lovett hurtled over two other cars and smashed in its radiator.

Frank VerDuim won the second heat and Jack Cummmiford the third heat. Bill Wiltse won the fast-car dash.

## VanderLaan Captures Third Feature In A Row At Berlin

**August 2, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Gordy VanderLaan weaved through heavy "traffic" at the Berlin Raceway Saturday night and flashed past the checkered flag with his third feature triumph of the season in the 30-lap main stock car event before an estimated 3,000 fans.

VanderLaan, who started in sixth position moved up in the field in the early stages of the race and at the tenth lap, was running third. He wheeled past Jack Cummmiford and on the 18<sup>th</sup> lap roared into the lead overtaking Jim Rinner.

Rinner, who pushed VanderLaan, all the way, was second and Cummmiford third. Cummmiford was one of the heat race winners along with Wally Sanders, Frank VerDuim and Glen Rockey.

Sanders won the pursuit race and Burr Krupp the semi-final event.

## Cummiford Nips Farber At Berlin

**August 6, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Jack Cummmiford won a hub-to-hub duel with Gene Farber Wednesday night to finish first in the 30-lap stock car feature at Berlin Raceway. It was Cummmiford's second feature victory. He took the lead on the 18<sup>th</sup> lap. He was followed by Gene Farber, Jasper Stykstra and Gordy VanderLaan.

Johnny Johnson took the pursuit race while Jasper Stykstra, Russ Schatt, Len Smith and Dick Stoddard copped the heat races.

Johnson also took the consolation.

## Rinner Cops First Stock Feature Of Season

**August 9, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Jimmy Rinner raced across the finish line here Saturday night to capture his first tightly jammed five-car pack stock car feature triumph of the season at the Berlin Raceway.

Approximately 2,500 fans watched the 30-lap feature race, a five-way battle for 25-laps, including Rinner, Jack Cummmiford, Gordy VanderLaan, Jasper Stykstra, and Wild Bill Wiltse.

Cummiford, who finished second in the feature event, copped one heat race and the pursuit. Gordy VanderLaan placed third, Jasper Stykstra fourth. Wiltse, also a heat event winner, rolled home first in the semi-final race and took fifth in the feature.

Other heat race winners were Dick Stoddard and Stykstra.

## VanderLaan Nips Rinner Takes Berlin Stock Feature

**August 13, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Gordy VanderLaan slipped by Jimmy Rinner on the 19<sup>th</sup> lap and held the edge in a nip and tuck battle the rest of the way to win the 30-lap feature stock car event at Berlin Raceway Wednesday night before about 1,500 spectators.

Rinner was a close second, Bill Wiltse was third and Jack Cummmiford finished fourth in the feature. Rinner won the pursuit race, and Len Smith, the 15-lap semi-feature.

Heat race winners were Rinner, Smith, Ray Flannery and Harold Ende.

## Bob Knight Wins Third Berlin Race

**August 16, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Bob Knight led all the way to capture the 25-lap feature stock car event at the Berlin Raceway Saturday night. Bill Wiltse was second and Jim Rinner third.

Len Smith suffered facial cuts when his car flipped over several times during the fifth-lap.

Jasper Stykstra won the pursuit race and Art Ayers the 15-lap consolation race. Heat races were won by Ray Flannery, Glen Rockey, Elmer Lovett, and Kenny Knoll. The fast-car dash was won by Jack Cummmiford.

## Wiltse Wins Crash-Marred Feature

**August 23, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Wild Bill Wiltse won another feature Saturday night at Berlin Raceway before approximately 1,500 stock car racing fans.

Wiltse wheeled to the lead on the 34<sup>th</sup> lap of the 40-lap feature. Jasper Stykstra, who also won the pursuit race and in the consolation, finished second.

Two accidents marred the program. Bill Rider crashed through a fence and bounced off three parked cars during a heat race and two drivers hit the retaining wall in the feature. Injuries, however, were confined to bruises and cuts.

Heat race winners were Gene Farber, Speedy Eichorn, Elmer Lovett, and Ken Wiersema. Wiltse took the fast-car dash, nipping Bob Knight by inches.

## Gordy VanderLaan Takes Fifth Berlin Win

**August 25, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Double winners were a "dime a dozen" Monday night in the stock car races at Marne's Berlin Raceway. Because of the fair the drivers drew numbers from a hat rather than going through qualifying trials and as a result a majority of the ace pilots came home winners.

Gordy VanderLaan won the 30-lap feature and one of the consolation races. Len Smith copped one heat race and the second consolation event. Jasper Stykstra won the pursuit race and another of the heat races. Bill Wiltse was second in the feature and won a heat race, while Jack Cummiford took the other heat.

## Knight Captures Another Berlin Feature

**August 30, 1952—Berlin Raceway**—Saturday night's card provided only one double winner. Bob Knight took honors in the 30-lap feature and also won the fast-car dash. Each of the Knoll brothers won a race, Joe

taking a heat win and Ken the 15-lap consolation. Bill Wiltse, Jim Rinner and Gene Farber followed in that order in the feature.

Al Witt was the winner of the pursuit race with Knight a close second and Len Smith third. Wiltse and Bill Sherman won the other heat races.

## Wiltse Adds To His Victories At Berlin

**September 1, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Wild Bill Wiltse added to his stock car driving point totals considerably Labor Day night at Marne's Berlin Raceway despite the slick condition of the clay oval.

Currently leading the pack of stock car drivers, Wiltse added three more victories to his list Monday, winning the 50-lap feature, the pursuit race and the first heat race.

Gordy VanderLaan was second in the feature, followed by Jack Cummiford. VanderLaan also copped one of the 25-lap consolation events, Cummiford the other. Other heat races were won by Kip Merlington, Jimmy Rinner, and Glen Rockey.

## Gordy VanderLaan Victorious Again At Berlin

**September 6, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Berlin Raceway drivers, having decided their own season championship in a 100-lap feature race Saturday night won by Gordy VanderLaan were preparing Monday for a full-week-end of competition coming up with a Saturday evening program at the Marne course fol-

lowed by next Sunday's state title event at Ionia.

The Berlin Raceway stock car organization is sponsoring the state championship competition which is presenting a total purse of \$3,000 with \$1,000 to go to the winner. Entries were expected to be vying from several Midwest states including, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin and Illinois.

Qualifying time trial will be run from 7 a.m. to noon with the fastest 32 cars to start in the race which begins at 1:30. Sunday's Ionia race will be 300-laps on the fairgrounds big half-mile dirt track.

Runner-up to VanderLaan Saturday night was Glen Rockey, with Gene Farber third, and Jimmy Rinner fourth. Len Smith won the pursuit race and VanderLaan triumphed in the fast-car dash. Two consolation events were taken by Wally Sanders and Del Wiersema. Heat victors were Bob Knight, Bill Wiltse, Dick Sieperda and Tommy Lane.

## Rinner Closes Racing Season With Feature Win

**September 13, 1952 — Berlin Raceway** — Jimmy Rinner posted his second feature race victory of the season at Berlin Raceway Saturday night, beating out Bob Knight and Len Smith who finished in second and third places respectively. Smith was winner of the pursuit race and Marv Eppink took the consolation race. Heat events were won by Ray Flannery, Eppink, Dick Stoddard and Kenny Knoll.



## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1952

### April 26, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier: Bill Wiltse – 15.04 New Track Record**

Heat winners: Glen Rockey, Harold Ende, Kenny Knoll

Pursuit race: Dick Stoddard

**Feature: (1) Jack Cummiford (2) Wally Sanders  
(3) Glen Rockey**



Bill Wiltse

Dick Lee Collection

### May 3, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier: Gene Farber 14.61 New Track Record**

Pursuit winner: Bill Wiltse

Dash winner: Jimmy Rinner

Consolation winner: Glenn Smith

**Feature: (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Jimmy Rinner (3) Jack Cummiford**

### May 10, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Flip Thompson, Harold Ende

Dash winner: Jack Cummiford

Pursuit winner: Bob Knight

Consolation winner: Flip Thompson

Hooligan winner: Clarence Haan

**Feature: (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Gene Farber  
(3) Bob Knight**

### May 17, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies

20 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Bill Wiltse

Pursuit winner: Bill Wiltse

Consolation winner: Bob Knight

**Feature: (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Jimmy Rinner (3) Gene Farber (4) Johnny Roberts**

**Bill Wiltse – Clean Sweep Award**

### May 24, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies

Rained out

### May 31, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies

*Memorial Day*

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Len Smith

Heat winners: Gene Farber, Burr Krupp, Glen Rockey, Bob Knight

Pursuit winner: Bob Knight

**Feature: (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Gene Farber  
(3) Gordy VanderLaan**

### June 4, 1952 – Wednesday – Jalopies

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

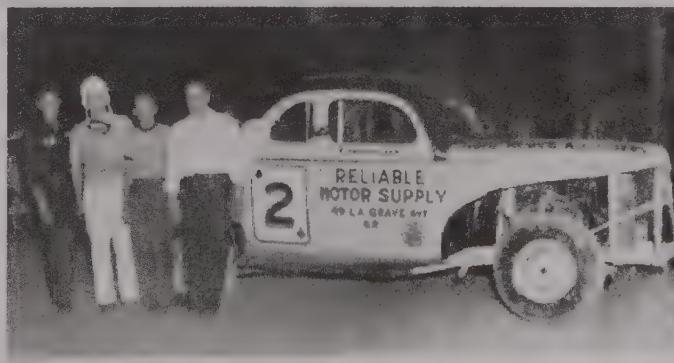
Dash winner: Len Smith

Pursuit winner: Bob Knight

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Dick Stoddard, Bob Knight, Leon Bockheim

Consolation winner: Tar Gaylor

**Feature: (1) Bob Knight (2) Gene Farber (3) Gordy VanderLaan**



Gordy VanderLaan

Dick Lee Collection

### June 7, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Bill Wiltse

Heat winners: Glen Rockey, Dick Stoddard, Len Smith, Bill Sherman

Pursuit winner: Kenny Knoll

Consolation winner: Ken Merlington

**Feature:** (1) Gene Farber (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Jimmy Rinner (4) Gordy VanderLaan

---

### June 11, 1952 – Wednesday – Jalopies

No information available

---

### June 14, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Bill Wiltse, Len Smith, Bob Knight, Bob Zomerhuis

Dash winner: Gene Farber

Pursuit winner: Ray Flannery

Consolation winner: Jack Cummiford

Hooligan winner: Joe Wiedenfeler

**Feature:** (1) Bill Rider (2) Len Smith (3) Bill Wiltse

---

### June 18, 1952 – Wednesday – Jalopies

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Bill Wiltse

Heat winners: Flip Thompson, Wayne Kelly, Bob Zomerhuis, Ray Flannery

Pursuit winner: Ray Flannery

Consolation winner: Ray Flannery

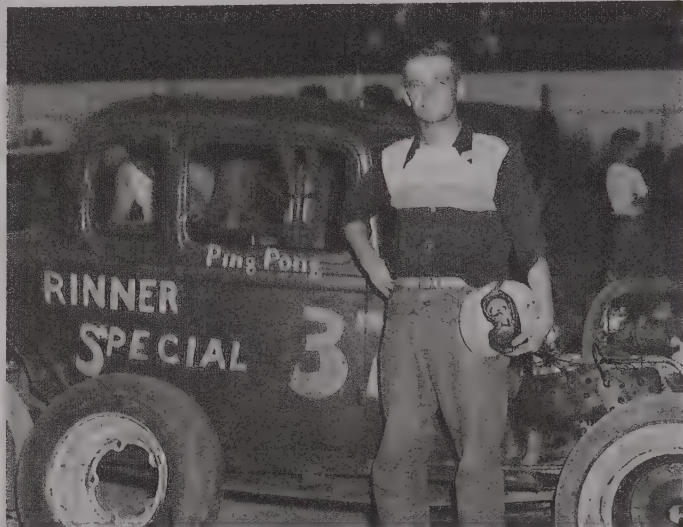
**Feature:** (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Gene Farber (3) Len Smith

---



Jack Cummiford

Dick Lee Collection



Jimmy Rinner

Dick Lee Collection

### June 21, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier: Gene Farber 14.45 – New Track Record**

Heat winners: Gene Farber, Wally Sanders, Kenny Knoll, Gordy VanderLaan

Pursuit winner: Bill Wiltse

Consolation winner: Kenny Knoll

**Feature:** (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Jimmy Rinner

---

### June 25, 1952 – Wednesday – Jalopies

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Bill Wiltse, Gordy VanderLaan, Gene Farber, Leon Bockheim

Pursuit winner: Gene Farber

Consolation winner: Jack Cummiford

**Feature:** (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Gene Farber (3) Jasper Stykstra

---

### June 28, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier: Bill Wiltse – no time given**

Heat winners: Don Green, Jack Cummiford, Kenny Knoll, Wally Sanders

Pursuit winner: Jasper Stykstra

Consolation winner: Len Smith

**Feature:** (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Jack Cummiford (3) Jimmy Rinner

---



**July 4, 1952 – Friday – Jalopies**

***Fourth of July***

35 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Gene Farber – no time given

Heat winners: Jasper Stykstra, Leon Bockheim, Burr Krupp, Ray Flannery

Pursuit winner: Jimmy Rinner

Consolation winner: Elmer Lovett

**Feature:** (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Ray Flannery (3) Wayne Kelly

**July 5, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies**

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Jack Cummiford, Dick Stoddard, Glen Rockey, Wayne Kelly

Pursuit winner: Elmer Lovett

Semi winner: George Barendse

**Feature:** (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Gene Farber (3) Glen Rockey

**July 9, 1952 – Wednesday – Jalopies**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Jasper Stykstra, Len Smith, Tom Daley, Gene Farber, Jack Cummiford

Pursuit winner: Jack Cummiford

Semi winner: Jasper Stykstra

**Feature:** (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Jack Cummiford (3) Gene Farber

**July 12, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies**

***Midseason Championship***

75 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Chuck Phillips

Heat winners: Len Smith, Ray Flannery

Bob Knight, Willie Wik

Pursuit winner: Wayne Kelly

Consolation winner: Glen Rockey

**Feature:** (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Gordy VanderLaan



Ray Flannery

Dick Lee Collection

**July 16, 1952 – Wednesday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Ray Flannery, Wayne Kelly, Burr Krupp

Pursuit winner: Bill Rider

Consolation winner: Wayne Kelly

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Woody Wood (3) Bill Wiltse

**July 19, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Len Smith, Bob Knight, Willie Wik, Burr Krupp

Pursuit winner: Wally Sanders

Consolation winner: Jasper Stykstra

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Bob Knight



Bob Knight

Dick Lee Collection

**July 23, 1952 – Wednesday – Jalopies**

Canceled— power loss

---

**July 26, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Bill Wiltse, Jasper Stykstra, Don Green, Johnny Johnson

Pursuit winner: Len Smith

Semi winner: Glen Rockey

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Ray Flannery  
(3) Jack Cummiford

---

**July 30, 1952 – Wednesday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Frank VerDuin, Jack Cummiford, Ray Flannery

Dash winner: Bill Wiltse

Pursuit winner: Frank VerDuin

Consolation winner: Burr Krupp

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Jack Cummiford  
(3) Johnny Johnson

---

**August 2, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Jack Cummiford, Wally Sanders, Frank VerDuin, Glen Rockey

Pursuit winner: Wally Sanders

Semi winner: Burr Krupp

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Jimmy Rinner  
(3) Jack Cummiford

---

**August 6, 1952 – Wednesday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Jasper Stykstra, Russ Schatt, Len Smith, Dick Stoddard

Pursuit winner: Johnny Johnson

Consolation winner: Johnny Johnson

**Feature:** (1) Jack Cummiford (2) Gene Farber  
(3) Jasper Stykstra (4) Gordy VanderLaan

---

**August 9, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Jack Cummiford, Dick Stoddard, Jasper Stykstra, Bill Wiltse

Pursuit winner: Jack Cummiford

Semi winner: Bill Wiltse

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Rinner (2) Jack Cummiford  
(3) Gordy VanderLaan (4) Jasper Stykstra (5) Bill Wiltse

---

**August 13, 1952 – Wednesday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Jimmy Rinner, Len Smith, Ray Flannery, Harold Ende

Pursuit winner: Jimmy Rinner

Semi winner: Len Smith

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Jimmy Rinner  
(3) Bill Wiltse (4) Jack Cummiford

---

**August 16, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Jack Cummiford

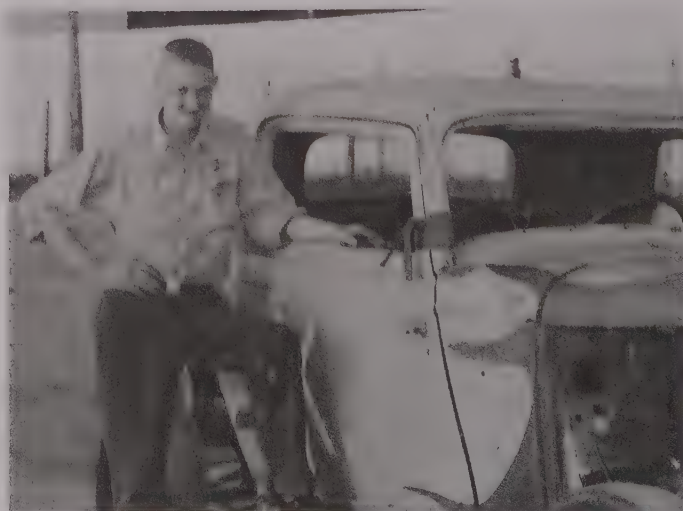
Heat winners: Ray Flannery, Glen Rockey, Elmer Lovett, Ken Knoll

Pursuit winner: Jasper Stykstra

Consolation winner: Art Ayers

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Jimmy Rinner

---



Bill Rider

Dick Lee Collection



**August 20, 1952 – Wednesday – Jalopies**

Rained Out

---

**August 23, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies**

40 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Bill Wiltse

Heat winners: Gene Farber, Speedy Eichorn, Elmer Lovett, Ken Wiersma.

Pursuit winner: Jasper Stykstra

Consolation winner: Jasper Stykstra

**Feature: (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Jasper Stykstra**

---

**August 25, 1952 – Monday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt Fair week

Heat winners: Len Smith, Jasper Stykstra, Bill Wiltse, Jack Cummiford

Pursuit race: Jasper Stykstra

Consolation winners: Len Smith, Gordy VanderLaan

**Feature: (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Bill Wiltse**

---

**August 30, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Bob Knight

Heat winners: Bill Sherman, Kenny Knoll, Joe Knoll, Bill Wiltse

Pursuit winner: Al Witt

Consolation winner: Kenny Knoll

**Feature: (1) Bob Knight (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Jimmy Rinner (4) Gene Farber**

---

**September 1, 1952 – Monday – Jalopies**

**Labor Day**

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Kip Merlington, Jimmy Rinner, Glen Rockey, Bill Wiltse

Pursuit winner: Bill Wiltse

Consolation winners: Jack Cummiford, Gordy VanderLaan

**Feature: (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Gordy VanderLaan (3) Jack Cummiford**

**Bill Wiltse – Clean Sweep Award**

---

**September 6, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies**

**Season Championship**

100 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Bill Wiltse, Dick Sieperda, Tommy Lane

Pursuit winner: Len Smith

Consolation winners: Wally Sanders, Del Wiersma

**Feature: (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Glen Rockey (3) Gene Farber (4) Jimmy Rinner**

---

**September 13, 1952 – Saturday – Jalopies**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Ray Flannery, Marv Eppink, Dick Stoddard, Kenny Knoll

Pursuit winner: Len Smith

Consolation winner: Marv Eppink

**Feature: (1) Jimmy Rinner (2) Bob Knight (3) Len Smith**

---

## Berlin Raceway Points 1952

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Bill Wiltse	100	13	2	5	1	2
2	Gordy VanderLaan	48	5	1	1	1	
3	Jimmy Rinner	43	2		1		
4	Jack Cummiford	40	2		2		
5	Gene Farber	40	1	2	1	1	
6	Bob Knight	25	3		1		
7	Ray Flannery	18	2				
8	Jasper Stykstra	12					
9	Len Smith	10			2		
10	Glen Rockey	10					
11	Bill Rider	5	1				
12	Wally Sanders	4					
	Woody Wood	4					
14	Johnny Johnson	3					
	Wayne Kelly	3					
16	Johnny Roberts	2					
17	Chuck Phillips	0			1		



## Berlin Raceway Media 1953

### Pvt. Rinner Wins Berlin Feature Run

**May 16, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Army Private Jimmy Rinner of Grand Rapids, who commutes between Ft. Breckenridge, Kentucky and Grand Rapids on 48-hour passes—a distance of 420 miles one way, won the feature race of 30-laps at Berlin Raceway Saturday night. Gordy VanderLaan finished second and Jack Cummmiford third.

Don Wood, who was injured when he lost control of his car on the third turn of the 15<sup>th</sup> lap in the feature race, was released from St. Mary's Hospital a few hours after admittance.

He was thrown from the car and at first believed seriously hurt. The races drew a crowd of 2,150.

Tommy Lane of Muskegon won the 15-lap semi-feature and the third heat race as well. Flip Thompson of Belding, who won the pursuit race, was the only other double winner.

Bob Knight won the first heat, Wood won the fourth heat and Bill Wiltse won the fast-car dash.

### Rinner Sets New Track Record; Wins Third Straight Feature

**May 23, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Jim "Ping Pong" Rinner, who has dominated the Berlin Raceway stock car scene completely this season, broke the track record Saturday night in winning his third straight feature event.

The soldier, who races "on pass" every weekend, ran the 30-laps of the feature race in 5:27.7 before 2,777 fans, after establishing a single-lap record of 14.29 in the time trials.

Second in the feature was Tommy Lane of Muskegon, third was Bob Knight fourth was Bill Wiltse.

Other winners included: Bill

Rider, Kenny Knoll, Elmer Lovett and Dick Sieperda, heat races; Bill Wiltse, fast-car dash; Flip Thompson, pursuit, and Gene Farber, 15-lap semi-final.

### Gordy VanderLaan Cops Three Features

**May 30, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Gordy VanderLaan, the lean sandy-haired Grand Rapids stock car ace, pocketed an estimated \$1,000 over the weekend, sweeping to victory at the Grand Rapids Speedrome, Berlin Raceway and Whiskey Ridge.

VanderLaan launched his spectacular streak Saturday afternoon at the Speedrome with a thrilling victory over Glen Rockey in the 50-lap feature race.

Then later that night, the heavy-footed youngster, out-battled Jimmy Rinner, and Bob Knight to win the 50-lapper at the Berlin Raceway. A crowd of 2,200 watched the Speedrome victory. An estimated 4,000 attended the Berlin races.

VanderLaan climaxed the weekend by winning the feature at Whiskey Ridge Raceway Sunday.

He took the lead at the 25-lap mark at Berlin, and then lost his big lead when Ken Knoll rolled end over end, forcing the race to be restarted. He withstood the challenges of Bob Knight who finished second and Bill Wiltse third, after beating out Rinner for the lead early in the race.

Other winners were: dash, Tommy Lane: heat races, Gene Farber, Jack Cummmiford; pursuit, Farber; semi-final, Bud Meyering.

Rockey of Muskegon finished second to VanderLaan in the Memorial Day event at the Speedrome with Flip Thompson of Belding third.

Only nine of 27 cars starting the long grind finished as wrecks and spin-outs claimed a heavy toll. No drivers were injured, however.

Thompson and Rockey each won

heat races, along with Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids.

### Farber Wins Race In Rinner's Car

**June 3, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Gene Farber, driving Jim "Ping Pong" Rinner's car, slipped into the lead on the 15<sup>th</sup> lap and held on grimly to win the 30-lap feature race at Berlin Raceway by half a lap Wednesday night before 1,114 spectators.

Tommy Lane and Glen Rockey, who were fighting for the lead on the 14<sup>th</sup> lap, hooked bumpers and forced each other off the track and out of the race.

Bob Knight, who had second place cinched, going into the 20<sup>th</sup> lap, flipped over four times on the first turn and allowed Gordy VanderLaan to take second and Marv Eppink third.

Veteran Bill Wiltse won the 15-lap pursuit race and the 15-lap semi-feature, while Knight won the fast-car dash.

Heat races were won by Tommy Lane, Jack Cummmiford, Del Wiersma, and Eppink, who was in his first race of the year. Bill Rider was the fastest qualifier.

### Gordy VanderLaan Wins Second Berlin Feature

**June 6, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Gordy VanderLaan, winner of the Memorial Day 50-lap event at Berlin Raceway, capped Saturday night's stock car program here by roaring to victory in the 30-lap feature in a battle with Bill Wiltse and Jimmy Rinner.

Wiltse captured second place, trailed by Rinner, who won three straight Berlin Raceway features early in the season. Eddie VanderLaan took fifth in the feature.

Rinner, Len Smith, Flip Thompson and Chuck Farrell were winners of the heat races, and Rinner established a new track record in the fast-car dash, with a time of 59.56. Jimmy Rinner had fast qualifying time and Bill Whitney won the semi-feature.

Bob Knight, who won the pursuit race finished fourth in the feature event.

## Knight Takes First Berlin Feature Of Season

**June 10, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – It was Bob Knight beating out Gordy VanderLaan and Wally Sanders for the 30-lap feature win at Berlin Raceway. Flip Thompson won both the fast-car dash and the semi-feature. Knight also captured the pursuit race.

Heat race winners were Bob Knight, Ed Krupp and Wally Sanders.

## Sherman Ends Victory 'Famine' At Berlin

**June 13, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Bill Sherman won his first feature in two years with his victory in the accident blemished climax of Saturday night's stock car program before 2,200 at Berlin Raceway.

A spectacular five-car pile-up on the 17<sup>th</sup> lap of the feature event, started when Bob Knight's racer flipped and was struck while in the air by Bill Wiltse's car, stopping the race at that point, from where it was restarted.

Jack Cummiford, Gordy VanderLaan, and Johnny Roberts were the other three drivers in the big crash.

Following Sherman across the finish line were Glen Rockey and Gene Farber. Sherman, Eddie VanderLaan, Ray Flannery and Gordy VanderLaan won heat races.

Wiltse captured the fast-car dash; Flip Thompson, pursuit race, and Wally Sanders, semi-final event.

## Rookie Wins In Berlin Feature Run

**June 17, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan, 24-year-old younger brother of veteran driver Gordy VanderLaan, won the 30-lap feature stock car race at the Berlin Raceway Wednesday night before 1,342 spectators.

A rookie driver, VanderLaan edged past Marv Eppink, to take the lead on the 15<sup>th</sup> lap and hung on for the victory. Tommy Lane of Muskegon came in second and Eppink finished third.

Jack Cummiford won the 15-lap semi-feature, Gene Farber the pursuit race, and Len Smith the fast-car dash.

Heat race winners were Lane, Farber and Bill Rider.

## Gordy VanderLaan Captures His Third Feature

**June 20, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Gordy VanderLaan, powered to a half-lap lead with his 'new' alcohol-gasoline fuel mixture, won the rain-shortened feature at Berlin Raceway before 1,300 fans here Saturday night.

The feature race went 17 laps before a quick, short storm made the track too slick for further competition. Second was Glen Rockey, followed by Tommy Lane.

Bill Wiltse, Flip Thompson and Bob Knight were heat race winners. Bill Rider won the fast-car dash; Rockey, the pursuit, and Wally Sanders, the semi-feature.

## Tommy Lane Wins First Feature Of Season

**June 24, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Winless so far in 1953, Tommy Lane picked up his first Berlin

Raceway feature Wednesday night as he captured the 30-lap feature. Glen Rockey picked up a heat race win and the fast-car dash race. Ray Flannery and Tommy Lane won heat races. The pursuit race was taken by Wally Sanders and Len Smith took the semi-feature.

## Lane & Rockey Both Win Features

**June 27, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Bill Rider fought it out virtually bumper-to-bumper with Tommy Lane of Muskegon for the last 15 laps of one section of the double-feature racing Saturday night at Berlin Raceway but Rider was never quite able to edge ahead of Lane. Glen Rockey, also of Muskegon, was the victor in the other feature, Bill Rider finished second while Ray Flannery was third in both events.

Sanders, however, had a big evening in capturing both the pursuit and 15-lap semi-feature, while Rockey added the fast-car dash to his feature triumph. Heat races were won by Jack Cummiford, Ray Flannery, and Bob Knight. A crowd of 1,600 was on hand despite threatening weather.

Bad feelings which had been building up between Bill Wiltse and Bill Sherman, both engaging in shoving on the track, flared up in the pits when the drivers squared off against each other and sheriff's deputies had to step in to break up the ruckus.

## It's Wiltse By Bumper Over Knight

**July 4, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Wild Bill Wiltse, giving a spectacular driving exhibition won the 50-lap stock-car feature at Berlin Raceway Saturday night by a bumper.

It took a judge's decision to determine whether Wiltse, who led all the way after starting on the pole, or



Bob Knight was the winner.

Third behind Knight, was Glen Rockey of Muskegon, followed by Bill Rider and Marv Eppink.

A holiday crowd of approximately 4,000 persons saw the big show.

Len Smith took the semi which saw 11 cars spin out. Tommy Lane crashed into the guard wall in the feature. He was not injured.

Heat-race winners included Gene Farber, Jim Walker, Marv Eppink and Len Smith. Eppink took the fast-car dash and Jack Cummiford won the pursuit.

The victory marked Wiltse's first feature win of the season.

## Rockey Wins 100-Lap Berlin Race

**July 11, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Glen Rockey of Muskegon won the 100-lap mid-season championship at Berlin Raceway Saturday night by half a lap over Bob Knight before an estimated 5,000 people.

Rockey and Knight fought bumper to bumper until the 25<sup>th</sup> lap when Rockey took the lead, but the battle was still on until the 85<sup>th</sup> lap when Knight swerved off the track after a minor collision.

He lost ground that he could never regain by the time he was back on the track. Knight took second, Wally Sanders third, Johnny Johnson fourth, Ray Flannery fifth, Tommy Lane sixth, Bill Rider seventh, Bill Wiltse eighth, Flip Thompson ninth and Ed Anible tenth.

Bob Knight set fast time for the night. Heat winners were Glen Rockey, Ed Anible, and Tar Galen. Marv Eppink captured the pursuit race with Tommy Lane winning the semi-feature.

## VanderLaan's Victory Cracks Jinx

July 18, 1953 – Berlin Raceway – Gordy VanderLaan won his fourth stock car feature of the season and broke a jinx Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

VanderLaan seriously injured a few weeks ago, wrecked the "jinx" which says drivers involved in serious crack-ups are through for the season.

Gordy, driving the "Deuce," won going away after taking the lead on the 23<sup>rd</sup> lap.

A crowd of approximately 3,000 persons saw Glen Rockey lead for

four laps. Then Marv Eppink took over and was later passed by Gordy.

Eppink finished second, Gene Farber third, Jack Cummiford fourth, Glen Rockey fifth.

Eddie VanderLaan, Gordy's brother, took the pursuit, while Kenny Knoll, Jimmy 'Ping-Pong' Rinner, Bob VanderMyde and Jack Sanborn won the heat races.

Rinner, driving his last race before leaving for overseas duty in the Army – probably in Korea, also won the consolation. The fast-car dash went to Wally Sanders.

## Rockey Wins In 'Run-Away'

**July 25, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Glen Rockey "ran away" from the field to register his first feature triumph in his new car, #8, before 3,700 stock car racing fans at Berlin Raceway Saturday night.

Rockey, who ran out of gas as he crossed the finish line, seized the lead on the seventh lap and held it the rest of the way. Bill Wiltse was second with Tommy Lane third and Gene Farber fourth.

Wally Sanders, new driver of car C-1, Berlin's big money winner, failed



to finish again, although he won the fast-car dash before a pile-up broke a front axle and ripped off a door.

Heat race winners were Farber, Wiltse, Ray Wright, Bob Shoemaker, and Ed Anible, who survived a rugged race which claimed seven of the ten starters.

Bob Knight won the pursuit race, and Jack Cummingford took the semi-final.

## Two In A Row For Rockey At Berlin

**August 1, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Glen Rockey in his #8 won the 30-lap feature race at Berlin Raceway Saturday night.

"I think of only one thing during a race, getting in front and staying there," said Tailspin Tommy Lane, an outstanding young stock car driver from Muskegon. "But before and after the race I get 'butterflies' in my stomach." Lane, who has won one feature at Berlin Raceway and one at Whiskey Ridge, had been wheeling stock cars since he was 16.

He's 24 now and has split approximately \$2,000 in winnings this season with Ervin Finkler, owner of his car. Finkler, a cement contractor considers stock car racing as "my sport and diversion." How did Tailspin pick up his nickname? After winning nine straight features last year at Nunica Speedway he spun out of the season championship while in the lead. The spin was a beaut and the moniker was a natural.

## Cummiford Builds New Car And Wins

**August 15, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Jack Cummingford, who didn't have time to paint his new stock car, won his first feature of the season Saturday night at Berlin Raceway in Marne.

A big winner in 1951 when he was North Michigan Stock Car Club champion, Cummingford's luck this year has been mediocre.

Finally he decided to change cars. The gamble worked as Jack won the first time out.

Cummingford grabbed the checkered flag before a crowd of approximately 2,800 fans after a duel with Len Smith who finished second. Cummingford pulled into the lead on the 23rd lap.

Wally Sanders finished third in the 30 lap event. Bob Knight finished fourth in the feature. Bill Wiltse copped the pursuit, the semi-final and one heat race.

Other heat race winners included Bud Meyering, and Bill Sherman. Eddie VanderLaan won the fast-car dash.

The North Michigan Stock Car Club races every Saturday at Berlin Raceway and on Thursday nights at the Speedrome.

## Bob Knight Has Big Night At Berlin

**August 22, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight jockeyed his sparkling red #1 racer to three outstanding victories, including the 30-lap feature, in the stock-car program at Berlin Raceway before 3,400 here Saturday night.

Knight, who seized the lead in the feature on the seventh lap and clung to it the rest of the way, won going away over Bill Rider, Gene Farber and Bill Wiltse.

In addition, he won the first heat race of the evening and thrilled the crowd with a fine performance to cop the fast-car dash.

Other heat winners were Art Ayers, who also won the semi-feature; Ray Flannery, Bud Meyering and Elmer Lovett. Wally Sanders won the pursuit race.

## Knight Wins Second Straight Feature

**August 29, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight swept through a field marred with minor accidents to win his second successive stock car feature race at the Berlin Raceway Saturday night before an estimated 2,100 spectators.

His victory marked the first time that a driver has repeated as a feature winner since Glen Rockey won two in a row earlier in the season.

Knight edged past Kenny Knoll on the 11th lap and held that lead to win by three-quarters of a lap over second placer Wild Bill Wiltse. Jack Cummingford was third and Len Smith fourth.

Heat race winners were Eddie VanderLaan, Jack Nelson, and Ed Anible. Smith won the fast-car dash and Bill Rider won the pursuit race. Bob Clover won the 20-lap semi-feature.

## Gordy VanderLaan Wins With New Car

**August 31, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Gordy VanderLaan driving a new car scored his first stock car victory, since recent destruction of his own regular entry by fire, when he captured the 30-lap feature race on the Marne layout Monday night topping a program planned for opening day of the Berlin fair. Bob Knight was the runner up and Bill Wiltse finished third.

In the 20-lap semi-feature, Glen Rockey gained the winner's laurels as he was followed across the finish line by Kenny Knoll and Jack Nelson. Art Ayers triumphed in the pursuit and heat race wins were taken by Tommy Lane, Flip Thompson, Rockey and Al Witt.

Fastest qualifying times, in order, were registered by Jack Cummingford, Bill Rider, Marv Eppink and Eddie VanderLaan.



## Len Smith Returns To Victory Lane At Berlin

**September 5, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Len Smith cracked a jinx that has extended over two seasons by wheeling to victory in the 30-lap feature of the stock car racing program at Berlin Raceway here Saturday night. It was Smith's first feature victory in two years.

A crowd of 1,800 watched the Grand Rapids racer push into the lead at the seventh lap and cling to it throughout to beat Gordy VanderLaan, Eddie VanderLaan, Bill Wiltse and Bill Rider to the checkered flag.

Heat race winners were Bruce Anderson of Greenville, Kenny Knoll of Muskegon and Wayne Kelly. Eddie VanderLaan won the fast-car dash; Jack Cummingford the pursuit race and the 20-lap semi-feature.

## Bud Meyering Scores First Feature Of The Season

**September 7, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Bud Meyering captured his first stock car feature victory of the season Monday at Berlin Raceway, beating out Bob Knight for the honors in the 50-lap Labor Day event at the Marne oval. Knight, however, added important points to his season championship total, by his runner up finish, as the title battling neared its final stages Eddie VanderLaan was third in the event.

The fast-car dash provided one of the program's thrillers as Bill Wiltse and Bill Rider fought it out on even terms with Wiltse getting the decision in a virtual dead-heat finish. Bill Nelson of Hastings was the winner of the pursuit and Wayne Kelly took the 20-lap semi-feature.

Victors in the heat races were Jasper Stylkstra, Eddie VanderLaan, Flip Thompson, Bill Nelson and Gordy VanderLaan.

## Lane Captures Last Race Of Season At Berlin

**October 3, 1953 – Berlin Raceway** – Tommy Lane of Muskegon won the season championship race at Berlin Raceway by roaring to victory in the 75-lap stock car classic here Saturday night before 1,800 persons.

It was the final race of the season at the Raceway.

Second to Lane was Bud Meyering. Winner of the first heat race was Bill Wiltse.

## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1953

### April 18, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Bill Wiltse, Bob Knight,

Joe Provenzano, Gordy VanderLaan

Pursuit winner: Woody Wood

Semi winner: Bud Meyering

**Feature:** (1) **Kenny Knoll** (2) Ray Flannery (3) Jack Cummingford

(Feature was halted on lap 24. Harold Ende was involved in an accident, knocked unconscious, and taken to the hospital.)

### April 25, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

Rained Out

### May 2, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

### May 9, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Gene Farber

Heat winners: Ken Knoll, Glen Rockey, Bud Meyering, Jimmy Rinner

Pursuit race: Woody Wood

Semi winner: Wally Sanders

**Feature:** (1) **Jimmy Rinner** (2) Bob Knight (3) Bill Wiltse



Tommy Lee

Dick Lee Collection

### May 16, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Bill Wiltse

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Flip Thompson, Tommy Lane, Woody Wood

Pursuit winner: Flip Thompson

Semi winner: Tommy Lane

**Feature:** (1) **Jimmy Rinner** (2) Gordy VanderLaan (3) Jack Cummingford



Bill Wiltse

Dick Lee Collection

### May 23, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** **Jimmy Rinner 14.29 New Track Record**

Dash winner: Bill Wiltse

Heat winners: Bill Rider, Kenny Knoll, Elmer Lovett, Dick Sieperda

Pursuit winner: Flip Thompson

Semi winner: Gene Farber

**Feature:** (1) **Jimmy Rinner** (2) Tommy Lane (3) Bob Knight (4) Bill Wiltse

### May 30, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

*Memorial Day*

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Tommy Lane

Pursuit winner: Gene Farber

Heat winners: Gene Farber, Jack Cummingford

Semi winner: Bud Meyering

**Feature:** (1) **Gordy VanderLaan** (2) Bob Knight (3) Bill Wiltse (4) Jimmy Rinner





Ben Crampton & Gordy VanderLaan

Dick Lee Collection

### June 3, 1953 – Wednesday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bill Rider – no time given

Dash winner: Bob Knight

Heat winners: Tommy Lane, Jack Cumminford, Del Wiersma, Marv Eppink

Pursuit winner: Bill Wiltse

Semi winner: Bill Wiltse

**Feature:** (1) Gene Farber (2) Gordy VanderLaan (3) Marv Eppink

### June 6, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Rinner – no time given

Dash winner: Jimmy Rinner

Heat winners: Len Smith, Flip Thompson, Chuck Farrell, Jimmy Rinner

Pursuit winner: Bob Knight

Semi winner: Bill Whitney

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Jimmy Rinner (4) Bob Knight (5) Eddie VanderLaan

### June 10, 1953 – Wednesday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Flip Thompson

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Ed Krupp, Wally Sanders

Pursuit winner: Bob Knight

Semi winner: Flip Thompson

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Gordy VanderLaan (3) Wally Sanders

### June 13, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Bill Wiltse

Heat winners: Bill Sherman, Ray Flannery, Gordy VanderLaan, Eddie VanderLaan

Pursuit winner: Flip Thompson

Semi winner: Wally Sanders

**Feature:** (1) Bill Sherman (2) Glen Rockey (3) Gene Farber

### June 17, 1953 – Wednesday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

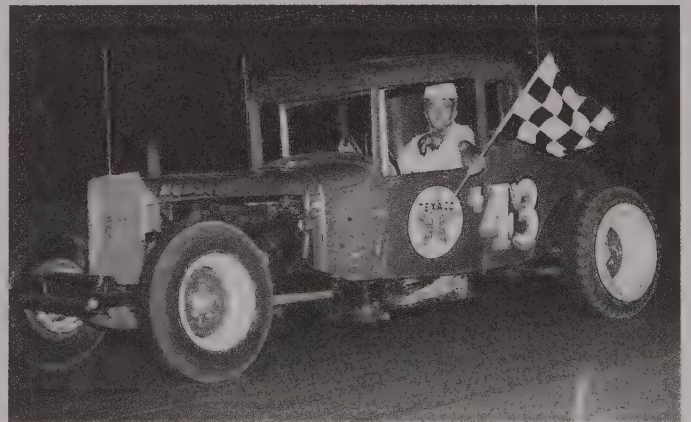
Dash winner: Len Smith

Heat winners: Tommy Lane, Gene Farber, Bill Rider

Pursuit winner: Gene Farber

Semi winner: Jack Cumminford

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Tommy Lane (3) Marv Eppink



Marv Eppink

Dick Lee Collection

### June 20, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Bill Rider

Heat winners: Bill Wiltse, Flip Thompson, Bob Knight

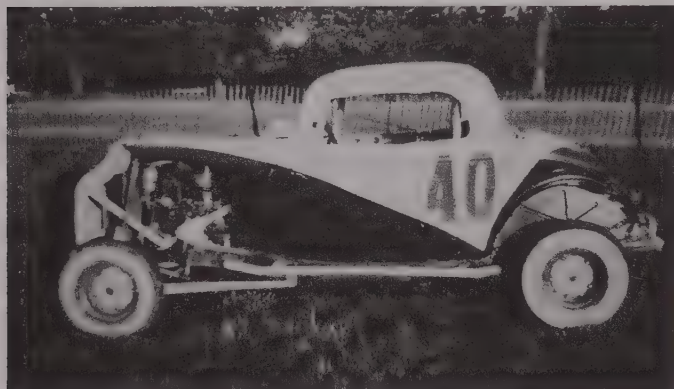
Pursuit winner: Glen Rockey

Semi winner: Wally Sanders

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Glen Rockey  
(3) Tommy Lane

**\*\*Feature stopped after 18 laps due to rain**

---



Johnny Johnson

Dick Lee Collection

### June 24, 1953 – Wednesday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Glen Rockey

Heat winners: Glen Rockey, Ray Flannery, Tommy Lane

Pursuit winner: Wally Sanders

Semi winner: Len Smith

**Feature:** (1) Tommy Lane

---

### June 27, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

Two (2) 30-lap features, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Glen Rockey

Heat winners: Jack Cummiford, Ray Flannery, Bob Knight

Pursuit winner: Wally Sanders

Semi winner: Wally Sanders

**1st Feature:** (1) Glen Rockey (2) Bill Rider (3) Ray Flannery

**2nd Feature:** (1) Tommy Lane (2) Bill Rider (3) Ray Flannery

---

### July 4, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

#### *Fourth of July*

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Marv Eppink

Heat winners: Gene Farber, Len Smith, Jim Walker, Marv Eppink

Pursuit winner: Jack Cummiford

Semi winner: Len Smith

**Feature:** (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Bob Knight (3) Glen Rockey (4) Bill Rider (5) Marv Eppink

---

### July 11, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

#### *Mid-season Championship*

100 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bob Knight – no time given

Heat winners: Glen Rockey, Ed Anible, Tar Galen

Pursuit winner: Marv Eppink

Semi winner: Tommy Lane

**Feature:** (1) Glen Rockey (2) Bob Knight (3) Wally Sanders (4) Johnny Johnson (5) Ray Flannery (6) Tommy Lane (7) Bill Rider (8) Bill Wiltse (9) Flip Thompson (10) Ed Anible

---

### July 18, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Wally Sanders

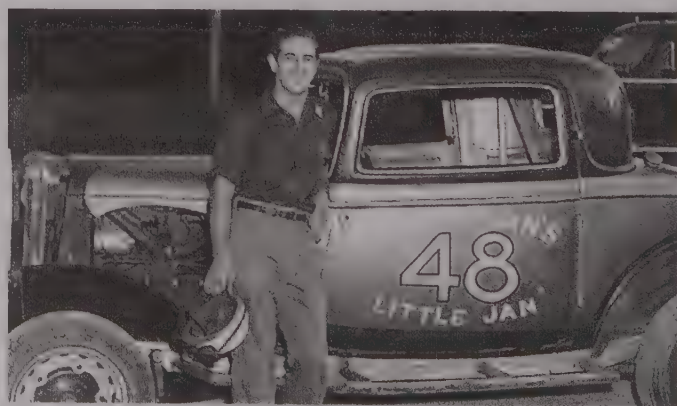
Heat winners: Kenny Knoll, Jimmy Rinner, Bob Vandermyde, Jack Sanborn

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Semi winner: Jimmy Rinner

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Marv Eppink (3) Gene Farber (4) Jack Cummiford (5) Glen Rockey

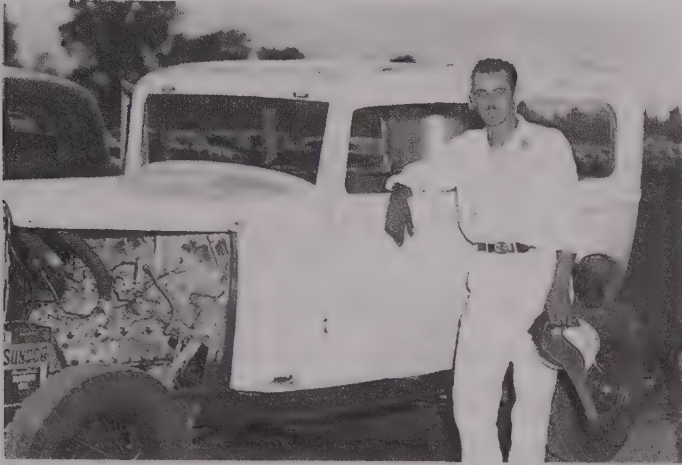
---



Flip Thompson

Dick Lee Collection





Howard Newland

Dick Lee Collection

---

### July 25, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

35 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Wally Sanders

Heat winners: Gene Farber, Bob Shoemaker, Bill Wiltse, Ray Wright, Ed Anible

Pursuit winner: Bob Knight

Semi winner: Jack Cummiford

**Feature:** (1) Glen Rockey (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Tommy Lane (4) Gene Farber

---

### August 1, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Feature:** (1) Glen Rockey

---

### August 8, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

Rained Out

---

### August 15, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Bud Meyering, Bill Wiltse, Bill Sherman

Pursuit winner: Bill Wiltse

Semi winner: Bill Wiltse

**Feature:** (1) Jack Cummiford (2) Len Smith (3) Wally Sanders (4) Bob Knight

---

### August 22, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Bob Knight

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Art Ayers, Ray Flannery, Bud Meyering, Elmer Lovett

Pursuit winner: Wally Sanders

Semi winner: Art Ayers

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Bill Rider (3) Gene Farber (4) Bill Wiltse

---

### August 29, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Len Smith

Heat winners: Eddie VanderLaan, Jack Nelson, Ed Anible

Pursuit race: Bill Rider

Semi winner: Bob Clover

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Jack Cummiford (4) Len Smith

---

### August 31, 1953 – Monday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Cummiford – no time given

Heat winners: Tommy Lane, Flip Thompson, Glen Rockey, Al Witt

Pursuit winner: Art Ayers

Semi winner: Glen Rockey

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Bob Knight (3) Bill Wiltse

---

### September 5, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Bruce Anderson, Wayne Kelly, Kenny Knoll

Pursuit winner: Jack Cummiford

Semi winner: Jack Cummiford

**Feature:** (1) Len Smith (2) Gordy VanderLaan (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Bill Wiltse (5) Bill Rider

---

## Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present

### September 7, 1953 – Monday – Jalopies

#### *Labor Day*

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Bill Wiltse

Heat winners: Jasper Stykstra, Eddie VanderLaan, Flip Thompson, Bill Nelson, Gordy VanderLaan

Pursuit winner: Bill Nelson

Semi winner: Wayne Kelly

**Feature: (1) Bud Meyering (2) Bob Knight (3) Eddie VanderLaan**

### September 19, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

Rained Out

### September 26, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

Rained Out

### October 3, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

#### *Season Championship*

75 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winner: Bill Wiltse

**Feature: (1) Tommy Lane (2) Bud Meyering**

### September 12, 1953 – Saturday – Jalopies

No information available

## Berlin Raceway Points 1953 — Jalopies

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Bob Knight	46	3	1	2		
2	Gordy VanderLaan	44	5				
3	Bill Wiltse	32	1		4		
4	Glen Rockey	29	4		2		
5	Tommy Lane	29	3		1		
6	Jimmy Rinner	20	3	2	1	1	
7	Jack Cummingford	16	1	1			
8	Gene Farber	16	1		1		
9	Bill Rider	15		1	1		
10	Eddie VanderLaan	12	1		2		
11	Len Smith	11	1		2		
12	Marv Eppink	11			1		
13	Ray Flannery	11					
14	Bud Meyering	9	1				
15	Wally Sanders	9			2		
16	Bill Sherman	5	1		2		
17	Kenny Knoll	5	1				
18	Johnny Johnson	2					
19	Flip Thompson	0			1		



## Berlin Raceway Media 1954

### Glen Rockey Takes Berlin Opener

**May 1, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran Glen Rockey who won the mid-season championship last year, started the 1954 Berlin Raceway season by copping the class A 25-lap stock car feature Saturday night.

A crowd estimated at 4,000 watched the season's opening races. Rockey, 26 year old Muskegon driver of many seasons who also races big cars and midgets, turned the 25-laps in four minutes and thirteen seconds.

Bud Meyering finished second followed by Jack Cummmiford and Bob Knight. Woody Wood grabbed first money in the class B feature, also a 25-lap event. Gordy VanderLaan placed second and Harry Drolema third.

Bill Rider won the fast-car dash and set fast qualifying time.

Bob Brecken, a newcomer, took the first heat race. Other heat winners were Wally Sanders, Elmer Lovett and Dick Reese, who was making his first start at the Marne track.

Laverne Peterson romped home first in the colorful pursuit race. Marv Eppink was awarded an opening night award for the "most beautiful car."

### Jack Nelson Leads Green To Checkered

**May 8, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Jack Nelson grabbed the pole position and held it all the way to win the 25-lap class A stock car feature event at Berlin Raceway here Saturday night before 1,300 persons.

Six of the 18 starters were eliminated in the race, with Jack Cummmiford finishing second after two of the front runners had dropped out. Bob Knight was third with Bob Brecken fourth and Johnny Roberts fifth.

Gordy VanderLaan won the 15-

lap class B event, finishing ahead of Bill Rider and Johnny Johnson. Glen Rockey won the fast-car dash along with setting fast time in the time trials. Johnson took the pursuit race. Heat race winners were Bud Meyering, Nelson and Johnny Roberts.

### Bill Rider Big Winner At Berlin

**May 15, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Bill Rider climaxed an evening of spin-outs and mishaps with an exhibition of steady driving to win the class A 25-lap feature at Berlin Raceway before approximately 3,500 persons Saturday night.

Jack Cummmiford finished second for the second time this season, followed by Bill Arnold of South Bend, Indiana.

Gordy VanderLaan won the B feature – which had to be restarted following a traffic snarl. Bill Schippers was second and Eddie VanderLaan, third.

Kenny Knoll of Muskegon won the rough fast-car dash in a tight duel with Tommy Lane after early leader Glen Rockey had been forced off the track just a lap from the finish. Knoll had also set fast time in the time trials.

Eddie VanderLaan won the pursuit race and heat race honors were shared by Cummmiford, Gordy VanderLaan and Johnny Johnson. Pile-ups marked two of the three heat races.

### Wiltse Picks Off His First Feature Of Season

**May 22, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Bill Wiltse seized the lead on the fifth lap and protected it in a rough race to win the 25-lap class A stock car feature event at Berlin Raceway

here Saturday night before approximately 3,600 persons.

Jack Cummmiford was second for the third time this season and Bob Knight, who established a new lap record in the qualifying trials of 14.22 seconds, was third.

Knight won the fast-car dash and Kenny Knoll captured honors in the pursuit race. Heat race winners were Wiltse, Sam Ash (his first checkered flag), Bill Schippers and Al Dryer.

Ed Anible, Sam Ash and Elmer Lovett finished in that order in the class B event.

### Tommy Lane Wins Accident-Shortened Feature

**May 29, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Tommy Lane of Muskegon won the feature race at Berlin Raceway Saturday night in a contest halted during the 15<sup>th</sup> lap when a racer driven by Howard Newland flipped in the air after a collision and overturned on the track. Newland was taken to the hospital but was not seriously hurt.

The victory for Lane, the 1953 Berlin Raceway champ, was his first this year. Bill Rider took second, Bob Knight third, Bill Sherman fourth, and Gordy VanderLaan fifth. Lane was a quarter of a lap ahead of the field when the scheduled 25-lap race was called on lap 15.

A crowd of approximately 2,000 persons witnessed Saturday night's racing schedule.

Heat race winners were VanderLaan, Johnny Johnson, Sanders, Elmer Lovett and Jack Beduhn. Knight finished first in the fast-car dash and Ken Knoll won the pursuit. Bill Rider had the fastest lap in qualifying.

Flip Thompson of Belding won the class B feature with Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids taking second. Clarence Haan placed third.

## Knight Sixth Different Feature Winner

**June 5, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight became the sixth different stock car driver of the season to win a Berlin Raceway feature race Saturday night in a contest delayed on the tenth lap when a racer driven by Johnny Johnson spiraled out of control and overturned on the track.

Johnson was not injured seriously and was given emergency first aid. The 25-lap race featured five previous winners who were bidding to register the first repeat victory of the season.

This wasn't accomplished however, when Knight crossed the finish line ahead of Jack Nelson, Jack Cummingford finished third, followed by Gordy VanderLaan, Bill Wiltse and Don Wood.

VanderLaan broke the track record in his qualifying run. He toured the Berlin Raceway oval in 14:15 to replace the old mark of 14:22.

Bill Sherman won the pursuit event in 2:27.15 and VanderLaan took top honors in the fast-car dash.

Heat race winners were Jack Cummingford, Art Ayers, Wally Sanders and Ed Krupp.

Wally Sanders won the B feature in another crash-filled contest. The event had to be stopped twice to remove litter from the track, Art Ayers finished second, Clarence Haan third, and Flip Thompson fourth.

## Eddie VanderLaan Wins Non-Ford Stock Race

**June 10, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan swept to victory in the first special non-Ford 25-lap race at Berlin Raceway Thursday night before approximately 1,000 racing fans.

Willie Wik was second in the "strictly stock" race. Bud Fonger was third, Ed Horton fourth with Kenny Knoll fifth. Heat winners

were Fonger, Bob Dickens and Sam Ash. Willie Barron won the fast-car dash and Don Keenan was first in the pursuit race.

Sam Ash won the semi-feature.

## Rockey First Two Time Winner At Berlin

**June 12, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran Glen Rockey broke the 'one-victory' only habit at the Berlin Raceway by winning his second class A modified stock car feature of the season before an estimated 3,000 spectators Saturday night.

It was the first time this season a driver won his second feature. Rockey had also won the season opener. The class A feature was restarted after four laps when Tom Hill of Battle Creek, locked wheels with Bob Knight, causing a six-car pileup.

Knight was disqualified because his pit crew changed a tire during the lull after the field was given a red flag, which is a stop signal.

Jack Cummingford continued his second place persistence in the class A feature. It marked the sixth time in seven races that Cummingford placed second, Eddie VanderLaan was third, and Gene Farber fourth.

Flip Thompson took the class B feature and Knight won the fast-car dash, setting a record of 57.59.

## Willie Wik Victor At Berlin

**June 17, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Willie Wik won the 25-lap Novice Night feature at the Berlin Raceway Thursday night before an estimated 800 fans. Willie Baron, who finished second, also copped the fast-car dash. Hank Kramer took the 15-lap semi-feature event.

Heat race winners were Ed Anible, Don Zanburg, Dan Bone, and Ed Horton. Jack Cummingford won the pursuit race.

## Wiltse Takes Second Berlin Feature

**June 19, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Bill Wiltse became the second double-winner of the season at Berlin Raceway here Saturday night, sweeping from second place on the 12<sup>th</sup> lap to the lead and eventual victory in the 25-lap class A stock car feature.

Approximately 1,200 persons watched as Wiltse joined Glen Rockey as the only drivers who have won two main events at the Raceway this season. Jack Cummingford, who started in 13<sup>th</sup> place, finished second to Wiltse, the fifth time this season Cummingford has trailed the winner to the finish line.

A blocked track when Gordy VanderLaan, Kenny Knoll and Don Wood tangled in the second turn forced a restart after the fifth lap. The three drivers were unable to continue in the race.

Following Wiltse and Cummingford were Bob Knight, and Bill Rider.

Heat race winners were Wiltse, Cummingford, Ayers, and Bill Stebins. Eddie VanderLaan won the fast-car dash and the pursuit winner was Wood. Fast qualifying time was set by Eddie VanderLaan.

Art Ayers won the class B feature, in which 11-cars were knocked out of the running in an 18-car pileup on the first lap. Bill Peterson was second, followed by Bud Meyering.

## Lane Wins Feature In Crash-Filled Contest

**June 24, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Tommy Lane of Muskegon breezed to victory in the Thursday night 25-lap novice feature at Berlin Raceway in a crash-filled contest which was halted at the end of 20-laps when the track became too littered for the race to continue.

Wally Sanders finished second and Bob Horton third. Approximately 1,500 persons watched the event.



Heat race winners were Bill Rider, Eddie VanderLaan, who also won the pursuit race, Jack Sanborn and Lane. Sanders was the fast-car dash victor and Elmer Lovett the winner of the 20-lap semi-feature.

## Brecken & Knight Berlin Winners

**June 26, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran Bob Knight beat Jack Nelson by approximately one foot to win the special 15-lap “Feature Winner” before an estimated 3,000 stock car fans at Berlin Raceway Saturday night.

Only Knight and Nelson finished the special race, staged for this season’s 25-lap class A feature winners to date. Four other drivers and cars, Tommy Lane, Bill Wiltse, Glen Rockey and Bill Rider, failed to finish.

Knight received the Capital Airlines Trophy Award from pretty hostess Shirley Tibbetts of Toronto.

Bob Brecken roared home to win his first 25-lap class A feature. Glen Rockey nipped Jack Cummingford for second place and Gordy VanderLaan, who led for 15-laps, finished fourth, ahead of Flip Roberts.

Bill Sherman copped the thrilling pursuit as Bob Brecken, who was leading, spun out near the finish line.

Heat winners were VanderLaan, Johnny Johnson, Ed Anible and Del Wiersmea. Rockey won the fast-car dash.

Newcomer Jim Martins took the class B feature after the race was restarted. Bob Clover was second and Anible third.

## Eddie VanderLaan — All The Way

**July 5, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Hard driving Eddie VanderLaan led all the way but had to stave off a last-minute challenge from Bob Knight to win the special Independence Day 25-

lap feature at Berlin Raceway by two lengths Monday night before a crowd of more than 5,000 racing fans.

The win was the first feature victory of the year for VanderLaan who became the eighth driver to crack the victory circle in a main contest this year at the Raceway. Bob Knight was second with Glen Rockey and Jack Cummingford finishing close behind the leaders.

Jack Cummingford won the fast-car dash race and Bill Rider set fast time for the evening. Heat race winners were Bob Brecken, Jack Nelson, Ed Anible and Mort Anderson.

The 25-lap class B feature was won by Jack Sanborn. Ed Horton crossed the finish line first in the strictly stock contest.

## Wally Sanders Captures Second Stock Feature

**July 8, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran Wally Sanders won his second 25-lap Class A strictly stock feature event of the season Thursday night before an estimated 1,200 persons at Berlin Raceway in a “strictly stock” car program marred by an accident that sent another driver to the hospital.

Kenny Knoll, 29, who has been racing stock cars in the West Michigan area for five years, was taken to St. Mary’s Hospital after he was involved in an unusual two-car crash.

Knoll spun out in the second ten lap heat race, flipped and rolled over twice, crushing his car’s roof. A second car turned over in mid-air and landed on Knoll’s car.

A hospital attendant said Knoll incurred arm scratches and was “shaken up.” He was released after treatment.

In addition to the feature, Sanders also took the fast-car dash. Sunny Dubois placed second and Gene Gillette third in the feature.

Ed Bartlett roared to victory in the semi-feature. Dave Vandermale copped the popular pursuit race.

Heat winners were Art Ayers, Ray Orzechaski, Ralph Baker, and Dick Keenen.

## Brecken Captures Berlin From Last Place

**July 10, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Brecken threaded his way “through the pack” from 20<sup>th</sup> place to win the Class A feature at Berlin Raceway Saturday night after officials postponed the Midseason Championship event to next Saturday because of the slick condition of the track.

Brecken and Gordy VanderLaan, winner of the semi-feature, staged outstanding driving exhibitions before the estimated 2,100 persons for their victories.

Brecken moved from last place in the feature to nose out Bill Wiltse and Jack Cummingford. Gordy VanderLaan was fourth and Johnny Purwin fifth.

Brecken is the third double winner at Berlin. Brecken, Wiltse and Glen Rockey have each won two feature events this season.

Heat winners were Eddie VanderLaan; his brother Gordy, who was released from the hospital to drive in Saturday’s program; Wally Sanders and Bill Wiltse. Wayne Kelly captured honors in the pursuit race.

VanderLaan out-spied Bud Meyering in the semi-feature.

## Sanders First In Four Events At Raceway

**July 15, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran Wally Sanders “cleaned house” roaring home first in four events before approximately 1,300 stock-car fans at the Berlin Raceway Thursday night.

Sanders started his sweep, which is a rarity at the Berlin oval, by coping the fast qualifying time then he won every race he entered, except for the pursuit race.

He grabbed the checkered flag in the first heat race, fast-car dash and climaxed his night's work with a 25-lap feature victory.

Gus Bray was second and Bill Rider, who won the pursuit, third in the final feature. Elmer Lovett, who earlier took a heat race, grabbed top money in the semi-feature ahead of Jack Robinson and Wayne Bennett.

Keith Middleton and Cliff Half won the other heats.

## Rider Takes Midseason Title Race

**July 17, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Bill Rider took command on the 41<sup>st</sup> lap of the 50-lap midseason championship race for class A stock cars at Berlin Raceway Saturday night and went on to capture the prize laurels. Tommy Lane, who had set the pace to that point, had to settle for third place behind Eddie VanderLaan who had been a sharp contender throughout and got the runner-up spot.

On the fifth lap of the 50-lap title affair, Glen Rockey and Jack Cum-miford were involved in a crash and Bill Sherman and Gordy VanderLaan piled in, the latter being unable to continue after the cars were un-tangled. The mishap forced a restart on the fifth lap.

Wally Sanders took the 50-lap championship honors for class B, followed by Ray Flannery and Sam Ash. The "to-the-finish" pursuit, a special event which went 32-laps, Bob Brecken was the final survivor. Last to go out had been Cum-miford and Lane.

Heat races were taken by Gordy VanderLaan, Dick Nielson, Wally Sanders and Jerry Martin. Lane was the victor in the fast-car dash with Rockey second and Brecken third. Lane also was fastest qualifier, Rockey and Brecken took the next-best honors.

## Sanders Is 25-Lap Stock Victor Again

**July 22, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Wally Sanders, "old-timer" driver on Grand Rapids area tracks, won the 25-lap feature race in the "strictly" stock car program, which was marked by frequent collisions, at Berlin Raceway Thursday night before an estimated 2,100 persons.

Grand Rapids' Bob Bartz who smashed into a wall last week in his first race grabbed second money in the feature ahead of Eddie VanderLaan and Glen Carr.

Dick Obies also of Grand Rapids is one-up on Bartz. Obies won in the first race of his career Thursday night. He took the checkered flag in the semi-feature. Bob Dickens was second across the finish line, followed by Ray Sloane and Ray VanDyke.

Sanders also roared home first in the fast-car dash and "newcomer" Bartz took the crowd-pleasing pursuit. Heat race winners were Dale Vandermale, Gus Bray, Al Gepner and Whitey Tania.

## Rider On Win Streak

**July 24, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Bill Rider Saturday night became the first Berlin Raceway driver this season to capture three feature events as he swept to the victory in the evening's class A headliner. By taking the checkered flag he also scored another "first", coming back after last week's big win in the mid-season championships and thereby gaining a special award posted by the management.

Eddie VanderLaan was the runner-up to Rider, with Wayne Kelly third, Bob Knight fourth, and Jack Cum-miford fifth.

Bob Brecken was victorious in the fast-car dash and Knight in the pursuit. Heat race wins went to Rider, Rockey and Art Ayers. Johnny Johnson won the semi-feature and Bob Knight took the consolation race.

In class B, two semi-features of 15-laps each were contested. Bob Knight took the first, followed by Kenny Knoll and Glen Rockey. Johnny Johnson was the winner of the second, with Jack Sanborn and Gus Bray finishing next.

## Sanders In Fourth Straight Strictly Stock Victory

**July 29, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Wally Sanders won his fourth straight Thursday night stock car feature before an estimated 3,000 persons at Berlin Raceway here Thursday night.

He beat out Harry Obie and Sam Ash after Eddie VanderLaan, the early leader spun out and crashed into the wall. VanderLaan's car was hit by racers driven by Ed Anible and Joe Beemen, but all three drivers escaped injury.

Heat race winners were Gus Bray, Elmer Lovett, Morris Horton and Jim Sloane. Sanders won the fast-car dash, with Bray copping the pursuit. Jim Larson was first in the semi-final event. Sanders also set fast time during time trials.

## Wiltse Wins Wild Berlin Stock Feature

**July 31, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Bill Wiltse took the lead on the 20<sup>th</sup> lap and roared to his third victory of the season in the 25-lap class A feature, which produced three crashes at the Berlin Raceway Saturday night before an estimated 2,500 stock-car spectators.

The feature was restarted after Bill Rider, Kenny Knoll and Tommy Lane crashed into the grandstand concrete wall on the fourth turn. On the first lap after the restart, Brecken crashed into Rider and Jack Cum-miford. Brecken and Cum-miford did not continue.



Gordy VanderLaan spun into the concrete retaining wall on the 19<sup>th</sup> lap, demolishing his new car.

Eddie VanderLaan captured second, and Gene Farber of Muskegon, who led for 18 laps, finished third ahead of Jack Nelson and Mort Anderson both from Greenville.

Art Ayers and Kenny Knoll of Muskegon won twin class B features. Bud Meyering and Wally Sanders took second places. The pursuit victor was Gordy VanderLaan; Heat winners were Nelson, Sanders and Knoll. Lane won the fast-car dash.

## Fifth Straight Feature For Wally Sanders; Two Five-Car Pileups Mar Stock Car Features

**August 5, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Alvin Gepner and Rudy LaCross both of Grand Rapids were released from Butterworth Hospital Thursday night after treatment for injuries incurred in the 25-lap stock-car feature races at the Berlin Raceway.

Gepner hit an embankment surrounding a light pole; on the first turn of the 14<sup>th</sup> lap in the class A feature. He required stitches. LaCross' car overturned on the first lap of the class B feature and a car driven by Jerry Fitzgerald rolled over it. LaCross' X-rays showed no fractures, according to a hospital attendant. He was bruised.

The class A feature was restarted after five cars piled up on the 14<sup>th</sup> lap, in addition to Gapner's accident. Ted Otten, leading the race at the time, crashed into the concrete wall.

Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids won his fifth straight class A feature, followed by Willy Barron and Gus Bray. Ed Anible took the class B race, Bill Vantween second and Bill Robinson third. Only seven cars finished out of 23 starters in the class B event, which also had a five-car pileup.

Heat winners were Otten, Bob Terptstra, Bob Walcott and Anible.

Wally Sanders won the fast-car dash and Eddie VanderLaan grabbed the pursuit race. Bill Colteril won the "hooligan" race.

## Knight Laps Field For Feature Win At Berlin

**August 7, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight broke away from the pack on the 18<sup>th</sup> lap Saturday night as his blue '32 Ford lapped the field to give Knight his second feature victory of the year at Berlin Raceway.

He also won the pursuit race. A crowd of approximately 3,000 witnessed the racing program.

Jack Cummiford finished second in the feature followed by Bob Brecken, Eddie VanderLaan and Bill Rider.

Tommy Lane was keeping pace with Knight until his car collided with another in a pass, losing a wheel.

Eddie VanderLaan set fast qualifying time for the night.

Kenny Knoll of Muskegon won the semi-feature. Heat winners were Rider, Gus Bray, Jack Sanborn and Sam Ash. VanderLaan also won the fast-car dash.

A \$50 added reward has been added to the man who can beat Wally Sanders, winner of five straight in the strictly stock feature Thursday.

## Sanders Wins Sixth Straight

**August 12, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Wally Sanders, # 1 target of the strictly stock feature at the Berlin Raceway, surged into the lead in the 16<sup>th</sup> lap and coasted in for his sixth straight victory Thursday night before approximately 3,000 persons.

Andy Stanpfler was second and Glen Rockey third.

Sanders, who carried an additional \$50 reward if he was beaten, also copped the fast-car dash and set fast qualifying time. Joe Norwood raced to a class B feature victory.

Heat winners were Dick Sieperida, Fred Carr, Jack Roerig and Willie Barron. Don Vantinen won the pursuit race.

## Slowest Qualifier Wins AAA Midget Feature

**August 19, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Thirty-seven-year-old Patsy Goacher of Anderson, Indiana, a veteran of Indianapolis Speedway competition, drove the slowest qualifier in the field to victory in the fifty-lap, AAA – (American Automobile Association) midget race feature before 7,500 at Berlin Raceway Thursday night.

Goacher led the field of 18 starters from the eighth lap on and was never seriously challenged.

Goacher, who started on the pole, lost the lead to Mike Nazaruk on the first lap, and then took it back when Nazaruk spun out on his eighth whirl around the fifth-mile track.

Second to Goacher was John Fedrick, who battled Shorty Templeman all the way. Rex Easton finished fifth.

Only two of the 18 starters failed to finish, Nazaruk and Chuck Rode, who spun out on the 18<sup>th</sup> lap. Goacher's time was seven minutes and 12 seconds. Goacher, Nazaruk, Rodee and Rex Easton won heat races before the crowd, largest of the season for West Michigan racing. Joe Barzda won the pursuit race.

## Cummiford Wins 100 Lap Berlin Race

**August 21, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Jack Cummiford cracked the jinx that's dogged his racing all season Saturday night by winning the 100-lap stock feature event of the Michigan Auto Sweepstakes before an estimated 5,500 persons at Berlin Raceway.

And for a while it appeared that Cummiford, who had finished second

on numerous occasions, would trail across the line again. He ran second to Eddie VanderLaan for 67-laps, then took the lead and held it.

Bill Rider finished second when VanderLaan was forced out on the 97<sup>th</sup> lap with a blown tire. Trailing were Jack Nelson, Ray Flannery, Dick Nielson and Bob Clover.

Wally Sanders continued his blistering victory pace in the 50-lap strictly stock feature, posting his seventh strictly stock triumph. He beat out Gus Bray and Dick Sieperda with Willie Wik and Jack Stempler in fourth and fifth.

Kenny Knoll of Muskegon was the winner of the 75-lap class B event, with Sanders and Jack Sanborn finishing second and third.

Wally Sanders continued to dominate the strictly stock car class with another feature win. He was followed in the 50-lap race by Gus Bray, Dick Sieperda, Willie Wik, and Jack Stempler.

Two drivers suffered minor injuries in mishaps. Bud Mosher received facial injuries when his car plowed into the embankment surrounding a light pole during the class B race. Bob Terptru was shaken up when his racer flipped coming out of a turn during the hooligan race, won by Bob Hoogstra.

### Sanders Long Victory Streak Ended By Gus Bray

**August 26, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Gus Bray snapped Wally Sanders long victory streak by a wheel at Berlin Raceway Thursday night. Bray nosed out Sanders in the final thirty feet of the last lap to win the 25-lap class A strictly stock car feature before 2,500 bringing to an end a Sander' victory string that spanned six races.

Sanders bid for number seven was spoiled when a car spun out ahead of him on the last lap. He hesitated and Bray swept to the finish line. Third was Jack Cummiford, followed by

Ray Flannery, and Sonny DuBois.

Glen Rockey won the class B event with Bud Meyering second and Jim Walker third. Heat race winners were Don VanTinen, Ed DeVries, Ken Crane and Ed Carr. Sam Ash took the pursuit race and Al Kamp was the semi-feature winner.

### Eddie VanderLaan Takes Berlin Feature

**August 28, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan grabbed the feature win Saturday night at Berlin Raceway in Marne, Michigan in the 25-lap stock car class A program. The fast-car dash winner was Bob Brecken. Jack Cummiford captured the pursuit race with Eddie VanderLaan winning the heat race. Wally Sanders won the 15-lap class B modified feature.

### Brecken Takes Berlin Feature

**August 30, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Brecken raced to victory Monday evening at Berlin Raceway in Marne, Michigan. Following behind Brecken in the 25-lap feature was Bill Rider, Bob Knight, Bud Meyering, Jack Cummiford, and Mort Anderson.

Brecken also picked up the checkered flag in winning the pursuit race, while Tommy Lane picked off the win in the fast-car dash race. Bud Meyering, Wayne Kelly, and Johnny Johnson won the heat races.

In the class B modified division it was Jack Sanborn winning followed by Johnny Johnson, Jim Walker, and Clarence Haan.

### Eddie VanderLaan Captures Third Berlin Win

**September 4, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan captured his third feature stock car victory of

the season Saturday night by winning the class A 25-lap event at Berlin Raceway before approximately 1,800 persons. Bill Rider was second and Bud Meyering third.

Roughest race of the night was the 25-lap class B event, which had to be restarted when Fran Stebbing and Jim Lowing collided on the first lap. Then on the seventh lap Johnny Johnson and Ed Polasyk bumped and both cars left the race.

Stebbing led the ten finishers of 25 starters in the B feature to the checkered flag, with Del Wiersma second and Jim Walker third. Other winners Saturday were Wally Sanders, Johnny Johnson, Burr Krupp and Bob Brecken, heat race winners and Jack Nelson, fast-car dash, and Elmer Lovett, pursuit race.

### Rider Wins Fourth Feature On Labor Day

**September 6, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Bill Rider became Berlin Raceway's winningest driver Monday by sweeping to victory in the 40-lap class A feature event before approximately 5,000 persons here. It was Rider's fourth feature triumph of the season.

Rider seized the lead from Eddie VanderLaan on the 24<sup>th</sup> lap and clung to it the rest of the way. VanderLaan was second followed by Tommy Lane and Ray Flannery.

Art Ayers won the class B race, another 40-lap event, beating Johnny Johnson, Wally Sanders and Ray Ferrell.

Heat race victors were Eddie VanderLaan, Ayers, Sanders and Bob Brecken. Jack Nelson won the fast-car dash and Bob Knight took the pursuit.

Three crashes marred the program. Ed Polasyk hit the retaining wall head on during the class B feature. He was shaken up, but not seriously injured. Ray Rahn flipped his car several times during one of the heat races, and Tar Galor and Flip Thompson were involved in another



mix-up in which one car climbed a light pole barrier.

## Sanders Wins Berlin Title Race

**September 9, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Wally Sanders won the 1954 class A Berlin Raceway 50-lap strictly stock championship Thursday night in a see-saw duel with Jack Cummiford before approximately 2,100 persons.

Thursday's program was the start of "championship week" at the Raceway. Title races for modified stock racers will climax this week on Saturday night.

Cummiford seized the lead from Sanders on the 33<sup>rd</sup> lap, then lost it with three to go, and missed victory by a bumper. Ted Otten was third and Jack Sanborn fourth.

Art Ayers captured the class B feature, beating out Dave Vandermale and Walt Marvin. Heat race winners were Dave Rumsey, Carl Shoemaker, Glen Carr and Ken Crane. Ray Roerig was the victor in the "hooligan" race and Gus Bray beat Sanders in a special eight-lap match event.

Several accidents marred the feature. Eddie VanderLaan's car rolled over on the 23<sup>rd</sup> lap of the class A event and a three-car pileup marked the class B event.

## Rider Takes Fifth Feature At Berlin

**September 11, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Bill Rider made his fifth feature modified stock-car victory of the year a big one, winning the 1954 Berlin Raceway class A season championship race in a 75-lap grind here Saturday night before 3,830 persons.

Rider captured the crown from Tommy Lane, who finished fourth Saturday behind Eddie VanderLaan and Bob Brecken.

Eddie VanderLaan won the fast-car dash, while Bud Bell took the A pursuit. Heat race winners were Bill Sherman, Bob Knight, Johnny Johnson and Nielson.

Art Ayers won the class B championship race in a 75-lap battle with Dick Nielson, who finished second, and Wally Sanders the third place winner.

## Rider Races To Sixth Feature At Berlin

**September 25, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Bill Rider roared to his sixth feature win of the season at Berlin Raceway Saturday night, finishing ahead of onrushing Bill Wiltse, Elmer Lovett and Bob Brecken in the 25-lap race.

Wayne Kelly beat Wally Sanders in the class B race. Heat winners were Jack Cummiford, Kenny Knoll and Sam Ash. Bob Knight won the fast-car dash, heat race and set fast time for the night of 14.55. Sanders also got nipped in his specialty, the strictly stock race, by Cummiford.

Bud Meyering finished ahead of Willie Barron in the other B race. Wayne Kelly won the consolation race.

## Eddie VanderLaan Victor Of Season Ending Race At Berlin

**October 9, 1954 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan won the Berlin Raceway's final class A stock car feature race of the season Saturday night before an estimated crowd of 1,200 spectators.

VanderLaan roared home in the 25-lap event ahead of Kenny Knoll, Tommy Lane and Bill Sherman, the early leader and Ray Flannery.

Lane wiped out the field in the pursuit and also won the fast-car dash. Heat victors were VanderLaan, Sam Ash, Walt Marvin and Ron Hoogstra. Lane also had the quickest time trial lap.

Walt Marvin took the class B feature, followed by Fran Stebbins, Jack Sanborn and Flip Thompson.

## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1954

### Modifieds, Class A & Class B Strictly Stocks, Class A & Class B

**April 24, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A**

Rained Out

**May 1, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bill Rider – no time given

Dash winner: Bill Rider

Heat winners: Bob Brecken, Elmer Lovett, Wally Sanders, Dick Reese

Pursuit winner: Lavern Peterson

**Feature: (1) Glen Rockey (2) Bud Meyering (3) Jack Cummiford (4) Bob Knight**

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B**

**Feature: (1) Woody Wood (2) Gordy VanderLaan (3) Harry Drolema**

**May 8, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Glen Rockey – no time given

Dash winner: Glen Rockey

Heat winners: Bud Meyering, Jack Nelson, Johnny Roberts

Pursuit winner: Johnny Johnson

**Feature: (1) Jack Nelson (2) Jack Cummiford (3) Bob Knight (4) Bob Brecken (5) Johnny Roberts**



Gus Bray

Dick Lee Collection

**15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B**

**Feature: (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Bill Rider (3) Johnny Johnson**

**May 15, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Kenny Knoll – no time given

Dash winner: Kenny Knoll

Heat winners: Jack Cummiford, Gordy VanderLaan, Johnny Johnson

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

**Feature: (1) Bill Rider (2) Jack Cummiford (3) Bill Arnold**

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B**

**Feature: (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Bill Schippers (3) Eddie VanderLaan**



Bob Brecken

Dick Lee Collection

**May 22, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier: Bob Knight 14.22—New Track Record**

Dash winner: Bob Knight

Heat winners: Bill Wiltse, Sam Ash, Bill Schippers, Al Dryer

Pursuit race: Kenny Knoll

**Feature: (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Jack Cummiford (3) Bob Knight**

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B**

**Feature: (1) Ed Anible (2) Sam Ash (3) Elmer Lovett**



**May 29, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt (15 of 25 laps run – Howard Newland taken to hospital)

Fast qualifier: Bill Rider – no time given

Dash winner: Bob Knight

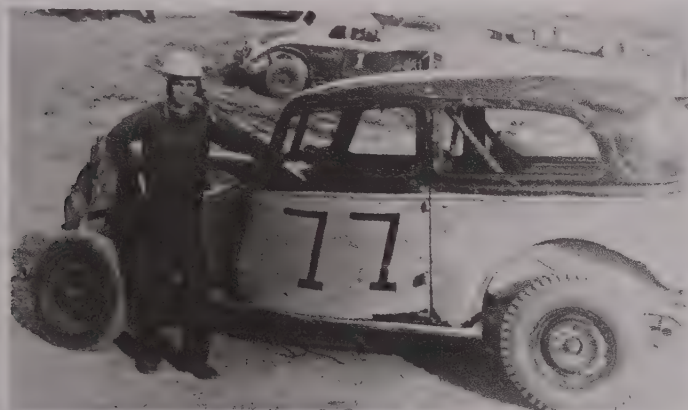
Heat winners: Gordy VanderLaan, Johnny Johnson, Wally Sanders, Elmer Lovett, Jack Beduhn

Pursuit winner: Kenny Knoll

**Feature:** (1) Tommy Lane (2) Bill Rider (3) Bob Knight (4) Bill Sherman (5) Gordy VanderLaan

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B**

**Feature:** (1) Flip Thompson (2) Wally Sanders (3) Clarence Haan



Jack Nelson

Dick Lee Collection

**May 31, 1954 – Monday – Modifieds**

Rained Out

**June 3, 1954 – Thursday – Modifieds**

Rained Out

**June 5, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Gordy VanderLaan 14.15—New Track Record

Dash winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat winners: Jack Cummiford, Art Ayers, Wally Sanders, Ed Krupp

Pursuit winner: Bill Sherman

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Jack Nelson (3) Jack Cummiford (4) Gordy VanderLaan (5) Bill Wiltse (6) Don Wood

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B**

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Art Ayers (3) Clarence Haan (4) Flip Thompson

**June 10, 1954 – Thursday – Strictly Stocks – Class A**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Willie Barron

Heat winners: Bud Fonger, Bob Dickens, Sam Ash

Pursuit winner: Don Keenan

Semi winner: Sam Ash

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Willie Wik (3) Bud Fonger (4) Ed Horton (5) Kenny Knoll

**June 12, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bob Knight – no time given

Dash winner: Bob Knight

**Feature:** (1) Glen Rockey (2) Jack Cummiford (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Gene Farber

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds Class B**

**Feature:** (1) Flip Thompson

**June 17, 1954 – Thursday – Strictly Stocks – Class A**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Willie Barron

Heat winners: Ed Anible, Don Zanburg, Dan Bone, Ed Horton

Pursuit winner: Jack Cummiford



Bill Thurkettle

Dick Lee Collection



Buddy Stewart

Dick Lee Collection

Consolation winner: Hank Kramer

**Feature:** (1) Willie Wik (2) Willie Barron

---

### June 19, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan – no time given

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Bill Wiltse, Jack Cummiford, Art Ayers, Bill Stebbins

Pursuit winner: Don Wood

**Feature:** (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Jack Cummiford (3) Bob Knight (4) Bill Rider

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B

**Feature:** (1) Art Ayers (2) Bill Peterson (3) Bud Meyering

---

### June 24, 1954 – Thursday – Strictly Stocks – Class A

20 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Wally Sanders

Heat winners: Bill Rider, Eddie VanderLaan, Jack Sanborn, Tommy Lane

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Semi winner: Elmer Lovett

**Feature:** (1) Tommy Lane (2) Wally Sanders (3) Bob Horton

(Feature halted on lap 20 because of a multi-car crash blocking the track)

---

### June 26, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Glen Rockey

Heat winners: Gordy VanderLaan, Johnny Johnson, Ed Anible, Del Wiersma

Pursuit winner: Bill Sherman

Consolation winner: Bob Knight

**Feature winner race:** 15 laps composed of all feature winners this year: (1) **Bob Knight** (2) Jack Nelson (3) Tommy Lane (4) Bill Wiltse (5) Glen Rockey (6) Bill Rider

**Feature:** (1) Bob Brecken (2) Glen Rockey (3) Jack Cummiford (4) Gordy VanderLaan (5) Flip Roberts

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B

**Feature:** (1) Jim Martins (2) Bob Clover (3) Ed Anible

---

### July 3, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds

Rained Out

---

### July 5, 1954 – Monday – Modifieds – Class A

#### *Fourth of July*

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bill Rider – no time given

Dash winner: Jack Cummiford

Heat winners: Bob Brecken, Jack Nelson, Ed Anible, Mort Anderson

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Bob Knight (3) Glen Rockey (4) Jack Cummiford



Bill Whitney

Dick Lee Collection



**25 laps, fifth-mile – Modifieds – Class B**

**Feature:** (1) Jack Sanborn

**25 laps, fifth-mile – Strictly Stocks – Class A**

**Feature:** (1) Ed Horton

---

**July 8, 1954 – Thursday – Strictly Stocks – Class A**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Wally Sanders

Heat winners: Art Ayers, Ray Orzchaski, Ralph Baker, Dick Keenen

Pursuit winner: Dave Vandermale

Semi winner: Ed Bartlett

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Sonny DuBois (3) Gene Gillette

---

**July 10, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Wally Sanders, Gordy VanderLaan, Eddie VanderLaan, Bill Wiltse

Pursuit winner: Wayne Kelly

**Feature:** (1) Bob Brecken (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Jack Cummingford (4) Gordy VanderLaan (5) Johnny Purwin

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B**

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Bud Meyering



Bob Terpstra

Dick Lee Collection

**July 15, 1954 – Thursday – Strictly Stocks – Class A**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Wally Sanders – no time given

Dash winner: Wally Sanders

Heat winners: Wally Sanders, Elmer Lovett, Keith Middleton, Cliff Hall

Pursuit winner: Bill Rider

Semi winner: Elmer Lovett

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Gus Bray (3) Bill Rider



Ed Krupp

Dick Lee Collection

---

**July 17, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A**  
**Midseason Championship**

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Tommy Lane – no time given

Dash winner: Tommy Lane

Heat winners: Gordy VanderLaan, Dick Nelson, Wally Sanders, Jerry Martin

Pursuit winner: Bob Brecken

**Feature:** (1) Bill Rider (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Tommy Lane

**50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B**

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Ray Flannery (3) Sam Ash

---

**July 22, 1954 – Thursday – Strictly Stocks – Class A**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Wally Sanders

Heat winners: Dave Vandermale, Gus Bray, Al Gepner, Whitney Tania

Pursuit winner: Bob Bartz

Semi winner: Dick Obies

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Bob Bartz (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Glen Carr

---

### July 24, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Bob Brecken

Heat winners: Bill Rider, Glen Rockey, Art Ayers

Pursuit winner: Bob Knight

Consolation winner: Bob Knight

Semi winner: Johnny Johnson

**Feature:** (1) Bill Rider (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Wayne Kelly (4) Bob Knight (5) Jack Cummiford

---

### 15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B

**1st Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Kenny Knoll (3) Glen Rockey

**2nd Feature:** (1) Johnny Johnson (2) Jack Sanborn (3) Gus Bray

---

### July 29, 1954 – Thursday – Strictly Stocks – Class A

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Wally Sanders – no time given

Dash winner: Wally Sanders

Heat winners: Gus Bray, Elmer Lovett, Morris Horton, Jim Sloane

Pursuit winner: Gus Bray

Semi winner: Jim Larson

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Harry Obie (3) Sam Ash

---



Jack Cummiford

Dick Lee Collection



Elmer Lovett

Dick Lee Collection

### July 31, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Tommy Lane

Heat winners: Jack Nelson, Wally Sanders, Kenny Knoll

Pursuit winner: Gordy VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Gene Farber (4) Jack Nelson (5) Mort Anderson

---

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B

**1st Feature:** (1) Art Ayers (2) Bud Meyering

**2nd Feature:** (1) Kenny Knoll (2) Wally Sanders

---

### August 5, 1954 – Thursday – Strictly Stocks – Class A

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Wally Sanders

Heat winners: Ted Otten, Bob Terpstra, Bob Walcott, Ed Anible

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Consolation winner: Bill Colteril

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Willie Barron (3) Gus Bray

---

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks – Class B

**Feature:** (1) Ed Anible (2) Bill Vantween (3) Bill Robison

---



**August 7, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan – no time given

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Bill Rider, Gus Bray, Jack Sanborn, Sam Ash

Pursuit winner: Bob Knight

Consolation race: Kenny Knoll

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Jack Cummiford (3) Bob Brecken (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Bill Rider

**August 12, 1954 – Thursday – Strictly Stocks – Class A**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Wally Sanders – no time given

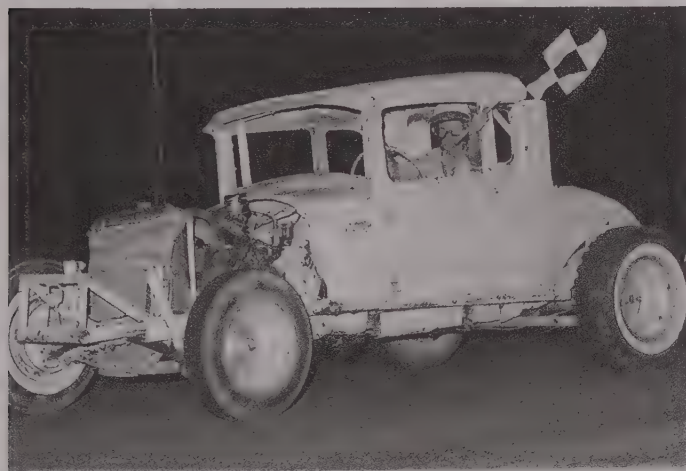
Dash winner: Wally Sanders

Heat winners: Willie Barron, Dick Sieperda, Fred Carr, Jack Roerig

Pursuit winner: Don Vantuinen

Consolation winner: Joe Norwood

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Andy Stampfler (3) Glen Rockey



Harvey Redder

Dick Lee Collection

**August 14, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A**

Rained Out

**August 19, 1954 – Thursday – AAA Midgets**

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Chuck Rodee, Mike Nazaruk, Potsy Goacher, Rex Easton

Pursuit winner: Joe Barzda

**Feature:** (1) Potsy Goacher (2) Johnny Fedrick (3) Shorty Templeton (4) Rex Easton

**August 21, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A**

**Michigan State Championship**

100 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Feature:** (1) Jack Cummiford (2) Bill Rider (3) Jack Nelson (4) Ray Flannery (5) Dick Nielson (6) Bob Clover

**75 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B**

**Feature:** (1) Kenny Knoll (2) Wally Sanders (3) Jack Sanborn

**50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks – Class A**

Hooligan race: Bob Hoogstra

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Gus Bray (3) Dick Sieperda (4) Willie Wik (5) Jack Stempler

**August 24, 1954 – Tuesday – Modifieds – Class A**

Rained Out

**August 25, 1954 – Wednesday – Modifieds – Class A**

Rained Out



Harry Drolema

Dick Lee Collection



Sam Ash

Dick Lee Collection

### August 26, 1954 – Thursday – Strictly Stocks – Class A

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Heat winners: Don VanTinen, Ed DeVries, Ken Crane, Ed Carr

Pursuit winner: Sam Ash

Semi-feature: Al Kamp

Feature: (1) Gus Bray (2) Wally Sanders (3) Jack Cummiford (4) Ray Flannery (5) Sonny DuBois

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks – Class B

Feature: (1) Glen Rockey (2) Bud Meyering (3) Jim Walker

### August 28, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Bob Brecken

Heat winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Pursuit winner: Jack Cummiford

Feature: (1) Eddie VanderLaan

### 15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B

Feature: (1) Wally Sanders

### August 30, 1954 – Monday – Modifieds – Class A

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Tommy Lane

Heat winners: Bud Meyering, Wayne Kelly, Johnny Johnson

Pursuit winner: Bob Brecken

Feature: (1) Bob Brecken (2) Bill Rider (3) Bob Knight (4) Bud Meyering (5) Jack Cummiford (6) Mort Anderson

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B

Feature: (1) Jack Sanborn (2) Johnny Johnson (3) Jim Walker (4) Clarence Haan

### September 4, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Jack Nelson

Pursuit winner: Elmer Lovett

Heat winners: Bob Brecken, Burr Krupp

Feature: (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Bill Rider (3) Bud Meyering

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B

Heat winners: Johnny Johnson, Wally Sanders

Feature: (1) Fran Stebbins (2) Del Wiersma (3) Jim Walker

### September 6, 1954 – Monday – Modifieds Class A

#### Labor Day

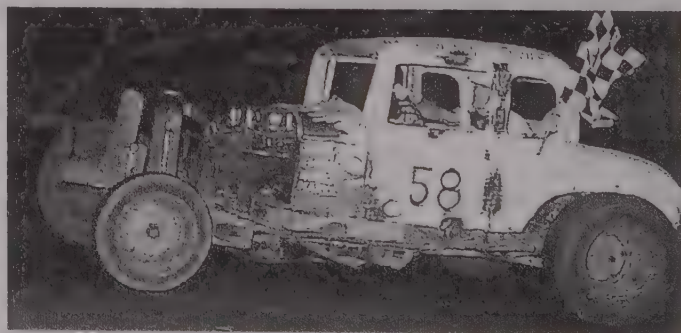
40 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Jack Nelson

Heat winners: Wally Sanders, Art Ayers, Eddie VanderLaan, Bob Brecken

Pursuit winner: Bob Knight

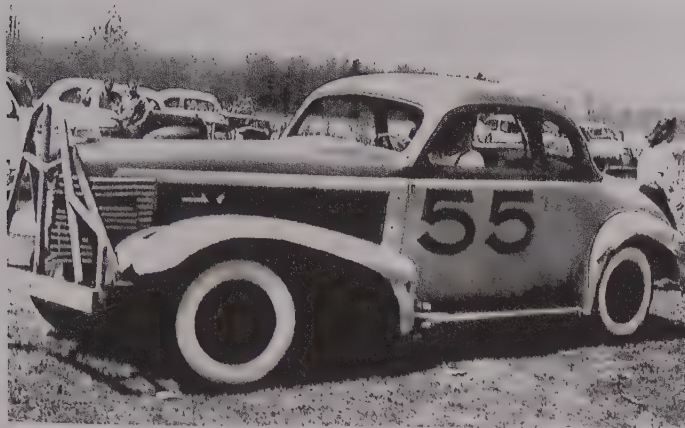
Feature: (1) Bill Rider (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Tommy Lane (4) Ray Flannery



Mort Anderson

Dick Lee Collection





Johnny Purwin

Dick Lee Collection

---

### 40 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B

**Feature:** (1) Art Ayers (2) Johnny Johnson (3) Wally Sanders (4) Ray Ferrell

---

### September 9, 1954 – Thursday – Strictly Stocks – Class A

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Match winner: Gus Bray

Hooligan winner: Ray Roerig

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Jack Cummingford (3) Ted Otten (4) Jack Sanborn

---

### 50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks – Class B

Heat winners: Dave Rumsey, Carl Shoemaker, Glen Carr, Ken Crane

**Feature:** (1) Art Ayers (2) Dave Vandermale (3) Walt Marvin

---

### September 11, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A

75 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Bill Sherman, Bob Knight, Johnny Johnson, Dick Nielson

Pursuit winner: Bud Bell

**Feature:** (1) Bill Rider (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Bob Brecken (4) Tommy Lane

---

### 75 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B

**Feature:** (1) Art Ayers (2) Dick Nielson (3) Wally Sanders

---

### September 18, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A

Rained Out

---

### September 25, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bob Knight 14.55

Dash winner: Bob Knight

Heat winners: Jack Cummingford, Kenny Knoll, Sam Ash, Bob Knight

Consolation winner: Wayne Kelly

**Feature:** (1) Bill Rider (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Elmer Lovett (4) Bob Brecken

---

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B

**Feature:** (1) Wayne Kelly (2) Wally Sanders

---

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks – Class A

**Feature:** (1) Jack Cummingford (2) Wally Sanders

---

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks – Class B

**Feature:** (1) Bud Meyering (2) Willie Barron

---

### October 2, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A

Rained Out

---

### October 9, 1954 – Saturday – Modifieds – Class A

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Tommy Lane – no time given

Dash winner: Tommy Lane

Heat winners: Eddie VanderLaan, Sam Ash, Walt Marvin, Ronald Hoogstra

Pursuit winner: Tommy Lane

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Kenny Knoll (3) Tommy Lane (4) Bill Sherman (5) Ray Flannery

---

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds – Class B

**Feature:** (1) Walt Marvin (2) Fran Stebbins (3) Jack Sanborn (4) Flip Thompson

---

# Berlin Raceway Points 1954

1954 MODIFIEDS POINTS - CLASS A							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Bill Rider	49	6	3	1		
2	Eddie VanderLaan	45	4	2	3		
3	Jack Cummiford	45	1		1		
4	Bob Knight	33	2	3	4	1	
5	Bob Brecken	25	3		2		
6	Bill Wiltse	24	3				
7	Glen Rockey	17	2	1	2		
8	Tommy Lane	16	1	2	4		
9	Jack Nelson	14	1		2		
10	Bud Meyering	9					
11	Gordy VanderLaan	7		1	1	1	
12	Ray Flannery	5					
	Gene Farber	5					
14	Kenny Knoll	4		1	1		
15	Bill Sherman	4					
16	Elmer Lovett	3					
17	Wayne Kelly	3					
	Bill Arnold	3					
19	Johnny Roberts	1					
	Johnny Purwin	1					
	Mort Anderson	1					
	Dick Nielson	1					
	Flip Roberts	1					



# Berlin Raceway — Jalopies/Modifieds, 1951-1957

1954 MODIFIEDS POINTS - CLASS B							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Wally Sanders	37	3				
2	Art Ayers	24	4				
3	Jack Sanborn	20	2				
4	Johnny Johnson	16	1				
5	Gordy VanderLaan	14	2				
	Flip Thompson	14	2				
7	Kenny Knoll	14	2				
8	Bud Meyering	11					
9	Fran Stebbins	9	1				
10	Eddie VanderLaan	8	1				
	Ed Anible	8	1				
12	Clarence Haan	8					
13	Sam Ash	7					
14	Jim Walker	6					
15	Bob Knight	5	1				
	Woody Wood	5	1				
	Jim Martins	5	1				
	Wayne Kelly	5	1				
	Walt Marvin	5	1				
20	Bob Clover	4					
	Bill Rider	4					
	Ray Flannery	4					
	Dick Nielson	4					
	Bill Peterson	4					
	Bill Schippers	4					
	Bill Vantween	4					
	Del Wiersma	4					
28	Elmer Lovett	3					
	Glen Rockey	3					
	Harry Drolema	3					
	Gus Bray	3					
32	Ray Ferrell	2					

# Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present

1954 STRICTLY STOCK POINTS - CLASS A							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Wally Sanders	52	8	3	7		
2	Gus Bray	16	1				
3	Jack Cummiford	12	1				
4	Willie Wik	11	1				
5	Eddie VanderLaan	8	1				
6	Ed Horton	7	1				
7	Tommy Lane	5	1				
8	Sonny DuBois	5					
9	Willie Barron	4			1		
10	Harry Obie	4					
	Bob Bartz	4					
12	Bud Fonger	3					
	Bob Horton	3					
	Gene Gillette	3					
	Bill Rider	3					
	Sam Ash	3					
	Dick Sieperda	3					
	Ted Otten	3					
19	Glen Carr	2					
	Ray Flannery	2					
	Jack Sanborn	2					
22	Kenny Knoll	1					
	Jack Stempler	1					

1954 STRICTLY STOCK POINTS - CLASS B							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Bud Meyering	9	1				
2	Ed Anible	5	1				
	Art Ayers	5	1				
	Glen Rockey	5	1				
5	Bill Vantween	4					
	Dave Vandermale	4					
	Willie Barron	4					
8	Bill Robison	3					
	Jim Walker	3					
	Walt Marvin	3					



## Berlin Raceway Media 1955

### Kazoo Driver Jimmy Born Wins Berlin Opener

**April 16, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Jimmy Born of Kalamazoo won opening night honors in the modified stock car races at Berlin Raceway Saturday night.

Born, winning his first feature race at the Marne track, seized the lead early in the race, then lost it to Johnny Johnson. Born regained the lead and withstood the challenge of Ralph Baker for victory.

### Nielson Wins Feature At Berlin

**April 23, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Dick Nielson of Trufant, a sophomore in stock racing circles, won the first feature event of his young career Saturday night by copying honors in the 25-lap grind at Berlin Raceway.

Nielson seized the lead on the fifth lap and held it in a bumper-to-bumper duel with three other drivers to thrill an estimated 3,600 fans who watched the first program of the season at the Berlin track.

Trailing Nielson, and second place winner Eddie VanderLaan were Bob Knight, Bill Wiltse and Jack Cummiford. Art Ayers and Elmer Lovett shared honors in the two 15-lap semi-finals, and Muskegon's Tommy Lane beat Flannery and Cummiford in the Australian pursuit.

Bill Rider won the fast-car dash, with Knight and Wiltse trailing. Heat race winners were Eddie VanderLaan, Ayers, Sam Ash and Bud Meyering.

Wiltse established a new track record in the qualifying trails turning one lap in 13.89 seconds. The old record of 14.12 was held by Knight.

### Cummiford Wins Berlin Feature

**April 30, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Jack Cummiford broke through the field on the fifteenth lap and clung to the lead for victory in the modified stock car racing feature at Berlin Raceway Saturday night. Approximately 3,400 watched the program.

Bob Brecken led throughout the early stages with Bob Knight and Eddie VanderLaan challenging. Knight and VanderLaan went out after seven laps with flat tires and Cummiford and Bill Wiltse took over. Wiltse finished second followed by Brecken, Bill Rider, Johnny Roberts, and Bill Sherman.

Glen Rockey of Muskegon won the Class B feature, another 25 lap event, with Calving Gage second. Other winners were Brecken, Burr Krupp, Art Ayers and Don Drier. Heat races Wiltse, fast car dash and Dick Nielson, Australian pursuit.

### Flannery Back In Winner's Circle

**May 7, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Muskegon's Ray Flannery, who had trouble winning features since he copped the Berlin Raceway scoring crown in 1952, stepped into the track's winning circle for the first time in two years Saturday.

After trading the lead with Jimmy "Ping Pong" Rinner in a thrilling all-out finish, he surged ahead to stay in a stretch duel before 2,500 racing fans in the 25-lap feature event.

Jack Cummiford, who also closed with a rush, was judged the winner over Rinner for runner-up honors. Bob Knight and Bill Wiltse followed.

Another Muskegon driver, Glen Rockey, won his second straight Class B feature, seizing the lead early to lap the field.

Flannery, Bud Meyering, Flip Thompson, and Calvin Gage won heat races. Wiltse took in the fast car dash and Tommy Lane captured the Australian pursuit. Owen Foor was the consolation race victor.

### Flannery Wins Second Berlin Feature In A Row

**May 14, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Muskegon's Ray Flannery roared to his second straight Berlin Class A stock car feature triumph Saturday night before an estimated 3,000 spectators.

Flannery won the 25-lap final event ahead of Bud Meyering and Jack Cummiford. Art Ayers took his second 25-lap Class B race of the season. Johnny Johnson finished second and Ed Krupp third.

Heat race winners were Meyering, Johnny Roberts, Ayers and Eddie Streck. Streck also copped the rough Australian pursuit race. Bill Wiltse, fastest qualifier, took the checkered flag in the fast car dash.

### Bob Brecken Wins Feature

**May 21, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Determined Bob Brecken made up for a costly spin in the 15<sup>th</sup> lap with a fast surge at the finish to win the Class A feature race at Berlin Raceway Saturday night before some 3,600 racing fans.

Brecken and Ping Pong Rinner spun out of control while fighting for the lead at the stretch turn. Rinner spun out of control again two laps later and had to withdraw from the race.

Johnny Roberts, of Saginaw, led for four laps until Brecken and Rinner took over. Jack Cummiford, who took second place, seventeen

times last season, copped his second runner-up finish of the year. Bob Knight was third and Tom Laze fourth. Ray Flannery was running third but a costly spin dropped him to seventh.

Chuck Shepherd won the "B" feature. Heat winners were Rinner, Knight, Mort Anderson, Jerry Little and Tommy Lane. Knight also won the Australian pursuit.

## Knight Wins Berlin Race

**May 30, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight swept across the finish line three times Monday night before 4,750 fans at Berlin Raceway, winning three stock car events including the 40-lap Class A feature.

Knight won the first heat race and the Australian pursuit in addition. Following him in the feature were Jack Cummmiford, Jack Nelson, Ping Pong Rinner and Bill Sherman.

Elmer Lovett beat out Art Ayers and Jerry Little in the 40-lap Class B event. Other winners included Tommy Lane; fast car dash and Bob Brecken, Lovett and Chum Lewett for heat races.

## Cummiford Wins Berlin Feature

**June 3, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Jack Cummmiford and John Murray were winners of feature races in an accident-marred strictly stock car program at Berlin Raceway Friday night. An estimated 1,600 person attended.

Ray Rahn of Muskegon was shaken up when his car crashed into a light post on the thirteenth lap of the Class B feature race.

Cummiford won his first victory of the season in capturing the Class A event. Second was Wally Sanders, followed by Clarence Haan.

Murray won the B feature with Ken Sutton second. Glen Rockey won the fast-car dash and Sanders took the Australian pursuit. Heat race victors were Ted Otten, Bob Knight, Sanders and Sutton.

## Lane Leads All The Way At Berlin

**June 4, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Tommy Lane, of Muskegon, grabbed the lead on the first lap and staved off continued surges from Jack Cummmiford to win the feature race at Berlin Raceway of Saturday night.

Bob Knight was third and Bob Brecken fourth. For Cummmiford, his runner-up fish marked the fifth time this year he has finished second.

Jack Nelson, of Greenville, won the Class B feature. Heat winners were Brecken, Eddie Streck, Mort Anderson and Eddie Krupp. Lane won the fast-car dash and Dick Nielson took the Australian pursuit.

## Three Duel To Close Finish At Berlin

**June 10, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – An estimated 2,000 spectators watched one of the closest feature races in Berlin Raceway's history Friday night.

Approximately three inches separated the first three drivers in the 25-lap strictly stock car windup. Jimmy "Ping Pong" Rinner, 23, who was released from the Army duty last spring, nipped Wally Sanders and Jack Cummmiford for his second triumph in three weeks.

Harry Obie and Johnny Johnson both grabbed checkered flags in the 15-lap semi-features. Rinner added the fast-car dash to his winnings. Art Ayers roared home first in the Australian pursuit. Heat race victors were Glen Rockey, Chuck Rounds, Sam Ash and Jack Cummmiford.

## 2,000 Watch Rockey Win Berlin Race

**June 17, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Glen Rockey, of Muskegon roared to his second strictly stock car feature victory of the season after winning the popular fast-car dash before an estimated 2,000 spectators at the Berlin Raceway in Marne, on Friday night.

Art Ayers, who also took a heat race, placed second in the Class A feature ahead of Jimmy Rinner. Fred Wiltse took the Class B checkered flag. Fred Carr was second and Olie Johnson placed third.

The "B" race was cut short. Dick Gauthier flipped his machine on the eighteenth lap. Its position on the track made the race hazardous to continue. Ken Sutton won the Australian pursuit. Other heat victors were Elmer Lovett, Bud Meyering and Ronnie Maclin.

## Riders Roars To Berlin Feature Win

**June 24, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Curly Moody and Fred Wiltse crashed head on into the retaining wall, marring the 25-lap Class A strictly stock car feature race at the Berlin Raceway Friday night before an estimated 2,100 spectators.

Veteran driver Bill Rider took the Class A checkered flag ahead of Jimmy Rinner and Bob Knight. Moody and Wiltse completely demolished their stocks on the eighth lap, forcing a restart.

Jerry Fitzgerald took the Class B feature, followed by Sam Ash and Bob Clover. Heat victors were Rider, Wiltse, Ash and Bud Meyering.

Glen Rockey, victor in the last two "A" features won the fast-car dash. Moody captured the Australian pursuit.



## Knight Cops Second Feature At Berlin

**June 25, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight outgunned Tommy Lane, of Muskegon, to the finish line Saturday night to win the 30-lap Class A modified stock car feature at Berlin Raceway.

Some 3,100 racing fans saw the two duel in the stretch for the first place money. Bill Rider was third. Mort Anderson won the Class B feature and Jimmy Rinner captured the Australian pursuit. Jack Nelson was first in the fast-car dash. Heat winners were Lane, Art Ayers, Anderson and Bob Clover.

## Tommy Lane Berlin Stock Car Victor

**July 2, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Tommy Lane, of Muskegon, roared home first in the 25-lap Class A feature of Saturday night's modified stock car competition at the Berlin Raceway.

LaVerne Peterson, from Belding, finished second Saturday. Third was Roger Joneson, of Muskegon. Joneson, who won a heat race, led for eight laps, but yielded to Lane.

On the first lap Bob Knight spun put and crashed into Jack Nielson, forcing a restart. Mort Anderson of Greenville took the Class B feature, followed by Flip Thompson and Jimmy Knool. Beside Joneson, other heat victors were Bob Brecken, Thompson and Sam Ash. Jimmy Rinner copped the fast car dash and the Australian pursuit went to Bob Clover.

## Clover Wins Berlin Feature Race

**July 4, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Clover won the feature race at Berlin Raceway Monday night to climax a night of wild stock car racing witnessed by more than 4,000 fans.

Smash-ups featured every race, and one driver, Bob Terpstra was taken to Butterworth Hospital after he was pulled from his wrecked car. He was released after first aid.

Jack Cummiford placed second and Bud Meyering third in the feature. Mort Anderson won the Class B feature and Wally Sanders won the Class C feature.

Tommy Lane of Muskegon, a perennial favorite at the raceway, won the first heat race. Johnny Johnson won the second heat race and Dick Nielson won the third. Jerry Little won the fourth heat race. Roger Joneson won the fast-car dash and Bob Knight won the Australian pursuit.

## Sanders Nabs Berlin Stock Feature Race

**July 8, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Grand Rapids' Wally Sanders, last year's strictly stock car champion roared his second victory in three weeks before an estimated 1,800 Berlin Raceway spectators Friday night.

Sanders grabbed the checkered flag ahead of Bob Knight and Bill Rider in the 25-lap feature. Muskegon's Gus Bray took the 15-lap semi-feature. Gaylord Mason was second and Fred Car third.

Heat race victors were Rider, Johnny DuBois, and Glen Rockey. Jimmy "Ping Pong" Rinner won the fast-car dash and Bid Meyering skidded home first in the popular Australian pursuit.

## Bill Sherman Mid-Season Stock Winner

**July 9, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Bill Sherman roared to his first feature victory of the season and his third in three years Saturday night in the 75-lap modified mid-season championship jaunt at the Berlin Raceway before an estimated 4,000 spectators.

Sherman whizzed past Jimmy Rinner and Ed Streck on the first turn and maintained the lead to the checkered flag.

He battled Rinner for sixty-five laps until Bob Knight wheeled into contention on the sixty-six lap. Knight, who finished second, drew alongside Sherman on the final lap, but fell back at the checkered flag.

Jack Cummiford was third, followed by Eddie VanderLaan, Bill Ride, Rinner, Bob Brecken, Dick Nielson, Bob Clover, and Johnny Johnson.

Elmer Lovett captured the Class B feature ahead of Art Ayers and Flip Thompson. Heat victors were Cummiford, Jack Nelson, Elmer Lovett and Frank Stevins.

## Rinner Posts Berlin Stock Car Triumph

**July 15, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Jimmy "Ping Pong" Rinner, who also took the fast-car dash, passed Ken Sutton on the eighteenth lap to win strictly stock car feature at the Berlin Raceway Friday night.

Sutton finished second ahead of Jack Cummiford and Eddie VanderLaan. Bud Meyering took the semi-feature. VanderLaan won the Australian pursuit and a heat race. Other heat victors were Meyering and Sam Ash.

## Knight, Lane Share Honors

**July 16, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight beat out Tommy Lane in the special champion of champion's race Saturday night at Berlin Raceway but Lane reversed the finish in the regular feature contest.

Sam Ash won the Class B feature.

## Eddie VanderLaan Is Berlin Victor

### July 22, 1955 – Berlin Raceway

– Edie VanderLaan gained the lead on the twenty-third lap from Wally Sanders and retained it to win the 50-lap Class A mid-season strictly stock car championship Friday night at Berlin Raceway. Sanders was second.

Elmer Lovett took the checkered flag in the twin-featured 35-lap semi-windup before an estimated 2,000 spectators. Heat victors were Ted Otten, Alvin Richards, Lovett and Sam Ash.

## Tommy Lane Wins His Fourth Feature Of The Year

### July 23, 1955 – Berlin Raceway

– Muskegon's Tommy Lane won his fourth Class A modified stock car feature of the season and his second straight Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

He skidded past Bob Knight by six inches at the finish of the 30-lap jaunt. Bill Sherman of Marne was third. An estimated 3,000 spectators watched.

Bill Whitney, Hastings, and Chuck Miller took firsts in the two semi-feature competitions. Heat race victors were Lane, Jack Nelson, Greenville and Sam Ash.

Bob Brecken took the checkered flag in the fast-car dash and the top Australian pursuit money went to Nelson.

## Eddie VanderLaan Wins Second Straight Berlin Feature

### July 29, 1955 – Berlin Raceway

– Eddie VanderLaan roared to his second straight modified stock car class A feature triumph before an

estimated 2,000 spectators at the Berlin Raceway Friday night.

Jack Nelson, of Greenville finished second and Jack Cummmiford third. Heat victors were Ken Sutton, Gene Gilbert, and Johnson. Cummmiford took the fast-car dash.

Clarence Haan and Casey Lubbert took the checkered flags in the two Australian pursuit jaunts. Sam Ash won his second Class B modified feature of the season. Jim Davis was second.

## Brecken First In Berlin Anniversary Feature Race

### July 30, 1955 – Berlin Raceway

– Bob Brecken inched forward at the halfway mark Saturday night and then held the lead to win the 50-lap feature at Berlin Raceway's special five-year anniversary program.

Ping Pong Rinner led for the first five laps but gave way to Gordy VanderLaan who paced the field until the twenty-eighth lap when Brecken made his winning bid.

VanderLaan, who will race in Thursday night's big midget program, finished second and Bill Rider took third. Rinner placed fourth and was followed by Tommy Lane and Jack Cummmiford.

Flip Thompson won the "B" feature with Dick Nielson second and Bob Brecken third. Brecken also took the fast-car dash. Mort Andersen was the Australian pursuit winner.

Heat victors were Brecken, Elmer Lovett, and Thompson and Wally Sanders.

## Eddie VanderLaan Roars To Third Straight Berlin Triumph

### August 5, 1955 – Berlin Raceway

– Eddie VanderLaan won his third straight strictly stock car

feature at Berlin Raceway Friday night before an estimated 2,000 spectators.

Wally Sanders, Bob Knight and Rodney Clark smashed into a retaining wall during the running of the main event. All three were involved in separate mishaps. Clark rolled over. Sanders suffered minor nose and forehead cuts.

Jack Cummmiford placed second and Art Ayers third in the feature jaunt. Bud Johnson and Elmer Lovett captured top money in the semi co-features.

Heat victors were Knight, Bud Meyering, and Jack Lindhout. Ayers took the fast-car dash and Johnny Johnson the Australian pursuit.

## Meyering Is Victor Over VanderLaan

### August 12, 1955 – Berlin Raceway

– Bud Meyering regained the lead for the second time in the twenty-third lap Friday night to go on and snap away Eddie VanderLaan's victory streak in the feature race at Berlin Raceway. Meyering also won one of these two semi-features.

Some 2,000 racing fans watched the two tangle in a tight see-saw duel in the 30-lap feature. Meyering jumped into an early lead but the determined VanderLaan took over in the fourteenth lap before giving way to a late surge by Meyering. At the finish, Meyering had carved out a slim lead of about three car lengths.

Jack Cummmiford finished third. Meyering's victory halted VanderLaan's winning streak at three straight. Cummmiford, Meyering and Curly Moody swept to heat victories. Cummmiford also won the fast-car dash. Floyd Richards took the Australian pursuit.

In the other semi, Wally Sanders was an easy victor.



## Tommy Lane Wins Berlin Feature

**August 13, 1955 — Berlin Raceway** — Muskegon's Tommy Lane won the grueling modified 30-lap class A feature at Berlin Raceway Saturday night after favored bob bracken, bidding for his third straight win, was sidelined by a broken axle.

Ray Flannery was Mort Anderson took turns leading early in the race before Lane shot forward on the sixteenth lap to stay.

Brecken had his car repaired in time to win the Class B feature. Bill Rider, Bob Knight, Flannery and Dick Nielson chased Lane home in the Class A feature.

Heat winners were Knight, Flip Thompson and Brecken. Nielson was the Australian pursuit winner and Jack Nelson won the fast-car dash.

## Eddie VanderLaan Winner In Berlin Raceway Feature

**August 19, 1955 — Berlin Raceway** — Eddie VanderLaan won the 30-lap strictly stock feature race at Berlin Raceway Friday night, but he had to push bob Knight and his car across the finish line to do it.

VanderLaan was locked in a blistering duel with Bob Clover all the way. He had taken the lead from Ted Otten on the fourteenth lap and led the rest of the way.

But on the last lap his car got tangled up with Bob Knight's and so VanderLaan pushed Knight the remaining 50 feet for victory despite a fast finish by Clover.

VanderLaan also won the Australian pursuit race. Heat race winners were Knight, Otten and Floyd Richards. Jack Cummingford captured honors in the fast-car dash and Wally Sanders took first in the semi-feature.

## Nielson Captures Second Berlin Raceway Feature

**August 20, 1955 — Berlin Raceway** — Dick Nielson shot into the lead on the eighteenth lap Saturday night and then hung on to win his second Berlin Raceway 30-lap feature of the season before some 3,000 fans.

Jimmy Rinner and Bill Rider set the early pace before Nielson took over. Tommy Lane, one of the favorites, was eliminated in an early accident which also sidelined Bob Knight, Bud Meyering and Bill Sherman from the race. Lane's car broke a drive shaft in the first lap touching off the mishap.

Ernie Russell of Big Rapids won the Class B feature. It was his first major victory in five years of racing.

Heat race winners were Nielson, Flip Thompson, and Sam Ash while Jack Nelson copped the fast car dash event and Gene Farber the Australian pursuit.

## Gordy VanderLaan Wins Marathon

**August 27, 1955 — Berlin Raceway** — Gordy VanderLaan returned to his first love-modified stocks-Saturday night to win the marathon 100-lap Michigan Motor Sweepstakes before some 4,000 person at Berlin Raceway.

He took over the lead on the fifty-fifth lap and coasted in to pick up the first place purse. His closest competition came from his brother, Eddie.

Johnny Roberts led the first eleven laps. Then Eddie VanderLaan surged ahead of the pack but was knocked out of contention after colliding with bob Knight on the fifty-third lap.

Roberts regained the lead for several turns before Gordy who has been having good success lately on

the midget circuit, took things into his own hands.

Flip Thompson won the Class B race which was marred by an accident. Dale Fisher flipped over in his racer and required medical attention when he collapsed while walking away from the wreck.

Heat winners were Flip Thompson, Bill Whitney, George Roberts and Bud Meyering.

## Tommy Lane Posts Sixth Victory

**September 3, 1955 — Berlin Raceway** — Tommy Lane, Berlin raceway's leading feature victor won his sixth main event of the season, a 30-lap Class A race in modified stock car competition at the Marne oval Saturday night. Bill Rider placed second and Bud Meyering third.

Bill Whitney of Kalamazoo took the 30-lap Class B jaunt with Mort Anderson second and Jimmy Rinner third.

Heat victors were Flip Thompson, Whitney, and Jack Sanborn. Ray Flannery took the fast-car dash and Meyering the Australian pursuit.

## Bill Rider Wins Berlin 50-Lap Stock Feature

**September 5, 1955 — Berlin Raceway** — Bill Rider won his first feature triumph of the season Monday, capturing the 50-lap Class A main event at Berlin Raceway before approximately 5,000 fans.

Rider seized the lead on the thirty-eighth lap and held it the rest of the way. Eddie VanderLaan, who spun out on the first lap, made a fine comeback to finish second. Dick Nielson was third.

Roger Joneson won the Class B Feature, with Mort Anderson second and Curly Moody third.

Heat race winners were Jim Rinner, Bob Knight and Sam Ash. VanderLaan won the fast-car dash,

and Jack Cummidford took the Australian pursuit race.

## Cummiford, Sanders In Berlin Wins

**September 9, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Wally Sanders monopolized Friday night's Berlin Raceway by racing to victory in one 30-lap feature and taking a second in another which was a restart of last week's rained out ace.

Jack Cummidford was the winner in the second feature with Bob Clover taking third. Bud Meyering and Clover chased Sanders home in the other contest.

Heat winners were Bud Johnson, Dave Vandermale and Sam Ash. Cummidford was the fast-car dash winner while Ash was first in the Australian pursuit.

Lefty TerHaar's lucky "##" winner of five out of seven starts at Berlin Raceway so far this season gets another test Saturday night with Jimmy Rinner at the wheel.

The car's most notable victory was in the Michigan Motor Sweepstakes when Gordy VanderLaan drove it home first.

## Rinner Drives "33" To Sixth Feature Win At Berlin

**September 10, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – The magic of Lefty TerHaar's "33" held true again Saturday night at Berlin Raceway as Jimmy Rinner drove one of the area's winningest cars to a feature victory.

Rinner took the lead on the eleventh lap and whipped home three car lengths ahead of Bob Brecken for the car's sixth victory at Berlin this year.

Bill Rider took the Class B feature.

Heat race winners were Rider, Bill Sherman and Sam Ash. Ray Flannery won the fast-car dash while Bud Meyering was first in the Australian pursuit.

## Wally Sanders Wins 50-Lap Championship At Raceway

**September 16, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Wally Sanders won the 50-lap season championship race Friday night at Berlin Raceway before an estimated 1,000 fans.

Sanders was followed across the finish line by Harry Obie and Jack Cummidford. Sanders took the lead after the tenth lap.

Heat winners were Wally Sanders, Jack Cummidford, Sam Ash, and Joe Norwood. Ken Sutton won the Australian pursuit.

## Eddie VanderLaan Wins First Modified Feature Of The Season

**September 17, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan, mid-season strictly stock car champion, made his first modified feature victory of the year a bog one Saturday night.

He captured the 75-lap season championship before an estimated 3,000 spectators at the Berlin Raceway. Jimmy Rinner was second, Bob Knight third and defending titlist Bill Rider fourth.

Ray Flannery led until the eighth lap, yielding to Rinner, who maintained the lead until the seventieth lap. Bob Clover overturned on the seventieth lap. Following a restart VanderLaan and Rinner exchanged

the lead five times before the finish.

Roger Joneson of Muskegon took the Class B season title in a 50-lap jaunt. Sam Ash was second and Flip Thompson third. Heat victors were Curly Moody, Ash, Eddie VanderLaan and Wally Sanders.

## Eddie VanderLaan Is Berlin Victor

**September 24, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan swept to his second straight Berlin Raceway feature victory Saturday night, finishing ahead of Ray Flannery of Muskegon and Bill Rider in a thriller.

Rider and Jack Nelson shared honors in a pair of semi-races while Rider, Nelson and Elmer Lovett claimed heat race victories.

## Bill Rider Victor In Berlin's Closing Race

**October 1, 1955 – Berlin Raceway** – Bill Rider nipped Johnny Johnson by inches Saturday night to give the hard driving stock car pilot the season scoring title at Berlin Raceway for the second straight year.

He finished ahead of Tommy Lane by a wide margin in the race for individual honors. Rider, Lane and Laverne Peterson won heat races in the last race of the year at Berlin. Lane won the fast-car dash and Mort Anderson copped the Australian pursuit.



## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1955

### Modifieds Strictly Stocks

**April 16, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Born (2) Ralph Baker

---

**April 23, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Bill Wiltse 13.89—New Track Record

Dash winner: Bill Rider

Heat winners: Eddie VanderLaan, Art Ayers, Sam Ash, Bud Meyering

Pursuit winner: Tommy Lane

First Semi winner: Art Ayers

Second Semi winner: Elmer Lovett

**Feature:** (1) Dick Nielson (2) Eddie VanderLaan  
(3) Bob Knight (4) Bill Wiltse (5) Jack Cummiford

---

**April 30, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Bob Knight 14.18

Dash winner: Bill Wiltse

Heat winners: Bob Brecken, Burr Krupp, Art Ayers, Don Drier

Pursuit winner: Dick Nielson

B Feature winner: (1) Glen Rockey (2) Calvin Gage

**Feature:** (1) Jack Cummiford (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Bob Brecken (4) Bill Rider (5) Johnny Roberts (6) Bill Sherman

---

**May 7, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Bill Wiltse 14.32

Dash winner: Bill Wiltse

Heat winners: Ray Flannery, Bud Meyering, Flip Thompson, Calvin Gage

Pursuit winner: Tommy Lane

Consolation winner: Owen Foor



Tommy Lane

Dick Lee Collection

B Feature winner: Glen Rockey

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Jack Cummiford  
(3) Jimmy Rinner (4) Bob Knight (5) Bill Wiltse

---

**May 14, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Bill Wiltse 14.21

Dash winner: Bill Wiltse

Heat winners: Bud Meyering, Johnny Roberts, Art Ayers, Eddie Streck

Pursuit winner: Eddie Streck

B Feature winner: (1) Art Ayers (2) Johnny Johnson  
(3) Ed Krupp

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Bud Meyering (3) Jack Cummiford

---

**May 20, 1955 – Friday – Strictly Stocks**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Wally Sanders 15.26

Dash winner: Wally Sanders

Heat winners: Ted Otten, Johnny Johnson, Jerry Fitzgerald, Glen Carr

Pursuit winner: Jay DeKorne

B Feature winner: Sam Ash

**Feature:** (1) Jay DeKorne (2) Wally Sanders (3) Bill Rider

---

### May 21, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Tommy Lane 14.26

Dash winner: Tommy Lane

Heat winners: Jimmy Rinner, Bob Knight, Mort Anderson, Jerry Little

Pursuit winner: Bob Knight

B Feature winner: (1) Chuck Shepherd (2) Mort Anderson (3) Calvin Gage

**Feature:** (1) Bob Brecken (2) Jack Cummmiford (3) Bob Knight (4) Tommy Lane

---



Jack Cummmiford

Dick Lee Collection

### May 27, 1955 – Friday – Strictly Stocks

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Rinner 15.40

Dash winner: Jimmy Rinner

Heat winners: Wally Sanders, Sam Ash, Bill Rider, Jerry Fitzgerald

Pursuit winner: Art Ayers

B Feature winner: Harold Pierce

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Rinner (2) Art Ayers (3) Eddie VanderLaan

---

B Feature #1 winner: Ray Flannery

B Feature #2 winner: Mort Anderson

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Rinner (2) Jack Cummmiford (3) Bill Rider

---

### May 30, 1955 – Monday – Modifieds

#### *Memorial Day*

40 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Tommy Lane 14.19

Dash winner: Tommy Lane

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Bob Brecken, Elmer Lovett, Chum Lewitt

Pursuit winner: Bob Knight

B Feature winner: (1) Elmer Lovett (2) Art Ayers (3) Jerry Little

**Feature Winner:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Jack Cummmiford (3) Jack Nelson (4) Jimmy Rinner (5) Bill Sherman

---

### May 28, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bud Meyering 14.61

Dash winner: Bob Knight

Heat winners: Ray Flannery, Art Ayers, Calvin Gage

Pursuit winner: Wally Sanders



Bill Rider

Dick Lee Collection

### June 3, 1955 – Friday – Strictly Stocks

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Glen Rockey 15.47

Dash winner: Glen Rockey

Heat winners: Ted Otten, Bob Knight, Ken Sutton, Wally Sanders

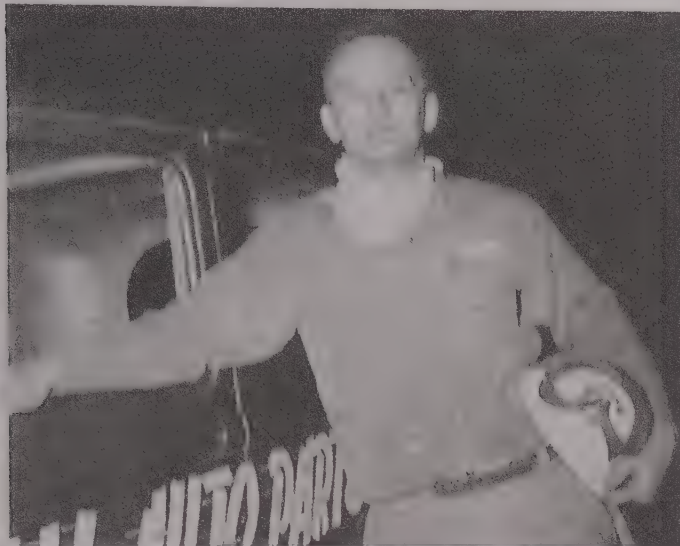
Pursuit winner: Wally Sanders

B Feature winner: (1) John Murray (2) Ken Sutton

**Feature:** (1) Jack Cummmiford (2) Wally Sanders (3) Clarence Haan

---





Jimmy Rinner

Dick Lee Collection

### June 4, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Tommy Lane 14.73

Dash winner: Tommy Lane

Heat winners: Bob Brecken, Eddie Streck, Mort Anderson, Ed Krupp

Pursuit winner: Dick Nielson

B Feature winner: Jack Nelson

**Feature:** (1) Tommy Lane (2) Jack Cummiford  
(3) Bob Knight (4) Bob Brecken

### June 10, 1955 – Friday – Strictly Stocks

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Rinner 15.91

Dash winner: Jimmy Rinner

Heat winners: Glen Rockey, Chuck Rounds, Sam Ash, Jack Cummiford

Pursuit winner: Art Ayers

B Feature winner: Harry Obie

B Feature winner: Johnny Johnson

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Rinner (2) Wally Sanders (3) Jack Cummiford

### June 11, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds

Rained Out

### June 14, 1955 – Tuesday – Modifieds

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

First pursuit winner: Dick Nielson

Second pursuit winner: Eddie Streck

**1st Feature:** (1) Dick Nielson (2) Tommy Lane  
(3) Jack Cummiford

**2nd Feature:** (1) Eddie Streck (2) Ray Flannery  
(3) Eddie VanderLaan

Dick Nielson – Clean Sweep Award

Eddie Streck – Clean Sweep Award

### June 17, 1955 – Friday – Strictly Stocks

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Cummiford 15.35

Dash winner: Glen Rockey

Heat winners: Art Ayers, Elmer Lovett, Bud Meyering, Ron Merkins

Pursuit winner: Ken Sutton

B Feature winner: (1) Fred Wiltse (2) Olie Johnson

**Feature:** (1) Glen Rockey (2) Art Ayers (3) Jimmy Rinner

### June 18, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds

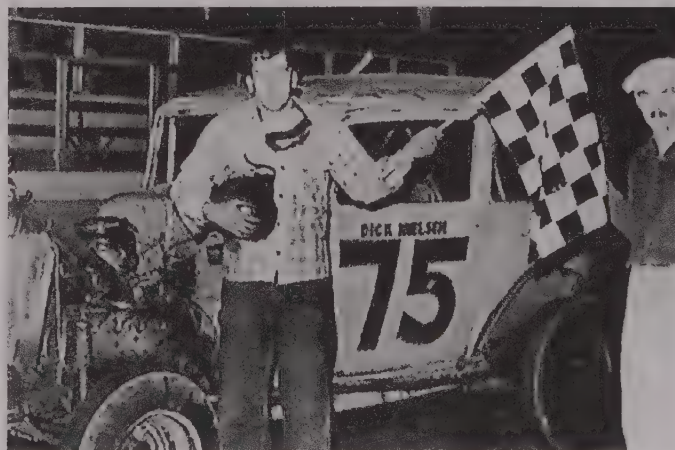
30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Tommy Lane 14.45

Dash winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat winners: Bill Sherman, Elmer Lovett, Mort Anderson, Calvin Gage

Pursuit winner: Bob Clover



Dick Nielson

Dick Lee Collection

B Feature winner: Flip Thompson

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Tommy Lane  
(3) Jack Cummiford

---

### June 24, 1955 – Friday – Strictly Stocks

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Glen Rockey 15.29

Dash winner: Glen Rockey

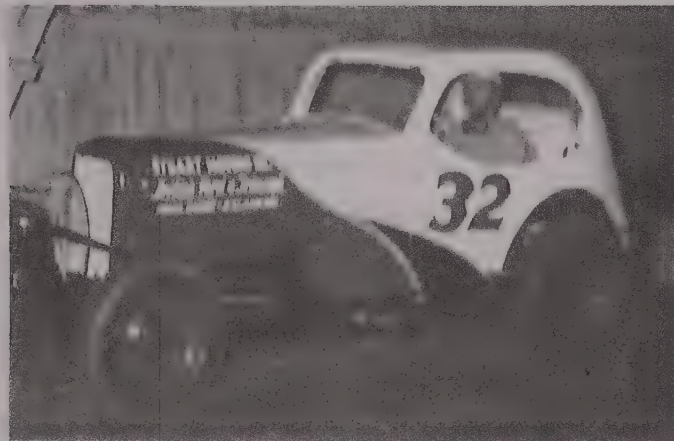
Heat winners: Bill Rider, Fred Wiltse, Sam Ash, Bud Meyering

Pursuit winner: Curly Moody

B Feature winner: Jerry Fitzgerald

**Feature:** (1) Bill Rider (2) Jimmy Rinner (3) Bob Knight

---



Bill Wiltse

Dick Lee Collection

### June 25, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Nelson 14.21

Dash winner: Jack Nelson

Heat winners: Tommy Lane, Art Ayers,  
Mort Anderson, Bob Clover

Pursuit winner: Jimmy Rinner

B Feature winner: Mort Anderson

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Tommy Lane (3) Bill Rider

---

### June 30, 1955 – Thursday – AAA Midgets

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Leroy Warriner 13.13

Heat winners: Rex Easton, Gene Hartley, Chuck Weyant, Bill Doster

Semi winner: Gordy VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) Elmer George (2) Gene Hartley (3) George Amick (4) Jimmy Knight (5) Eddie Sachs (6) Andy Linden (7) Rex Easton (8) Al Alpern (9) Shorty Templeman (10) Chuck Weyant (11) Jimmy Davies (12) Leroy Warriner (13) Bill Boyd (14) Bill Doster (15) Art Hartsfeld (16) Johnny Tolan (17) Gays Biro

---

### July 2, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Rinner 14.38

Dash winner: Jimmy Rinner

Heat winners: Roger Joneson, Bob Brecken, Flip Thompson, Sam Ash

Pursuit winner: Bob Clover

B Feature winner: Mort Anderson

**Feature:** (1) Tommy Lane (2) Laverne Peterson (3) Roger Joneson

---

### July 4, 1955 – Monday – Modifieds

#### *Fourth of July*

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Roger Joneson 14.36

Dash winner: Roger Joneson

Heat winners: Tommy Lane, Johnny Johnson, Dick Nielson, Jerry Little

Pursuit winner: Bob Knight

B Feature winner: Mort Anderson

C Feature winner: Wally Sanders

**Feature:** (1) Bob Clover (2) Jack Cummiford (3) Bud Meyering

#### **30 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks**

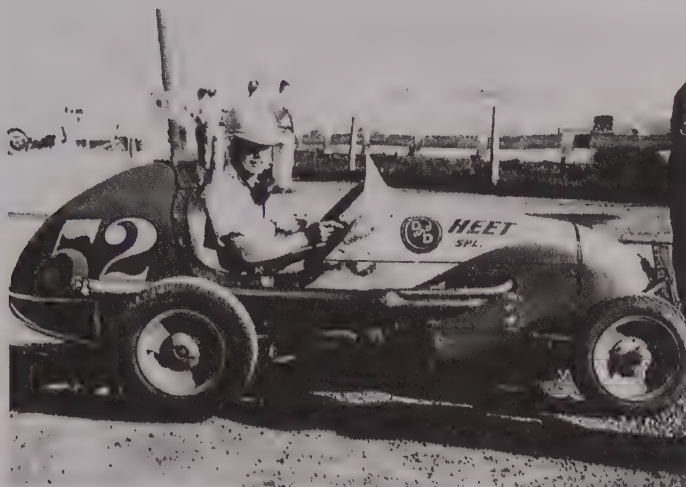
Fast qualifier: Jack Cummiford 15.25

Heat winners: Wally Sanders, Bud Wilbur

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Art Ayers (3) Ray Flannery

---





Gene Hartley

Dick Lee Collection

### July 8, 1955 – Friday – Strictly Stocks

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Rinner 16.82

Dash winner: Jimmy Rinner

Heat winners: Bill Rider, Sonny DuBois, Glen Rockey

Pursuit winner: Bud Meyering

Non-Money Winners race winner: Gus Bray

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Bob Knight (3) Bill Rider

---

### July 9, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds

*Midseason Championship*

75 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Rinner 14.44

Heat winners: Jack Cummiford, Jack Nelson, Elmer Lovett

B Feature winner: Elmer Lovett

**Feature:** (1) Bill Sherman (2) Bob Knight (3) Jack Cummiford (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Bill Rider (6) Jimmy Rinner (7) Bob Brecken (8) Dick Nielson (9) Bob Clover (10) Johnny Johnson

---

### July 15, 1955 – Friday – Strictly Stocks

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Rinner 15.48

Dash winner: Jimmy Rinner

Heat winners: Eddie VanderLaan, Bud Meyering, Sam Ash

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

B Feature winner: Bud Meyering

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Rinner (2) Ken Sutton (3) Jack Cummiford (4) Eddie VanderLaan

---

### July 16, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Eddie Streck 14.38

Dash winner: Eddie Streck

Heat winners: Bud Meyering, Jack Beduhn, Elmer Lovett

Pursuit winner: Bud Meyering

Trophy Race of Champions winner: Bob Knight

B Feature: Sam Ash

**Feature:** (1) Tommy Lane (2) Bob Knight (3) Eddie Streck

---

### July 22, 1955 – Friday – Strictly Stocks

50 laps, fifth-mile clay

Fast qualifier: Wally Sanders 15.25

Heat winners: Ted Otten, Floyd Richards, Elmer Lovett, Sam Ash

B Feature winner: Elmer Lovett

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Wally Sanders (3) Ted Otten



Harold Ende

Dick Lee Collection

### July 23, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bob Brecken 14.55

Dash winner: Bob Brecken

Heat winners: Tommy Lane, Jack Nelson, Sam Ash

Pursuit winner: Jack Nelson

First Consolation winner: Bill Whitney

Second Consolation winner: Chuck Miller

**Feature: (1) Tommy Lane (2) Bob Knight (3) Bill Sherman**

---

### July 29, 1955 – Friday – Strictly Stocks

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Cummingford 15.36

Dash winner: Jack Cummingford

Heat winners: Ken Sutton, Gene Gillette, Bud Johnson

Fast Pursuit winner: Clarence Haan

Slow Pursuit winner: Curly Moody

B Feature winner: Sam Ash

**Feature: (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Jack Nelson (3) Jack Cummingford**

---

### July 30, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds

*Five-Year Anniversary program*

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

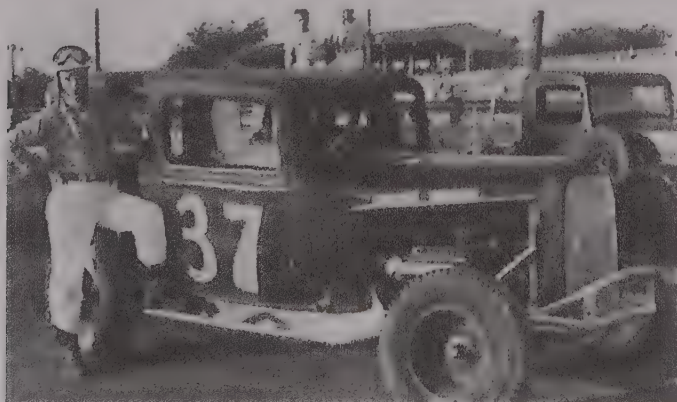
Fast qualifier: Ray Flannery 14.75

Dash winner: Bob Brecken

Heat winners: Bob Brecken, Elmer Lovett, Flip Thompson, Wally Sanders

Pursuit winner: Mort Anderson

B Feature winner: Flip Thompson



Ralph Dewey

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature: (1) Bob Brecken (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Bill Rider (4) Jimmy Rinner (5) Tommy Lane (6) Jack Cummingford**

---

### August 4, 1955 – Thursday – AAA Midgets

75 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Gene Hartley 13.08

Heat winners: Bob McLean, Don Branson, Shorty Templeman, Gene Hartley

Semi winner: Eddie Sachs

**Feature: (1) Gene Hartley (2) Eddie Russo (3) Jack Turner (4) Patsy Goacher (5) Bob Veith**

**Gene Hartley – Clean Sweep Award**

---

### August 5, 1955 – Friday – Strictly Stocks

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Wally Sanders 16.86

Dash winner: Art Ayers

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Bud Meyering, Jackie Lindhout

Pursuit winner: Johnny Johnson

First Semi winner: Bud Johnson

Second Semi winner: Elmer Lovett

**Feature: (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Jack Cummingford (3) Art Ayers**

---

### August 6, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds

Rained Out

---

### August 12, 1955 – Friday – Strictly Stocks

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Cummingford 15.08

Dash winner: Jack Cummingford

Heat winners: Jack Cummingford, Bud Meyering, Curly Moody

Pursuit Winner: Floyd Richards

First Consolation winner: Wally Sanders

Second Consolation winner: Bud Meyering

**Feature: (1) Bud Meyering (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Jack Cummingford**

---



**August 13, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan 14.09

Dash winner: Jack Nelson

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Flip Thompson, Bob Brecken

Pursuit winner: Dick Nielson

B Feature winner: Bob Brecken

**Feature: (1) Tommy Lane (2) Bill Rider (3) Bob Knight**

---

**August 19, 1955 – Friday – Strictly Stocks**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Cummmiford 15.34

Dash winner: Jack Cummmiford

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Ted Otten, Floyd Richards

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Consolation winner: Wally Sanders

**Feature: (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Bob Clover (3) Wally Sanders**

---

**August 20, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Nelson 14.32

Dash winner: Jack Nelson

Heat winners: Dick Nielson, Flip Thompson, Sam Ash

Pursuit winner: Gene Farber

B Feature winner: Ernie Russell

**Feature: (1) Dick Nielson (2) Bill Rider (3) Jack Nelson**

---

**August 26, 1955 – Friday – Strictly Stocks**

20 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan 15.39

Dash winner: Dave Vandermale

Heat winners: Bob Clover, Sam Ash, Ted Otten

Pursuit winner: Dick Davis

**Feature: (1) Jack Cummmiford (2) Wally Sanders (3) Bob Clover**

---

**August 27, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds**

100 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Johnny Roberts 14.62

Heat winners: Flip Thompson, Bill Whitney, George Roberts, Bud Meyering

B Feature winner: Flip Thompson

**Feature: (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Bill Rider (3) Johnny Roberts**

---

**September 2, 1955 – Friday – Strictly Stocks**

*The weekly Friday night races were cancelled because of the Berlin Fair.*

---

**September 3, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bob Brecken 14.25

Dash winner: Ray Flannery

Heat winners: Flip Thompson, Bill Whitney, Jack Sanborn

Pursuit winner: Bud Meyering

B Feature winner: Bill Whitney

**Feature: (1) Tommy Lane (2) Bill Rider (3) Bud Meyering**

---

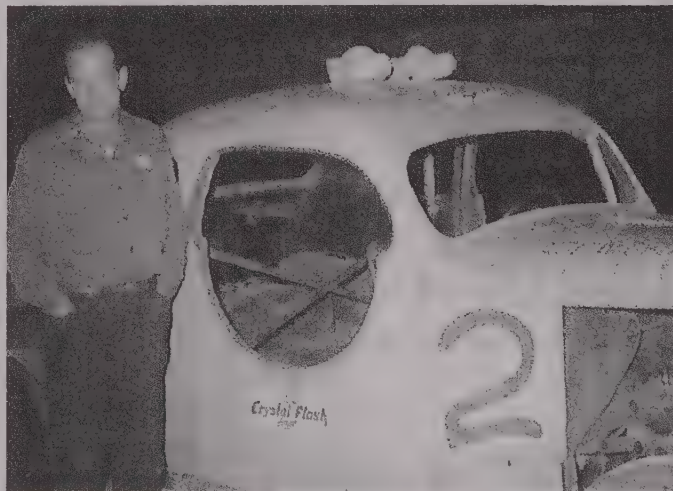
**September 5, 1955 – Monday – Modifieds**

Labor Day

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

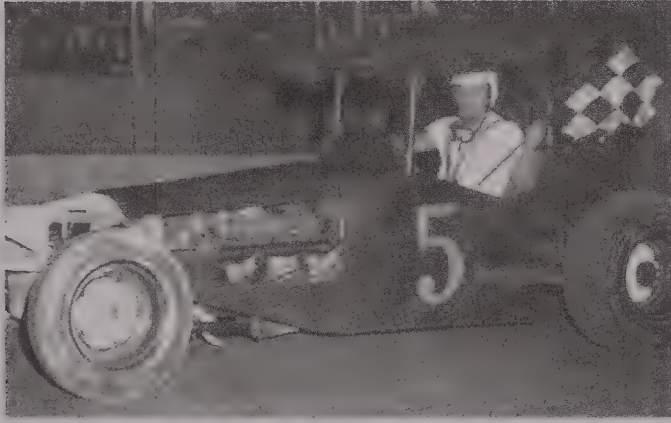
Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan 14.21

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan



Harry Drolema

Dick Lee Collection



Ron Merkins

Dick Lee Collection

Heat winners: Jimmy Rinner, Bob Knight, Sam Ash

Pursuit winner: Jack Cummingford

B Feature winner: Roger Joneson

**Feature:** (1) Bill Rider (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Dick Nielson

---

### September 9, 1955 – Friday – Strictly Stocks

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jerry Fitzgerald 15.71

Dash winner: Jack Cummingford

Heat winners: Bud Johnson, Dave Vandermale, Sam Ash

Pursuit winner: Sam Ash

**Feature: I** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Bud Meyering (3) Bob Clover

**Feature: II** (1) Jack Cummingford (2) Wally Sanders (3) Bob Clover

---

### September 10, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Ray Flannery 16.47

Dash winner: Ray Flannery

Heat winners: Bill Rider, Bill Sherman, Sam Ash

Pursuit winner: Bud Meyering

B Feature winner: Bill Rider

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Rinner (2) Bob Brecken (3) Tommy Lane

### September 16, 1955 – Friday – Strictly Stocks

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bob Clover 15.81

Heat winners: Wally Sanders, Jack Cummingford, Sam Ash, Joe Norwood

Pursuit winner: Ken Sutton

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Harry Obie (3) Jack Cummingford

---

### September 17, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds

75 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Rinner 14.22

Heat winners: Curly Moody, Sam Ash, Eddie VanderLaan, Wally Sanders

B Feature winner: Roger Joneson

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Jimmy Rinner (3) Bob Knight (4) Bill Rider

---

### September 24, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Marv Eppink 14.37

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Bill Rider, Jack Nelson, Elmer Lovett

Pursuit winner: Johnny Johnson

First Consolation winner: Bill Rider

Second Consolation winner: Jack Nelson

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Glen Rockey (3) Bill Rider

---

### October 1, 1955 – Saturday – Modifieds

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bob Clover 14.95

Dash winner: Tommy Lane

Heat winners: Bill Rider, Tommy Lane, Laverne Peterson

Pursuit winner: Mort Anderson

**Feature:** (1) Bill Rider (2) Johnny Johnson (3) Laverne Peterson



## Berlin Raceway Points 1955

1955 MODIFIEDS POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Tommy Lane	48	6	4	4		
2	Bill Rider	43	2		1		
3	Jack Cummingford	42	2				
4	Bob Knight	39	2	1	1		
5	Eddie VanderLaan	27	1	2	2		
6	Jimmy Rinner	21	2	3	1		
7	Bob Brecken	19	2	2	2		
8	Dick Nielson	18	3				1
9	Ray Flannery	14	2	2	2		
10	Gordy VanderLaan	10	2		1		
11	Bud Meyering	10		1			
12	Bill Sherman	9	1				
13	Eddie Streck	8	1	1	1		1
14	Bill Wiltse	7		3	3	1	
15	Laverne Peterson	7					
16	Jack Nelson	6		2	3		
17	Jim Born	5	1				
18	Bob Clover	5	1	1			
19	Johnny Roberts	4		1			
20	Ralph Baker	4					
	Glen Rockey	4					
	Johnny Johnson	4					
23	Roger Joneson	3		1	1		
24	Marv Eppink	0		1			

# Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present

1955 STRICTLY STOCK POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Wally Sanders	47	4	4	1		
2	Jack Cummiford	34	3	4	4		
3	Eddie VanderLaan	29	4	1			
4	Jimmy Rinner	22	3	4	4		
5	Art Ayers	15			1		
6	Bob Clover	13		1			
7	Bill Rider	11	1				
8	Bud Meyering	9	1				
9	Bob Knight	7					
10	Glen Rockey	5	1	2	3		
11	Jay DeKorne	5	1				
12	Harry Obie	4					
	Ken Sutton	4					
	Jack Nelson	4					
15	Ray Flannery	3					
	Ted Otten	3					
	Clarence Haan	3					
18	Jerry Fitzgerald	0		1			
19	Dave Vandermale	0			1		



## Berlin Raceway Media 1956

### Roberts Wins Berlin Opener

**April 21, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Roberts won the season opening modified stock car feature race before approximately 3,100 spectators at Berlin Raceway Saturday night.

Roberts wrestled the lead from Eddie VanderLaan on the eighth lap of the 30-lap event and won by a half-lap margin. He was chased across the finish line by VanderLaan, Bill Rider, Jimmy Rinner and Dick Carter, in that order.

Muskegon's Glen Rockey out-dued Bob Brecken to win the first 12-lap heat race. Flip Thompson of Belding, took the second heat, and Nolan Johncock of Hastings captured the third heat race.

Brecken won the fast-car dash and VanderLaan took the pursuit race. The 15-lap semi-feature was won by Sam Ash with Ed Rider and Jack Beduhn trailing.

Feature information not available.

### Fast Time to VanderLaan

**May 12, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan picked up fast time of the night with a time of 14.72. Tommy Lane of Muskegon took the pursuit race while Bud Meyering, Tommy Lane and Elmer Smith won the heat races. Flip Thompson captured the B feature.

Feature information not available.

### Berlin Feature Rained Out

**May 16, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Wally Sanders set fast qualifying time with a lap at 14.26. Jack Cum-  
miford picked up the win in the

fast-car dash race. Heat race winners were Bud Meyering, Bill Rider, and Johnny Roberts. The feature race was rained out when hard showers hit the track. It will be run on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

### VanderLaan And Cum- miford Take Features

**May 19, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – An estimated 3,000 people watched the modified stock car racing program at Berlin Raceway Saturday night.

Gordy VanderLaan won the class A feature, followed by Jack Cum-  
miford and Eddie VanderLaan. Top class B feature money went to Elmer Lovett with Dale McCullough and Art Ayers trailing.

In addition to setting fast time of 14.16, Bill Wiltse went on to win the fast- car dash. Glen Rockey picked up the win in the pursuit race, while heat races were won by Gordy VanderLaan, Tommy Lane, Flip Thompson and Glen Rockey.

In a make-up of the class A feature, rained out from May 16<sup>th</sup>, Jack Cum-  
miford won with Gordy VanderLaan and Glen Rockey in that order.

### Rain Washes Out Berlin Feature

**May 30, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – More than 5,000 witnessed the Memorial Day modified stock car program at the Berlin Raceway.

Jack Cum-  
miford won the fast-  
car dash after setting fast qualifying time of 14.12. Heat race winners were Sam Ash, Flip Thompson, Ed-  
die VanderLaan and Bill Wiltse. Dick Nielson captured the B feature.

Rain washed out the class A feature race and "Wreck'em Derby" and will be run Saturday night in addition to the regular events.

### Flannery/ VanderLaan Berlin Feature Winners

**June 2, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Over 3,000 fans witnessed the accident marred modified stock car race program Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. The caution flag was waved in all three feature races.

In the running of the rained out Memorial Day 50-lap main event, Ray Flannery emerged the winner after a head-on collision eliminated early pacesetter and apparent winner, Eddie VanderLaan. Gordy VanderLaan and Jack Cum-  
miford followed Flannery across the finish line. Bob Brecken escaped serious injury in this event when his car left the track and rolled over.

After a seven-car pileup, Gordy VanderLaan won the 30-lap class A feature race, followed by Dick Seymour of Kalamazoo and Bill Wiltse.

The fast-car dash race went to Bill Wiltse and the heat race winners were Jack Nelson, Jack Cum-  
miford, Eddie VanderLaan and Dick Nielson. Jack Cum-  
miford set fast time of 14.33. Nielson won the class B feature but had to forfeit the triumph to Mort Anderson after passing another car on the yellow flag.

### Gordy VanderLaan Wins Third Feature At Berlin

**June 9, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Gordy VanderLaan out-dued Bob Knight to win the grueling 25-lap class A feature race Saturday night at Berlin Raceway before an estimated 3,350 fans. Knight led for 17 laps but couldn't stave off VanderLaan's second consecutive feature triumph. Wally Sanders and Jimmy Rinner followed the pair across the finish line.

The class B feature was halted on the 17th lap of the 25-lap event when a two car accident hospitalized Ross Furgeson of Muskegon. Ralph Dewey escaped injury when his racer catapulted into the one driven by Furgeson. The Muskegon driver was treated for cuts and released. Dick Nielson was judged the winner of the event.

Heat race winners were Jack Beduhn, Art Ayers, Bob Knight and Gordy VanderLaan. Laverne Peterson of Belding captured the pursuit race. Jack Cummiford, the night's fastest qualifier with 16:08 seconds, won the fast-car dash event.

## Despite Early Injury, Amick Tops USAC Midget Field

**June 14, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – George Amick, 33 year old daredevil from Los Angeles California, bounced back from an early crackup and despite arm and leg burns drove a sensational race to win the USAC (United States Auto Club) 50-lap midget feature Thursday night.

A roaring crowd of more than 4,000 watched the track veteran outdistance the field studded with "500" notables to climax the Flag Day event.

Amick had to stave off a determined last-lap threat by Rex Easton for the big victory. Easton surged from 17<sup>th</sup> to second and finished only three lengths behind the winner. Eddie Sachs was third.

Amick was hurt in the fourth heat when his midget went into a spin and was struck by Sachs' car. Sachs' front wheel pinned him to the cockpit but he escaped with only minor arm and leg burns.

Heat race winners were Johnny Tolan, Easton, Andy Linden and Shorty Tempelman. Hank Nykaza won the semi-feature race. Jack Turner was the fastest qualifier with a 13.05 lap.

## Cummiford Wins On Last Lap

**June 16, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Jack Cummiford "cleaned house" Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway, winning all three stock car events he entered.

He copped the third heat race, the pursuit and grabbed the lead from Bill Sherman on the last lap of the grueling 30-lap feature event to gain the triumph before 3,100.

The feature lead see-sawed between Tony Sullivan, Johnny Johnson, Bud Meyering and Bill Sherman until Cummiford gained the advantage. Bill Sherman, Jimmy Rinner, Bill Wiltse and Dick Nielson followed the winner across the finish line.

Heat race winners were Bob Terpstra, Burr Krupp and Wally Sanders with Glen Rockey of Muskegon victorious in the class B feature event. Fast time of the qualifying time trials was set at 16.33 by Bill Wiltse.

## Cummiford Wins Third Feature At Berlin Track

**June 20, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Jack Cummiford gunned his way into the lead in the final few feet of the race to capture his third feature race of the season in the stock car racing program at the Berlin Raceway Wednesday night.

Cummiford passed Eddie VanderLaan in the thrilling finish of the first night of midweek action at the Marne oval. Jack Beduhn finished third. Approximately 1,000 attended.

VanderLaan and Cummiford who battled all the way to the feature, shared honors Wednesday. Cummiford won the fast-car dash.

Heat race winners were Bill Sherman, Jack Beduhn, John Dantuma and Art Ayers.

Eddie VanderLaan took the pursuit race and Cummiford had fast qualifying time of the night at 14.17.

## Cummiford Grabs Fourth Berlin Feature Win

**June 23, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Jack Cummiford powered his Ford Thunderbird modified stock car around Bill Rider on the 11<sup>th</sup> lap and staved off hard-charging Eddie VanderLaan to win the 25-lap class A feature race by a car length Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

Cummiford now leads Gordy VanderLaan 4 to 3 in a tight duel for feature victories. Gordy VanderLaan running third suffered a gear failure on the last lap and finished sixth.

A large crowd of 3,000 fans witnessed the slam-bang program.

New track records were established by Dick Seymour in the pursuit, Gordy VanderLaan in the dash event, Roger Joneson in the second heat, and Mort Anderson in the class B main.

Other heat race winners were Sam Ash, Elmer Lovett and Gordy VanderLaan. Tommy Lane set the qualifying fast time of 14.28.

## Rodee Wins Accident Marred Midget Race

**June 28, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Chuck Rodee of Chicago roared from out of the pack to win the accident-marred 100-lap feature of the USAC (United States Auto Club) midget race program at Berlin Raceway Thursday night before approximately 4,000 spectators.

Two drivers, Rex Easton and Leroy Warriner, were injured in a spectacular mishap on the first lap of the 100-lap race. Easton's racer rolled over four times after it was bumped in the fourth turn and had slammed into Warriner's car. Easton was pinned under his racer when it came to rest. Both suffered wrist injuries.

The race was restarted and Rodee broke up a thrilling duel between Roy Graham and Gene



Hartley, seizing the lead midway in the race and pulling away from there on to the finish.

The race was run under the caution flag from lap 37 to the 40<sup>th</sup> lap, after Shorty Templeman and Jimmy Davies were involved in an accident. Neither was injured.

Rodee also won the pursuit and the fourth heat race. Other heat race victors were Hartley, Don Branson, and Wally Hostettler. Hartley finished second in the feature, with Johnny Tolan third. Tolan also set fast time at 13.09.

## Cummiford Gains Fifth Berlin Feature Triumph

**June 30, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Approximately 3,000 people watched Jack Cummiford roar across the finish line to win the 30-lap modified stock car feature race Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. The win was Cummiford's fourth in a row and fifth of the season.

Cummiford won by default after running third behind pacesetter Tommy Lane of Muskegon and Eddie VanderLaan who had dueled for the lead the entire race, collided with each other, spinning off the track and out of contention on the last lap.

Fastest qualifier (14.01) Roger Joneson of Muskegon was second followed by Gordy VanderLaan and Bob Knight.

Fast-car dash winner was Cummiford. Bill Rider won the pursuit race and the first semi-feature. The second semi-feature went to Sam Ash. Heat race winners were John Dantuma, Elmer Lovett, Tommy Lane and Bill Sherman.

## Gordy VanderLaan Breaks Cummiford Winning Streak

**July 4, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Gordy VanderLaan battled off the challenges of Jack Cummiford for the first 20-laps Wednesday, then sped to victory in the 40-lap stock car racing feature at Berlin Raceway when his chief threat spun out at the midpoint of the event.

Roger Joneson of Muskegon swept in to second place after Cummiford's bid was nipped by the spinout. Jimmy Rinner was third. A crowd of approximately 3,800 watched the Independence Day program.

Burr Krupp won the first semi-feature event, a 15-lap race. Sam Ash copped honors in the second semi, another 15-lap event.

Heat race winners were Mort Anderson, Dick Nielson and Cummiford. Cummiford also won the pursuit race. Gordy VanderLaan captured the fast-car dash, and qualifying fastest at 16.61.

## Mid-Season Championship Gordy Vanderlaan Captures

**July 7, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Gordy VanderLaan drove the race of his career Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway to win the 75-lap modified stock car mid-season championship over a field of 25-cars. The victory was worth \$300.

A crowd of 3,300 fans saw Gordy take the lead on the second lap from Jack Cummiford and proceeded to lap the field.

The race was halted on the 73<sup>rd</sup> lap because of an accident involving Bud Rider and Dick Seymour's car. Rider was taken to the hospital. He incurred broken ribs.

Cummiford finished second with the third and fourth positions going to Muskegon drivers Tommy Lane and Roger Joneson.

Heat race winners were Bob Knight, Bill Sherman, Mort Anderson, Burt Jones and Kenny Knoll of Muskegon.

## Gordy VanderLaan Cops Sixth Feature Win At Berlin

**July 14, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – A crowd of 3,000 fans saw Gordy VanderLaan win the crash-filled modified stock car feature race Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

The 30-lap event saw the race leaders Mort Anderson, Bob Knight, Eddie VanderLaan and Jack Cummiford spin out of contention. Gordy VanderLaan took over on the 26<sup>th</sup> lap. He was followed by Mort Anderson and Bill Rider.

The victory gave VanderLaan his sixth feature win and a ten-point advantage over Cummiford.

Heat race winners were Bob Clover, John Dantuma, Roger Joneson and Jerry Little.

Dick Nielson won the pursuit event and the night's fastest qualifier Marv Eppink (14.13) won the fast-car dash.

First place in the class B feature went to Bud Rider.

## Wiltse Breaks Cummiford-VanderLaan Domination

**July 21, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Bill Wiltse ended the Jack Cummiford – Gordy VanderLaan feature win domination at nine straight Saturday night by winning the 30-lap modified stock car main event at Berlin Raceway before 3,000 fans.

Cummiford won four straight and then VanderLaan took five in a row before Wiltse's victory.

Tommy Lane finished second with Ray Flannery of Muskegon in

the third spot. Bob Knight won the class B feature followed by Wally Sanders and Art Ayers. Heat race winners were VanderLaan, Wiltse, Bob Clover and John Dantuma of Muskegon.

Cummiford set fast time of the evening at 14.48 and went on to win the fast car dash.

Bud Rider took the pursuit race while Bob Knight captured the semi-feature.

## Cleveland Driver First In Berlin Midget Feature

**July 27, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Jim Florian of Cleveland won the thrilling 30-lap feature in the season's third midget auto racing program at Berlin Raceway, on Friday night before 2,400 fans.

Tooling an Offenhauser, Florian, who also took an earlier heat victory, finished the feature ahead of Pontiac's Russ Jacobson and Larry McCloskey of Saginaw. Florian also set fast time of 13.10 in qualifying.

Bob Zomerhuis won the 15-lap semi-feature and the popular pursuit race. Johnny Johnson took the fast-car dash win. Heat race victors were Kenny Gloar, Johnny Johnson and Jim Florian.

## Glen Rockey Wins First Berlin Feature Of Season

**July 28, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** Muskegon's Glen Rockey held off Ray Flannery and Tommy Lane for the 30-lap feature win at Berlin Raceway. Lane started off the evening by setting fast qualifying time in time trials of 14.37 and captured the fast-car dash.

Bill Wiltse won the pursuit race. Heat winners were John Dantuma, Bill Wiltse and Eddie VanderLaan.

The B feature was taken by Roger Joneson.

## Bob Knight Cops First Berlin Feature Of Season

**August 4, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – A crowd estimated at 4,500 people saw Bob Knight stave off hard charging Bill Wiltse and Roger Joneson of Muskegon and roar across the finish line to win the accident marred 30-lap class A modified stock car feature race Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

The main event was halted on the first lap when the cars of Bill Rider and Glen Rockey rolled end over end and a three car collision between Bob Terpstra, Wally Sanders and Burt Jones blocked the track. Rider's racer was demolished but all drivers escaped serious injury.

The win was Knight's first triumph of the season. Heat race winners were Bob Clover of Muskegon, Mort Anderson of Greenville, and Knight with Burr Krupp victorious in the pursuit event. The night's fastest qualifier Roger Joneson of Muskegon 14.19 won the fast-car dash. Bud Meyering was victorious in the B feature.

## Knight Outduels Rockey In Berlin Feature

**August 11, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight roared into the lead in the ninth lap and out-dueled Glen Rockey of Muskegon to win the accident marred feature race Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Wally Sanders placed third and Roger Joneson fourth. The main event was halted on the first lap when Jerry little and Dick Nielson hit the concrete wall head on, demolishing their cars. Both drivers escaped injury.

Heat race winners were Johnny Johnson, Burt Jones and Sanders, with the pursuit race captured by Flip Thompson.

Semi-feature honors went to Dick Nielson and Dick Seymour of Kalamazoo. The evening's fastest qualifier 14.13, Bill Wiltse was victorious in the dash event.

## Rinner's Late Surge Wins Michigan Sweepstakes

**August 18, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Jimmy "Ping Pong" Rinner, Berlin Raceway's top point getter, passed Bill Wiltse on the 65<sup>th</sup> lap and went on to win the 75-lap Michigan Motor Sweepstakes, Saturday night at the Marne oval.

A crowd of 2,800 fans watched the lead change hands seven times. Mort Anderson led the field of 22 cars for the first six laps; Jack Cummiford held the first spot until the tenth lap when Rinner took the lead for two laps.

Wiltse took over on the 12<sup>th</sup> lap and led all the way until the 65<sup>th</sup>, except for the 33<sup>rd</sup> lap that Glen Rockey of Muskegon headed. Rinner paced the field from lap 65 to the checkered flag.

Bob Knight finished second, followed closely by Tommy Lane of Muskegon. Anderson captured the fourth spot.

Heat race winners were Bob Clover of Muskegon, Rockey and Wiltse. Tommy Lane won the pursuit race and the first consolation and Art Ayers the second consolation. The night's fastest qualifier, Roger Joneson 16.40 of Muskegon won the fast-car dash.



## Flannery Cops Berlin Anniversary Feature

**August 25, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Surging into the lead on the eighth lap, Ray Flannery staved off Glen Rockey's last lap bid to win the 30-lap class A feature race for modified stock cars Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

Approximately 3,500 fans were on hand as a strong Muskegon contingent celebrated the Raceway's sixth anniversary program by sweeping the first five positions of the main event. Tommy Lane, Roger Joneson and Kenny Knoll followed front runners Flannery and Rockey, across the finish line.

The class B main, won by Bob Clover of Muskegon, was halted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> lap as Flip Thompson rolled over with his racer blocking the track. Thompson escaped serious injury.

Johnny Johnson escaped injury when his car struck a light pole, putting a portion of the lighting system out for the night.

Heat race winners were John Dantuma, Lane, Flip Thompson, and Dick Seymour of Kalamazoo. Pursuit honors were captured by Eddie VanderLaan with Jack Cummmiford out driving Wally Sanders, Bill Wiltse and Jimmy Rinner to win the fast-car dash event. Fast qualifying time was set by Jack Cummmiford at 14.00.

## Rockey Cops Accident Marred Berlin Feature

**September 1, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Glen Rockey of Muskegon warmed up for the big Labor Day program by roaring to victory in the accident-marred class A feature race for modified stock cars Saturday night at Berlin Raceway, before an estimated 3,000 fans.

Elmer Lovett escaped serious injury when his racer rolled over several times forcing the main event to be restarted.

The Capital Airlines Speed Trophy was captured by Gordy VanderLaan who edged Ray Flannery in the modified stock car special race.

Heat race winners were Bud Rider, Roger Joneson, John Dantuma and Sam Ash. Jimmy Rinner captured the pursuit and Art Ayers the class B main event. Tommy Lane set fast qualifying time of 13.92 and won the fast-car dash.

## Sherman And Rinner Winners At Labor Day Race

**September 3, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – On a new twist, Berlin Raceway ran two racing programs Monday. In the afternoon they raced on the one-half track that had not been raced on since 1948. Glen Rockey, who had raced on the dirt half-mile back in 1948, set a track record of 29.05, then continued his winning ways by winning a special match race against Tommy Lane and also won a heat race. Bill Wiltse won the other heat race while Kenny Knoll picked up the win in the fast-car dash.

The nine lap feature which had been scheduled for twenty laps went to Bill Sherman followed by Mort Anderson and Bud Meyering.

The reason for the shortened race happened as the cars were coming out of turn four on the ninth lap. Glen Rockey's car broke a spindle and he crashed coming out of turn four. Bob Clover was running behind Rockey and could not avoid him and hit him square-on. Clover's car went up in the air and tore down the PA system, along with three wheels off his car.

At that point Chet Mysliwiec, the track promoter, called the race complete at nine laps.

The evening program was run on the regular dirt fifth-mile track. Roger Joneson set fast time of 14.49 and went on to win the fast-car dash.

Heat race winners were; Flip Thompson, John Dantuma, Wally Sanders and Jimmy Rinner, who

also went on to win the pursuit race.

Dick Nielson was the victor of the B feature.

Rinner continued his winning ways by winning the 30-lap feature, following by Ray Flannery and Tommy Lane.

*(This is the first time Berlin Raceway raced on the dirt half-mile track. Because of a hard crash on lap 9, the race was called official at that point.)*

## Flannery Cops Third Feature Of Season At Berlin

**September 8, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Ray Flannery of Muskegon held off Tommy Lane and Wally Sanders at Berlin Raceway for the 30-lap modified stock feature win.

Lane set fast time of the night at 13.96 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Pursuit winner was Eddie VanderLaan. Heat race winners were George Folk, Bob Knight, Bill Sherman and Dick Nielson.

John Dantuma took the B feature win.

## Cummiford & Rinner Tie At Berlin Raceway

**September 15, 1956 Berlin Raceway** – Jack Cummmiford chased pacesetter Jimmy Rinner for 99-laps, drawing abreast of him on the last lap for a photo finish on the 100<sup>th</sup> lap modified stock car championship race Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway, with Cummmiford and Rinner sharing the victory. The winners were followed across the finish line by Wally Sanders, Roger Joneson and Bob Knight.

Heat race winners were Roger Joneson, Jack Beduhn, Dick Nielson, Johnny Johnson, Burt Jones and Wally Sanders.

## Cummiford Takes 7th Berlin Feature

**September 22, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Taking over the lead on the ninth lap from Mort Anderson, Jack Cummiford drove to victory in the 50 lap main event modified stock car race Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Cummiford roared to his seventh feature race win by staving off hard-charging Glen Rockey who was never more than a car length behind. Finishing third was Jimmy Rinner.

Heat race winners were Bob Terpstra, Flip Thompson, Tommy

Lane and Dale Vischer of Holland. John Dantuma captured the pursuit race and the program's fastest qualifier at 14.45, Kenny Knoll, outdrove Rockey, Knight and Ray Flannery to win the fast-car dash event.

## Cummiford Takes Berlin's Final Race Of Season

**September 29, 1956 – Berlin Raceway** – Jack Cummiford captured the feature race trophy for the 1956 modified stock car racing season by roaring to victory in the 50-lap main

event Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Cummiford's win came by default as pacesetters Ray Flannery and Glen Rockey exchanged the lead on the 46<sup>th</sup> lap only to see their cars tangle and spin out of contention.

High-point man and track champion, Jimmy (Ping Pong) Rinner, was second. Glen Rockey recovered from his spin to take third in the feature. Heat race winners were Sonny DeBois, Flannery and Bob Knight. Knight was also victorious in the pursuit.

Kenny Knoll won the fast-car dash and in addition he broke the track record in qualifying with a time of 13.82.



Sam Ash

Dick Lee Collection



## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1956

### Modifieds

#### April 21, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: No information available

Dash winner: Bob Brecken

Heat winners: Glen Rockey, Flip Thompson, Nolan Johncock

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

B Feature winner: Sam Ash

**Feature** (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Eddie VanderLaan  
(3) Bill Rider (4) Jimmy Rinner (5) Dick Carter

#### May 12, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan 14.72

Heat winners: Bud Meyering, Tommy Lane, Elmer Smith

Pursuit winner: Tommy Lane

B Feature winner: Flip Thompson

**Feature:** No information available

#### May 16, 1956 – Wednesday – Modifieds

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Wally Sanders 14.26

Dash winner: Jack Cummiford



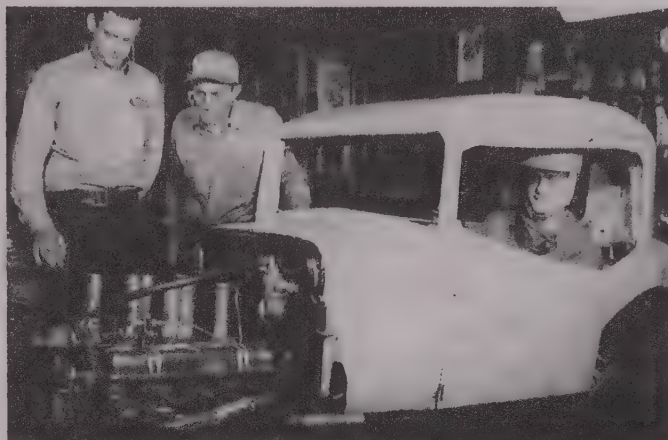
Jack Cummiford

Dick Lee Collection

Heat winners: Bud Meyering, Bill Rider, Johnny Roberts

**Feature:** (1) Jack Cummiford (2) Gordy VanderLaan  
(3) Glen Rockey

\*Feature rained out on this date—actually run on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>



Gordy VanderLaan

Dick Lee Collection

#### May 19, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bill Wiltse 14.16

Dash winner: Bill Wiltse

Heat winners: Gordy VanderLaan, Tommy Lane, Flip Thompson, Glen Rockey

Pursuit winner: Glen Rockey

B Feature winner: Elmer Lovett

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Jack Cummiford  
(3) Eddie VanderLaan

#### May 30, 1956 – Wednesday – Modifieds

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Cummiford 14.12

Dash winner: Jack Cummiford

Heat winners: Sam Ash, Flip Thompson, Eddie VanderLaan, Bill Wiltse

B Feature winner: Dick Nielson

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Gordy VanderLaan  
(3) Jack Cummiford

\*Feature rained out on this date – actually run on Saturday, June 2

### June 2, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Cummiford 14.33

Dash winner: Bill Wiltse

Heat winners: Dick Nielson, Jack Nelson, Jack Cummiford, Eddie VanderLaan

B Feature winner: Mort Anderson

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Dick Seymour (3) Bill Wiltse

### June 9, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Cummiford 16.08

Dash winner: Jack Cummiford

Heat winners: Jack Beduhn, Art Ayers, Bob Knight, Gordy VanderLaan

Pursuit winner: Laverne Peterson

B Feature winner: Dick Nielson

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Bob Knight (3) Wally Sanders (4) Jimmy Rinner

### June 14, 1956 – Thursday – USAC (United States Auto Club) – Midgats

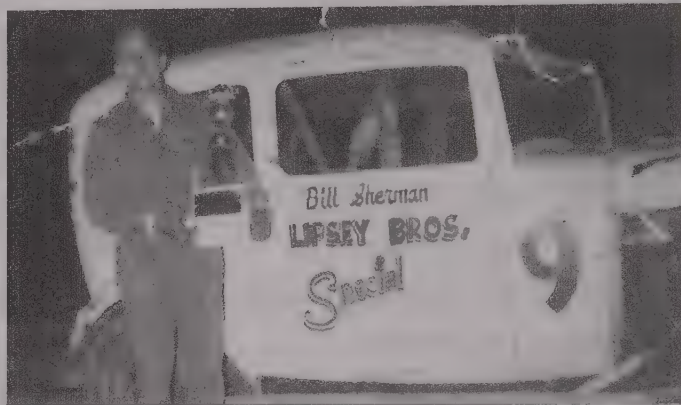
50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Turner 13.05

Heat winners: Johnny Tolan, Rex Easton, Andy Linden, Shorty Templeman

Semi winner: Hank Nykaza

**Feature:** (1) George Amick (2) Rex Easton (3) Eddie Sachs



Bill Sherman

Dick Lee Collection

### June 16, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bill Wiltse 16.33

Heat winners: Bob Terpstra, Burr Krupp, Jack Cummiford, Wally Sanders

Pursuit winner: Jack Cummiford

B Feature winner: Glen Rockey

**Feature:** (1) Jack Cummiford (2) Bill Sherman (3) Jimmy Rinner (4) Bill Wiltse (5) Jack Nelson

### June 20, 1956 – Wednesday – Modifieds

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Cummiford 14.17

Dash winner: Jack Cummiford

Heat winners: Bill Sherman, Jack Beduhn, John Dantuma, Art Ayers

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

**Feature Winner:** (1) Jack Cummiford (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Jack Beduhn

### June 23, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Tommy Lane 14.28

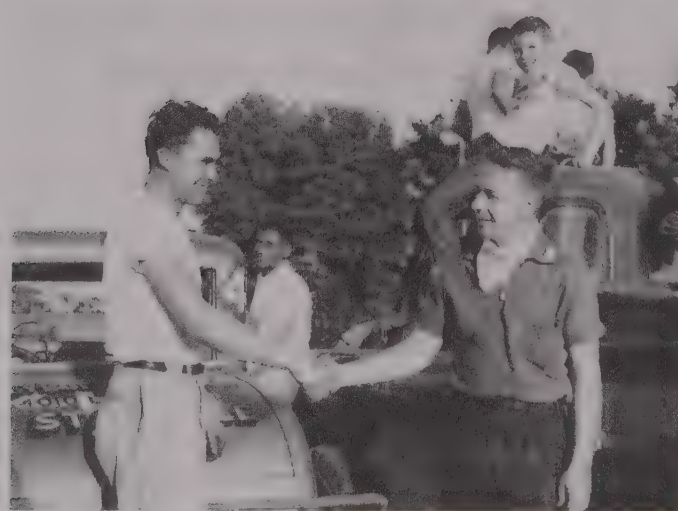
Dash winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat winners: Sam Ash, Roger Joneson, Elmer Lovett, Gordy VanderLaan

Pursuit winner: Dick Seymour

B Feature winner: Mort Anderson

**Feature:** (1) Jack Cummiford (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Bill Rider



Glen Rockey, Sam Ash, Tommy Lane

Dick Lee Collection



**June 28, 1956 – Thursday – USAC (United States Auto Club) – Midgets**

100 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Johnny Tolan 13.09

Heat winners: Gene Hartley, Don Branson, Wally Hostettler, Chuck Rodee

Pursuit winner: Chuck Rodee

**Feature:** (1) Chuck Rodee (2) Gene Hartley  
(3) Johnny Tolan

**June 30, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Roger Joneson 14.01

Dash winner: Jack Cummiford

Heat winners: John Dantuma, Elmer Lovett, Tommy Lane, Bill Sherman

Pursuit winner: Bill Rider

First Semi winner: Bill Rider

Second Semi winner: Sam Ash

**Feature:** (1) Jack Cummiford (2) Roger Joneson  
(3) Gordy VanderLaan (4) Bob Knight

**July 4, 1956 – Wednesday – Modifieds**

40 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 16.61

Dash winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat winners: Mort Anderson, Dick Nielson, Jack Cummiford

Pursuit winner: Jack Cummiford

First Consolation winner: Burr Krupp



Jack Beduhn

Dick Lee Collection



Paul Weissner

Dick Lee Collection

Second Consolation winner: Sam Ash

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Roger Joneson  
(3) Jimmy Rinner

**July 7, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds**

**Mid-Season Championship**

75 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Top Ten positions determined by points

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Bill Sherman,

Burt Jones, Mort Anderson, Ken Knoll

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Jack Cummiford  
(3) Tommy Lane (4) Roger Joneson

**July 14, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Marv Eppink 14.13

Dash winner: Marv Eppink

Heat winners: Bob Clover, John Dantuma, Roger Joneson, Jerry Little

Pursuit winner: Dick Nielson

B Feature winner: Bud Rider

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Mort Anderson  
(3) Bill Rider

**July 21, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Cummiford 14.48

Dash winner: Jack Cummiford

Heat winners: Bob Clover, John Dantuma, Gordy VanderLaan, Bill Wiltse

Pursuit winner: Bud Rider

B Feature winner: Bob Knight

**Feature:** (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Tommy Lane (3) Ray Flannery

**July 27, 1956 – Friday – CSRA (Central States Racing Association) – Midgets**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jim Florian 13.10

Dash winner: Johnny Johnson

Heat winners: Ken Gloar, Johnny Johnson, Jim Florian

Pursuit winner: Bob Zomerhuis

Semi winner: Bob Zomerhuis

**Feature:** (1) Jim Florian (2) Russ Jacobson (3) Larry McCloskey

**July 28, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Tommy Lane 14.37

Dash winner: Tommy Lane

Heat winners: John Dantuma, Bill Wiltse, Eddie VanderLaan

Pursuit winner: Bill Wiltse

B Feature winner: Roger Joneson

**Feature:** (1) Glen Rockey (2) Ray Flannery (3) Tommy Lane



Harvey Redder

Dick Lee Collection

**August 4, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Roger Joneson 14.19

Dash winner: Roger Joneson

Heat winners: Bob Clover, Mort Anderson, Bob Knight

Pursuit winner: Burr Krupp

B Feature winner: Bud Meyering

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Roger Joneson



Ron Merkins

Dick Lee Collection

**August 11, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bill Wiltse 14.13

Dash winner: Bill Wiltse

Heat winners: Johnny Johnson, Wally Sanders, Burt Jones

Pursuit winner: Flip Thompson

First Semi winner: Dick Nielson

Second Semi winner: Dick Seymour

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Glen Rockey (3) Wally Sanders (4) Roger Joneson

**August 18, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds**

75 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Roger Joneson 16.40

Dash winner: Roger Joneson

Heat winners: Bob Clover, Bill Wiltse, Glen Rockey

Pursuit winner: Tommy Lane

First Consolation winner: Tommy Lane

Second Consolation winner: Art Ayers

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Rinner (2) Bob Knight (3) Tommy Lane (4) Roger Joneson (5) Kenny Knoll

**August 25, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Cummingford 14.00

Dash winner: Jack Cummingford

Heat winners: John Dantuma, Tommy Lane, Dick Seymour, Flip Thompson

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

B Feature winner: Bob Clover

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Glen Rockey (3) Tommy Lane





Russ Jacobson

Dick Lee Collection

---

### September 1, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Tommy Lane 13.92

Dash winner: Tommy Lane

Capital Airlines Speed Trophy: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat winners: Bud Rider, Roger Joneson, John Dantuma, Sam Ash

Pursuit winner: Jimmy Rinner

B Feature winner: Art Ayers

**Feature:** (1) Glen Rockey (2) Mort Anderson (3) Bob Knight

---

### September 3, 1956 – Monday – Modifieds

20 laps scheduled on the half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Glen Rockey 29.05—New Track Record

Match Race winner: Glen Rockey

Heat winners: Glen Rockey, Bill Wiltse

Dash winner: Kenny Knoll

**Feature:** (9 laps) (1) Bill Sherman (2) Mort Anderson (3) Bud Meyering (4) Johnny Johnson (5) Tommy Lane (6) Wally Sanders (7) Gordy VanderLaan (8) Kenny Knoll (9) Flip Thompson (10) Bob Clover

*This is the first time Berlin Raceway raced on the dirt half mile track. Because of a bad crash on lap nine, the race was called official at that point.*

### 30 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds

Fast qualifier: Roger Joneson 14.49

Dash winner: Roger Joneson

Heat winners: Flip Thompson, John Dantuma, Wally Sanders, Jimmy Rinner

Pursuit winner: Jimmy Rinner

B Feature winner: Dick Nielson

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Rinner (2) Ray Flannery (3) Tommy Lane

---

### September 8, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Tommy Lane 13.96

Dash winner: Tommy Lane

Heat winners: George Folk, Bob Knight, Bill Sherman, Dick Nielson

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

B Feature winner: John Dantuma

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Tommy Lane (3) Wally Sanders

---

### September 15, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds

#### Season Championship

100 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Top Ten lined up by points

Heat winners: Roger Joneson, Jack Beduhn, Dick Nielson, Johnny Johnson, Burt Jones, Wally Sanders

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Rinner/Jack Cummmiford—Dead Heat (3) Wally Sanders (4) Roger Joneson (5) Bob Knight

---

### September 22, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Kenny Knoll 14.45

Dash winner: Kenny Knoll

Heat winners: Bob Terpstra, Flip Thompson, Tommy Lane, Dale Vischer

Pursuit winner: John Dantuma

**Feature:** (1) Jack Cummmiford (2) Glen Rockey (3) Jimmy Rinner

---

### September 29, 1956 – Saturday – Modifieds

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Kenny Knoll 13.82—New Track Record

Dash winner: Kenny Knoll

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Ray Flannery, Sonny DuBois

Pursuit winner: Bob Knight

**Feature:** (1) Jack Cummmiford (2) Jimmy Rinner (3) Glen Rockey

---

# Berlin Raceway Points 1956

1956 MODIFIEDS POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Jack Cummiford	50.5	6.5	6	7		
2	Gordy VanderLaan	41	6	1	2		
3	Jimmy Rinner	31.5	2.5				
4	Glen Rockey	28	2	1		1	
5	Ray Flannery	26	3				
6	Bob Knight	24	2				
7	Tommy Lane	24		4	3		
8	Roger Joneson	19		4	3		
9	Eddie VanderLaan	15		1			
10	Bill Wiltse	14	1	3	3		
11	Wally Sanders	12		1			
12	Mort Anderson	12					
13	Bill Sherman	9	1				
14	Bill Rider	9					
15	Johnny Roberts	5	1				
16	Dick Seymour	4					
17	Bud Meyering	3					
	Jack Beduhn	3					
19	Johnny Johnson	2					
20	Kenny Knoll	1		2	2	1	
21	Dick Carter	1					
	Jack Nelson	1					
23	Marv Eppink	0		1	1		
24	Bob Brecken	0			1		



## Berlin Raceway Media 1957

### Gordy VanderLaan Wins Berlin Season Opener

**April 20, 1957 – Berlin Raceway**

– Racing veteran Gordy VanderLaan kicked off the 1957 Berlin Raceway modified stock car racing season by roaring to victory in the 30-lap feature race on the fifth-mile track over a power-packed field Saturday night before approximately 3,000 persons.

VanderLaan swept into the lead by driving his fuel injected racer around pace setter Bill Rider on the 20<sup>th</sup> lap of the main event. He staved off challenges of Kenny Knoll of Muskegon, Jack Cummmiford and Dick Carter to win.

Carter of Breckenridge won the first heat race and the pursuit event. Other heat race winners were Cummmiford, Jimmy Rinner and Art Ayers.

VanderLaan won further honors by copping the fast car dash and posting the fastest qualifying time of 14.07.

### Sanders Wins In 1<sup>st</sup> Berlin Show-up

**May 4, 1957 – Berlin Raceway**

– Celebrating his first race appearance of the season, Wally Sanders drove his 1956 Chevrolet powered racer to victory in the 30-lap main event Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before an estimated 2,600 fans.

Sanders forged into the lead on the 19<sup>th</sup> lap of the 30-lap feature race by driving his powerful modified stock car around pacesetter Jack Beduhn and staved off the field led by Mort Anderson of Greenville, Bill Wiltse, Gordy VanderLaan and Jack Cummmiford.

Heat race winners were Sam Ash, Roger Joneson of Muskegon and Jack Beduhn.

The programs fastest qualifier, Gordy VanderLaan copped the fast-

car dash event along with setting fast qualifying time of 13.88. Jack Beduhn was victorious in the pursuit race. Sam Ash took the semi-feature event.

### Carter Nabs Feature At Berlin Track

**May 25, 1957 – Berlin Raceway**

– Dick Carter warmed up for the Memorial Day program by roaring to victory in the accident-marred 30-lap feature event Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

The Breckenridge driver was unable to catch pacesetter Wally Sanders until the 24<sup>th</sup> lap when he forged his 4-barreled Cadillac powered modified stock car into the lead and held off Sanders, Roger Joneson of Muskegon and Johnny Roberts of Wheeler.

Heat race winners were Joneson, Jim Walker and John Bamtuma. Carter was also victorious in the dash event with Flip Thompson of Belding copping the class B feature and the pursuit race. Curly Moody had fast qualifying time of the night with a 16.55 lap.

### Roberts And Ende Take Features At Berlin

**May 30, 1957 – Thursday – Berlin Raceway**

– Berlin held races on the fifth-mile and the half-mile dirt tracks on Memorial Day.

Johnny Roberts set a new track record on the half-mile track with a 27.46 breaking Glen Rockey's former record of 29.05 set last year.

Harold Ende won the 15-lap feature with Gordy VanderLaan and Eddie VanderLaan following. Fast-car dash winner was Elmer Lovett. Heat winners were Bill Wiltse, Mort Anderson, and Sam Ash. Anderson

also took the semi-feature.

On the fifth-mile track Kenny Knoll set fast time of 14.28. Johnny Roberts took the 30-lap feature with Glen Rockey and Jimmy Rinner following him to the checkered flag.

The fast-car dash went to Bill Wiltse and heat races were won by Jack Beduhn, Jack Sanborn and Flip Thompson. Thompson also won the semi-feature race.

### Al Alpern Wins USAC Midget Feature

**May 31, 1957 – Berlin Raceway**

– Albert Alpern of Chicago won the USAC (United States Auto Club) 30-lap midget race feature at the Berlin Raceway Friday night after a fourth lap accident halted the race.

After flipping his car on that lap Hank Nakayza of Chicago was taken to a hospital but is reported all right. Rex Easton, Springfield, Illinois, was second. Third place went to Bill Doster, of Detroit.

Heat winners were Doster, Alpern, Easton and Jim Knight, of Chicago.

The pursuit event was won by Chuck Rodee, of Chicago. This event was halted in the sixth lap after a four-car accident blocked the track. Rex Easton set fast time of 13.38 in the time trials. (On June 20, 1957, 31 year old Al Alpern was fatally injured in a midget race at the Grand Rapids Speedrome.)

### Jimmy Rinner "Last Second" Berlin Winner

**June 1, 1957 – Berlin Raceway**

– Defending track champion, Jimmy Rinner forged his modified stock car ahead of Jack Cummmiford five yards from the finish line to win the 35-lap main event at the Berlin Raceway Saturday night before a crowd of 2,500 fans.

The crash filled feature race saw Mort Anderson of Greenville set a blistering early pace only to be forced from contention by a blown tire on the 30<sup>th</sup> lap with Cummmiford roaring into the top spot but unable to stave off Rinner's last second surge. Gordy VanderLaan and Rodger Joneson followed the leaders across the finish line.

Heat race winners were Kenny Knoll of Muskegon, Sam Ash and Anderson. Fast-car dash honors went to Rinner and Anderson copped the pursuit race. The semi-feature race was won by John Dantuma, who sped around Ash on the last turn of the event. Jimmy Rinner set fast time in qualification with 14.42.

## Wiltse First Time Winner Of The Season

**June 8, 1957 – Berlin Raceway** – Bill Wiltse joined the growing one-time winners circle at the Berlin Raceway Saturday night by roaring to victory in the 35-lap modified stock car feature race before a crowd of more than 3,000 fans as the new winner jinx held true.

The crash filled main event saw Bud Meyering set a blistering pace until his car spun out of contention on the 14<sup>th</sup> lap. Wiltse forged into the lead on the following lap and managed to hold off Jack Cummmiford, Mort Anderson and Jimmy Rinner to gain his first main event victory of the season. Fast qualifying time went to Eddie VanderLaan 13.90 in addition to winning the fast-car dash. Bud Meyering took the pursuit race and heat winners were Kenny Knoll, Jack Cummmiford, Jack Smith and Bud Rider. Art Ayers won the semi-feature race.

No feature race winner has been able to take the checkered flag for the second time this season in the main event at the Marne oval.

## Wiltse Cracks Stock Car Jinx

**June 15, 1957 – Berlin Raceway** – The jinx that has kept feature race winners from repeat victories was broken when Bill Wiltse roared to victory in the 35-lap event Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before approximately 3,000 fans.

The crash-filled, accident-marred main event saw early race leaders Bill Sherman and Jack Cummmiford unable to stave off the veteran pilot after the 18<sup>th</sup> lap when he forged his Ford-powered modified stock car into the lead and roared to victory. Jack Cummmiford finished second; Mort Anderson of Greenville in third followed Wiltse across the finish line.

Heat race winners were Sherman, Joneson, Sam Ash and Jack Smith of Muskegon who also copped the semi-feature. Rockey took the pursuit race honors and Eddie VanderLaan the fast-car dash.

A new qualifying track record was set when Gordy VanderLaan turned the oval in 13.65 seconds.

## "Ping Pong" Rinner Berlin Victor

**June 29, 1957 – Berlin Raceway** – Jimmy Rinner led Jack Cummmiford and Gordy VanderLaan across the finish line of the 50-lap Berlin feature Saturday night.

Gordy VanderLaan took a lap of 13.88 to set fast time in time trials. Bill Rider captured the fast-car dash while Bud Meyering won the pursuit race. Heat race winners were Jack Smith, Glen Rockey, Jack Cummmiford and Jerry Ward.

Frances Goss won the strictly stock car semi-feature while Ed Rider took the modified stock car semi-feature.

## Curly Moody And Jimmy Rinner Capture Berlin Features

**July 4, 1957 – Berlin Raceway** – Berlin Raceway held two programs to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. The first was on the dirt half-mile track which saw Gordy VanderLaan break his old track record replacing it with a 27.41 lap.

Curly Moody held off Ray Flannery and Tommy Lane for the 20-lap feature win. Heat race winners were Ray Flannery, Curly Moody and Sam Ash. Ash also won the semi-feature race.

Then the action moved to the fifth-mile track with Gordy VanderLaan setting fast time in qualifying of 14.49. The fast-car dash race went to Ray Flannery. The pursuit race was won by Jack Beduhn who also won a heat race. Other heat race winners were Jack Cummmiford and Sam Ash. Don Ward took the semi-feature.

Jimmy Rinner won the 35-lap feature followed by Bill Rider and Bob Terpstra.

In addition, a strictly stock car program was held with Duane Knoll setting fast qualifying time of 17.40. Lyle Evans won the heat race.

Don Linebaugh took the 15-lap feature followed by Jim Kestner and Doug Lang.

## Flannery Wins First Feature Of Season

**July 6, 1957 – Berlin Raceway** – Ray Flannery of Muskegon overcame the keen competition of a 20-car field to cross the finish line first to win the grueling 35-lap feature race Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before a crowd of approximately 3,000.

Flannery forged his Ford-powered modified stock car around race leader Silas Thompson of Belding on the 23<sup>rd</sup> lap and staved off Jack Cummmiford, Bill Rider and Tommy Lane



to gain his first main event victory of the season.

Heat race winners were Ed Rider, Mort Anderson, Jack Smith and Sam Ash. Gordy VanderLaan took the fast-car dash event, John Dantuma the semi-feature and Wally Sanders emerged the winner of the crash-filled pursuit race. Bud Meyer-ing set fast time of 13.91 in qualifying. The fast-car dash win went to Gordy VanderLaan.

Jimmy Rinner out-dueled Sanders, Cummiford and Anderson to win the coveted Capital Airlines Trophy Dash.

## Roberts Conquers Berlin Feature

**July 13, 1957 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Roberts held off Jimmy Rinner and Ray Flannery to win the 75-lap feature race for modified stock cars at Berlin Raceway Saturday night.

Heat race winners were Bob Terpstra, Tommy Lane, and Jack Smith. Smith also won the semi-feature race on the fifth-mile track.

In the strictly stock car division, Jim Kestner won the pursuit race while Sam Ash took the heat race. Fast qualifier was Duane Knoll with 15.61. *(There was no information on the feature race results.)*

## Hartley USAC Midget Victor

**July 19, 1957 – Berlin Raceway** – Gene Hartley of Roanoke, Indiana out-dueled George Amick of Los Angeles, California Friday night at the Berlin Raceway in the 30-lap midget auto feature race on the half-mile track. USAC (United States Auto Club) sanctioned the racing program. A crowd of approximately 6,000 watched Hartley come from behind on the 25<sup>th</sup> lap of the 30-lap event to nip the midget champion from California. Len Sutton finished third.

Hartley established a new track record for Marne's half mile track in the time trials with a mark of 24.73 seconds and missed the world standard by 1.05 seconds.

Heat race winners were Bill Homier of Houston, Texas, Chuck Rodee of Chicago, Illinois, Freddie Johns of Detroit, Michigan, Don Branson of Champaign, Illinois, and Gays Biro of Toledo, Ohio. Biro also won the semi-feature.

## Meyering Victor In Crash-Filled Feature

**July 20, 1957 – Berlin Raceway** – Bud Meyering gained his first modified stock car main event victory by threading through a field of 18 cars in the hectic 35-lap event on the fifth-mile track Saturday night at the Berlin raceway near Marne.

The accident-marred, grueling feature race was restarted on the 20<sup>th</sup> lap after race leaders Johnny Johnson and Jack Cummiford spun from contention and touched off a series of five accidents that blocked the track. Meyering roared into the lead on the 31<sup>st</sup> lap when pacesetter Eddie VanderLaan spun from the race and staved off Gordy VanderLaan and Ray Flannery of Muskegon for the win.

Winners of the crash-filled heat races were Mort Anderson, Bill Sherman, Wally Sanders and Bob Clover, with Flannery taking the fast-car dash event, Bob Knight the pursuit honors and Sam Ash the semi-feature. Gordy VanderLaan set a new one-lap record covering the oval in a 13:62 seconds dash.

In the strictly stock division Duane Knoll set fast time at 15.62. Heat race winner was Sam Ash. Bob Clover captured both the semi-feature and the 15-lap feature.

## Holland Driver Tops Berlin Feature

**July 27, 1957 – Berlin Raceway** – Harold Ende of Holland roared to victory in the 20-lap modified stock

car main event Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before a crowd estimated at 4,000 people.

Ende chased race leader Bill Rider until he forged his Mercury-powered racer into the lead on the 18<sup>th</sup> lap. He was trailed across the finish line by Silas Thompson of Belding, Rider, Jack Beduhn, Mort Anderson and Gordy VanderLaan.

Heat race winners on the half-mile track were Curly Moody; Roger Joneson of Muskegon, and Sam Ash. Pursuit honors went to Joneson with Dick Carter of Breckenridge copping the fast-car dash.

Ash also won the semi-feature and Glen Rockey of Muskegon grabbed the class B feature.

VanderLaan was the program's fastest qualifier turning the oval in 26.47 seconds which is a new track record.

Jack Smith of Muskegon was admitted to Butterworth Hospital after he was involved in a three-car heat-race crash. He is suffering with a wrenched back.

In the strictly stock action on the fifth-mile track, Dick Peck set fast time at 15.82. Doug Lang won the heat race while Sam Ash took the semi-feature. *(There was no information on the feature race.)*

## Jack Cummiford Wins 1st Feature Of Season

**August 3, 1957 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran Jack Cummiford scored his first modified stock car feature victory of the season Saturday night when he crossed the finish line first before 3,800 at the Berlin Raceway. Silas Thompson of Belding was second, three car lengths back. Cummiford took the lead on the eighth lap from Bill Rider and held it the rest of the 35 laps. Bill Sherman was third.

Tommy Lane of Muskegon won the class B feature. Jack Beduhn won the pursuit race while Thompson copped the fast-car dash. Gordy VanderLaan set fast time of 13.65.

Heat race winners were Kenny Knoll of Muskegon, Art Ayers, Tommy Lane and Cummmiford.

In the strictly stock car division, Doug Lang set fast time at 15.89 while Art Ayers won both the heat race and the semi-feature. (*There was no information on the feature race results.*)

## Jack Beduhn Wins First Career Feature

**August 10, 1957 – Berlin Raceway** – Modified stock car driver Johnny Roberts of Wheeler warmed up for Friday night's big car racing program by setting new records for one lap 13.58 and 10 laps on the fifth-mile track at the Berlin Raceway Saturday night.

Roberts thrilled a crowd of approximately 3,000 with his record sprints and received a standing ovation after eliminating the entire field in the pursuit race. Roberts was edged out at the finish line by Jack Beduhn in the 35-lap feature race, however, after threading his way through a 20-car field to the lead. Jack Nelson took third place.

Heat race winners were Bill Sherman, John Dantuna and Roberts. Jack Cummmiford won the dash event and Art Ayers took the semi-feature.

In the strictly stock car division, Ed Patrick won the heat race while Bob Clover took the win in the semi-feature. Wally Simmons had fast time of 15.31. (*There was no information on feature results.*)

## Roberts Takes Win At AARC Race

**August 16, 1957 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Roberts set fast qualifying time of 24.46 and went on to win the feature race that was stacked with top sprint car drivers from the AARC (All American Racing Club). Wayne Alspaugh and

Leon Clum finished behind Roberts in the 30-lap feature on the half-mile track.

Glen Rockey took the fast-car dash race while Dick Carter won the semi-feature. Heat race winners were Ronnie Duman, Al Miller, and Curly Boyd.

## Harold Ende Takes Berlin Feature

**August 17, 1957 – Berlin Raceway** – Hard-driving Harold Ende of Holland established himself as the man to beat in next week's title race at the Berlin Raceway by gunning his way to the modified stock car feature victory Saturday in the 30-lap race.

A crowd of approximately 3,200 watched Saturday's 30-lap race on the half-mile track at Berlin.

Ende pushed himself past the early pace-setter Bob Knight on the 15<sup>th</sup> lap, and then withstood the challenges of Knight, Gordy VanderLaan and Dick Carter of Breckenridge. Ende finished just a car's length ahead of Carter, while Knight was third and VanderLaan fourth.

The accident-marred heat races, in which Don Ward and Duane Knoll, of Muskegon, were hospitalized, were won by Bill Sherman, Jack Beduhn, and Art Ayers. Both Ward and Knoll were released after treatment.

Mort Anderson and Carter won honors in the semi-features, with the evening's top qualifier, Glen Rockey, with a lap of 26.57, of Muskegon, winning the dash event.

Bob Clover was the fast qualifier for the strictly stock division on the fifth-mile track. Steve Sutton was the heat race winner and Joe Crain took the semi-feature. (*There were no results for the feature race.*)

## Ende Wins Berlin Championship Race

**August 24, 1957 – Berlin Raceway** – Harold Ende proved he is

master of the half mile track at Berlin Raceway again Saturday night. Following Ende in the feature was Jack Nelson and Jack Beduhn.

The Holland driver roared home first before approximately 5,000 spectators to win Berlin Raceway's State Championship Modified stock car feature.

The race, scheduled for 50 laps, was halted on the 45<sup>th</sup> lap after Bill Rider's car caromed off the retaining wall and blocked the track. Jack Nelson had fast qualifying time of the evening at 26.68.

Heat race winners were Mort Anderson, Bill Sherman and Roger Joneson. Sherman and Roberts won semi-features.

Art Ayers won the strictly stock feature and in addition he set fast time of 17.37. Duane Knoll and Art Umlor finished behind Ayers in the 25-lap feature.

## Carter Takes Holiday Win At Berlin

**September 2, 1957 – Berlin Raceway** – Dick Carter of Breckenridge took Monday's 25-lap feature on Berlin's half-mile track for modified stock cars. Johnny Roberts and Bill Wiltse followed him across the finish line.

Harold Ende set fast time of 27.25 in qualifying. Fast-car dash winner was Gordy VanderLaan with the pursuit race going to Johnny Johnson.

Heat races were taken by Flip Thompson, Curly Moody and Tommy Lane. Bud Meyering and Dick Carter won the two semi-feature races held.

The strictly stock cars ran on the fifth-mile with Doug Lang winning the 25-lap feature followed by Sam Ash and Johnny Johnson. Dick Peck ran the fastest lap in qualifying with a time of 15.71 with Johnny Johnson taking the fast-car dash. Heat winners were Doug Lang, Bob Clover and Flip Thompson.



## Art Ayers Tops Berlin Field For Feature Win

**September 6, 1957 — Berlin Raceway** — Veteran driver art Ayers picked up Berlin Raceway's strictly stock car 50-lap feature race Friday night. He was followed by Duane Knoll and Gary Priest in the 50-lap race. Bob Clover started the night off with a fast qualifying time of 15.20

Heat race winners were Mort Anderson, Bud Meyering, Jerry Little and Bob Clover. Gary Priest picked up the win in the pursuit race with Mort Anderson and Ken Sutton winning the semi-features.

## Carter Laps Field In Feature Win

**September 7, 1957 — Berlin Raceway** — Veteran driver Dick Carter roared to victory in the 100-lap season championship feature race on the fifth-mile track Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before an estimated 5,000 fans.

The Breckenridge racer piloted his Cadillac-powered modified stock car around pacesetter Jimmy Rinner and Jack Cummiford who had set a sizzling pace, on the 51<sup>st</sup> lap and then proceeded to lap the entire 24-car field. Following the winner across the finish line were Cum-miford, Johnny Roberts, Rinner, Gordy VanderLaan, Mort Anderson and Tommy Lane.

Heat winners were Ralph Baker of Saugatuck, Don Ward and Cum-miford. Semi-feature race honors went to Bill Wiltse and Bud Meyering with Bob Knight eliminating the entire field to capture the pursuit event.

By virtue of his win, Carter established himself as the leading threat to Harold Ende, Marne's one-half mile track king, in Saturday's 120-lap National Cup race to be run in Monza style of three, 40-lap legs.

## Wiltse Point Winner In Berlin Cup Race

**September 14, 1957 — Berlin Raceway** — Johnny Roberts, Harold Ende of Holland, and Bill Wiltse were section winners with Wiltse gaining the most points to win the accident marred 118-lap, Monza style, National Cup race for modified stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. It was scheduled for 120-laps but the first race was halted two laps short so it went from 120 to 118 laps.

A crowd of 5,000 fans saw Wiltse score a third, fourth, and a win in the third 20-mile section to be awarded the title trophy by Congressman Gerald Ford.

Roberts out-dueled Ende to win the first 40-lap leg on the one-half mile track that was halted on the 38th lap when Bud Meyering crashed through the concrete retaining wall.

Pace-setters Ende and Roberts, running bumper to bumper approaching the finish line on the last lap of the second section, crashed into the wall when Glen Rockey's car spun, blocking the track.

The event was halted with Ende suffering facial cuts and abrasions, with his car totally demolished. Ende was awarded the win. Roberts partially repaired his car to compete in the third leg but was never in contention although he scored enough points to place second in the overall standings.

Jack Beduhn scored the third largest amount of points followed by Jimmy Rinner, Eddie VanderLaan, Don Clawson of Kalamazoo, Lee France of Grand Blanc, Chuck Grano, Bob Knight and Ende.

Johnny Roberts had set fast qualifying time of 26.49. Al Newbree won the consolation race.

## Bill Sherman Ends Dry Spell At Berlin With Win

**September 21, 1957 — Berlin Raceway** — Bill Sherman drove his powerful modified stock car to victory in the 25-lap feature race Saturday night at the Berlin raceway before approximately 2,000 spectators. Sherman chased leader Bob Knight until the 18<sup>th</sup> lap when he forged into the front position holding off challengers Bill Wiltse and Knight in a bumper to bumper finish.

Semi-feature race victories were scored by Jack Beduhn and Jack Sanborn. Heat race winners were Ed Scott, Bud Meyering and Sanborn. Bill Wiltse set fast time in qualifying with a time of 17.87.

With top competition made impossible by a slick track, the 50-lap 25-mile Michigan Motor Sweepstakes race was reset for next Saturday night.

## Johnny Roberts Laps Field For Win

**September 28, 1957 — Berlin Raceway** — Johnny Roberts won the 25-mile Michigan Motor Sweepstakes for modified stock cars Saturday on the half-mile track at Berlin Raceway before an estimated crowd of 3,000.

Roberts passed pace setter Jimmy Nelson of Flint on the 25<sup>th</sup> lap of the 50-lap race and lapped the field to win on the big half-mile track. Jack Nelson finished third.

Jack Nelson set fast time of 26.77. Bud Meyering, Don Delduca and Flip Thompson were heat race winners. Semi-feature winners were Ray Flannery and Bob Terpstra.

Heat winners were Bud Meyering, Don Delduca and Flip Thompson. Semi-feature honors were taken by Ray Flannery and Bob Terpstra.

Bob Clover won the accident marred strictly stock car feature race on the fifth-mile track in a battle that

saw Sam Ash hospitalized when his car rolled over on the track. Clover also set fast qualifying time. Dick Lovett was second in the 25-lap feature.

## Bill Wiltse And Jack Nelson Winners

**October 5, 1957 – Berlin Raceway** – The unusual happened at Berlin Raceway Saturday night. The modified stock car fall championship races, which were run in two 25-lap sections on the big half-mile track ended in a unique tie. In the first 50-lap section, Bill Wiltse out-dueled Jack Nelson of Greenville to gain the win, with Nelson coming out on top ahead of Wiltse in the second

25-lap section. Elver Harrington, of Kalamazoo, placed third both times.

Bill Wiltse broke the track record on the half-mile by posting a lap of 26.45. Heat race winners were Bill Wiltse, Jack Beduhn and Jack Sanborn.

The title event was marked by a spectacular three-car accident that demolished the cars of Bill Rider, Mort Anderson, and Jack Beduhn, with Beduhn hospitalized for observation.

Heat race winners were: Jack Sanborn, Norm Utting, Wiltse, and Beduhn.

In the strictly stock car division Norm Gardner had fast time of 16.18. Norm Utting won the heat race. No information was available for feature results.

## Bill Wiltse Wins Berlin's Closing Race

**October 12, 1957 – Berlin Raceway** – Bill Wiltse closed out the season for Berlin Raceway with the 25-lap feature win for modified stock cars. Jack Nelson and Dick Carter followed Wiltse. Jimmy Nelson set a new track record for the half-mile track when he posted a 25.81 lap. Heat winners were Bill Wiltse, Dick Seymour and Bill Sherman.

In the strictly stock car division Bob Clover set fast time on the fifth-mile with a 15.82 lap. Clover and Duane Knoll were heat race winners. *(No information was available for the feature race.)*



## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1957

### Modifieds – Strictly Stocks

**April 13, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds**

Cancelled – snow and cold weather

**April 20, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 14.07

Dash winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat winners: Dick Carter, Jimmy Rinner, Jack Cummiford, Art Ayers

Pursuit winner: Dick Carter

**Feature: (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Kenny Knoll - (3) Jack Cummiford (4) Dick Carter**

**May 4, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 13.88

Dash winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat winners: Sam Ash, Roger Joneson, Jack Beduhn

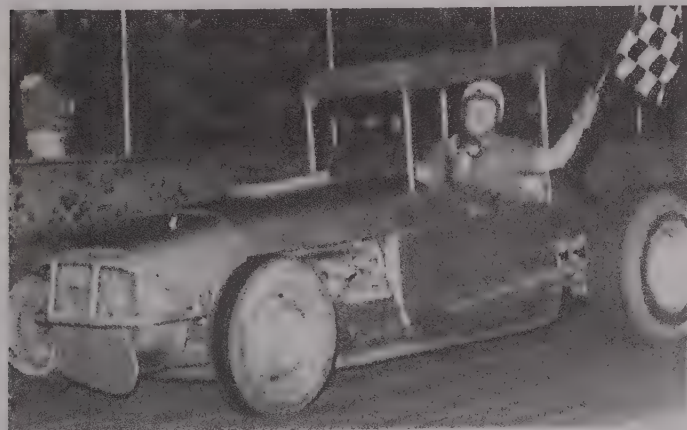
Pursuit winner: Jack Beduhn

Semi winner: Sam Ash

**Feature: (1) Wally Sanders (2) Jack Beduhn (3) Mort Anderson (4) Bill Wiltse (5) Gordy VanderLaan (6) Jack Cummiford**

**May 11, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds**

Rained Out



Bob Clover

Dick Lee Collection

**May 17, 1957 – Saturday – USAC Midgets**

Rained Out

**May 18, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds**

Rained Out

**May 25, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Curly Moody 16.55

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Roger Joneson, Jim Walker, John Dantuma

Pursuit winner: Flip Thompson

B Feature winner: Flip Thompson

**Feature: (1) Dick Carter (2) Wally Sanders (3) Roger Joneson (4) Johnny Roberts**

**May 30, 1957 – Thursday – Modifieds**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Kenny Knoll 14.28

Dash winner: Bill Wiltse

Heat winners: Jack Beduhn, Jack Sanborn, Flip Thompson

Semi winner: Flip Thompson

**Feature: (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Glen Rockey (3) Jimmy Rinner**

**15 laps, half-mile dirt – Modifieds**

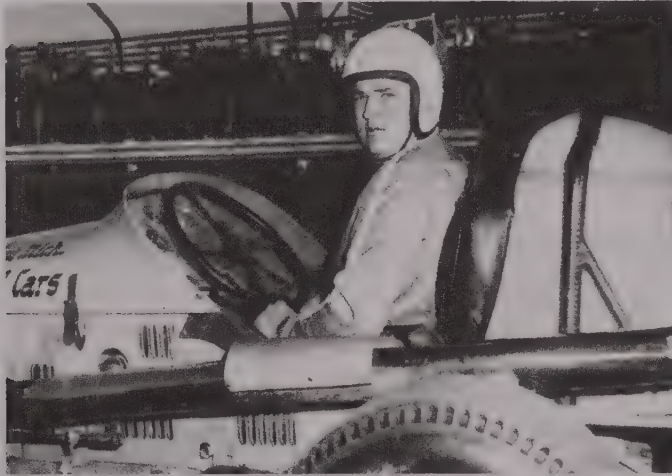
**Fast qualifier: Johnny Roberts 27.46—New Track Record**

Dash winner: Elmer Lovett

Heat winners: Bill Wiltse, Mort Anderson, Sam Ash

Semi winner: Mort Anderson

**Feature winner: (1) Harold Ende (2) Gordy VanderLaan (3) Eddie VanderLaan**



Dick Carter

Dick Lee Collection

---

### May 31, 1957 – Friday – USAC (United States Auto Club) Midgets

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Rex Easton 13.38

Heat winners: Bill Doster, Al Alpern, Rex Easton, Jimmy Knight

Pursuit winner: Chuck Rodee

**Feature: (1) Al Alpern (2) Rex Easton (3) Bill Doster**

(On June 20, 1957, 31 year old Al Alpern was fatally injured in a midget race at the Grand Rapids Speedrome.)

---

### June 1, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds

35 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Rinner 14.42

Dash winner: Jimmy Rinner

Heat winners: Mort Anderson, Kenny Knoll, Sam Ash

Pursuit winner: Mort Anderson

Semi winner: John Dantuma

**Feature: (1) Jimmy Rinner (2) Jack Cummiford (3) Gordy VanderLaan (4) Roger Joneson**

---

### June 8, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds

35 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan 13.90

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Kenny Knoll, Jack Cummiford, Jack Smith, Bud Rider

Pursuit winner: Bud Meyering

Semi winner: Art Ayers

**Feature: (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Jack Cummiford (3) Mort Anderson (4) Jimmy Rinner**

---

### June 15, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds

35 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 13.65—New Track Record**

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Bill Sherman, Roger Joneson, Sam Ash, Jack Smith

Pursuit winner: Glen Rockey

Semi winner: Jack Smith

**Feature: (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Jack Cummiford (3) Mort Anderson**

---

### June 22, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds

Rained Out

---

### June 29, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 13.88

Dash winner: Bill Rider

Heat winners: Jack Smith, Glen Rockey, Jack Cummiford, Jerry Ward

Pursuit winner: Bud Meyering

Strictly Stock Semi winner: Frances Goss

Modified Stock Semi winner: Ed Rider

**Feature Winner: (1) Jimmy Rinner (2) Jack Cummiford (3) Gordy VanderLaan**

---



Harold Ende

Dick Lee Collection



### July 4, 1957 – Thursday – Modifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Gordy VanderLaan 27.41—New Track Record

**Heat winners:** Ray Flannery, Curly Moody, Sam Ash

**Semi winner:** Sam Ash

**Feature:** (1) Curly Moody (2) Ray Flannery  
(3) Tommy Lane

### 35 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Modifieds

**Fast qualifier:** Gordy VanderLaan 14.49

**Dash winner:** Ray Flannery

**Heat winners:** Jack Beduhn, Jack Cummiford, Sam Ash

**Pursuit winner:** Jack Beduhn

**Semi winner:** Don Ward

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Rinner (2) Bill Rider (3) Bob Terpstra

### 15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

**Fast qualifier:** Duane Knoll 17.40

**Heat winner:** Lyle Evans

**Feature:** (1) Don Linebaugh (2) Jim Kestner (3) Doug Lang

### July 5, 1957 – Friday – Strictly Stocks

15 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Feature:** (1) Harry Drolema (2) Sam Ash (3) Dick Peck

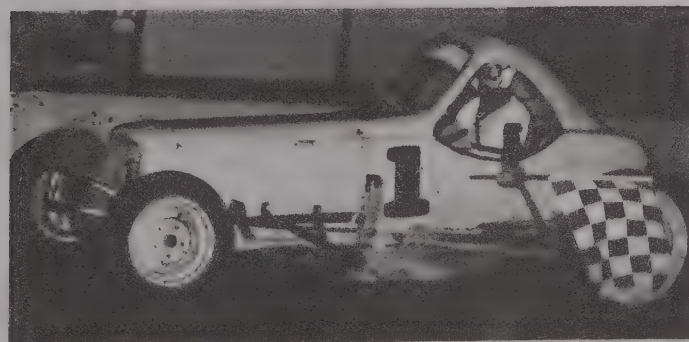
**Motorcycles:** (1) Roger Houk

### July 6, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds

35 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Bud Meyering 13.91

**Dash winner:** Gordy VanderLaan



Johnny Roberts

Dick Lee Collection



Jack Nelson

Dick Lee Collection

**Heat winners:** Ed Rider, Mort Anderson, Jack Smith, Sam Ash

**Pursuit winner:** Wally Sanders

**Capital Airlines Trophy Race winner:** Jimmy Rinner

**Semi winner:** John Dantuma

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Jack Cummiford  
(3) Bill Rider (4) Tommy Lane

### July 13, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds

75 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Top Ten positions lined up by points

**Heat winners:** Bob Terpstra, Tommy Lane, Jack Smith

**Semi winner:** Jack Smith

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Jimmy Rinner  
(3) Ray Flannery

### 25 laps, Fifth-mile track – Strictly Stocks

**Fast qualifier:** Duane Knoll 15.61

**Heat winner:** Sam Ash

**Pursuit winner:** Jim Kestner

**Feature:** No information available



Bob Knight

Dick Lee Collection

### July 19, 1957 – Friday – USAC (United States Auto Club) Midgets

30 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Gene Hartley – 24.73

Heat winners: Bill Homier, Chuck Rodee, Freddie Johns, Don Branson, Gays Biro

Semi winner: Gays Biro

**Feature:** (1) Gene Hartley (2) George Amick (3) Len Sutton

### July 20, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds

35 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Gordy VanderLaan 13.62—**New Track Record**

Dash winner: Ray Flannery

Heat winners: Mort Anderson, Bill Sherman, Wally Sanders, Sam Ash

Pursuit winner: Bob Knight

Semi winner: Sam Ash

**Feature:** (1) Bud Meyering (2) Gordy VanderLaan (3) Ray Flannery

### 15 laps, fifth-mile track – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Duane Knoll 15.62

Heat winner: Sam Ash

Semi winner: Bob Clover

**Feature:** (1) Bob Clover

### July 27, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Gordy VanderLaan 26.47—**New Track Record**

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Curly Moody, Roger Joneson, Sam Ash

Pursuit winner: Roger Joneson

Semi winner: Glen Rockey

**Feature:** (1) Harold Ende (2) Flip Thompson (3) Bill Rider (4) Jack Beduhn (5) Mort Anderson (6) Gordy VanderLaan

### 25 laps, fifth-mile track – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Dick Peck 15.82

Heat winner: Doug Lang

Semi winner: Sam Ash

**Feature:** No information available

### August 3, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds

35 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 13.65

Dash winner: Flip Thompson

Heat winners: Tommy Lane, Jack Cummingford, Kenny Knoll, Art Ayers

Pursuit winner: Jack Beduhn

Semi winner: Tommy Lane

**Feature:** (1) Jack Cummingford (2) Flip Thompson (3) Bill Sherman

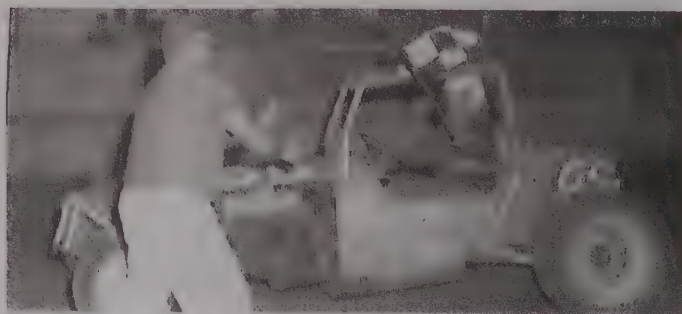
### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Doug Lang 15.89

Heat winners: Art Ayers

Semi winner: Art Ayers

**Feature:** No information available



Art Houke

Dick Lee Collection





Curly Moody

Dick Lee Collection

### August 10, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds

35 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Johnny Roberts 13.58—New Track Record

**Dash winner:** Jack Cummiford

**Heat winners:** Bill Sherman, Johnny Roberts, John Dantuma

**Pursuit winner:** Johnny Roberts

**Semi winner:** Art Ayers

**Feature:** (1) Jack Beduhn (2) Johnny Roberts (3) Jack Nelson

### 25 laps, fifth-mile track – Strictly Stocks

**Fast qualifier:** Wally Simmons 15.31

**Heat winner:** Ed Patrick

**Semi winner:** Bob Clover

**Feature:** No information available

### August 16, 1957 – Friday – AARC (All American Racing Club) Sprint Cars

30 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Johnny Roberts 24.46

**Heat winners:** Ronnie Duman, Al Miller, Curly Boyd

**Trophy Dash winner:** Glen Rockey

**Semi winner:** Dick Carter

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Wayne Alspaugh (3) Leon Clum

### August 17, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds

30 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Glen Rockey 26.57

**Dash winner:** Glen Rockey

**Heat winners:** Bill Sherman, Jack Beduhn, Art Ayers

**First Semi winner:** Mort Anderson

**Second Semi winner:** Dick Carter

**Feature:** (1) Harold Ende (2) Dick Carter (3) Bob Knight (4) Gordy VanderLaan

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

**Fast qualifier:** Bob Clover – No time available

**Heat winner:** Steve Sutton

**Semi winner:** Joe Crain

**Feature:** No information available

### August 24, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds

#### *Michigan State Championship*

50 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Jack Nelson 26.68

**Heat winners:** Mort Anderson, Bill Sherman, Roger Joneson

**First Semi winner:** Johnny Roberts

**Second Semi winner:** Bill Sherman

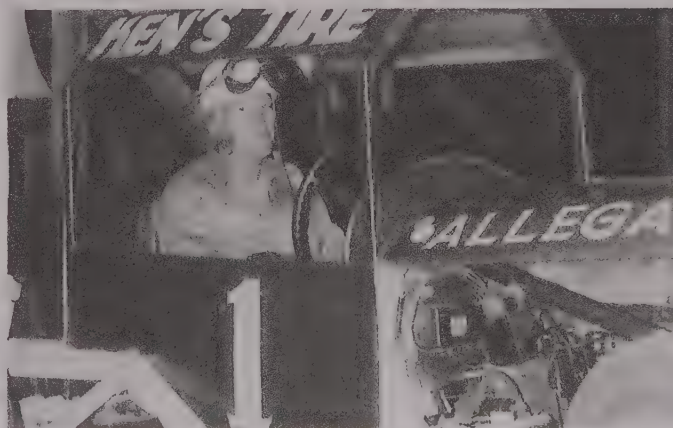
**Feature:** (1) Harold Ende (2) Jack Nelson (3) Jack Beduhn

(Race shortened because of an accident).

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

**Fast qualifier:** Art Ayers 17.37

**Feature:** (1) Art Ayers (2) Duane Knoll (3) Art Umlor  
**Art Ayers – Clean Sweep Award**



Don Clausen

Dick Lee Collection



Jim Born

Dick Lee Collection

---

**August 30, 1957 – Friday – USAC Midgets**

Rained Out

---

**August 31, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds**

Rained Out

---

**September 2, 1957 – Monday – Modifieds**

**Labor Day**

25 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Harold Ende 27.25

Dash winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat winners: Flip Thompson, Curly Moody, Tommy Lane

Pursuit winner: Johnny Johnson

First Semi winner: Bud Meyering

Second Semi winner: Dick Carter

**Feature: (1) Dick Carter (2) Johnny Roberts (3) Bill Wiltse**

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Dick Peck 15.71

Dash winner: Johnny Johnson

Heat winners: Doug Lang, Bob Clover, Flip Thompson

**Feature: (1) Doug Lang (2) Sam Ash (3) Johnny Johnson**

---

**September 6, 1957 – Friday – Strictly Stocks**

50 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bob Clover 15.20

Heat winners: Mort Anderson, Bud Meyering, Jerry Little, Bob Clover

Pursuit winner: Gary Priest

First Semi winner: Mort Anderson

Second Semi winner: Ken Sutton

**Feature: (1) Art Ayers (2) Duane Knoll (3) Gary Priest**

---

**September 7, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds**

100 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Top Ten lined up by points

Heat winners: Jack Cummingford, Ralph Baker, Don Ward

Pursuit winner: Bob Knight

First Semi winner: Bill Wiltse

Second Semi winner: Bud Meyering

**Feature: (1) Dick Carter (2) Jack Cummingford (3) Johnny Roberts (4) Jimmy Rinner (5) Gordy VanderLaan (6) Mort Anderson (7) Tommy Lane**

(Carter lapped the entire field in the feature and also set a New Track Record of 23 minutes, 27.16 seconds).

---

**September 14, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds**

120 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Johnny Roberts 26.49

Consolation winner: Al Newbree

**Monza Race:**

**Feature 1 (1) Johnny Roberts**

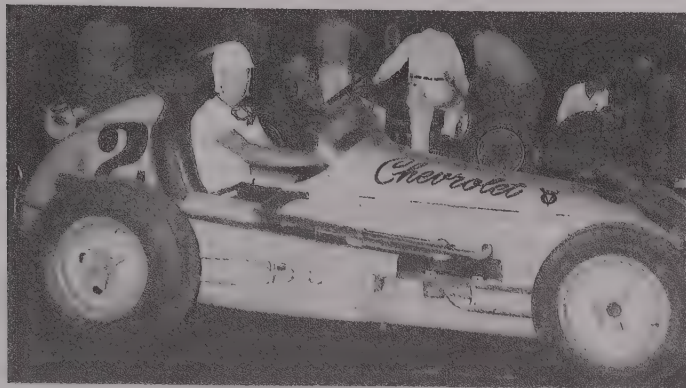
**Feature 2 (1) Harold Ende**

**Feature 3 (1) Bill Wiltse**

**Final points of three features: (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Johnny Roberts (3) Jack Beduhn (4) Jimmy Rinner (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Don Clawson (7) Lee France (8) Chuck Grano (9) Bob Knight (10) Harold Ende**

---





Johnny Roberts

Dick Lee Collection

### September 21, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bill Wiltse 17.87

Heat winners: Ed Scott, Jack Sanborn, Bud Meyering

First Semi winner: Jack Beduhn

Second Semi winner: Jack Sanborn

**Feature:** (1) Bill Sherman (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Bob Knight

(Race was supposed to be run on the half-mile, but it was too wet and they raced on the fifth-mile).

### September 28, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Nelson 26.77

Heat winners: Bud Meyering, Don Delduca, Flip Thompson

First Semi winner: Ray Flannery

Second Semi winner: Bob Terpstra

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Jimmy Nelson (3) Jack Nelson

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Bob Clover – No time available

**Feature:** (1) Bob Clover (2) Dick Lovett

Bob Clover – Clean Sweep Award

### October 5, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds

Twin 50 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast Qualifier:** Bill Wiltse 26.45—New Track Record

Heat Winners: Bill Wiltse, Jack Beduhn, Jack Sanborn

**1st Feature:** (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Jack Nelson (3) Elver Harrington

**2nd Feature:** (1) Jack Nelson (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Elver Harrington

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Norm Gardner 16.18

Heat winner: Norm Utting

**Feature:** No information available

### October 12, 1957 – Saturday – Modifieds

25 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Jimmy Nelson 25.81—New Track Record

Heat winners: Bill Wiltse, Dick Seymour, Bill Sherman

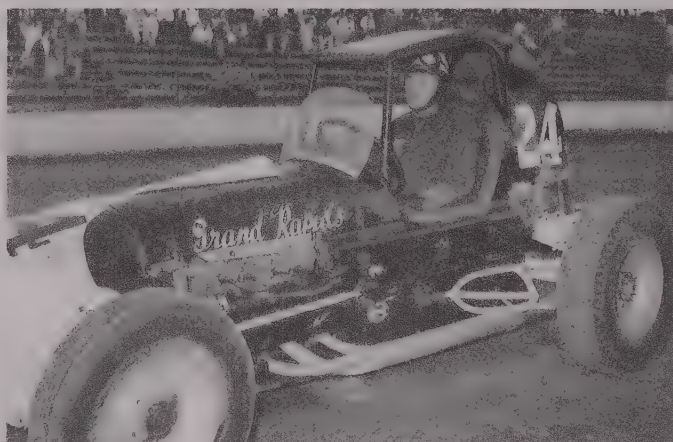
**Feature:** (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Jack Nelson (3) Dick Carter

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Bob Clover 15.82

Heat winners: Bob Clover, Duane Knoll

**Feature:** No information available



Bill Wiltse

Dick Lee Collection

# Berlin Raceway Points 1957

1957 MODIFIEDS POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Bill Wiltse	42	6	2	1	1	
2	Johnny Roberts	37	5	3		2	
3	Jack Cummiford	32	1		1		
4	Jimmy Rinner	28	3	1	1		
5	Harold Ende	25	5	1			
6	Dick Carter	24	3		2		
7	Gordy VanderLaan	23	1	9	4	4	
8	Jack Nelson	23	1	2			
9	Ray Flannery	15	1		2		
10	Jack Beduhn	13	1				
11	Bill Rider	10			1		
12	Mort Anderson	10					
13	Wally Sanders	9	1				
14	Bill Sherman	8	1				
15	Flip Thompson	8			1		
16	Bob Knight	6					
	Elvin Herrington	6					
18	Bud Meyering	5	1	1			
	Curly Moody	5	1	1			
20	Roger Joneson	5					
	Tommy Lane	5					
22	Eddie VanderLaan	4		1	2		
23	Glen Rockey	4		1	1		
24	Jimmy Nelson	4		1		1	
25	Kenny Knoll	4		1			
26	Bob Terpstra	3					
27	Elmer Lovett	0			1		



**1957 STRICTLY STOCK POINTS**

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Bob Clover	10	2	4			1
2	Art Ayers	10	2	1			
3	Doug Lang	8	1	1			
4	Duane Knoll	8		3			
5	Sam Ash	8					
6	Don Linebaugh	5	1				
7	Harry Drolema	5					
8	Jim Kestner	4					
	Dick Lovett	4					
10	Dick Peck	3		2			
11	Johnny Johnson	3			1		
12	Gary Priest	3					
	Art Umlor	3					
14	Wally Simmons	0		1			
	Norm Gardner	0		1			

# Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present

1951-1957 JALOPY/MODIFIED POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Jack Cummiford	270	20	7	11		
2	Gordy VanderLaan	211	24	12	9	4	
3	Jimmy Rinner	146	13	6	2	1	
4	Ray Flannery	127	14	2	2	1	
5	Tommy Lane	122	10	6	8		
6	Bob Knight	122	10	5	7	1	
7	Eddie VanderLaan	103	6	6	6		
8	Bill Rider	97	4	1	3		
9	Gene Farber	82	8	2	2	1	
10	Bill Wiltse	63	4	3	12	1	
11	Wally Sanders	58	2	2	2		
12	Glen Rockey	56	6	1	4		
13	Bill Sherman	56	6		2		
14	Johnny Roberts	47	6	4	1	1	
15	Bob Brecken	44	5	2	5		
16	Bud Meyering	36	2	2			
15	Roger Joneson	27		5	4		
16	Jack Nelson	26	2	3	5		
17	Harold Ende	25	5	1			
18	Dick Carter	25	3		2		
19	Johnny Johnson	23					
	Mort Anderson	23					
21	Len Smith	21	1		4		
22	Dick Neilson	19	3				1
23	Willie Wik	17	2				
24	Kenny Knoll	17	1	5	3		
25	Jack Beduhn	16	1				
26	Jasper Strystra	12					
27	Marv Eppink	11		1	3		
28	Dick Peoples	9	1	2			
28	Eddie Streck	8	1	1	1		1
29	Don Green	8	1	1		1	
30	Flip Thompson	8			1		
31	Laverne Peterson	7					
32	Elmer Lovett	6					
	Leon Bockheim	6					
	Elver Harrington	6					
35	Curly Moody	5	1	1			
	Bob Clover	5	1	1			
37	Jim Born	5	1				
38	Jimmy Nelson	4		1			
39	Ralph Baker	4					

continued next page



# Berlin Raceway — Jalopies/Modifieds, 1951-1957

## 1951-1957 JALOPY/MODIFIED POINTS—CONT.

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
	Dick Seymour	4					
	Woody Wood	4					
42	Bob Terpstra	3					
	Wayne Kelly	3					
	Paul Tooker	3					
	Bill Arnold	3					
46	Johnny Purwin	1					
	Flip Roberts	1					
48	Marv Eppink	0		1	1		
49	Dick Stoddard	0		1			
	Don Nicholson	0		1			
51	Chuck Phillips	0			1		

## 1954-1957 STRICTLY STOCK POINTS

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Wally Sanders	99	12	7	8		
2	Eddie VanderLaan	36	5	1			
3	Jack Cummingford	36	4	4	4		
4	Gus Bray	16	1				
5	Bill Rider	14	1				
6	Willie Wik	11	1				
7	Sam Ash	11					
8	Bud Meyering	9	1				
9	Harry Obie	8					
10	Ed Horton	7	1				
11	Bob Knight	7					
12	Bill Robison	6					
	Jim Walker	6					
	Walt Marvin	6					
	Ted Otton	6					
16	Glen Rockey	5	1	2	3		
17	Tommy Lane	5					
18	Willie Barron	4			1		
19	Dave Vandermale	0			1		

<b>1951-1957 FIRST TIME WINNERS - FIFTH MILE DIRT TRACK</b>		
Driver		
Gene Farber	April 28, 1951	Jalopy
Jack Cummiford	May 5, 1951	Jalopy
Dick Peoples	May 9, 1951	Jalopy
Wally Sanders	May 16, 1951	Jalopy
Gordy VanderLaan	May 19, 1951	Jalopy
Willie Wik	May 23, 1951	Jalopy
Ray Flannery	June 20, 1951	Jalopy
Bill Sherman	July 4, 1951	Jalopy
Bob Knight	August 1, 1951	Jalopy
Don Green	August 8, 1951	Jalopy
Bill Wiltse	May 3, 1951	Jalopy
Bill Rider	June 14, 1952	Jalopy
Jimmy Rinner	August 9, 1952	Jalopy
Kenny Knoll	April 18, 1953	Jalopy
Eddie VanderLaan	June 17, 1953	Jalopy
Tommy Lane	June 24, 1953	Jalopy
Glen Rockey	June 27, 1953	Jalopy
Len Smith	September 5, 1953	Jalopy
Bud Meyering	September 7, 1953	Jalopy
Jack Nelson	May 8, 1954	Modified (A)
Bob Brecken	June 26, 1954	Modified (A)
Jimmy Born	April 16, 1955	Modified (A)
Dick Neilson	April 23, 1955	Modified (A)
Eddie Streck	June 14, 1955	Modified (A)
Bob Clover	July 4, 1955	Modified (A)
Johnny Roberts	April 21, 1956	Modified (A)
Dick Carter	May 25, 1957	Modified (A)
Harold Ende	May 30, 1957	Modified (A)
Curley Moody	July 4, 1957	Modified (A)
Jack Beduhn	August 10, 1957	Modified (A)



# Berlin Raceway

1958 – 1965

## Era of Supermodifieds — Dirt Half-Mile Track

In the late 1950's another form of race car appeared. By combining jalopy stock cars, roadsters, and sprint cars all into one car, the new hybrid was called a supermodified. As cut-down versions of the jalopies, they kept the safety of a four-post roll cage, but used smaller cut down bodies like many of the roadsters. To conserve weight, the starter and battery were removed, and the cars had to be pushed to be started, like sprint cars. It wasn't long before the cut down jalopy bodies gave way to homemade bodies and eventually to sprint car bodies. A sprint car could be converted to a supermodified by just adding a roll cage. Many sprint car owners made the cage detachable with bolts, so the car could still run in sprint car races, where it was taboo to run the cages. The roll cage is a series of tubular bars that surround the driver's cockpit and protects him in case the car should turn over.

Sprint cars, by design, are top-heavy and can easily get "get upside-down".

Chet Mysliwicz saw the writing on the wall when Johnny Roberts pulled into Berlin Raceway in 1957 with his radical new race car. Chet watched other car owners frantically rebuilding their modifieds into supermodifieds.

Mysliwicz knew that the speeds of the newly re-configured cars were beyond the limits of the small fifth-mile track. He began working on the half-mile track for action and on September 3, 1956 he opened up the big track for competition.

This was the first time that Berlin ran the dirt half-mile track. The feature was scheduled to run 20 laps. The race was just getting into the tenth lap when Glen Rockey broke a spindle, got into the wall, and was trying to get his car into the pits. Bob clover was running the outside of the track and when he



Aerial View of the Dirt Half-Mile Track

Dick Lee Collection

got through turn four Rockey was sitting right there in the groove that Clover was running and Bob hit him square. Clover's car went up into the air and torn down the PA system wiring along with three wheels off of his car. At that point the race was officially called complete at nine laps. Bill Sherman was the feature winner.

The big track was perfect for the faster supermodifieds. Both the drivers and the fans loved the fast and wild action and the die was cast. The supermodifieds ran the half-mile on occasional shows in 1957 when Chet ran the supermodifieds early in the evening before darkness set in. Then he ran the stock cars on the lighted fifth-mile. Before the 1958 season began, Chet bought the lighting system that had been used at Bigelow Field.

The supermodifieds saw their peak years from the late 1950's until the mid-sixties for a variety of reasons; including the fact that short track late model stock car had become increasingly popular at lower cost. By late 1960's, supermodified racing was facing two problems. First of all, the fans were looking for a new style of racing. Secondly, the promoters were looking for a class of cars that didn't cost so much. Much as the midgets had died out in the late 1940's, the supermodifieds were facing the same fate in the late 1960's.

One new aspect in supermodified racing was the wings that were installed on top of the roll cage. The wings not only gave added down pressure on the rear wheels for better traction, but they also gave better stability in the turns. Wings also tend to decrease the risk of injury in case of a serious accident (as stated by Allan E. Brown in his book *The History of America's Speedways—Past and Present*).

Audie Swartz won the first feature with a wing on September 4, 1961—which was his third attempt. Ken Fry, Mishawaka, Indiana, who was the Indiana State Champion appeared with a wing on top of his supermodified on August 13, 1960. Fry crashed in his heat race and could not make the feature.

In 1958, Berlin Raceway introduced the supermodifieds. This stemmed from 1957 when Johnny Roberts came to Berlin with his #1, yellow, cut down Crosley bodied car, with an overhead Studebaker V8

engine. His success with his supermodified caused other car owners to turn to this new supermodified version, along with unlimited engines.

At the same time Chet Mysliwiec soon realized that the powerful and fast supermodifieds were too fast for the small fifth-mile dirt track that they had been using since 1951. He began working on the larger half-mile dirt track that had lain dormant since the end of the 1948 season when the Trackmasters Racing Club had raced on it.

Chet used the half-mile track for a few races in 1957 on holidays when Chet could schedule the races at a late afternoon time so they could complete their racing before dark. He was now intent on running both the half-mile with the supermodifieds and the fifth-mile for stock cars. Mysliwiec bought the lighting system from the now defunct Bigelow Field race track and installed the system on his dirt half-mile track.

The names of the racers who ran with the supermodifieds are legendary in Michigan auto racing. Johnny Roberts, Dick Carter, Bob Knight, Glen Rockey, Nolan Johncock, Johnny Logan, Ralph Baker, Norm Brown, Gordy VanderLaan, Eddie VanderLaan, Jimmy Nelson, Bill Wiltse, Johnny Johnson, Duane Knoll, and Tommy Lane. Each of these racers has been inducted into the Michigan Motor Sports Hall of Fame. A.J. Foyt, Parnelli Jones, and Mario Andretti were Indianapolis 500 winners and have competed on the large track.

The big one-half mile dirt track also brought the end of the careers of Glen Rockey, Dick Carter, and Wally Galeski who were all fatality injured at the track.

In 1961, Audie Swartz, from Indiana, brought his winged supermodified to Berlin Raceway. Swartz won a feature on his third attempt. It did not take long for the regular Berlin competitors to realize the benefits of installing a wing on their cars and soon they all spouted wings.

When Berlin paved the track in 1966, pavement supermodifieds took to the track. After a couple of years, Chet realized that if he dropped the supermodifieds, he could save a lot of money and so he did.



## Berlin Raceway Media 1958

### Carter Breaks Track Record; Roberts Takes Opening Feature

#### **April 12, 1958 – Berlin Raceway**

— Hard charging by Johnny Roberts of Wheeler celebrated the opening of the super-modified racing season by roaring to victory in the 25-lap feature race Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

New track records were set in the 6, 12, and 30 lap distances. Dick Carter of Breckenridge set a new one lap record of 13.06 on the fifth-mile track and also copped the fast-car dash.

An estimated 3,000 fans saw Roberts drive his Studebaker V-8 powered supermodified around pacesetter, Frank Fuhr of Hastings on the sixth lap of the main event and hold off Dick Carter of Breckenridge, Nolan Johncock of Hastings, Bill Rider of Grand Rapids and Johnny Logan of Charlotte and Dale Vischer of Holland for the victory.

Heat race winners were Logan, Bill Wiltse, along with Roberts who was also victorious in the pursuit race. Semi-feature honors went to Jack Beduhn.

### Logan Cops Win Over Stellar Field

#### **April 19, 1958 – Berlin Raceway**

— Johnny Logan of Charlotte drove his powerful supermodified to victory in the 25-lap feature race on the fifth-mile track Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway after setting fast qualifying time of 15.65.

A crowd of approximately 1,000 fans, who braved drizzling rains, saw Logan out-speed such strong competitors as Silas Thompson of Belding, Johnny Roberts of Wheeler, Buck Havens of Flint, Dick Carter of Breckenridge, Jim Born of Kalamazoo, Bill Wiltse of Grand Rapids,

Nolan Johncock and Frank Fuhr of Hastings.

Heat race winners were Carter, Johncock and Thompson with the programs fastest qualifier, Logan copping the fast-car dash event. Wiltse took the pursuit race in which Glen Rockey of Muskegon escaped serious injury when his race car caught fire.

### Ende Sets New Record With Feature Win

#### **April 26, 1958 – Berlin Raceway**

— Hard driving Harold Ende of Holland roared to victory in the 20-lap supermodified feature race on the half-mile track Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before an estimated 3,000 fans.

Johnny Roberts forced Ende to set a blistering pace and establish a new track record for the 10-mile distance by running bumper to bumper until Roberts careened off the concrete retaining wall at the eight-mile mark and dropped out of contention.

Glen Rockey of Muskegon was a car length behind the main event winner followed by Dick Carter of Breckenridge, Jimmy Rinner, Bill Wiltse, Buck Havens of Flint, Jack Nelson of Greenville, Nolan Johncock of Hastings and Dale Vischer of Holland.

Heat race winners were Carter, Nelson and Havens, who also won the accident-marred semi-feature event. Rockey captured the fast-car dash event and set a new eight-lap record in capturing the pursuit race. Jimmy Nelson of Flint set a new one lap standard turning the fast large oval in a 25.10 second dash.

### Glen Rockey Scores First Feature Of Year

#### **May 3, 1958 – Berlin Raceway**

— Glen Rockey of Muskegon drove his Buick powered Smitty's Bever-

age Special to victory in the 30-lap supermodified feature race on the fifth-mile Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. An estimated 2,800 fans saw the port city speedster outduel Johnny Roberts of Wheeler to gain his first main event victory of the season.

Bill Rider was third followed by Jack Nelson of Greenville, Bill Sherman from Marne, Bud DePau of Muskegon, Jack Beduhn, Jack Sanborn and Gus Bray of Muskegon. Heat race winners were Dave Fryling, Rockey, and Jack Sanborn who also captured semi-feature race honors. Mort Anderson of Greenville copped the pursuit event along with the program's fastest qualifier of 13.76, Jimmy Rinner capturing the fast-car dash.

### Glen Rockey Wins Again At Raceway

#### **May 10, 1958 – Berlin Raceway**

— Hard driving Glen Rockey of Muskegon warmed up for Friday night's big-car race by roaring to victory in the 10-mile supermodified feature race on the half-mile track Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before a crowd of more than 3,000 fans.

The Port City speedster registered his second consecutive main event victory by threading his powerful supermodified racer through a 25-car field, forging ahead of pace setter Ralph Baker of Saugatuck on the eighth-lap and going on to win by a quarter mile margin.

Following the winner were Bill Wiltse, Ralph Baker, Jack Nelson of Greenville, Jimmy Nelson of Flint, Harold Ende of Holland and Johnny Johnson. Dale Vischer of Holland and Ende escaped serious injury when their cars crashed on the sixth lap of the event.

Rockey also captured the fast-car dash and the pursuit race. Heat race winners were Wiltse, Wally Sand-

ers and Johnson who also won the semi-feature. The program's fastest qualifier with a time of 25.33 Johnny Roberts of Wheeler was sidelined by mechanical difficulties and could not compete in the feature event.

Duane Milheim was victorious in the heat race and feature in the strictly-stock car races. Willie Ten-Brink set fast time in time trials in the strictly stock division.

## Roberts Victorious Over AARC Sprinters

**May 16, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – A stellar field of sprint car competitors showed up Friday night to compete for 35-laps on Berlin's big half-mile track under the sanctioning of AARC (All American Racing Club). Bobby Grim turned a blistering lap of 24.40 in qualifying.

However none of the big name stars could hold off Johnny Roberts of Wheeler as he swept to the feature win. He also took the semi-feature. Vic Ellis and Johnny White finished behind Roberts in the feature.

The fast-car dash win was taken by Arnie Knepper along with a heat race win. Other heat wins were taken by Cotton Farmer and Jim Hemmings.

## Roberts Big Weekend Race Victor

**May 17, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Roberts of Wheeler celebrated his most productive and lucrative weekend in racing by crossing the finish line a scant car length ahead of Glen Rockey of Muskegon on the big half-mile to win the action packed 10-mile feature race for super-modifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Bill Wiltse captured third place.

Jack Nelson set fast time in qualifying with a 26.00 lap and followed it up with a win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Jack

Sanborn, Dick Carter and Bill Sherman. The semi-feature race was taken by Dutch Walters.

Roberts scored his second main event triumph in two days before 2,800 fans by winning the grueling 15-mile AARC sprint car main event Friday night

The strictly stock cars ran on the fifth-mile track with Mort Anderson winning a heat race and setting fast time. *(There was no information on feature results.)*

## Berlin Races Rained Out; USAC Midgets Are Set At Berlin

**May 24, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Two of the leading race drivers in the country, Gene Hartley of Indianapolis, Indiana and George Amick of Venice, California have filed their entries to compete in the USAC (United States Auto Club) midget auto races on the Berlin Raceway's one-half mile track, Thursday night.

A star studded field, sprinkled with Indianapolis 500 mile veterans, will compete in the 15- mile main event, a 30-lap feature race.

Early entries have been received from Don Branson of Champaign, Illinois, Lloyd Ruby of Wichita Falls, Texas, Norm Hall of Cincinnati, Ohio, Rex Easton of Springfield, Illinois, Johnny Kay of New Britain, Connecticut, Bill Homier of Los Angeles, California, Bob Wente of Dallas, Texas, and national champion Clark "Shorty" Templeton of Seattle, Washington.

The all-Offenhauser eight-event program will have warm-ups at 6:30 p.m., time trials at 7 p.m. with the first heat race set for 8:30 p.m.

Saturday night's supermodified racing program at Berlin was washed out by rain, after rain also shortened Friday's schedule. Bud Meyering and Roger Joneson were winners of semi-feature events Friday in supermodified competition after Harold Ende, Elmer Lovett and Dale Vischer captured heat races. In strictly-stock

car competition Duane Millheim won the feature and Jim Flannery and Gordon Gibbens took heat races.

Bon Knight was hospitalized following a crackup in one of the semi-features. His car bumped Dick Carter and spun off the track. He was reported in good condition Saturday.

## Supermodified Feature Rained Out At Berlin

**May 30, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Roberts had the quickest time in time trials with a lap of 25.54. The super modified feature was rained out and will be run on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Duane Milheim won the 25-lap feature on the fifth-mile track with Norm Gardner and Mort Anderson following. Heat races were taken by Jim Flannery and Gordon Gebbens. Milheim also set fast time with a lap of 15.48.

## George Amick USAC Midget Victor

**June 5, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Little George Amick, who drives like there's no tomorrow, roared away with most of the honors and all of the hearts of the fans at the midget racing program at Berlin Raceway Thursday night. The midget racing program was sanctioned by USAC, (United States Auto Club.)

Amick, a short 33-year-old Californian who won the Rookie of the Year Award with his second place finish in the Memorial Day 500 at Indianapolis, was the outstanding star in a disappointingly small field of drivers which performed before approximately 3,500 chilled fans.

He won the 25-lap feature race, one heat event and established a new record for the half-mile Marne oval of 75.9 miles per hour in qualifying trials.

The field of ten cars—limited



by a tug-of-war between two Grand Rapids area promoters, a mix-up in the United States Auto Club scheduling and previous arrangements for many drivers for other races this weekend—put on a good midget program, one of speed and class.

The best of the field was Amick, who walked away from the rest once he grabbed the lead; Gene Hartley, the young veteran of midgets and Indy 500 cars; Johnny White and Cotton Farmer.

Hartley, who used to race midgets at Bigelow Field in the late 1940's, won the first heat race in a walk away. White, a hard charger from Detroit took the second heat, Amick the third, by a half a lap, and Farmer, the fourth.

Amick never was challenged after he once grabbed the lead in the 25-lap feature. He pushed his snarling little Offy past Buddy Cagle on the third lap and built his lead the rest of the way. Cagle, White, Farmer and Hartley duelled for second. White spun out midway in the race when he locked horns with Hartley and was out for the evening. The tangle gave Cagle and Farmer a lead over Hartley they never lost and the race wound up in that order.

Leroy Warriner won the pursuit race.

## Rockey & Carter Winners At Berlin

**June 7, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Glen Rockey of Muskegon won the ten-mile super-modified feature race before an estimated 4,000 fans, Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

The event, washed out on Memorial Day, saw the port city speedster thread his way through a 25-car field to gain his third main event win of the season. Johnny Roberts was second.

Finishing second to Dick Carter of Breckenridge in the regular feature event, halted in the 14<sup>th</sup> lap due to an accident to Duane Knoll, Rocky gained a big share of the \$6,175.00

purse. Johnny Johnson took third place.

Tommy Lane of Muskegon, Harley Green, Curly Moody, Don Ward, Duane Knoll and Roberts crashed into the concrete retaining wall in the feature. Bill Sherman escaped serious injury when his car catapulted over the wall during a heat race and was demolished. Sherman and Lane were hospitalized.

Heat race winners were Bud Rider, Gus Bray of Muskegon, Meyering and Ralph Baker with Harold Ende of Holland and Junior Shearer of Kalamazoo victorious in the semi-feature events.

A 25.07 seconds dash by Rockey set a new qualifying record for the modified cars on the one-half-mile Marne oval.

## Baker Wins In First Attempt At Berlin

**June 14, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Newcomer Ralph Baker of Saugatuck stamped himself a contender for Saturday's Spring Championship race by roaring to victory in the Monza style feature for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before an estimated 3,700 fans.

Baker scored a first, second and third in the marathon event run in three, ten-mile legs outpointing Glen Rockey, Gordy VanderLaan and Dick Carter by a narrow margin.

Johnny Roberts won the first 20-lap section, but paid the price of running a side-by-side duel with the eventual winner, Rockey, for the lead in the second leg when the bumping sheared a wheel from his race car sidelining him for the rest of the program.

Jimmy Nelson broke the track record with a lap of 24.52 on the half-mile track. Semi-feature race honors went to Bill Rider

George Folk and Gordy Gebben were victorious in the strictly-stock feature events. Gene Vugteveen had the fastest time trial. No time was given.

## Crouch & Anderson Feature Winners

**June 20, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Berlin Raceway held twin 25-lap strictly-stock features on the fifth-mile track Friday night. Mort Anderson won the first feature followed by Frank Archer and Bill TenBrink. Art Crouch won the next feature with Mort Anderson second and Bob Kenny third.

## Johnny Roberts Wins Spring Championship

**June 21, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Warming up for Friday night's big-car racing program, Johnny Roberts of Wheeler roared to victory in the 25-mile spring championship super-modified race on the half-mile track Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before a crowd of approximately 3,800 fans.

Roberts forged his Chevy powered race car around pacesetter Jimmy Nelson on the 17<sup>th</sup> lap of the 50-lap event and lapped the entire 24-car starting field. Bill Wiltse and Johnny Johnson followed Roberts across the finish line.

A lion's share of the large cash purse and an additional \$170 dollars in lap prizes was won by the Wheeler speedster. The winner was followed across the finish line by Bill Wiltse, Johnny Johnson and Neal Burson. The championship classic was marred by accidents that wrecked the cars of Gordy VanderLaan and George Roberts, both escaping serious injury.

Heat race winners were George Roberts, Burson and Junior Shearer of Kalamazoo. Jimmy Nelson set fast time in qualifying with a lap of 24.56.

The amateur strictly-stock car heat races were won by Gordy Gebben and Bob Kenney of Muskegon with Mort Anderson copping the slam-bang 15-lap strictly-stock car feature race. Duane Millheim and Bill Thurkettle finished behind Anderson. Burl Sweera had fast time.

## Alspaugh Wins AARC Sprint Car Feature

**June 27, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – “Little 500” victor Wayne Alspaugh of Anderson, Indiana won the 15-mile sprint-car feature race on the half-mile track at the Berlin Raceway Friday night before a crowd of approximately 4,500 fans. Alspaugh was followed by Johnny Roberts of Wheeler and Pete Folse of Miami, Florida. Bud Tinglestad set fast time of 24.40. The race was sanctioned by All American Racing Club.

The main event was run under caution lights on two occasions when Ken Blank of Dayton, Ohio and Cotton Farmer of Houston, Texas crashed into the concrete retaining wall. Lloyd Lyons of Goshen, Indiana, was hospitalized when his car rolled end-over-end during the semi-feature event.

Heat race winners were Bill Wiltse, Farmer and Alspaugh. Jimmy Nelson of Flint won the trophy dash. Semi-feature race honors went to Dick Carter of Breckenridge. Sports-car event winners were Kelly Tucker, Bill Tuttle and Chris Christensen. Paul DuPres won the feature.

## Rockey Passes Nine To Win At Berlin

**June 28, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Starting tenth in a 24-car lineup, Glen Rockey threaded his powerful supermodified through a fast field to win the 15-lap feature race on the half-mile, Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before an estimated 3,200 fans. Following the Muskegon speedster across the finish line were Bill Wiltse, Johnnie Johnson, Bob Knight, Gordy VanderLaan and Bud Meyering.

A chain reaction four-car crash marred the third heat race hospitalizing Ralph Baker of Saugatuck, Tommy Lane and Ray Flannery of Muskegon. The restarted event

was won by Bill Wiltse. Gus Bray of Muskegon and Meyering captured the other heat race events.

Meyering was declared the winner of the crash-filled abbreviated semi-feature that saw Ed Scott's racer leave the one-half mile track and sever a light pole and Jimmy Rinner spun into the wall. The program's fastest qualifier was Rockey with a 25.46 seconds dash.

The rookie strictly-stock car heat race victors were Art Crouch and Duane Millheim. *(There was no information on feature results.)*

## Rockey Grabs Rain-Delayed Feature

**July 4, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Rain washed out a portion of the Berlin Raceway program Friday night. The rained-out supermodified feature race, wreck-em derby, and part of the fireworks display will be held Saturday night in conjunction with the regular eight-event program. A crowd of 5,000 at the Marne oval Friday saw Jack Smith of Byron Center win the first heat race, Bill Wiltse the second and Glen Rockey of Muskegon the third.

The program's fastest qualifier, Gordy VanderLaan 26.42, was victorious in the dash event.

Glen Rockey won the feature with Dick Carter second and Johnny Johnson third.

\*This feature was postponed by rain and was held Saturday, July 5.

Strictly stock car heat race winners were Duane Cottrell and Del Thurlow. Gordy Gebbens of Muskegon won the pursuit event. Art Crouch set fast time with a time of 16.24. In the 15-feature, Bob Clover was victorious over Doug Lang and Art Crouch.

## Rockey Posts Two Feature Wins

**July 5, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Glen Rockey, starting in the middle

of the 24-car field, roared to two-supermodified feature victories at the Berlin Raceway Saturday night. Rockey took the lead at the five-mile mark in both races and was never headed thereafter. Two features were held because the July 4<sup>th</sup> feature was rained out. Dick Carter finished second in both features, while Johnny Johnson took third in the first feature and Ralph Baker took third in the second feature.

Both main events were run under the caution flag when accidents to Gordy VanderLaan, Eddie VanderLaan, Jack Smith, Norm Brown, Jack Caswell and Bill Cowper of Galesburg blocked the four cornered oval. Gordy VanderLaan and Cowper required hospital attention.

Heat race winners were Jack Sanborn, Carter and Rockey with the programs fastest qualifier, George Roberts with a lap of 25.21, out-dueling Rockey, Wiltse and Baker to cop the dash event. Gus Bray captured the semi-feature.

Rookie strictly stock car heat race honors on the short track went to Art Crouch and Duane Cottrell. Don Moore set fast time. *(There was no information on the feature results.)*

## Last Lap Pass Wins For Alspaugh – AARC Race

**July 11, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Wayne Alspaugh of Anderson, Indiana passed Dick Carter on the last lap to win the 50-lap, 25-mile mid-season AARC (All American Racing Club) sprint-car championship race Friday night at the Berlin Raceway. A crowd of approximately 5,000 people attended.

The championship event saw the lead held by Glen Rockey for the first 13 laps. Bill Wiltse then led until the 34<sup>th</sup> lap when Cotton Farmer forged ahead. Dick Carter raced to the front on the 41<sup>st</sup> lap and held it until the final lap. Bill Wiltse took third place.

Johnny Roberts of Wheeler, who



was running second, spun from the race and out of contention on the 44<sup>th</sup> lap of the event. Roberts set fast time of the night with a 24.61 lap. Heat race winners were Wiltse, Carter and Farmer, who also copped the fast-car dash. Semi-feature race winner was Jack Caswell.

## Johnny Johnson Victorious At Berlin

**July 12, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnnie Johnson drove the A. E. TerHaar Special to victory in the hectic 20-lap supermodified feature race Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before an estimated 3,000 fans. In the 10-mile main event, Harold Ende roared into the lead in the early stages of the race. Top challengers Glen Rockey and Dick Carter caromed off the retaining wall and were eliminated. Ende dropped from the race on the 17<sup>th</sup> lap due to mechanical trouble.

Johnson stormed into the pace-setting role on the 18<sup>th</sup> lap and staved off George Roberts of Wheeler, Ralph Baker of Saugatuck, Bill Wiltse, Wally Sanders and Neil Burson for the win. Heat race winners were Bob Clover of Muskegon, Jimmy Rinner and Ende with Rockey victorious in the dash event. The accident marred semi-feature was won by Burson. Rockey set fast time of 25.42 in time trials.

The slam-bang rookie strictly-stock car main event was won by Gordy Gebbens with Duane Millheim and Bob Deephouse following. Bob Clover and George Folk heat race winners. Don Prince had fast time in time trials.

## Bob Clover Is Victor At Berlin

**July 18, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Clover of Muskegon scored his first strictly-stock car feature win of the season by taking the 20-lap accident-marred feature event at the

Berlin Raceway Friday night. Clover was followed by Elmer Lovett and Doug Lang.

Heat race winners were Jerry Collan, Duane Millheim of Muskegon and Bob Cole. Pursuit honors went to Elmer Lovett, with Collan and Millheim coming back to win the semi-feature events. Ed Bannon set fast time with a lap of 15.45.

## Roberts Takes Mid-Season Championship

**July 19, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Hard charging Johnny Roberts of Wheeler roared to victory in the 25-mile, mid-season championship race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

A crowd of 5,000 saw the defending champion overtake pacesetter Bill Wiltse on the 11<sup>th</sup> lap of the grueling 50-lap event and stave off Johnny Johnson, his brother, George Roberts, Wally Sanders, Ralph Baker and Gordy VanderLaan for the victory and a lion's share of a \$2,600 purse.

Point leader and top favorite in the classic, Glen Rockey of Muskegon was hospitalized when his racer blew a tire and slammed into the retaining wall during the qualifying time trials. Heat race winners were Bud Rider and Johnson with George Roberts victorious in the crash-riddled second heat in which cars driven by Burr Krupp and Chuck Grano were wrecked.

Strictly-stock car heat race honors went to George Folk and Joe VanderKooi with Bob Clover coping the main event. Doug Lang and George Folk followed Clover in the feature. Clover set fast time with a 14.97 lap.

## 7,500 See Les Snow Win MARC New Car Race

**July 25, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Les Snow a giant man with a

baby touch on a steering wheel won the 100-lap late-model stock car feature race sanctioned by Midwest Auto Racing Club (MARC) at Berlin Raceway Friday night before approximately 7,500 spectators.

The biggest crowd of the racing season in West Michigan saw the burly 205-pound Snow, from Bloomington, Illinois, lose the lead twice, then recapture it for first place over Jack Shanklin who finished four-car lengths behind. Snow, driving a light blue 1958 Chevrolet had to thread his way through at least three mix ups in the big 28-car field.

The race was run under the caution flag three times from the 77<sup>th</sup> lap to the 88<sup>th</sup> lap. One three-car pileup in front of the main grandstand spread shattered glass and parts along the first turn. The cars ran under the yellow flag as it was swept up. Finishing behind Snow and Shanklin, a veteran driver from Indianapolis in a '56 Ford convertible, was Dave Hirshfield of Chicago.

Two members of the 500-mile Memorial Day race lineup were in the starting field Friday night, and two other "500" veterans watched from the sidelines.

Jerry Unser, the man who went over the wall at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway during the tragic accident that claimed the life of Pat O'Conner, was in a duel with Snow throughout most of Friday's race. He was penalized a lap, however, for making repairs while under the caution flag and thus was bumped back to second place.

Bill Cheesbourg, another "500" starter, was one of the heat race winners at Marne Friday night, but failed to challenge in the feature. Dick Rathmann, the man who sat on the pole in the "500," attempted to qualify two cars but engine troubles kept him out of the race. Ed Elision, another front row driver, blew an engine during qualifying and was unable to secure another ride.

In addition to Cheesbourg, who hails from Phoenix, Arizona Bob Pronger, driving a '58 Cadillac, captured the checkered flag in

one of the heat races. Bobby James won the fast-car dash in a duel with Snow. Shanklin took the pursuit event.

Unser took over the lead from Snow, who started on the pole, on the 33rd lap. Then Darel Derringer, of Indianapolis, Indiana, took over on lap 50. Snow regained first on the 60th lap and held it the rest of the way.

## Rockey Takes 7th Berlin Feature

**July 26, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Driving a race car completely rebuilt after being wrecked a week ago, Glen Rockey of Muskegon roared to victory in the 20-lap, 10-mile supermodified feature race Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before approximately 3,000 fans.

Starting 11th in a 25-car lineup, Rockey threaded his way through the field forging past leader Neil Burson of Kalamazoo on the 14th lap and won going away. Following the winner were Johnny Roberts and George Roberts of Wheeler, Harold Ende of Holland, Burson, Wally Sanders, Ralph Baker of Saugatuck, Bob Knight, Bill Wiltse and Gordy VanderLaan. VanderLaan outdrove Rockey, Wiltse, and George Roberts on the one-half mile track to cop the fast-car dash with Junior Shearer of Kalamazoo victorious in the semi-feature. Rockey had the fastest time of 26.07 in qualifying time trials.

Heat race winners were Stan Miller of Grand Haven, Carl Busse and Baker.

Ron Cech set fast time of 17.24 on the fifth-mile track for the strictly stock cars. Art Crouch and Elmer Lovett were heat race winners. Ed Bannon won the 15-lap feature followed by Mick Ferguson and Bob Cole.

## Eighth Berlin Feature To Rockey

**August 2, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Glen Rockey, Muskegon driving star, piloted his way to his eighth feature triumph of the season at Berlin Raceway Saturday night. A crowd of approximately 3,600 spectators watched the daring Rockey win his eighth feature race of the season with his triumph in the main event, shortened after an accident.

The main event was halted on the 19th lap when cars driven by Harold Ende of Holland and Bob Knight tangled, sending Knight's racer careening into the parked Gordy VanderLaan car and blocking the one-half mile oval.

Officials reverted all finishing positions to the previous lap with George Roberts of Wheeler given second followed by Knight, Ende, Bill Wiltse, Wally Sanders, Ralph Baker, Dick Seymour, Bud Meyering and Bill Sherman.

Heat race winners were Gus Bray of Muskegon, Jack Beduhn and Wiltse. George Roberts outdrove VanderLaan, Ende and Rockey to win the dash event. Dick Seymour captured the semi-feature. Johnny Johnson set the fast qualifying lap of 24.94.

Bob Clover of Muskegon was victorious in the strictly-stock car feature race which saw Joe VanderKooi flip and roll four times but escaped without injury. Mort Anderson and Gordon Gebbens followed Clover in the feature. Doug Lang and Duane Varney copped the slam-bang heat races. Clover set fast time with a 15.92 lap.

## Johnny Coy Wins USAC Midget Race

**August 8, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Coy staved off a strong challenge by Bob Tattersall of Streeter, Illinois, to win the midget auto feature race of 20-laps on the

half-mile track of Berlin Raceway by less than a car length Friday night, with Willy Wildhaber taking third in a race sanctioned by the United States Auto Club (USAC).

Heat race winners were Tattersall, Coy, and Bernie Wilhelm of Kansas City, Kansas. The fast-car dash event was won by Willy Wildhaber with Tattersall victorious in the pursuit race.

## George Roberts Victor At Berlin

**August 9, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** George Roberts of Wheeler stamped himself a strong contender for next week's state championship race by roaring to victory in the accident marred, 20-lap, ten-mile supermodified feature race Saturday night before an estimated 3,800 fans at the Berlin Raceway. Roberts also claimed fast qualifying time of the night of 24.58.

The hectic main event, in which Norm Brown's racer severed a light pole putting out a portion of the lighting system, saw Ralph Baker of Saugatuck set a blistering early pace until overhauled by Harold Ende of Holland on the 13th lap.

Roberts, seeking his first feature win of the season, stormed into the lead four laps later for the win.

Bill Wiltse was third followed by Johnny Johnson, Chuck Neal of South Haven, Bud Wilson of Dexter, Johnny Roberts, Wally Sanders, Dick Seymour of Kalamazoo, Larry Lavery of Saginaw and Leo Caldwell of Maumee, Ohio. Jack Smith escaped serious injury when his race car crashed into the concrete retaining wall and was demolished.

Heat race winners were Ende, Nolan Johncock of Hastings and Mort Anderson. Fast-car dash honors went to Bill Wiltse with newcomer Bud Wilson copping the semi-feature.

Art Crouch outdrove Bob Deephouse, Doug Lang and a field of 25 to win the accident-riddled 50-lap



mid-season championship race for rookie strictly-stock cars. The event was halted when Al Kline did a sensational flip and roll in front of the grandstand. Kline was not injured. Curly Moody set fast time in time trials of 16.33.

## Elsinger Wins Berlin Sports Car Race

**August 15, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Doug Elsinger won the feature race for sports cars Friday night at the Berlin Raceway. Elsinger, driving an MG-TD finished ahead of Bill Tuttle, driving an Alfa-Romeo, and Chris Christensen who drove an Austin-Healey.

The heat race winners were Kelly Tucker, small sedan class; Elsinger, class A; Paul DuPres, class B; and Tuttle, class C. Approximately 1,000 fans saw the Friday sports car program at the Marne oval.

## Johnny Roberts: Michigan State Championship Winner

**August 16, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Roberts of Wheeler won the 50-lap Berlin Raceway Michigan Championship supermodified crown Saturday night in one of the season's most closely contested races before approximately 5,000 spectators.

The grueling title event, run on the Marne ovals fast, one-half mile track, saw Johnny Johnson, who drove one of the finest races of his career; hold the lead for 43-laps. Johnson held off the challenges of Bill Wiltse, George Roberts, Glen Rockey, Harold Ende and Gordy VanderLaan.

Hard competitive driving sent George Roberts spinning into the infield and out of contention while challenging for the lead on the 21<sup>st</sup> lap. Defending champion, Johnny Roberts forged his powerful race car

around the leader on the 44<sup>th</sup> lap to gain his second consecutive state title event and \$450 first prize.

Following the winner, who was chased to a new 25-mile record, were Rockey, Johnson, Ende, Bud Meyer-ing and Bob Knight.

Heat race winners were Meyer-ing, Johnny Roberts and Neil Burson of Kalamazoo who also copped the accident-marred semi-feature.

Jim Flannery of Muskegon outdrove a 25-car field to win the crash-filled rookie strictly-stock car feature race. Flannery was followed by Mort Anderson and Gordon Gebbens. Curly Moody had the fastest qualifying lap of 15.62.

## Alspaugh Takes Third Sprint Car Win

**August 22, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Wayne Alspaugh demonstrated to West Michigan racing fans for the third time Friday night why he is the #1 driver in the All American Racing Association sprint car standings.

The Anderson, Indiana speedster swept from sixth place to victory in the 30-lap sprint-car feature before approximately 4,200 spectators at Berlin Raceway. It was his third straight Berlin feature triumph. Johnny Roberts had fast qualifying time of 24.46.

Alspaugh, who took over the lead from Johnny Ward on the sixth lap, beat Bill Wiltse of Grand Rapids, Leon Clum of Wapakaneta, Ohio and Jimmy Nelson of Flint. He also shared heat race victory honors with Bud Tinglestad of Dayton, Ohio and Dick Carter of Breckenridge. Glen Rockey of Muskegon won the fast-car dash and Clum took semi-feature honors.

Johnny Roberts, winner of two sprint car races earlier this season, spun out on the fourth turn during the 20<sup>th</sup> lap while challenging the leaders. Rockey went out on the 24<sup>th</sup> lap under similar circumstances.

## Knight Posts 1st Win In 2 Years At Berlin

**August 23, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight roared to victory in the accident-marred, 20-lap 10-mile supermodified feature race Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway, before a crowd of 3,000 fans.

Knight, in scoring his first main event victory in more than two years, forged ahead into the lead on the sixth lap and was never headed. Following the winner across the finish line were Gordy VanderLaan, Glen Rockey of Muskegon, Bud Meyer-ing, Harold Ende of Holland, and Ralph Baker of Saugatuck.

Heat race winners were Wally Sanders, Ende and Johnny Johnson, with Rockey victorious in the fast-car dash event. Johnny Johnson set fast time of 25.13 on the half-mile.

George Roberts was hospitalized when his race car crashed into the concrete retaining wall and rolled down the straightaway.

Strictly-stock car feature race honors went to Gordy Gebbens with Doug Lang second and Mort Anderson third. Heat race winners were Doug Lang and Art Crouch. Norm Gardner set fast time of 16.06 in time trials.

## Knight Wins Two Features In A Row

**August 30, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight, currently the hottest driver at Berlin Raceway, will be seeking to extend his feature wins to three straight on Labor Day at the Marne oval.

Knight captured his second consecutive main event Saturday night at the Berlin Fair windup races, witnessed by an estimated 4,000 fans.

Knight successfully withstood the strong challenges of Glen Rockey of Muskegon, who crashed out of contention on the 17<sup>th</sup> lap of the 20-lap event and Ralph Baker of Saugatuck, who finished less than

a car-length behind the winner. Johnny Johnson, who established a new one lap track record of 24.31 seconds, finished third, followed by Bill Wiltse, Jack Beduhn, Wally Sanders and Gus Bray.

Heat race winners were: Mort Anderson, Wally Sanders, and Glen Rockey, with Johnson victorious in the fast-car dash event.

Strictly-stock feature honors went to Art Crouch, Gordon Gebbens and Doug Lang following him. Bob Clover and Curly Moody were victorious in the heat races. Mort Anderson qualified at 15.38 for quick time of the night.

## Johnson Wins; Nelson Sets Track Record

**September 1, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Darel Derringer of Indianapolis, Indiana, winner of the \$7,000 "Dayton 300" has filed his entry to compete in the "Wolverine 100" race for late-model stock cars Friday at the Berlin Raceway. Derringer will drive a 1957 Ford against many of the country's leading professional race drivers.

Johnny Johnson won the 20-lap supermodified feature race before 5,000 Monday, beating out Glen Rockey, Bob Knight and Jimmy Nelson.

Nelson of Flint set a new one-lap record of 23.95 in the time trials. Heat race winners were Bill Wiltse, Wally Sanders and Burr Krupp. Mort Anderson won the semi-feature and Nelson the dash event.

Bob Clover won the strictly-stock feature. Art Crouch and Jack Ten-Brink followed. Art Crouch had fast qualifying time of the evening with a 15.61 lap. Heat race winners were Bob Clover and Rusty Bayne while Curly Moody captured the fast-car dash and Rusty Bayne was victorious in the pursuit race.

## Jimmy Nelson Victor In Berlin Monza Race

**September 6, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Track record-holder Jimmy Nelson of Flint captured the Second Annual Congressional Cup race for supermodified cars at the Berlin Raceway Saturday before an estimated crowd of 4,000. Nelson roared across the finish line first in two of the three legs of the Monza style feature event. The second leg was won by Wayne Harrington of Kalamazoo, who also took a third place in one of the legs. Each leg was for 15-laps. Bill Wiltse picked up two seconds. Wally Sanders took a third place. Ralph Baker finished second in one leg and Eddie VanderLaan took a third in one leg.

Heat race winners were Wally Sanders, Lee France of Grand Blanc and Gordy VanderLaan.

## Nelson Stacy Takes MARC Race

**September 12, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Nelson Stacy set fast time of 26.64 and then went to win the 50-lap feature over Homer Newland and Paul Wensink. Bob James won three races, the fast-car dash, the pursuit race and a heat race. Bill Cheesbourg took the other heat race.

## Johnny Johnson Wins Championship Trophy

**September 13, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Johnson captured the season championship trophy for supermodified cars by crossing the finish line first in the 50-lap, 25-mile title race Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway with more than 4,000 fans looking on.

The title event that saw the caution flags out for the last three laps, had Johnny Roberts of Wheeler

second, followed by Bill Wiltse, Gordy VanderLaan, George Roberts, Bob Knight, Harold Ende of Holland, Wally Sanders, Jack Beduhn of Grand Rapids and Chuck Neal of South Haven.

Heat race winners were Bill Sherman, Elver Harrington of Kalamazoo and Ende with VanderLaan victorious in the semi-feature.

The large crowd sat stunned when Guy Baxter lost control of his car that careened, catapulted and rolled a distance of more than 300 yards into the infield. Baxter escaped injury.

Art Crouch was the feature winner in the strictly-stock division with Gus Bray second and Mort Anderson third. Gus Bray set the fastest time in time trials of 15.45. Gordon Gebbens and Bob Van Campion won heat races.

## Roberts Berlin Feature Winner Sets New Track Record For 50 Laps

**September 20, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Roberts of Wheeler driving one of the finest races of his sparkling career roared to victory in the 50-lap-Michigan Motor Sweepstakes supermodified feature race Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Roberts overtook pacesetter Jimmy Nelson of Flint on the 28th lap and withstood strong challenges by Nelson, Johnny Johnson and Ralph Baker. Roberts established a new track record of 75.12 mph for the 25-mile distance.

Heat race winners were Bill Wiltse, Wally Sanders, Jack Sanborn and Bill Sherman.

Art Crouch won the strictly-stock car 20-lap feature before 3,000 fans. He was followed by Art Umlor and Don Ward. Heat race winners were Harold Hummel and Al Kline.



## Johnny Johnson Wins Berlin Feature

**September 27, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Johnson set the stage for deciding the Berlin Raceway point championship next week by roaring to victory in the 50-lap supermodified feature race Saturday night before 2,500 fans.

Glen Rockey finished second followed by Bill Sherman, Dale Vischer, Bill Wiltse, Ralph Baker and Johnny Roberts who had fast time of the night at 24.28.

Heat race winners were Ron Sancto of Flint, Jay Hamburg of Kalamazoo and Johnson. Johnny Roberts won the fast-car dash.

Jim Flannery of Muskegon outdrove a field of 30 rookie strictly-stock cars to win the 25-lap season championship main event. Dick Stewart and Bob Clover finished behind Flannery. Gordon Gebbens set fast qualifying time of the night. Heat race winner was Duane Cottrell.

## Baker Wins Berlin Race; Rockey Champ

**October 4, 1958 – Berlin Raceway** – Driving one of his finest races of the season Ralph Baker of Saugatuck wheeled the Jack Falicki Special to victory in the 10-mile supermodified feature race, Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before 2,000 fans.

Baker edged Glen Rockey of Muskegon by a half a car length in capturing the main event.

By virtue of his second place finish, Rockey became the 1958 point

champion. Bud Meyering finished third. Top threat in the point battle to Rockey, Johnny Johnson was eliminated when he was involved in a seven-car wreck in the first heat race.

Heat race winners were Wally Gilleski and Rockey. Dick Carter won the fast-car dash in addition to setting fast qualifying time of 25.24.

Jim Flannery of Muskegon captured the rookie strictly-stock car 20-lap feature race with Art Crouch and Bill McGregor following. Mort Anderson and Art Crouch were victorious in the heat races. Flannery set fast time in qualifying with a 15.47 lap.

## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1958

### Supermodifieds – Strictly Stocks

**April 12, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 13.06—New Track Record**

**Dash winner: Dick Carter**

**Heat winners: Johnny Roberts, Johnny Logan, Bill Wiltse**

**Pursuit winner: Johnny Roberts**

**Semi winner: Jack Beduhn**

**Feature: (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Dick Carter (3) Nolan Johncock (4) Bill Rider (5) Johnny Logan (6) Dale Vischer**

**April 19, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier: Johnny Logan 15.65**

**Dash winner: Johnny Logan**

**Heat winners: Dick Carter, Nolan Johncock, Flip Thompson**

**Pursuit winner: Bill Wiltse**

**Feature: (1) Johnny Logan (2) Flip Thompson (3) Johnny Roberts (4) Buck Havens (5) Dick Carter (6) Jim Born (7) Bill Wiltse (8) Nolan Johncock (9) Frank Fuhr**

**April 26, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 25.10—New Track Record**

**Dash winner: Glen Rockey**

**Heat winners: Dick Carter, Jack Nelson, Buck Havens**

**Pursuit winner: Glen Rockey**

**Semi winner: Buck Havens**

**Feature: (1) Harold Ende (2) Glen Rockey (3) Dick Carter (4) Jimmy Rinner (5) Bill Wiltse (6) Buck Havens (7) Jack Nelson (8) Nolan Johncock (9) Dale Vischer**



Bill Wiltse

Dick Lee Collection

**May 3, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

30 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier: Jimmy Rinner 13.76**

**Dash winner: Jimmy Rinner**

**Heat winners: Glen Rockey, Jack Sanborn, Dave Fryling**

**Pursuit winner: Mort Anderson**

**Semi winner: Jack Sanborn**

**Feature: (1) Glen Rockey (2) Johnny Roberts (3) Bill Rider (4) Jack Nelson (5) Bill Sherman (6) Bud DePau (7) Jack Beduhn (8) Jack Sanborn (9) Gus Bray**

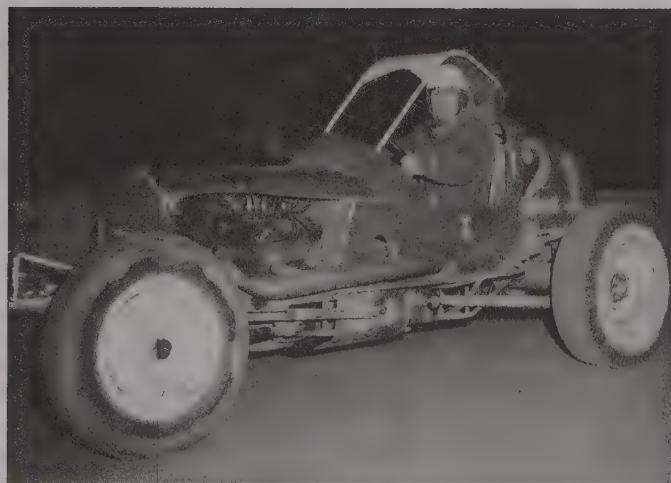
**May 10, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier: Johnny Roberts 25.33**

**Dash winner: Glen Rockey**

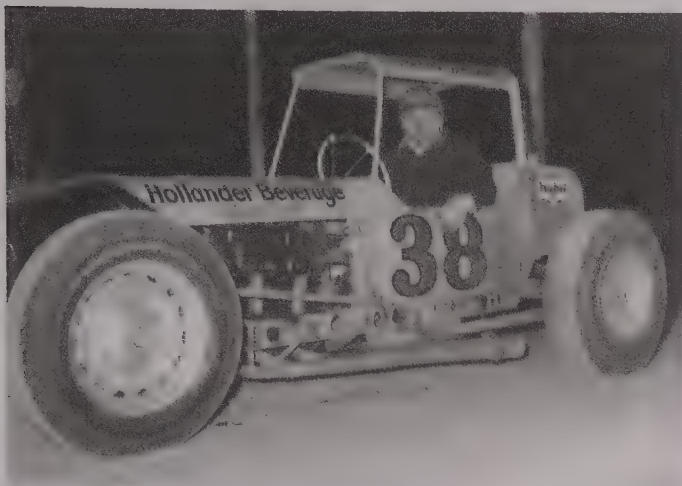
**Heat winners: Bill Wiltse, Wally Sanders, Johnny Johnson**



Glen Rockey

Dick Lee Collection





Ralph Baker

Dick Lee Collection

Pursuit winner: Glen Rockey

Semi winner: Johnny Johnson

**Feature:** (1) Glen Rockey (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Ralph Baker (4) Jack Nelson (5) Jimmy Nelson (6) Harold Ende (7) Johnny Johnson

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Bill TenBrink – no time given

Heat winner: Duane Milheim

**Feature:** (1) Duane Milheim

### May 16, 1958 – Friday – AARC Sprint Cars

35 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bobby Grim 24.40

Dash winner: Arnold Knepper

Heat winners: Cotton Farmer, Jim Hemmings, Arnold Knepper

Semi winner: Johnny Roberts

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Vic Ellis (3) Johnny White

### May 17, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Nelson 26.00

Dash winner: Jack Nelson

Heat winners: Jack Sanborn, Dick Carter, Bill Sherman

Semi winner: Dutch Walters

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Glen Rockey (3) Bill Wiltse

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Mort Anderson – no time given

Heat winner: Mort Anderson

**Feature:** No information given

### May 24, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Johnny Johnson 25.41

\*Rained out before feature.

### May 30, 1958 – Friday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Johnny Roberts 25.54

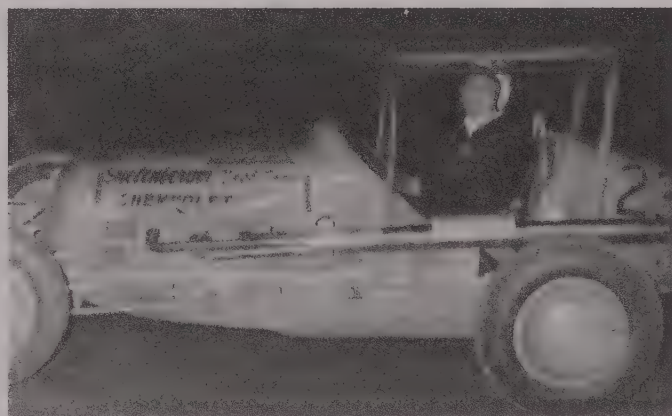
\*Rained out before feature.

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Duane Milheim 15.48

Heat winners: Jim Flannery, Gordon Gebbens

**Feature:** (1) Duane Milheim (2) Norm Gardner (3) Mort Anderson



Dick Carter

Dick Lee Collection

### June 5, 1958 – Thursday – USAC (United States Auto Club) Midgets

25 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: George Amick 23.71

Heat winners: Gene Hartley, Johnny White, George Amick, Cotton Farmer

Pursuit winner: Leroy Warriner

**Feature:** (1) George Amick (2) Buddy Cagle (3) Cotton Farmer

**June 7, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier: Glen Rockey 25.07—New Track Record**

Heat winners: Bud Rider, Gus Bray, Bud Meyering, Ralph Baker

First Semi winner: Harold Ende

Second Semi winner: Junior Shearer

**Rained-out Feature from May 30: (1) Glen Rockey**

**Feature: (1) Dick Carter (2) Glen Rockey (3) Johnny Johnson**

---

**June 14, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

60 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 24.52—New Track Record**

Semi winner: Bill Rider

**Monza Leg 1: (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Gordy VanderLaan (3) Ralph Baker**

**Monza Leg 2: (1) Glen Rockey (2) Ralph Baker (3) Dick Carter**

**Monza Leg 3: (1) Ralph Baker (2) Dick Carter (3) Gordy VanderLaan**

**10 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Gene Vugteveen – No time given

**Two Features Monza Style:**

**1st Feature: (1) George Folk**

**2nd Feature: (1) Gordon Gebbens**

---

**June 20, 1958 – Friday – Strictly Stocks**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**1st Feature: (1) Mort Anderson (2) Frank Archer (3) Bill TenBrink**

**2nd Feature: (1) Art Crouch (2) Mort Anderson (3) Bob Kenny**

---



George Roberts

Dick Lee Collection

**June 21, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 24.56

Heat winners: Neil Burson, Junior Shearer, George Roberts

**Feature: (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Johnny Johnson**

**15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Burl Sweera – no time given

Heat winner: Gordon Gebbens, Bob Kenny

**Feature: (1) Mort Anderson (2) Duane Milheim (3) Bill Thurkettle**

---



Jimmy Nelson

Dick Lee Collection

**June 27, 1958 – Friday – AARC (All American Racing Club) Sprint Cars**

30 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bud Tinglestad 24.40

Trophy Dash winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat winners: Bill Wiltse, Cotton Farmer, Wayne Alspaugh

Semi winner: Dick Carter

**Feature: (1) Wayne Alspaugh (2) Johnny Roberts (3) Pete Folse**

**15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sports Cars**

Fast qualifier: No information available

Heat winners: Kelly Tucker, Bill Tuttle, Chris Christensen, Paul DePres

**Feature: (1) Paul DePres**

**Paul DePres – Clean Sweep Award**

---



### June 28, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

15 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Glen Rockey 25.46

Heat winners: Gus Bray, Bud Meyering, Bill Wiltse

Semi winner: Bud Meyering

**Feature:** (1) Glen Rockey (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Johnny Johnson (4) Bob Knight (5) Gordy VanderLaan (6) Bud Meyering

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: No information available

Heat winners: Art Crouch, Duane Milheim

**Feature:** No information available

### July 4, 1958 – Friday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 26.42

Dash winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat winners: Jack Smith, Bill Wiltse, Glen Rockey

**Feature:** (1) Glen Rockey (2) Dick Carter (3) Johnny Johnson

*(This feature was postponed by rain and was held Saturday, July 5).*

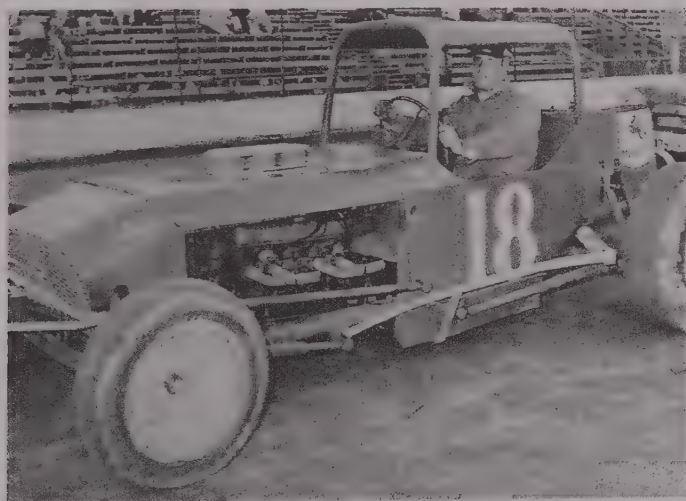
### 15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Art Crouch 16.24

Heat winners: Duane Cottrell, Del Thurlow

Pursuit winner: Gordon Gebbens

**Feature:** (1) Bob Clover (2) Doug Lang (3) Art Crouch



Harold Ende

Dick Lee Collection



Gordy VanderLaan

Dick Lee Collection

### July 5, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: George Roberts 25.21

Dash winner: George Roberts

Heat winners: Jack Sanborn, Dick Carter, Glen Rockey

Semi winner: Gus Bray

**Feature:** (1) Glen Rockey (2) Dick Carter (3) Ralph Baker

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Don Moore – no time given

Heat winners: Art Crouch, Duane Cottrell

**Feature:** No information available

### July 11, 1958 – Friday – AARC (All American Racing Club) Sprint Cars

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Johnny Roberts 24.61

Dash winner: Cotton Farmer

Heat winners: Bill Wiltse, Dick Carter, Cotton Farmer

Semi winner: Jack Caswell

**Feature:** (1) Wayne Alspaugh (2) Dick Carter (3) Bill Wiltse

### July 12, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Glen Rockey 25.42

Dash winner: Glen Rockey

Heat winners: Bob Clover, Jimmy Rinner, Harold Ende

Semi winner: Neil Burson

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Johnson (2) George Roberts (3) Ralph Baker (4) Bill Wiltse (5) Wally Sanders (6) Neil Burson.

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Don Prince – no time given

Heat winners: Bob Clover, George Folk

**Feature:** (1) Gordon Gebbens (2) Duane Milheim  
(3) Bob Deephouse

### July 18, 1958 – Friday – Strictly Stocks

20 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Ed Bannon 15.45

Heat winners: Jerry Callan, Duane Milheim, Bob Cole

Pursuit winner: Elmer Lovett

First Semi winner: Jerry Callan

Second Semi winner: Duane Milheim

**Feature:** (1) Bob Clover (2) Elmer Lovett (3) Doug Lang

### July 19, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

#### Mid-Season Championship

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Top Ten lined up by points

Heat winners: Bud Rider, George Roberts, Johnny Johnson

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Johnny Johnson  
(3) George Roberts (4) Wally Sanders (5) Ralph Baker  
(6) Gordy VanderLaan

### 15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Bob Clover 14.97

Heat winners: George Folk, Joe VanderKooi

**Feature:** (1) Bob Clover (2) Doug Lang (3) George Folk



Wayne Harrington

Dick Lee Collection

### July 25, 1958 – Friday – Midwest Auto Racing Club (MARC) New Cars

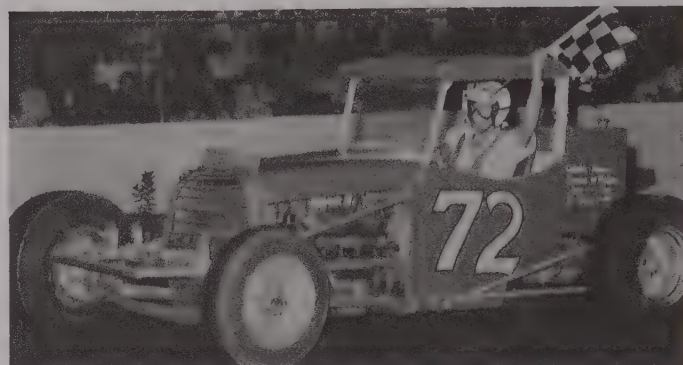
100 laps, half-mile dirt

Heat winners: Bill Cheesborough, Bob Pronger

Dash winner: Bobby James

Pursuit winner: Jack Shanklin

**Feature:** (1) Les Snow (2) Jack Shanklin (3) Dave Hirshfield



Johnny Logan

Dick Lee Collection

### July 26, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Glen Rockey 26.07

Dash winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat winners: Stan Miller, Carl Busse, Ralph Baker

Semi winner: Junior Shearer

**Feature:** (1) Glen Rockey (2) Johnny Roberts  
(3) George Roberts (4) Harold Ende (5) Neil Burson  
(6) Wally Sanders (7) Ralph Baker (8) Bob Knight  
(9) Bill Wiltse (10) Gordy VanderLaan

### 15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Ron Cech 17.24

Heat winners: Art Crouch, Elmer Lovett

**Feature:** (1) Ed Bannon (2) Mick Ferguson (3) Bob Cole

### August 2, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

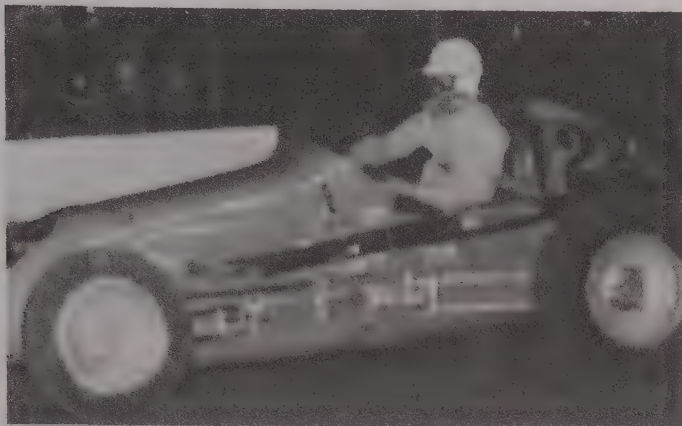
Fast qualifier: Johnny Johnson 24.94

Dash winner: George Roberts

Heat winners: Gus Bray, Jack Beduhn, Bill Wiltse

Semi winner: Dick Seymour





Johnny Roberts

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature:** (1) Glen Rockey (2) George Roberts (3) Bob Knight (4) Harold Ende (5) Bill Wiltse (6) Wally Sanders (7) Ralph Baker (8) Dick Seymour (9) Bud Meyering (10) Bill Sherman

### 15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Bob Clover 15.92

Heat winners: Doug Lang, Duane Varney

**Feature:** (1) Bob Clover (2) Mort Anderson (3) Gordon Gebbens

### August 8, 1958 – Friday – USAC (United States Auto Club) Midgets

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: No information available

Dash winner: Willy Wildhaber

Heat winners: Bob Tattersall, Johnny Coy, Bernie Wilhelm

Pursuit winner: Bob Tattersall

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Coy (2) Bob Tattersall (3) Willy Wildhaber

### August 9, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: George Roberts 24.58

Dash winner: Bill Wiltse

Heat winners: Harold Ende, Nolan Johncock, Mort Anderson

Semi winner: Bud Wilson

**Feature:** (1) George Roberts (2) Harold Ende (3) Bill Wiltse (4) Johnny Johnson (5) Chuck Neal (6) Bud Wilson (7) Johnny Roberts (8) Wally Sanders (9) Dick Seymour (10) Larry Lavery (11) Leo Caldwell

### 50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Curly Moody 16.33

**Feature:** (1) Art Crouch (2) Bob Deephouse (3) Doug Lang

### August 15, 1958 – Friday – Sports Cars

Heat winners: Kelly Tucker, Doug Elsinger, Bill Tuttle, Paul DePres

**Feature:** (1) Doug Elsinger (2) Bill Tuttle (3) Chris Christensen

### August 16, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: No information available

Heat winners: Bud Meyering, Johnny Roberts, Neil Burson

Semi winner: Neil Burson

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Glen Rockey (3) Johnny Johnson (4) Harold Ende (5) Bud Meyering (6) Bob Knight

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Curly Moody 15.62

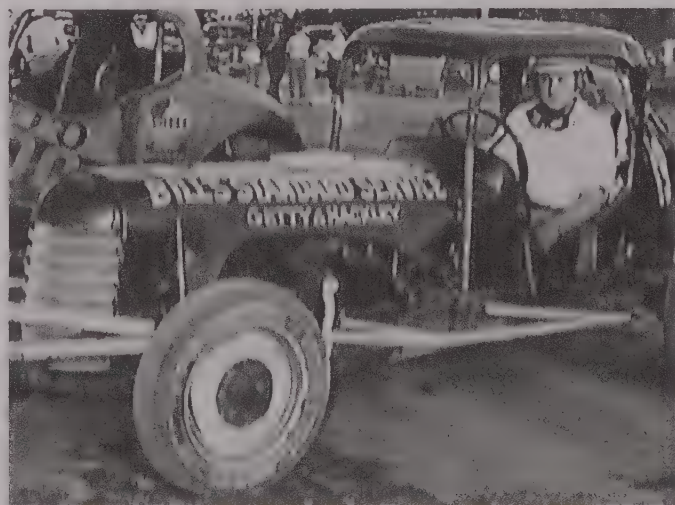
**Feature:** (1) Jim Flannery (2) Mort Anderson (3) Gordon Gebbens

### August 22, 1958 – Friday – AARC (All American Racing Club) Sprint Cars

30 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Johnny Roberts 24.46

Dash winner: Glen Rockey



Bob Clover

Dick Lee Collection



Bobby Grim

Dick Lee Collection

Heat winners: Wayne Alspaugh, Bud Tinglestad, Dick Carter

Semi winner: Leon Clum

**Feature:** (1) Wayne Alspaugh (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Leon Clum (4) Jimmy Nelson

---

### August 23, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Johnny Johnson 25.13

Dash winner: Glen Rockey

Heat winners: Wally Sanders, Harold Ende, Johnny Johnson

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Gordy VanderLaan (3) Glen Rockey (4) Bud Meyering (5) Harold Ende (6) Ralph Baker

### 15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Norm Gardner 16.06

Heat winners: Doug Lang, Art Crouch

**Feature:** (1) Gordon Gebbens (2) Doug Lang (3) Mort Anderson

---

### August 30, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Johnny Johnson 24.31 New Track Record

Dash winner: Johnny Johnson

Heat winners: Mort Anderson, Wally Sanders, Glen Rockey

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Ralph Baker (3) Johnny Johnson (4) Bill Wiltse (5) Jack Beduhn (6) Wally Sanders (7) Gus Bray

### 15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Mort Anderson 15.38

Heat winners: Bob Clover, Curly Mood

**Feature:** (1) Art Crouch (2) Gordon Gebbens (3) Doug Lang

---

### September 1, 1958 – Monday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Jimmy Nelson 23.95 New Track Record

Dash winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat winners: Bill Wiltse, Wally Sanders, Burr Krupp

Semi winner: Mort Anderson

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Johnson (2) Glen Rockey (3) Bob Knight (4) Jimmy Nelson

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Art Crouch 15.61

Dash winner: Curly Moody

Heat winners: Bob Clover, Rusty Bayne

Pursuit winner: Rusty Bayne

**Feature:** (1) Bob Clover (2) Art Crouch (3) Jack TenBrink

---



Les Snow

Dick Lee Collection



**September 6, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

45 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: No Time Trials – draw for position

Heat winners: Wally Sanders, Lee France, Gordy VanderLaan

**Monza Feature (Leg 1):** (1) Jimmy Nelson (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Wally Sanders

**Monza Feature (Leg 2):** (1) Wayne Harrington (2) Ralph Baker (3) Eddie VanderLaan

**Monza Feature (Leg 3):** (1) Jimmy Nelson (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Wayne Harrington

---

**September 12, 1958 – Friday – MARC**

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Nelson Stacy 26.64

Dash winner: Bob James

Heat winners: Bob James, Bill Cheesbourg

Pursuit winner: Bob James

**Feature:** (1) Nelson Stacy (2) Homer Newland (3) Paul Wensink

---

**September 13, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

**Season Championship**

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Top Ten lined up by points

Heat winners: Harold Ende, Bill Sherman, Elver Harrington

Semi-feature winner: Gordy VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Johnson (2) Johnny Roberts (3) Bill Wiltse (4) Gordy VanderLaan

(5) George Roberts (6) Bob Knight (7) Harold Ende (8) Wally Sanders (9) Jack Beduhn (10) Chuck Neal

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Gus Bray 15.45

Heat winners: Gordon Gebbens, Bob Van Campion

**Feature:** (1) Art Crouch (2) Gus Bray (3) Mort Anderson

---

**September 20, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Johnny Roberts 24.61

Heat winners: Bill Wiltse, Wally Sanders, Jack Sanborn, Bill Sherman

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Jimmy Nelson (3) Johnny Johnson

**20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Art Crouch – no time given

Heat winners: Harold Hummel, Al Kline

**Feature:** (1) Art Crouch (2) Art Umlor (3) Don Ward

---

**September 27, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Johnny Roberts 24.28

Dash winner: Johnny Roberts

Heat winners: Johnny Johnson, Ron Lancto, Jay Hamburg

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Johnson (2) Glen Rockey (3) Bill Sherman (4) Dale Vischer (5) Bill Wiltse (6) Ralph Baker (7) Johnny Roberts

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Gordon Gebbens – no time given

Heat winner: Duane Cottrell

**Feature:** (1) Jim Flannery (2) Dick Stewart (3) Bob Clover

---

**October 4, 1958 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 25.24

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Glen Rockey, Wally Gileske

**Feature:** (1) Ralph Baker (2) Glen Rockey (3) Bud Meyering

**20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Jim Flannery 15.47

Heat winner: Mort Anderson, Art Crouch

**Feature:** (1) Jim Flannery (2) Art Crouch (3) Bill McGregor

---

# Berlin Raceway Points 1958

SUPERMODIFIED POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Glen Rockey	71	9	4	4	1	
2	Johnny Roberts	50	7	4	1		
3	Johnny Johnson	42	4	4	1	1	
4	Bill Wiltse	36			1		
5	Ralph Baker	31	2				
6	Dick Carter	28	1	2	2	1	
7	George Roberts	20	1	2	2		
8	Bob Knight	18	2				
9	Jimmy Nelson	17	2	4	1	3	
10	Harold Ende	16	1				
11	Gordy VanderLaan	14		1	2		
12	Wayne Harrington	8	1				
13	Johnny Logan	6	1	1	1		
14	Bud Meyering	6					
	Wally Sanders	6					
16	Bill Rider	5					
17	Jack Nelson	4		1	1		
18	Flip Thompson	4					
	Bill Sherman	4					
20	Nolan Johncock	3					
	Eddie VanderLaan	3					
22	Jimmy Rinner	2		1	1		
23	Buck Havens	2					
	Dale Visher	2					
25	Jack Beduhn	1					
	Neil Burson	1					
	Chuck Neal	1					



# Berlin Raceway — Supermodifieds (Dirt), 1958-1965

## 1958 STRICTLY STOCK POINTS

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
2	Mort Anderson	31	2	2			
3	Bob Clover	28	5	2			
4	Gordon Gebbens	25	3	1			
5	Doug Lang	21					
6	Duane Milheim	18	2	1			
7	Jim Flannery	15	3				
8	George Folk	8	1				
9	Bob Deephouse	7					
10	Ed Bannon	5	1	1			
11	Gus Bray	4		1			
	Norm Gardner	4		1			
13	Mick Ferguson	4					
	Art Umlor	4					
	Elmer Lovett	4					
	Dick Stewart	4					
	Frank Archer	4					
18	Bill TenBrink	3		1			
19	Jack TenBrink	3					
	Don Ward	3					
	Bill Thurkettle	3					
	Bob Kenny	3					
	Bob Cole	3					
	Bill McGregor	3					
25	Curly Moody	0		2	1		
26	Gene Vugteveen	0		1			
	Burl Sweera	0		1			
	Don Prince	0		1			
	Don Moore	0		1			
	Ron Cech	0		1			

## Berlin Raceway Media 1959

### Jimmy Born Wins Berlin Opener

**April 18, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Jimmy Born of Kalamazoo won opening night honors in the super modified races at Berlin raceway Saturday night.

A new track standard was established by George Roberts of Wheeler who whirled around the half-mile circuit in 23.77 seconds, erasing the record of 23.93 set by Jimmy Nelson last season. The new record is 79.88 miles an hour.

Born, winning his first feature race at the Marne track, seized the lead early in the race, lost it to Johnny Johnson. Born regained the lead and withstood the challenge of Bob Knight for victory. Following Born and Knight were Johnny Logan, Bob Clover, Gus Bray, Gordon Johncock, Sam Sessions, Frank Fuhr, Wally Galeski and Nolan Johncock.

Fast-car dash honors went to Dick Carter with heat race wins to Bob Clover, Dick Carter and Ralph Baker.

Art Crouch picked up the feature victory in the 15-lap strictly stock car division followed by Bob Arthur, Dick Stewart, Ron Schipper, John Tafel, Don Ward, Dick Peck, Bob Deephouse and Joe Castle. Heat winners were Bob Deephouse and Dick Peck. Art Crouch took the fast-car dash with Joe Castle taking fast time with a lap of 14.59.

### Dick Carter Blasts To Berlin Win

**May 2, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Dick Carter of Breckenridge roared to victory in the 20-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin raceway.

In celebrating his biggest night this year, Carter, starting ninth in a 20-car lineup, overtook Lee France of Grand Blanc on the 13<sup>th</sup> lap of the

10-mile main event and staved off France, Glen Rockey, Bud Meyering, Bob Knight and Elver Harrington for the win.

The race card was marred by an accident that saw Jack Sanborn crash into the retaining wall. He was hospitalized. Heat race winners were Gordon Johncock of Hastings and Bud Meyering with Johnny Logan victorious in the semi-feature. Carter also set fast time of 24.33 in qualifying and won the fast-car dash.

Bob Arthur outdrove a fast field to win the strictly-stock car feature race. Arthur was followed by Duane Varney, Doug Persian, Gordon Anderson and Dick Peck. Heat race winners were Dick Peck, Harvey Redder and Duane Varney. Art Crouch was the fast-car dash winner with Ken Miller setting fast qualifying time of 14.45. A special dash race was won by Doug Lane.

### Born Captures Second Berlin Feature

**May 9, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Hard charging Jimmy Born of Kalamazoo won the accident marred, 20-lap, 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

In capturing his second main event in three starts, Born finished a scant car length ahead of Bud Meyering and Bob Knight of Grand Rapids, Norm Brown of Rockford, Elver Harrington of Kalamazoo, Chuck Neal, Don Delduca of Flint, Glen Rockey of Muskegon Frank Fuhr of Hastings and Bob Clover of Muskegon.

The caution flag was out on the sixth lap when Duane Knoll of Muskegon crashed into the concrete retaining wall but was not injured.

Gordy VanderLaan set fast time in qualifying with a lap of 24.55 and went on to capture the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Don House,

Chuck Neal and Jim Born. Chuck Neal took the semi-feature.

The strictly-stock feature was won by Bob Deephouse, followed by Dick Peck, Norm Utting, Duane Varney, Art Umlor, Ron Sievers, John Tafel, Rusty Bayne, Don Ward and Butch Hulbert.

Heat races were won by Herman TenBrink, Norm Utting and Duane Varney. Ray Shindelacker captured the fast-car dash while Bob Arthur set fast time of 14.65 in time trials.

### Bud Meyering Wins Crash-Filled Feature

**May 16, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Yellow caution lights brought out by the spinning cars of Johnny Logan, Norm Brown and Sam Sessions, the loss of a wheel by Don Delduca and the burning car of Ralph Baker marred the supermodified feature race Saturday night at the Berlin raceway.

Bud Meyering drove to victory warding off Glen Rockey, Bob Knight, Lee France, Jim Born, Ralph Baker, Nolan Johncock, Mort Anderson, Gus Bray and Wally Galeski for his first win of the season in the 20-lap feature.

Dick Carter set fast time of 25.67 and went on to take the fast-car dash win. Heat race winners were Mort Anderson, Glen Rockey and Lee France and Rockey winning the semi-feature.

Bob Clover took the strictly-stock feature followed by John Tafel, Norm Utting, Doug Persian, Duane Varney, Don Ward, Ron Sweeris, Art Crouch, Rusty Bayne and Al Kline.

Heat race winners were Dick Stewart, Duane Varney and Bob Clover. Art Crouch set fast time of 15.32 and went on to win the fast-car dash.



## Born Returns To Victory Lane At Berlin

**May 29, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Jim Born picked off another feature win in the supermodified division on Berlin's half-mile track. Following Born was Ralph Baker, Lee France, Gordy VanderLaan, Bill Sherman, Bud Meyering, Johnny Logan, Norm Brown, Mort Anderson and Wayne Harrington.

Harrington also won the semi-feature and a heat race. Mort Anderson and Ralph Baker also captured heat races. Gordy VanderLaan won the fast-car dash as well as set fast time with a lap of 24.39.

The strictly-stock car feature was won by Norm Utting who also won a heat race. Finishing behind Utting were Don Ward, Art Umlor, Art Crouch, Doug Persian, George Folk, Dick Stewart, Al McNee, Rusty Bayne and Myron Croel. Other heat race winners were Bob Deephouse and Art Umlor. Joe Castle set fast time with a lap at 15.44 and went on to win the fast-car dash.

## Born & VanderLaan Win

**June 6, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Berlin Raceway held twin supermodified features with Jim Born taking the first feature with Lee France, Gordy VanderLaan, Johnny Roberts, Bud Meyering, Bob Knight, Ralph Baker, Glen Rockey, Bill Sherman and Eddie VanderLaan following.

The second feature was won by Gordy VanderLaan with Jim Born, Lee France, Bud Meyering, Glen Rockey, Dick Carter, Mort Anderson, Johnny Johnson, Eddie VanderLaan and Flip Thompson following. Thompson also won the semi-feature.

The strictly-stock cars also ran a double feature. Curly Moody took the checkered flag first with Bob Deephouse, Art Crouch, Jim Flannery, Gordon Anderson, Don Ward,

Elmer Lovett, John Cook, Doug Lane and Norm Utting following.

Curly Moody continued his winning ways by winning the second feature followed by Norm Utting, Art Crouch, Gordon Anderson, Doug Lang, Doug Persian, Elmer Lovett, Rusty Bayne, Don Ward and Jim Van Duren.

Mort Anderson won the semi-feature.

## Bob James Winner In MARC Race

**June 12, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob James of Akron, Ohio Friday night, for the second time this season, gained a narrow victory over Don White of Keokuk, Iowa in the late-model stock car racing feature at Berlin raceway. James led all the way in the feature and also won the pursuit race.

Ralph Baker of Saugatuck finished third in the feature and Glen Rockey of Muskegon tenth.

Heat race winners were Dave Hirshfield and Bob Pronger, both of Chicago.

## Roberts Cops Berlin Race

**June 13, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Roberts of Wheeler stormed to victory in the 20-lap, 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Roberts overtook leader Lee France on the 16<sup>th</sup> lap. Following France were Jim Born, Bud Meyering, Bill Wiltse, Bill Sherman, Bob Knight, Gordy VanderLaan and Ralph Baker. Heat race winners were Gus Bray, Wally Sanders, France and Bill Wiltse.

Wiltse set fast time of 25.03 and won the fast-car dash. Semi-feature winner was Dan Bryant.

Doug Lang won the strictly-stock feature followed by John Tafel, Norm Utting, Art Crouch, Mort Anderson,

George Folk, Ray Shineldecker, Doug Persian, Al McNee and Don Ward.

Bob Deephouse was fastest in time trials with a lap of 15.05 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were George Folk, Don Ward and Joe Castle. Dick Stewart won the semi-feature.

## Rex Easton Injured; Jud Larson Wins

**June 19, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Rex Easton, 45, Springfield, Illinois, veteran of Indianapolis 500-mile racing, Saturday was battling for his life at St. Mary's Hospital after suffering internal and possible head injuries in a five-car pileup Friday night in the feature race of the Berlin Raceway's program for USAC – United States Auto Club sprint cars.

Easton's condition was reported as "fair" by hospital officials Saturday afternoon, but he was slipping back into unconsciousness from time to time after being brought to the emergency ward unconscious Friday night. Hospital officials said his condition at times was near the critical stage.

His car rolled over four times after vaulting the racer of Jim McWithey, of Anderson, Indiana whose powerful machine spun out of control in the third turn of the third lap of the 15-mile feature race on the half-mile dirt track.

In vaulting the McWithey car, Easton's racer started to flip end-over-end, then rolled over four times. His shoulder harness broke and the 24-year veteran of racing was pitched onto the hood of the battered machine which wound up on its wheels.

Easton was Midwest midget champ in 1954 and 1958. The 5-9, 190-pounder and his wife, Helen, have two daughters, Marlene, 16, and Connie, 9.

He started his racing career in midgets at Chicago in 1935. Other drivers whose cars were knocked out of the race in the pile-up were:

Tommy Hinnershitz of Oley, Pennsylvania; Leon Clum of Akron, Ohio and Bobby Grim, Indianapolis, Indiana, the 1959 "Rookie-of-the-Year" at the big 500-miler.

The crackup was the second this week for Easton, who was driving with ribs heavily taped from a pileup last Sunday in Langhorn, Pennsylvania.

Winner of the feature race and a purse of \$1,395 was Jud Larson of Tampa, Florida.

Johnny Roberts of Wheeler finished second, Don Branson of Champaign, Illinois third, AJ Foyt fourth, Bud Tinglestad fifth, Van Johnson sixth, Ed Elisian seventh, Joe Barzdo eighth, and Dick Carter ninth.

Larson had the fastest time in qualifying with a lap of 23.71. Heat winners were Jud Larson, Rex Easton, and Joe Barzdo. Leon Clum took the semi-feature.

## Roberts Tops Berlin Field

### June 20, 1959 – Berlin Raceway

– Wheeler's Johnny Roberts scored his second straight supermodified main event Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Dick Carter followed in second, Bob Knight third, Ralph Baker fourth, Bill Wiltse fifth, Norm Brown sixth, Bill Sherman seventh, Jim Born eighth, Gordy VanderLaan ninth, and Lee France tenth.

Dick Carter set fast qualifying time of 24.63. Fast-car dash winner was Bill Sherman. Heat race winners were Gus Bray, Norm Brown and Bob Knight. Frank Fuhr took the win in the semi-feature.

Doug Lang captured the strictly-stock 15-lap feature, followed by Mort Anderson, Gordon Anderson, Jim Flannery, Ray Shineldecker, Jim Van Duren, Curly Moody, Duane Milhiem, Bob Deephouse and Dick Stewart. Heat race winners were George Folk, Art Crouch and Gordon Anderson. Joe Castle set quick time with a lap of 14.66 and Doug Lang took the win in the fast-car dash.

## Anderson Takes Stock Car Win

### June 24, 1959 – Berlin Raceway

– Mort Anderson started off the day by setting fast time with a lap of 14.31 and then won the fast-car dash. Anderson went on to take the victory in the 15-lap feature followed by Bob Clover, Erv Atkinson, Doug Lang, Curly Moody Jay Crouch, Ray Shineldecker, Dick Stewart, Art Crouch and Don Ward.

Heat race winners were Doug Persian, Curly Moody and Doug Lang. Curly Moody took the victory in the semi-feature.

Go-Karts took to the track next with Duane Bellmer setting fast time along with winning one of the heat races. Other heat race winners were Chuck Irwin and Charles Thomas. Bellmer won the 20-lap feature race with Bob Land finishing second.

## Johnny Roberts Three In A Row

### June 27, 1959 – Berlin Raceway

– Johnny Roberts of Wheeler roared to victory in the 20-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Roberts was followed by Bill Wiltse, Bud Meyer-ing, Dick Carter, Bob Knight, Ralph Baker, Bill Sherman, Norm Brown, Gordy VanderLaan and Gus Bray. Roberts became the first driver this season to capture three consecutive main events on the Marne oval's one-half mile track by overtaking race leader Bob Knight on the eighth lap.

Heat race winners were Bill Wiltse, Johnny Roberts, and Gordy VanderLaan with the programs' fastest qualifier, Dick Carter, victorious in the fast-car dash event.

Jim Flannery of Muskegon emerged the winner of the strictly-stock car main event followed by Mort Anderson, Norm Utting, Curly Moody, Duane Millheim, Ray Shineldecker, Don Ward, George Folk, Doug Lang and Art Crouch.

Heat race winners were Doug Persian, Mort Anderson, Rusty Bayne and George Folk. John Tafel set fast time of 15.04 and won the fast-car dash.

## Roberts Captures Fourth Win In A Row

### July 4, 1959 – Berlin Raceway

– The holiday racing program at the Berlin Raceway Saturday night was halted when showers prevented the running of the concluding supermodified main event. The feature was run on July 11<sup>th</sup> with the results that Johnny Roberts won followed by Eddie VanderLaan, Ralph Baker, Bill Wiltse, Gordy VanderLaan, Glen Rocky, Bud Meyer-ing, Lee France, Wally Sanders and Johnny Logan.

Gordy VanderLaan, the fastest qualifier in the supermodifieds, won the fast-car dash. Bud Meyer-ing, Frank Fuhr, Jim Born and Ralph Baker won heat races.

Norm Utting outlasted a strong field to win the strictly-stock car feature race. Following Utting were Duane Milhiem, Rusty Bayne, Doug Lang, Art Crouch, Eugene Vugteveen, Jim Flannery, Doug Persian, Tom Chapman Jr. and Mort Anderson.

Heat winners were Don Moore, Joe Castle, Duane Milhiem and Sam Sessions. Doug Lang set fast qualifying time of 14.51 and won the fast-car dash.

Bob Land captured the main event in the Go-Kart competition. Fast qualifier in class A was Orlo Walden. Class B fast qualifier was Bob Land with a lap of 15.89. Heat race winners were Orlo Walden and Bob Land.

## Mort Anderson Takes Berlin Stock Win

### July 8, 1959 – Berlin Raceway

– Mort Anderson picked up another strictly-stock feature winning the 15-lap race followed by Doug Lang,



Norm Utting, Eugene Vugteveen, Don Ward, Rusty Bayne, Clarence Town, Ray Shindeldecker, Ken Dykman and Al McNee.

Joe Castle set fast time of 14.48 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Mort Anderson and Norm Utting won the heat races.

Sports cars ran 15-lap features for three classes. The A feature was won by Kelly Tucker. The

B feature went to Chris Christensen and the C feature was also won by Christensen. Fast time went to Chuck Wolbrink with a lap of 30.46.

The Go-Karts ran a 15-lap feature with Bob Land winning followed by Frank Van Dam, Bob Schell, Duane Bellmer, Orlo Walden, Don Ward, Dick Blum, Stan Moore, Martin Amma and Bud Burmeister. Bob Land ran a lap of 15.31 for fast time and heat race winners were Stan Moore, Orlo Walden and Bob Shell.

## Roberts Takes Another Berlin Feature

**July 11, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Roberts of Wheeler roared to victory in the 25-mile midseason championship race for supermodifieds Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

Roberts, who finished a car length ahead of Ralph Baker, of Saugatuck, in the 50-lap event, was followed by Bill Wiltse, Gordy VanderLaan, Johnny Logan, Mort Anderson, Eddie VanderLaan, Dan Bryant, Jack Smith and Flip Thompson who also won the semi-feature.

The strictly-stock cars ran two 25-lap features with Mort Anderson winning both of them.

In the first feature Anderson was followed by Norm Utting, Art Crouch, Jim Flannery, Doug Lang, Dick Stewart, Ray Shindeldecker, Rusty Bayne, Ken Sutton and Curly Moody.

In the second feature Anderson was followed by Norm Utting, Ray Shindeldecker, Jim Flannery, Art Crouch, Dick Stewart, Doug Lang,

Rusty Bayne, Curly and George Folk. Winner of the semi-feature was Ron Sweeris.

## Gordy VanderLaan Breaks Winning Streak Of Roberts

**July 18, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Gordy VanderLaan won the 25-lap supermodified feature race at Berlin Raceway Saturday night breaking the winning streak of Johnny Roberts. Following VanderLaan was Ralph Baker, Bill Wiltse, Jim Born, John Porter, Johnny Logan, Gus Bray, Frank Fuhr, Mort Anderson and Bob Knight.

Mort Anderson set fast time and won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Larry Lavery, Don Porter and Ralph Baker. Don Porter won the semi-feature.

Bob Clover took the 15-lap strictly-stock car feature followed by Rusty Bayne, Duane Milhiem, Art Crouch, Doug Persian, Kenny Knoll, Al McNee, Ron Sweeris, George Folk and Dick Stewart. Heat race winners were Don Ward, Al McNee and Jim Flannery. Fast qualifier was Flip Thompson with a lap of 15.44 and Eugene Vugteveen winning the fast-car dash.

## Wiltse Captures 100 Lap Race

**July 25, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – The 50-mile Michigan State Championship race for supermodifieds was captured by Bill Wiltse Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. The race was run in two separate races of 50-laps each. Wiltse won both features.

The first feature that Wiltse won had Jim Born, Johnny Logan, Norm Brown, Bob Knight, Bud Wilson, Bill Sherman, Lee France, Bob Clover, Dan Bryant and Wally Sanders finishing behind him.

The second feature that Wiltse won had Jim Born, Johnny Logan,

Bob Knight, Bus Wilson, Bill Sherman, Lee France, Bob Clover, Dan Bryant and Wally Sanders following behind him.

Eddie VanderLaan set fast time on Berlin's half-mile with a 24.46 lap.

In the 15-lap strictly-stock feature John Tafel captured the checkered flag with Art Crouch, Flip Thompson, Norm Utting, Jim Flannery, Doug Persian, George Folk, Eugene Vugteveen, Duane Milhiem and Ray Shindeldecker following. Fast qualifier was Doug Lang who also won the fast-car dash. Heat races were won by Don Ward, Duane Milhiem and John Tafel.

## Roberts Roars To Sixth Feature

**August 1, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Stock car racing in the Grand Rapids area Saturday night injured three drivers, sending two to Butterworth hospital where they were reported as "responding well" Monday afternoon.

The mishaps occurred at the Speedrome track in Comstock Park and the Berlin Raceway at Marne. Injured were brothers Fred and Bill Wiltse and the veteran Ted Otten. Bill Wiltse suffered a gashed nose in racing at Berlin when he was struck by a flying stone from the track. He received three stitches and was released from Butterworth.

Johnny Roberts of Wheeler added to his string of wins at Berlin by roaring to victory in the 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds. Roberts gained his main event victory by staving off Glen Rockey of Muskegon, and Johnny Logan of Charlotte. Norm Brown, Gordy VanderLaan, Bill Sherman, Ralph Baker, Eddie VanderLaan, Bud Meyering and Jim Born followed.

Gordy VanderLaan set fast time with a lap of 24.36 and followed it up with a win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Dick Carter, Duane Knoll and Johnny Roberts.

Duane Knoll won the consolation race.

Art Crouch picked up the checkered flag for winning the 20-lap strictly-stock car feature. He was followed by Bob Deephouse, Jim Flannery, Doug Lang, Ray Shindelacker, Don Ward, John Tafel, Kenny Knoll, Dick Stewart and Bob Estelle.

Doug Lane qualified with a lap of 14.54 to set fast time. Lang then followed that up with a win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Al McNee, Bob Deephouse and Flip Thompson.

## Norm Brown Wins First Berlin Feature

**August 8, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – In his second year of competition, Norm Brown of Rockford scored his first major win by roaring to victory in the 10-mile supermodified feature race Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before 2,348 fans.

Brown successfully stood off the challenges of Gordy VanderLaan and Johnny Roberts in the 20-lap event on the Marne oval's one-half mile track to cap a program that saw \$851 go to the Ottawa County emergency polio fund.

Following the trio of leaders were Bill Wiltse, Ralph Baker, Jim Born, Bud Meyering, Bob Knight, Eddie VanderLaan and Bill Sherman. Johnny Roberts set fast time of 23.94 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Dan Bryant, Duane Knoll and Glen Rockey. Bill Wiltse won the consolation race.

Mort Anderson took the 20-lap feature win in the strictly-stock car division. Anderson was followed by Art Crouch, Bob Deephouse, Flip Thompson, Doug Lang, Norm Utting, Herman TenBrink, Ron Sweeris, Don Ward and Leroy Van Vleet.

Doug Lang set fast time for the night with a lap of 14.59 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Rusty Bayne, Harvey

Redder and Mort Anderson. The consolation race victor was Rusty Bayne.

## Glen Rockey Paces Berlin Feature

**August 22, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Glen Rockey outdrove a lineup of the 21 fastest qualifiers to win the 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

The defending track champion gained his first main event victory of the season by forging his newly acquired car around race leader, Ralph Baker of Saugatuck at the half way mark and was never headed. Jimmy Born was third and Dick Carter fourth. Following were Gordy VanderLaan, Bud Meyering, Eddie VanderLaan, Lee France, Bill Sherman and Jack Caswell.

Heat race winners were Baker, Carter and Duane Knoll who also captured the semi-feature. The programs fastest qualifier, Gordy VanderLaan, won the special match race and Carter was victorious in the dash event.

Mort Anderson of Greenville emerged the winner of the strictly-stock car feature race. Anderson was followed by Bob Deephouse, Art Crouch, Duane Milhiem, Harvey Redder, Ron Sweeris, John Tafel, Herman TenBrink, Kenny Knoll and Tony Vrablic.

Anderson also set fast time of 14.51 and won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Duane Milhiem, Rocky Davis and Flip Thompson who also won the semi-feature.

## Monza Style Program To Glen Rockey

**August 29, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Glen Rockey of Muskegon was at his best in winning the 45-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Rockey started the even off by setting fast time with a lap of 24.40.

The main event, run Monza style in three legs, saw Rockey capture his second consecutive feature race by crossing the finish line first in each of the 15-lap sections on the one-half-mile track. The event was halted on the twenty-fourth lap by two accidents. Jim Born of Kalamazoo was rushed to St. Mary's hospital after his car rolled and vaulted over the concrete retaining wall. A fiery three-car crash saw Dan Bryant, Curly Moody and Mort Anderson escape serious injury.

The strictly-stock car feature was split up into two legs. Rusty Bayne picked up the first race with Harvey Redder and Mike Mankin chasing him. The second race was won by Mort Anderson with Mike Mankin and Harvey Redder following.

John Tafel won the consolation race. Mort Anderson had fast time of 14.32.

## Bob Knight Wins First Feature Of The Year

**September 5, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran Bob Knight warmed up for the Labor Day program at the Berlin Raceway by roaring to victory in the 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night. Using a new engine for the first time, Knight gained his first main event of the season by staving off the driving efforts of Jim Born of Kalamazoo, Dick Carter, Bill Sherman and Gordy VanderLaan, Johnny Johnson, Glen Rockey, Bud Meyering, Ralph Baker and Jim Flint.

Heat race winners were Ben Kieff and Curly Moody (in a dead heat), Lee France, Ralph Baker and Bud Meyering with the fastest qualifier Gordy VanderLaan 24.01, copping the dash event. Winner of the consolation race was Bud Meyering.

Bob Deephouse was first in the 15-lap strictly-stock car feature, followed by John Tafel, Mort Anderson,



Flip Thompson, Art Crouch, Jim Flannery, Harvey Redder, Eugene Vugteveen, Norm Utting and Rusty Bayne. With a lap of 14.34 Mort Anderson set fast time. Harvey Redder won the fast-car dash. Heat winners were Dick Newman, Tony Vrablic and Bob Deephouse. Ron Sweeris took the consolation race.

## Rockey Takes Another Berlin Feature

**September 7, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Glen Rocky was chased to the supermodified feature victory by Dick Carter, Bob Knight, Mort Anderson, Ralph Baker, Wally Sanders, Ben Kieff, Curly Moody, Bud Meyering and Duane Knoll.

Fast time was set by Gordy VanderLaan with Dick Carter winning the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Jack Smith, Bob Knight and Glen Rocky.

John Tafil captured the 20-Lap feature in the strictly-stocks followed by Doug Lang, Curly Moody, Art Crouch, Jim Flannery, Norm Utting, Myron Croel, Rusty Bayne, Herman TenBrink and Butch Hulbert.

Ron Sweeris set fast time of the program with a 14.21 lap. Flip Thompson was the fast-car dash winner. Heat race winners were George Folk, Eugene Vugteveen and Curly Moody. Rocky Davis took the semi-feature race.

## Gordy VanderLaan Wins; Rocky Fatally Injured

**September 12, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Gordy VanderLaan won another Berlin Raceway supermodified 50-lap feature followed by Dick Carter, Jimmy Nelson, Bob Knight, Bill Sherman, Eddie VanderLaan, Johnny Logan, Norm Brown, Jim Born and Jack Smith. Jim Flint was the consolation winner.

Glen Rocky was fatally injured in the feature race when the Lefty TerHaar owned #32 supermodified crashed into the pit gate on turn four.

Mort Anderson captured the strictly-stock feature 50-lap race with Flip Thompson, Art Crouch, Norm Utting, Curly Moody, Ray Shineldecker, Duane Milhiem, John Tafel, Bob Deephouse and Jim Flannery rounding out the feature results.

Heat race winners were Flip Thompson and Herman TenBrink with Bob Deephouse taking the win in the consolation race.

## Gordy VanderLaan Notches Feature Win

**September 19, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Gordy VanderLaan started the Berlin program with a lap of 24.22 to set fast qualifying time and then went on to capture the fast-car dash race.

VanderLaan continued his winning ways in the 20-lap supermodified feature, followed by Ralph Baker, Bob Knight, Bill Sherman, Johnny Johnson, Norm Brown, Lee France, Jack Smith, Wally Sanders and Flip Thompson.

Heat race winners were Bill Sherman, Bob Knight and Wally Sanders

The 20-lap strictly-stock feature race was taken by Flip Thompson followed by Art Crouch, Art Deschon, Ed Marshall, John Tafil, Curly Moody, Norm Utting, Eugene

Vugteveen, Daryl Siegel and Harvey Redder.

Jim Flannery qualified at 14.74 to set fast time. John Tafil captured the fast-car dash and Doug Lang took the semi-feature. Heat race winners were Harvey Redder, Gordon Gebbens and Flip Thompson.

## Gordy VanderLaan Wins Last Feature Race Of The Season At Berlin Raceway

**October 3, 1959 – Berlin Raceway** – Gordy VanderLaan wrapped up the racing season with the feature win at Berlin. He was followed by Jimmy Nelson, Bob Knight, Johnny Johnson, Ralph Baker, Jack Smith, Mort Anderson, Lee France, Bill Sherman and Flip Thompson.

VanderLaan took fast time in qualifying with a lap of 23.90 and then went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Bill Sherman, Lee France and Mort Anderson.

The 20-lap strictly-stock feature was taken by Flip Thompson followed by Jim Flannery, Rusty Bayne, Harvey Redder, Rocky Davis, Norm Utting, Curly Moody, Art Crouch, Nelson Stormzand and Bob Deephouse.

Doug Lang set fast time of 15.00 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Ed Marshall and Jim Flannery won the heat races.

## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1959

### April 18, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast Qualifier:** George Roberts 23.77—New Track Record

**Dash Winner:** Dick Carter

**Heat Winners:** Bob Clover, Dick Carter, Ralph Baker

**Feature:** (1) **Jim Born** (2) Bob Knight (3) Johnny Logan (4) Bob Clover (5) Gus Bray (6) Gordon Johncock (7) Sam Sessions (8) Frank Fuhr (9) Wally Galeski (10) Nolan Johncock

### 18 laps, quarter-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

**Fast Qualifier:** Joe Castle 14.59

**Dash Winner:** Art Crouch

**Heat Winners:** Bob Deepphouse, Dick Peck

**Feature:** (1) **Art Crouch** (2) Bob Arthur (3) Dick Stewart (4) Ron Schipper (5) John Tafil (6) Don Ward (7) Dick Peck (8) Bob Deepphouse (9) Joe Castle

### May 2, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile clay

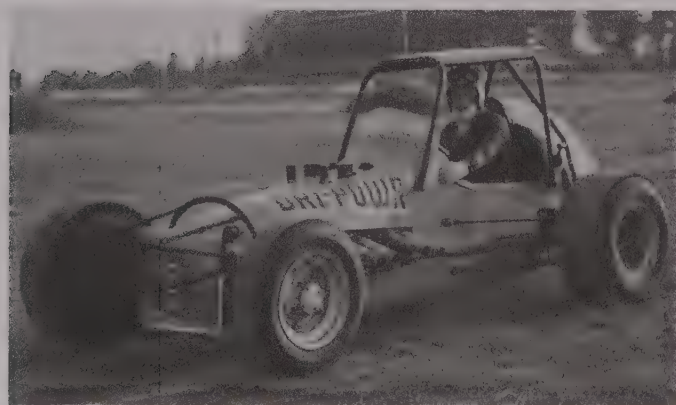
**Fast Qualifier:** Dick Carter 24.33

**Dash Winner:** Dick Carter

**Heat Winners:** Gordy Johncock, Bud Meyering, Dick Carter

**Semi Winner:** John Logan

**Feature:** (1) **Dick Carter** (2) Lee France (3) Glen Rockey (4) Bud Meyering (5) Bob Knight (6) Elver Harrington (7) Norm Brown (8) Bob Clover (9) Mort Anderson (10) Gus Bray



Bob Knight

Dick Lee Collection



Mort Anderson

Dick Lee Collection

### 15 laps, fifth-mile clay – Strictly Stocks

**Fast Qualifier:** Ken Miller 14.45

**Dash Winner:** Art Crouch

**Special Dash Winner:** Doug Lang

**Heat Winners:** Dick Peck, Harvey Redder, Duane Varney

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Arthur** (2) Duane Varney (3) Doug Persian (4) Gordon Anderson (5) Dick Peck (6) Ray Shindelacker (7) Don Ward (8) Dick Stewart (9) Myron Croel (10) Rust Bayne

### May 9, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile clay

**Fast Qualifier:** Gordy VanderLaan 24.55

**Dash Winner:** Gordy VanderLaan

**Heat Winners:** Don House, Chuck Neal, Jim Born

**Semi Winner:** Chuck Neal

**Feature:** (1) **Jim Born** (2) Bud Meyering (3) Bob Knight (4) Norm Brown (5) Elver Harrington (6) Chuck Neal (7) Don Delduca (8) Glen Rockey (9) Frank Fuhr (10) Bob Clover

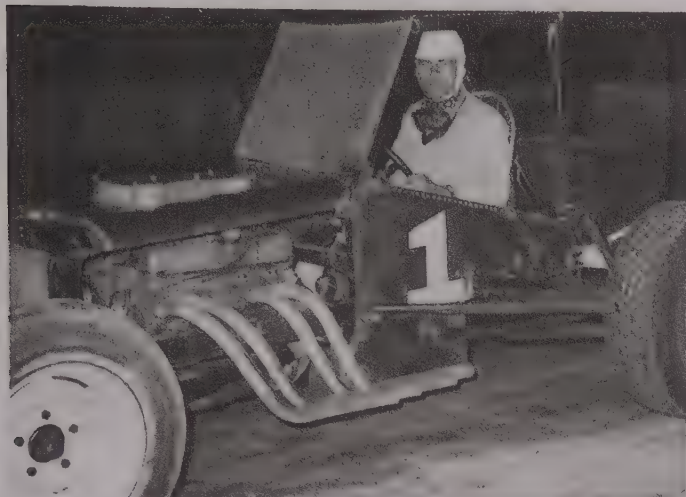
### 15 laps, fifth-mile clay – Strictly Stocks

**Fast Qualifier:** Bob Arthur 14.65

**Dash Winner:** Ray Shindelacker

**Heat Winners:** Herman Ten Brink, Norm Utting, Duane Varney





Jim Born

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature:** (1) Bob Deephouse (2) Dick Peck (3) Norm Utting (4) Duane Varney (5) Art Umlor (6) Ron Sievers (7) John Tafil (8) Rusty Bayne (9) Don Ward (10) Butch Hulbert

### May 16, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Dick Carter 25.67

Dash Winner: Dick Carter

Heat Winners: Mort Anderson, Glen Rockey, Lee France

Semi Winner: Glen Rockey

**Feature:** (1) Bud Meyering (2) Glen Rockey (3) Bob Knight (4) Lee France (5) Jim Born (6) Ralph Baker (7) Nolan Johncock (8) Mort Anderson (9) Gus Bray (10) Wally Galeski

### 15 laps, fifth-mile clay – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Art Crouch 15.32

Dash Winner: Art Crouch

Heat Winners: Dick Stewart, Duane Varney, Bob Clover

**Feature:** (1) Bob Clover (2) John Tafil (3) Norm Utting (4) Doug Persian (5) Duane Varney (6) Don Ward (7) Ron Sweeris (8) Art Crouch (9) Rusty Bayne (10) Al Kline

### May 29, 1959 – Friday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 24.39

Dash Winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat Winners: Wayne Harrington, Mort Anderson, Ralph Baker

Semi Winner: Wayne Harrington

**Feature:** (1) Jim Born (2) Ralph Baker (3) Lee France (4) Gordy VanderLaan (5) Bill Sherman (6) Bud Meyering (7) Johnny Logan (8) Norm Brown (9) Mort Anderson (10) Wayne Harrington

### 15 laps, fifth-mile clay – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Joe Castle 15.44

Dash Winner: Joe Castle

Heat Winners: Bob Deephouse, Art Umlor, Norm Utting

**Feature:** (1) Norm Utting (2) Don Ward (3) Art Umlor (4) Art Crouch (5) Doug Persian (6) George Folk (7) Dick Stewart (8) Al McNee (9) Rusty Bayne (10) Myron Croel

### June 6, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Top Ten lined up by points

Semi Winner: Flip Thompson

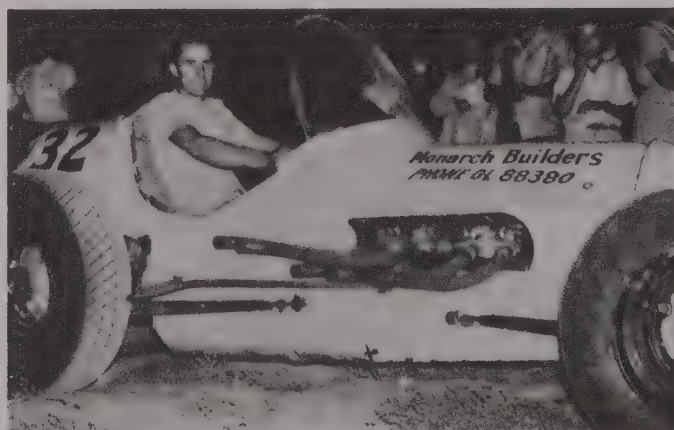
**A Feature:** (1) Jim Born (2) Lee France (3) Gordy VanderLaan (4) Johnny Roberts (5) Bud Meyering (6) Bob Knight (7) Ralph Baker (8) Glen Rockey (9) Bill Sherman (10) Eddie VanderLaan

**B Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Jim Born (3) Lee France (4) Bud Meyering (5) Glen Rockey (6) Dick Carter (7) Mort Anderson (8) Johnny Johnson (9) Eddie VanderLaan (10) Flip Thompson

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Top Ten lined up by points

Semi Winner: Mort Anderson



Glen Rockey

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature I:** (1) Curly Moody (2) Bob Deephouse (3) Art Crouch (4) Jim Flannery (5) Gordon Anderson (6) Don Ward (7) Elmer Lovett (8) John Cook (9) Doug Lane (10) Norm Utting

**Feature II:** (1) Curly Moody (2) Norm Utting (3) Art Crouch (4) Gordon Anderson (5) Doug Lang (6) Doug Persian (7) Elmer Lovett (8) Rusty Bayne (9) Don Ward (10) Jim Van Duren

---

### June 13, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Bill Wiltse 25.03

Dash Winner: Bill Wiltse

Heat Winners: Gus Bray, Wally Sanders, Lee France

Semi Winner: Dan Bryant

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Lee France (3) Jim Born (4) Bud Meyering (5) Bill Wiltse (6) Bill Sherman (7) Bob Knight (8) Gordy VanderLaan (9) Ralph Baker (10) Dan Bryant

### 15 laps, fifth-mile clay – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Bob Deephouse 15.05

Dash Winner: Bob Deephouse

Heat Winners: George Folk, Don Ward, Joe Castle

Semi Winner: Dick Stewart

**Feature:** (1) Doug Lang (2) John Tafil (3) Norm Utting (4) Art Crouch (5) Mort Anderson (6) George Folk (7) Ray Shineldecker (8) Doug Persian (9) Al McNee (10) Don Ward

---

### June 19, 1959 – Friday – USAC Sprint Cars

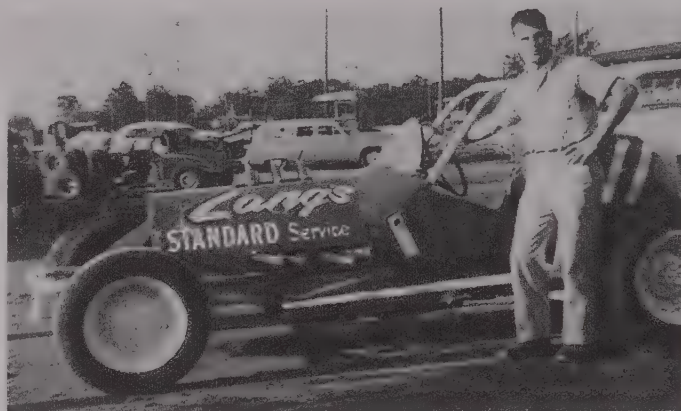
Jud Larson/Bud Shark Offy – Feature winner

---



Norm Utting

Dick Lee Collection



Doug Lang

Dick Lee Collection

### June 20, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Dick Carter 24.63

Dash Winner: Bill Sherman

Heat Winners: Gus Bray, Norm Brown, Bob Knight

Semi Winner: Frank Fuhr

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Dick Carter (3) Bob Knight (4) Ralph Baker (5) Bill Wiltse (6) Norm Brown (7) Bill Sherman (8) Jim Born (9) Gordy VanderLaan (10) Lee France

### 15 laps, fifth-mile clay – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Joe Castle 14.66

Dash Winner: Doug Lang

Heat Winners: George Folk, Art Crouch, Gordon Anderson

**Feature:** (1) Doug Lang (2) Mort Anderson (3) Gordon Anderson (4) Jim Flannery (5) Ray Shineldecker (6) Jim Van Duren (7) Curly Moody (8) Duane Milhiem (9) Bob Deephouse (10) Dick Stewart

---

### June 24, 1959 – Wednesday – Strictly Stocks

16 laps, fifth-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Mort Anderson 14.31

Dash Winner: Mort Anderson

Heat Winners: Doug Persian, Curly Moody, Doug Lang

Semi Winner: Curly Moody

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Bob Clover (3) Erv Atkinson (4) Doug Lang (5) Curly

Moody (6) Jay Crouch (7) Ray Shineldecker (8) Dick Stewart (9) Art Crouch (10) Don Ward



### 20 laps, fifth-mile clay – Go-Karts

Fast Qualifier: Duane Bellmer

Heat Winners: Chuck Irwin, Charles Thomas, Charles Thomas, Duane Bellmer

Feature: (1) Duane Bellmer (2) Bob Land

---

### June 27, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Dick Carter 24.73

Dash Winner: Dick Carter

Heat Winners: Bill Wiltse, Johnny Roberts, Gordy VanderLaan

Feature: (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Bill Wiltse (3) Bud Meyering (4) Dick Carter (5) Bob Knight (6) Ralph Baker (7) Bill Sherman (8) Norm Brown (9) Gordy VanderLaan (10) Gus Bray

### 15 laps, fifth-mile clay – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: John Tafil 15.04

Dash Winner: John Tafil

Heat Winners: Doug Persian, Mort Anderson, Rusty Bayne, George Folk

Feature: (1) Jim Flannery (2) Mort Anderson (3) Norm Utting (4) Curly Moody (5) Duane Milhiem (6) Ray Shineldecker (7) Don Ward (8) George Folk (9) Doug Lang (10) Art Crouch

---



Gordy VanderLaan

Dick Lee Collection

### July 4, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 24.47

Dash Winner: Gordy VanderLaan



Johnny Roberts

Dick Lee Collection

Heat Winners: Bud Meyering, Frank Fuhr, Jim Born, Ralph Baker

Feature: (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Ralph Baker (4) Bill Wiltse (5) Gordy VanderLaan (6) Glen Rockey (7) Bud Meyering (8) Lee France (9) Wally Sanders (10) Johnny Logan

### 15 laps, fifth-mile clay – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Doug Lang 14.51

Dash Winner: Doug Lang

Heat Winners: Don Moore, Joe Castle, Duane Milheim, Sam Sessions

Feature: (1) Norm Utting (2) Duane Milhiem (3) Rusty Bayne (4) Doug Lang (5) Art

Crouch (6) Eugene Vugteveen (7) Jim Flannery (8) Doug Persian (9) Tom Chapman, Jr. (10) Mort Anderson

### (?) laps, fifth-mile clay – Go-Karts

Fast Qualifier Class A: Orlo Walden 17.11

Fast Qualifier Class B: Bob Land 15.89

Heat Winners: Orlo Walden, Bob Land

Feature: (1) Bob Land

---

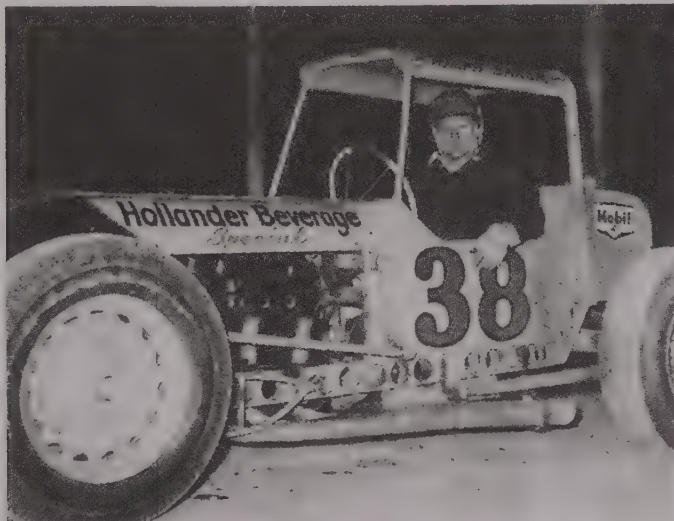
### July 8, 1959 – Wednesday – Strictly Stocks

15 laps, fifth-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Joe Castle 14.48

Dash Winner: Joe Castle

Heat Winners: Mort Anderson, Norm Utting



Ralph Baker

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Doug Lang (3) Norm Utting (4) Eugene Vugteveen (5) Don Ward (6) Rusty Bayne (7) Clarence Town (8) Ray Shineldecker (9) Ken Dykman (10) Al McNee

### 8 laps, fifth-mile clay – Sports Cars

Fast Qualifier: Chuck Wolbrink 30.46

**A Feature (Small Sedan):** (1) Kelly Tucker (2) John Wheeler (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Damstra

**B Feature (Special):** (1) Chris Christensen (2) Randolph Presley (3) John Wheeler

**C Feature (Over 1600 cc):** (1) Chris Christensen (2) Paul Despres (3) Pete Burgess

### 9 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Go-Karts

Fast Qualifier: Bob Land 15.31

Heat Winners: Stan Moore, Orlo Walden, Bob Schell

**Feature:** (1) Bob Land (2) Frank Van Dam (3) Bob Schell (4) Duane Bellmer (5) Orlo Walden (6) Don Ward (7) Dick Blum (8) Stan Moore (9) Martin Abma (10) Bud Burmeister

## July 11, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

50 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Top Ten lined up by points

Semi Winner: Flip Thompson

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Ralph Baker (3) Bill Wiltse (4) Gordy VanderLaan (5) Johnny Logan (6) Mort Anderson (7) Eddie VanderLaan (8) Dan Bryant (9) Jack Smith (10) Flip Thompson

## 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Top Ten lined up by points

Semi Winner: Ron Sweeris

**Feature I:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Norm Utting (3) Art Crouch (4) Jim Flannery (5) Doug Lang (6) Dick Stewart (7) Ray Shineldecker (8) Rusty Bayne (9) Ken Sutton (10) Curly Moody

**Feature II:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Norm Utting (3) Ray Shineldecker (4) Jim Flannery (5) Art Crouch (6) Dick Stewart (7) Doug Lang (8) Rusty Bayne (9) Curly Moody (10) George Folk

## July 18, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Mort Anderson – no time given

Dash Winner: Mort Anderson

Heat Winners: Larry Lavery, Don Porter, Ralph Baker

Semi Winner: Don Porter

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Ralph Baker (3) Bill Wiltse (4) Jim Born (5) Don Porter (6) Johnny Logan (7) Gus Bray (8) Frank Fuhr (9) Mort Anderson (10) Bob Knight

## 15 laps, fifth-mile clay – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Flip Thompson 15.44

Dash Winner: Eugene Vugteveen

Heat Winners: Don Ward, Al McNee, Jim Flannery

**Feature:** (1) Bob Clover (2) Rusty Bayne (3) Duane Milhiem (4) Art Crouch (5) Doug Persian (6) Kenny Knoll (7) Al McNee (8) Ron Sweeris (9) George Folk (10) Dick Stewart



Dick Carter

Dick Lee Collection



## July 25, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

50 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Ed VanderLaan 24.46

**Feature I:** (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Jim Born (3) Johnny Logan (4) Norm Brown (5) Bob Knight

(6) Bud Wilson (7) Dan Bryant (8) Lee France (9) Jack Smith (10) Wally Sanders

**Feature II:** (1) Bill Wiltse (2) Jim Born (3) Johnny Logan (4) Bob Knight (5) Bud Wilson (6) Bill Sherman (7) Lee France (8) Bob Clover (9) Dan Bryant (10) Wally Sanders

## 15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Doug Lang 14.79

Dash Winner: Doug Lang

Heat Winners: Don Ward, Duane Milheim, John Tafil

**Feature:** (1) John Tafil (2) Art Crouch (3) Flip Thompson (4) Norm Utting (5) Jim Flannery (6) Doug Persian (7) George Folk (8) Eugene Vugteveen (9) Duane Milheim (10) Ray Shineldecker

## August 1, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 24.36

Dash Winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat Winners: Dick Carter, Duane Knoll, Johnny Roberts

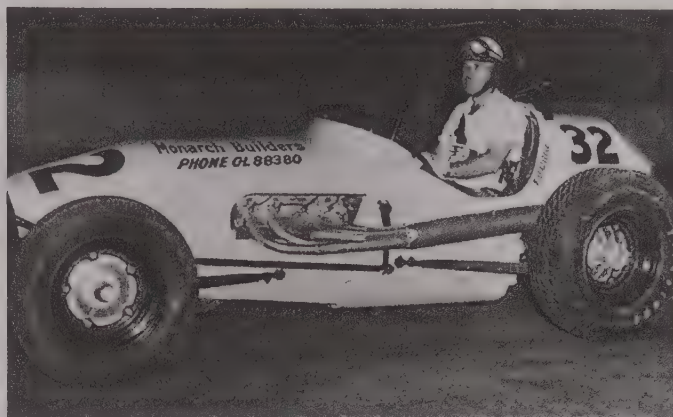
Consolation Winner: Duane Knoll

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Glen Rockey (3) Johnny Logan (4) Norm Brown (5) Gordy VanderLaan (6) Bill Sherman (7) Ralph Baker (8) Eddie VanderLaan (9) Bud Meyering (10) Jim Born



Flip Thompson

Dick Lee Collection



Bill Wiltse

Dick Lee Collection

## 20 laps, fifth-mile clay – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Doug Lang 14.54

Dash Winner: Doug Lang

Heat Winners: Al McNee, Bob Deephouse, Flip Thompson

**Feature:** (1) Art Crouch (2) Bob Deephouse (3) Jim Flannery (4) Doug Lang (5) Ray Shineldecker (6) Don Ward (7) John Tafil (8) Ken Knoll (9) Dick Stewart (10) Bob Estelle

## August 8, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Johnny Roberts 23.94

Dash Winner: Johnny Roberts

Heat Winners: Dan Bryant, Duane Knoll, Glen Rockey

Consolation Winner: Bill Wiltse

**Feature:** (1) Norm Brown (2) Gordy VanderLaan (3) Johnny Roberts (4) Bill Wiltse (5) Ralph Baker (6) Jim Born (7) Bud Meyering (8) Bob Knight (9) Eddie VanderLaan (10) Bill Sherman

## 20 laps, fifth-mile clay – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Doug Lang 14.59

Dash Winner: Doug Lang

Heat Winners: Rusty Bayne, Harvey Redder, Mort Anderson

Consolation Winner: Rust Bayne

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Art Crouch (3) Bob Deephouse (4) Flip Thompson (5) Doug Lang (6) Norm Utting (7) Herman Ten Brink (8) Ron Sweeris (9) Don Ward (10) LeRoy Van Vleet

### August 22, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 24.40

Dash Winner: Dick Carter

Heat Winners: Dick Carter, Duane Knoll, Ralph Baker

Semi Winner: Duane Knoll

Match Race Winner: Gordy VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) **Glen Rockey** (2) Ralph Baker (3) Jim Born (4) Dick Carter (5) Gordy VanderLaan (6) Bud Meyering (7) Eddie VanderLaan (8) Lee France (9) Bill Sherman (10) Jack Caswell

### 20 laps, fifth-mile clay – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Mort Anderson 14.51

Dash Winner: Mort Anderson

Heat Winners: Flip Thompson, Rocky Davis, Duane Milheim

Semi Winner: Flip Thompson

**Feature:** (1) **Mort Anderson** (2) Bob Deephouse (3) Art Crouch (4) Duane Milhiem (5) Harvey Redder (6) Ron Sweeris (7) John Tafil (8) Herman Ten Brink (9) Ken Knoll (10) Tony Vrablic

### August 29, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

15 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Glen Rockey 24.40

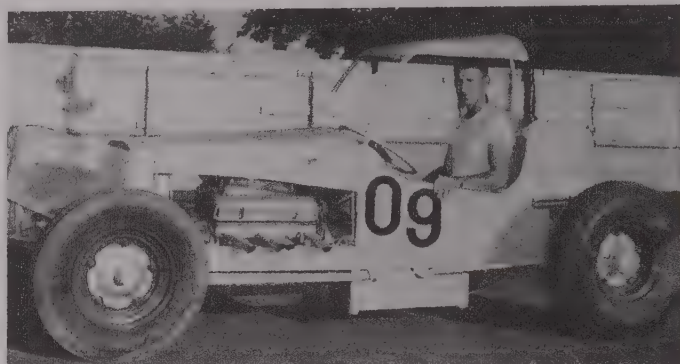
**Feature (Leg 1):** (1) **Glen Rockey** (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Ralph Baker (4) Bud Meyering (5) Jim Born (6) Bill Sherman (7) Bob Knight (8) Dick Carter (9) Dan Bryant (10) Johnny Johnson

**Feature (Leg 2):** (1) **Glen Rockey** (2) Ralph Baker (3) Bud Meyering (4) Bob Knight (5) Dick Carter (6) Bob Clover (7) Johnny Johnson (8) Wally Sanders (9) Flip Thompson (10) Benny Kieff



Curly Moody

Dick Lee Collection



Lee France

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature (Leg 3):** (1) **Glen Rockey** (2) Dick Carter (3) Bob Knight (4) Bud Meyering (5) Bob Clover (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Bill Sherman (8) Johnny Johnson (9) Wally Sanders (10) Benny Kieff

### 15 laps, fifth-mile clay – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Mort Anderson 14.32

Consolation Winner: John Tafil

**Feature (Leg 1):** (1) **Rusty Bayne** (2) Harvey Redder (3) Mike Mankin (4) Mort Anderson

(5) Doug Persian (6) Eugene Vugteveen (7) Norm Utting (8) Ken Knoll (9) Jay Crouch (10) Dick Stewart

**Feature (Leg 2):** (1) **Mort Anderson** (2) Mike Mankin (3) Harvey Redder (4) Curly Moody (5) Jim Flannery (6) Rusty Bayne (7) Norm Utting (8) Art Crouch (9) Doug Persian (10) Flip Thompson

### September 5, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 24.01

Dash Winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat Winners: Benny Kieff/Curly Moody (Dead Heat), Lee France, Ralph Baker

Consolation Winner: Bud Meyering

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Knight** (2) Johnny Logan (3) Dick Carter (4) Bill Sherman (5) Gordy VanderLaan (6) Johnny Johnson (7) Glen Rockey (8) Bud Meyering (9) Ralph Baker (10) Jim Flint

### 16 laps, fifth-mile clay – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Mort Anderson 14.34

Dash Winner: Harvey Redder

Heat Winners: Dick Newman, Tony Vrablic, Bob Deephouse

Consolation Winner: Ron Sweeris



**Feature:** (1) Bob Deepphouse (2) John Tafil (3) Mort Anderson (4) Flip Thompson (5) Art Crouch (6) Jim Flannery (7) Harvey Redder (8) Eugene Vugteveen (9) Norm Utting (10) Rusty Bayne



Norm Brown

Dick Lee Collection

### September 7, 1959 – Monday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 24.46

Dash Winner: Dick Carter

Heat Winners: Jack Smith, Bob Knight, Glen Rockey

**Feature:** (1) Glen Rockey (2) Dick Carter (3) Bob Knight (4) Mort Anderson (5) Ralph Baker (6) Wally Sanders (7) Ben Kieff (8) Curly Moody (9) Bud Meyering (10) Duane Knoll

### 20 laps, fifth-mile clay – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Ron Sweeris 14.21

Dash Winner: Flip Thompson

Heat Winners: George Folk, Eugene Vugteveen, Curly Moody

Semi Winner: Rocky Davis

**Feature:** (1) John Tafil (2) Doug Lang (3) Curly Moody (4) Art Crouch (5) Jim Flannery (6) Norm Utting (7) Myron Croel (8) Rusty Bayne (9) Herman Ten Brink (10) Butch Hulbert

### (?) laps, fifth-mile clay – Sport Cars

Fast Qualifier: No information given

Heat Winner: Dale Sonke

**Feature:** No information available

### September 12, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

#### Season Championship

50 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Top Ten lined up by points

Consolation Winner: Jim Flint

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Dick Carter (3) Jim Flint (4) Bob Knight (5) Bill Sherman (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Johnny Logan (8) Norm Brown (9) Jim Born (10) Jack Smith

### 50 laps, fifth-mile clay – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Top Ten lined up by points

Heat Winners: Flip Thompson, Herman Ten Brink

Consolation Winner: Bob Deepphouse

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Flip Thompson (3) Art Crouch (4) Norm Utting (5) Curly Moody (6) Ray Shindelcker (7) Duane Milhiem (8) John Tafil (9) Bob Deepphouse (10) Jim Flannery

### September 19, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan: 24.22

Dash Winner: Gordy VanderLaan

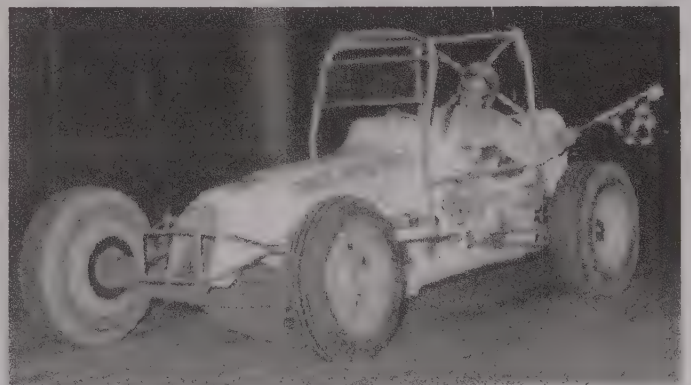
Heat Winners: Bill Sherman, Bob Knight, Wally Sanders

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Ralph Baker (3) Bob Knight (4) Bill Sherman (5) Johnny Johnson (6) Norm Brown (7) Lee France (8) Jack Smith (9) Wally Sanders (10) Flip Thompson

### 20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Jim Flannery 14.74

Dash Winner: John Tafil



Jimmy Nelson

Dick Lee Collection

Heat Winners: Harvey Redder, Gordon Gebbens, Flip Thompson

Semi Winner: Doug Lang

**Feature:** (1) Flip Thompson (2) Art Crouch (3) Art DeShone (4) Ed Marshall (5) John Tafil (6) Curly Moody (7) Norm Utting (8) Eugene Vugteveen (9) Daryl Siegel (10) Harvey Redder

### October 3, 1959 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile clay

Fast Qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 23.90

Dash Winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat Winners: Bill Sherman, Lee France, Mort Anderson

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Jim Flint (3) Bob Knight (4) Johnny Johnson (5) Ralph Baker (6) Jack Smith (7) Mort Anderson (8) Lee France (9) Bill Sherman (10) Flip Thompson

### 20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast Qualifier: Doug Lang 15.00

Dash Winner: Doug Lang

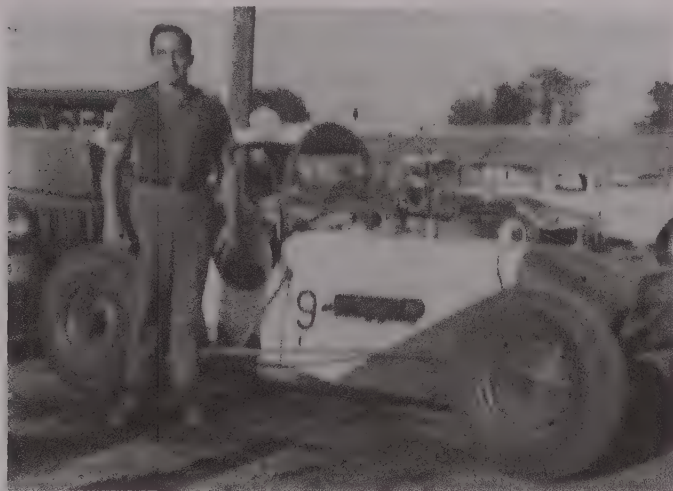
Heat Winners: Ed Marshall, Jim Flannery

**Feature:** (1) Flip Thompson (2) Jim Flannery (3) Rusty Bayne (4) Harvey Redder (5) Rocky Davis (6) Norm Utting (7) Curly Moody (8) Art Crouch (9) Nelson Stormzand (10) Bob Deephouse



George Roberts

Dick Lee Collection



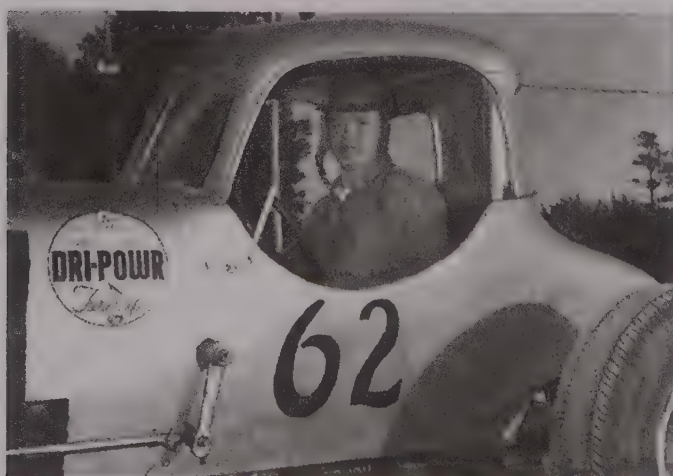
Bill Sherman

Dick Lee Collection



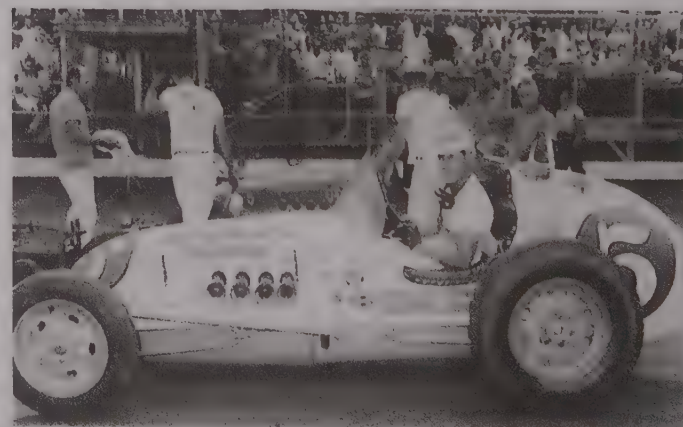
Bob James

Dick Lee Collection



Gus Bray

Dick Lee Collection



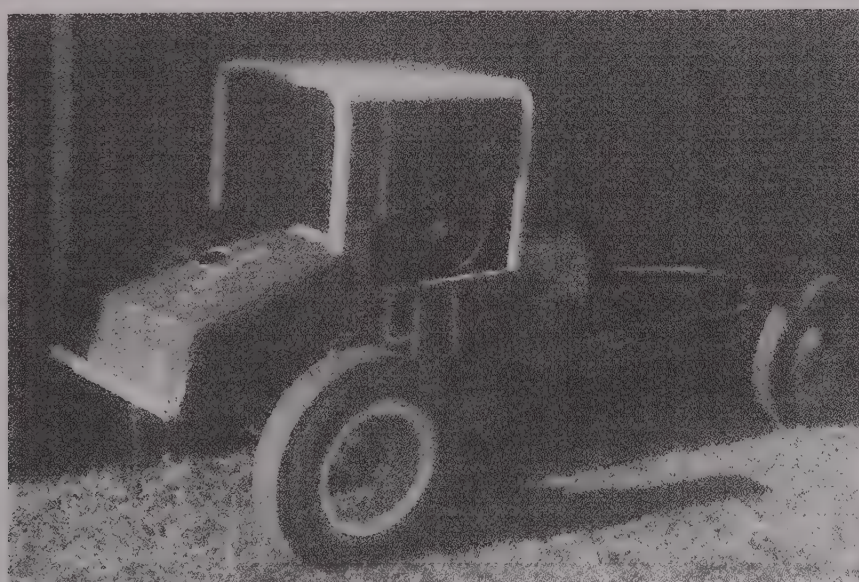
Jud Larson

Dick Lee Collection



## Berlin Raceway Points 1959

1959 SUPERMODIFIED POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Bob Knight	39	1				
2	Jim Born	38	4				
3	Glen Rockey	37	5	1			1
4	Gordy VanderLaan	35	6	9	7		
5	Johnny Roberts	35	6	1	1		
6	Ralph Baker	33					
7	Dick Carter	29	1	4	6		
8	Bill Wiltse	26	2	1	1		1
9	Bud Meyering	21	1				
10	Lee France	21					
11	Johnny Logan	17					
12	Norm Brown	11	1				
13	Eddie VanderLaan	8		1			
14	Jimmy Nelson	7					
15	Bill Sherman	6			1		
16	Bob Clover	3					
	Johnny Johnson	3					
18	Mort Anderson	2		1	1		
19	Bud Wilson	1					
	Elver Harrington	1					
	Don Porter	1					
	Gus Bray	1					
23	George Roberts	0		1		1	



Wally Galeski crashed head on into the first turn wall on May 29, 1959, causing his head to hit the front roll bar. He died two days later from the injuries.

# Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present

1959 STRICTLY STOCK POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
2	Art Couch	45	1	1	3		
3	Norm Utting	37	2				
4	Doug Lang	26	2	5	6		
5	Bob Deephouse	25	2	1	1		
6	John Tafel	24	2	1	2		
7	Jim Flannery	23	1	1			
8	Flip Thompson	21	2		1		
9	Curly Moody	19	2				1
10	Rusty Bayne	15	1				
11	Bob Clover	14	2				
12	Harvey Redder	10			1		
13	Duane Milheim	10					
14	Bob Arthur	9	1	1			
15	Doug Persian	8					
16	Duane Varney	7					
	Mike Mankin	7					
18	Gordon Anderson	6					
19	Ray Shineldecker	5			1		
	Dick Peck	5					
	Don Ward	5					
22	Art Umlor	4					
23	Erv Atkinson	3					
	Art DeDeschon	3					
	Dick Stewart	3					
26	Eugene Vugteveen	2			1		
27	Ed Marshall	2					
	Ron Schipper	2					
29	Rocky Davis	1					
30	Joe Castle	0		4	2		
31	Ron Sweeris	0		1			
	Ken Miller	0		1			



## Berlin Raceway Media 1960

### Norm Brown Wins Berlin Opener

**April 23, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Norm Brown of Rockford kicked off the 1960 racing season at Berlin Raceway by taking the 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the one-half mile clay oval before an estimated 4,300 fans. Brown was followed by Johnny Johnson, Bob Knight, Jimmy Nelson, Wally Sanders, Bill Sherman, Gordon VanderBeek, Mort Anderson, Dick Carter and Carroll Tobey.

Jimmy Nelson started the night off by breaking the track record in qualifying with a lap of 23.65 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat winners were Ralph Donaldson, Jimmy Nelson and Norm Brown.

Erv Atkinson won the strictly-stock car feature, followed by Dick Stewart, Duane Cottrell, Eugene Riffle, Mort Anderson, Jim Flannery, Wayne Berghorst, George Galloway, Harvey Redder and Norm Utting.

Herman TenBrink set fast time of 14.99 and he went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were John Tafil, Dick Stewart and Eugene Riffle.

### Johnny Johnson Victorious At Berlin Raceway

**May 14, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Johnson of Grand Rapids roared to victory in the 20-lap, 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before 3,500 fans.

Johnson took the lead from pacesetter Eddie VanderLaan on the 17<sup>th</sup> lap. Bob Knight, Jim Born, Gordy VanderLaan, Bill Sherman, Cy Fairchild, Duane Knoll, Ralph Baker, Gordon VanderBeek and Jack Harvey followed Johnson across the finish line.

Dick Carter of Breckenridge set a new track record in time trials of 23.45 breaking Nelson's record set last week. Carter also captured the fast-car dash while heat race winners were Flip Thompson, Bill Sherman and Johnny Johnson.

Duane Cottrell won the 25-lap strictly-stock car feature, followed by Norm Utting, Erv Atkinson, Flip Thompson, Dick Stewart, Herman TenBrink, Harvey Redder, Leroy VanVleet and Curly Moody.

Fast time was set by Duane Cottrell with a lap of 14.56. Norm Utting picked up the win in the fast-car dash and heat race winners were Ray Shineldecker, Herman TenBrink, Norm Utting and Nelson Stormzand.

### Supermodified Feature To Eddie VanderLaan

**May 28, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan took the supermodified 20-lap feature race on Berlin's dirt half-mile track with Johnny Johnson, Jim Born, Norm Brown, Bob Knight, Don Clawson, Bill Sherman, Elver Harrington, Mort Anderson and Jack Smith following.

Gordy VanderLaan set fast time in qualifying with a lap of 25.52 and won the fast-car dash. Heat races were won by Doug Lang, Mort Anderson and Gordy VanderLaan.

Curly Moody captured the strictly-stock feature followed by John Tafil, Flip Thompson, Bill Rake, Ken Sutton, Rusty Bayne, Duane Cottrell, Ed Marshall, Paul Weisner, and Darryl Siegel.

Fast qualifying time was set by Norm Utting at 15.57. Heat race winners were Eugene Riffle, Erv Atkinson and Curly Moody. Bob Clark took the semi-feature.

### Carter Grabs Berlin Feature

**May 30, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Dick Carter of Breckenridge showed the fast way around Berlin Raceway's half-mile dirt track by taking the 20-lap feature race for supermodifieds Monday at Berlin's holiday program. Following Carter were Bob Knight, Johnny Johnson, Don Clawson, Wally Sanders, Jack Smith, Jim Born, Mort Anderson, Gordon VanderBeek and Carroll Tobey.

Johnny Johnson picked up quick time in qualifying with a lap at 24.62. Fast-car dash winner was Gordy VanderLaan with Gordon VanderBeek and Johnny Johnson winning the heat races.

In the strictly-stock division the 20-lap feature was taken by Curly Moody with Nelson Stormzand, Norm Utting, Duane Cottrell, Paul Weisner, Dick Stewart, Ray Shineldecker, Mort Anderson, Jim Flannery and Bob Estelle following.

Duane Cottrell set fast time with a lap of 14.64 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Art Crouch, Paul Weisner and Norm Utting won the heat races with Art Crouch taking the nonfeature winner race.

### Berlin Feature To Gordy VanderLaan

**June 4, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Gordy VanderLaan took the lead on the second lap of the 50-lap feature and ran away from the field to win the super-modified feature race Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Following VanderLaan were Bob Knight, Don Clausen, Wally Sanders, Mort Anderson, Jack Caswell, Duane Knoll, Lee France, Jack TenBrink and Carroll Tobey. Heat race winners were Gordy VanderLaan and Jack Caswell.

Duane Cottrell was the winner of the 50-lap strictly-stock feature race followed by Mort Anderson, Flip Thompson, Ed Marshall, Chuck Williams, Hugh Linkfield, Norm Utting, Bill Rake, Eugene Riffle and Arnie LaCombe. Heat race winners were Art Umlor and Bob Clark.

## Bob Tattersall Captures USAC Midget Feature

### **June 9, 1960 – Berlin Raceway**

— Veteran Bob Tattersall won the United States Auto Club (USAC) midget race Thursday night on Berlin's super-fast half-mile track. Following Tattersall to the checkered flag were Bob Wente, Gene Force, Parnelli Jones, Len Sutton, Bill Eubanks, Tommy Copp, Art Plas, Jimmy Davies and Jim Neff.

Fast qualifying time was set by Gene Hartley with a lap of 23.07. Heat race winners were Jim Davies, Dick Turnkey and Bob Tattersall. Gene Force took the semi-feature.

## Gordy VanderLaan Takes Second Berlin Feature

### **June 11, 1960 – Berlin Raceway**

— Gordy VanderLaan captured the 20-lap super-modified feature Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Following VanderLaan to the checkered flag was Bob Knight, Johnny Johnson, Dick Carter, Wally Sanders, Eddie VanderLaan, Jack Smith, Art DeShone, Flip Thompson and Curly Moody.

Eddie VanderLaan set fast qualifying time for the program of 24.36 and followed that up with a win in the fast-car dash. Curly Moody and Gordy VanderLaan were heat race winners.

In the strictly-stock car division it was Joe Castle taking the win over Flip Thompson, Hugh Linkfield,

Curly Moody, Mort Anderson, Duane Cottrell, Erv Atkinson, Ed Marshall, Art Crouch and Paul Weisner.

Mort Anderson set fast time of 14.56 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Bob Estelle, Paul Weisner and Ed Marshall.

## Carter Takes Another Berlin Feature

### **June 18, 1960 – Berlin Raceway**

— Dick Carter picked up his second super-modified feature at Berlin Raceway Saturday night. He was followed by Bob Knight, Jimmy Nelson, Wally Sanders, Eddie VanderLaan, Cy Fairchild, Don Clawson, Jack Smith, Jack Caswell and Curly Moody.

Fast qualifying time of the night was set by Bob Knight with a lap of 24.02. Gordy VanderLaan picked up the checkered flag winning the fast-car dash race. Heat race winners were Chuck Partello and Dick Carter.

Curly Moody captured the strictly-stock feature over Flip Thompson, Duane Cottrell, Norm Utting, Hugh Linkfield, Art Crouch, Bill Rake, Joe Castle, Dick Stewart and Art Umlor.

Mort Anderson set fast time with a lap of 14.48 and took the fast-car dash win. Heat race winners were Wayne Berghorst, Jay Crouch and Erv Atkinson.

## MARC Race To Don White

### **June 24, 1960 – Berlin Raceway**

— Don White picked up fast qualifying time of 26.05 and then led a stellar field of the Automobile Racing Club of America late model stock cars to the checkered flag at the end of 100 laps. He was followed by Les Snow, Nelson Stacey, Bill Shoulders, Jack Bowsher, Iggy Katona, Paul Wensink, Paul Parks, Darrell Dake and Ross Smith.

Les Snow came home victorious in

the fast-car dash while Darrell Dake, Jack Bowsher and Dave Hershfield won the heat races.

## Knight Wins Berlin Feature

### **June 25, 1960 – Berlin Raceway**

— Grabbing the lead on the 17<sup>th</sup> lap Grand Rapids' Bob Knight captured the checkered flag in the 10-mile super-modified racing program Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

For the first eight miles Knight was trailing Dick Carter but pulled into the lead on lap # 17 for the victory. Carter finished second in the event followed by Allegan's Don Clawson, Jack Caswell, Gordy VanderLaan, Lee France, Duane Knoll, Curly Moody, Art DeShone and Mort Anderson.

In the super-modified heat races, Dick Carter, Jimmy Nelson and Curly Moody walked off with heat honors. Gordy VanderLaan won the fast-car dash along with setting fast time with a lap of 24.02.

Greenville's Mort Anderson streaked to first place in the feature race of the sportsman class followed by Curly Moody, Erv Atkinson, Duane Cottrell, Jim Flannery, Art Crouch, Flip Thompson, Daryl Siegel, Art Umlor and Paul Weisner. Heat winners in the division included Ed Marshall, Bill Rake, Anderson and Jake Crouch.

Fast-car dash winner was Curly Moody. Jim Flannery set fast time in qualifying of 14.51.

## Carter Holds Off Brown For Win

### **July 4, 1960 – Berlin Raceway**

— Dick Carter warmed up for the mid-season championship race Saturday by winning the accident-marred 10-mile feature for supermodifieds Monday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Carter crossed the finish line only a half-car length ahead of Norm



Brown to gain a lion's share of the \$3,100 purse. Bob Knight was third followed by Jimmy Nelson, Gordy VanderLaan, Ralph Baker and Wally Sanders.

The 20-lap main event was halted on the sixteenth lap when the cars of Roger Joneson and Jack Smith crashed into the concrete retaining wall. Both drivers escaped with minor injuries.

Heat race winners were Art DeShane, Dan Bryant and Carter with Knight victorious in the dash event.

Mort Anderson was victorious in the 25-lap strictly-stock feature and was followed by Erv Atkinson, Curly Moody, Daryl Siegel, Norm Utting, Jim Flannery, Bill Rake, Hugh Linkfield, Ed Marshall and Butch Hulbert. In addition Anderson also set fast time of 14.38 and picked up the fast-car dash win. Heat race winners were Bob Hoover, Scott Presley, Butch Hulbert and Joe Castle. Semi-feature winner was Harvey Gould.

## Bob Knight Wins By Half A Lap

**July 9, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight seized the lead on the 2<sup>nd</sup> lap and protected it the rest of the way to win Berlin Raceway's 50-lap mid-season championship for super-modifieds by half a lap over runner-up Dick Carter Saturday night. The rest of the field consisted of Don Clawson, Lee France, Ralph Baker, Roger Joneson, Bill Sherman, Art DeShone, Cy Fairchild and Flip Thompson.

A nine-car crash on the 27<sup>th</sup> lap sent Ted Stoerman to the hospital. His injuries were undetermined pending examination. Heat race winners were Cy Fairchild, Jack Caswell and Gene Simcox.

Erv Atkinson was the victor in the 50-lap strictly-stock feature, followed by Mort Anderson, Norm Utting, Paul Weisner, Bill Rake, Jud Wolbrink, Dick Stewart, Daryl Siegel, John Tafil and Ed Marshall.

Fast qualifier was Duane Cottrell at 14.68. Lyle Vincent and Ralph Lawrence captured the heat races.

## Carter Leads 100 Laps In Win At Berlin

**July 16, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Dick Carter led all 100 grueling laps Saturday night to win the Michigan State Supermodified Championship Race at Berlin Raceway. The feature was set up in two 50-lap legs. The finishing order of the first feature was Dick Carter, Norm Brown, Gordy VanderLaan, Don Clawson, Jack Smith, Cy Fairchild, Wally Sanders, Jack Caswell and Dan Bryant.

The second 50-lap feature was again won by Dick Carter, followed by Norm Brown, Jack Smith, Don Clawson, Wally Sanders, Eddie VanderLaan, Cy Fairchild, Jack Caswell, Dan Bryant and Bill Sherman.

Carter also set the fast qualifying lap of 23.83.

In the strictly-stock car division it was Curly Moody carrying the checkered flag for the victory followed by Erv Atkinson, Mort Anderson, Duane Cottrell, Jud Wolbrink, Flip Thompson, Norm Utting, Paul Lonchart, Earl TenBrink and Paul Weisner.

Mort Anderson set fast time with a 14.22 lap and moved on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Hugh Linkfield, Paul Weisner, Earl TenBrink and Wayne Rohn.

## Norm Brown Sweeps To Berlin Win

**July 23, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Rockford's Norm Brown raced off with all the honors by taking the 20-lap super modified feature Saturday night at the Berlin oval. Finishing behind Brown were Jack Smith, Bob Knight, Eddie VanderLaan, Don Clawson, Jimmy Nelson, Gordy VanderLaan, Duane Knoll, Bill Sherman and Jack Caswell.

Dick Carter set fast time of 23.88 and took the win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Flip Thompson, Bill Sherman and Eddie VanderLaan.

In the strictly-stock main race, Mort Anderson of Greenville placed first followed by Jim Flannery, Daryl Siegel, Joe Castle, Duane Cottrell, Erv Atkinson, Curly Moody, Flip Thompson, John Tafil and Art Crouch.

Norm Utting set fast time with a lap of 15.12 and won the fast-car dash. Nelson Stormzand, Erv Atkinson and Flip Thompson captured wins in the heat races.

## Jimmy Nelson Is Victor At Berlin

**July 30, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Jimmy Nelson of Flint drove to victory in the 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday at the Berlin Raceway. Placing behind Nelson were Bob Knight, Gordy VanderLaan, Wally Sanders, Jack Smith, Norm Brown, Cy Fairchild, Bill Sherman, Dan Bryant and Eddie VanderLaan.

Gordy VanderLaan took fast time with a lap of 23.79 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race victors were Flip Thompson, Mort Anderson and Jimmy Nelson.

Nelson Stormzand of Lowell captured the strictly-stock main event. He was followed by Rusty Bayne, Mort Anderson, Erv Atkinson, Norm Utting, Art Umlor, Jud Wolbrink, Earl TenBrink, Duane Cottrell and Harvey Gould.

Fast time of 14.18 was set by Mort Anderson and he won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Jimmy Rinner, Curly Moody and John Tafil.

## Eddie VanderLaan Holds Off Knight For Win

**August 6, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan won his first super-modified feature race victory Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. VanderLaan out-dued Bob Knight to cross the finish line less than a car length ahead of the Berlin point leader. They were followed by Jack Smith, Wally Sanders, Dan Bryant, Don Clawson, Duane Knoll, Flip Thompson, Bill Sherman and Hank Grilliot.

Gordy VanderLaan set fast time of 23.96 and won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Don Porter, Don Clawson and Eddie VanderLaan.

Erv Atkinson, of Muskegon, won the 25-lap strictly-stock car feature race. Heat race winners were Mort Anderson, Greenville, Ray Flannery, Muskegon, Joe Castle and Bill Rake of Holland. Duane Cottrell set fast time of 14.68. Mort Anderson won the fast-car dash.

## Nelson Wins Second Feature At Berlin

**August 13, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Jimmy Nelson of Flint crossed the finish line a car length ahead of Bob Knight to win the 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Nelson in gaining his second 20-lap main event victory of the season on the half-mile Marne oval forged into the lead on the eighth lap and staved off the challenge of Knight who finished second for the ninth time this season. Eddie VanderLaan was third followed by Don Clawson of Allegan, Wally Sanders, Bill Sherman, Jack Smith, Don Porter, Mort Anderson and Art DeShone.

In addition to winning the feature Nelson also set fast time with a lap of 24.06, won the fast-car dash and a heat race.

Other heat race winners were Art DeShone and Eddie VanderLaan.

Mort Anderson won the strictly-stock car feature. Trailing Anderson were Duane Cottrell, Dick Stewart, Curly Moody, Earl TenBrink, Norm Utting, Flip Thompson, Nelson Stormzand, Erv Atkinson and Butch Hulbert.

Norm Utting set fast time for the night at 14.38. Mort Anderson won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Joe Castle, Gary TenBrink, Rusty Bayne and George Folk.

## Bob Knight Berlin Winner

**August 20, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Grand Rapids' Bob Knight had little trouble in winning the 20-lap super-modified feature. Behind Knight were Jimmy Nelson, Eddie VanderLaan, Jack Smith, Flip Thompson, Don Clawson, Bill Sherman, Art DeShone, Duane Knoll and Sam Sessions.

Jack Smith had fast time of the night with a lap of 24.49. Fast-car dash win was taken by Jimmy Nelson. Heat race winners were Sam Sessions and Duane Knoll.

Mort Anderson, taking an early lead, won the 25-lap strictly-stock car feature Saturday night at the Berlin track. Following Anderson were Duane Cottrell, Ray Flannery, Flip Thompson, Gary TenBrink, Erv Atkinson, Rusty Bayne, Eugene Riffe, Bob Estelle and Norm Utting.

In the strictly-stock car division heat winners include Al McNee, Hugh Linkfield Mort Anderson and George Folk. Norm Utting set fast time with a lap of 16.26.

## Knight Takes Fourth Berlin Feature

**August 27, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight swept to his fourth feature win of the season at Berlin Raceway Saturday night. Ed-

die VanderLaan, Dick Carter, Jack Smith, Bill Sherman, Wally Sanders, Flip Thompson, Don Porter, Jerry Little and Curly Moody followed the winner.

Jack Smith set fast time with a lap at 24.07. Knight won the fast-car dash while Bill Sherman, Gordy VanderLaan and Wally Sanders were heat race winners.

Mort Anderson captured the 25-lap strictly-stock feature. Following were Flip Thompson, Ray Flannery, Hugh Linkfield, Art Crouch, Earl TenBrink, Jud Wolbrink, Dick Stewart, Art Umlor and Ed Marshall.

Anderson also set fast time of 14.85. Flip Thompson took the fast-car dash with Duane Cottrell, Bill Rake, Earl TenBrink and Duane Cottrell winning the heat races.

## Third Berlin Feature For Jimmy Nelson

**September 3, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Jimmy Nelson of Flint picked up another super-modified feature at Berlin Raceway Saturday night. Finishing behind him were Eddie VanderLaan, Bob Knight, Flip Thompson, Jack Smith, Lee France, Bill Sherman, Dan McGraw, Mort Anderson and Wally Sanders.

Nelson also set fast time with a lap of 24.23 and took the fast-car dash. Heat winners were Bill Sherman, Cy Fairchild and Wally Sanders.

Curly Moody picked up the win in the 25-lap strictly-stock feature holding off Norm Utting, Flip Thompson, Duane Cottrell, Joe Castle, Rusty Bayne, Earl TenBrink, Jud Wolbrink, Daryl Siegel and Ed Marshall.

Ray Flannery took fast time of the night with a lap of 14.80 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat races were won by George Folk and Daryl Siegel.



## Fifth Berlin Feature For Bob Knight

**September 5, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight warmed up for Saturday's season championship race Monday night by winning the 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds at Berlin Raceway.

Following the winner were Eddie VanderLaan, Wally Sanders, Bill Sherman, Jack Smith, Don Clawson, Jimmy Nelson, Fred Taylor, Mort Anderson and Duane Cottrell. Heat race winners were Clawson, Sherman and Smith, who also won the fast-car dash.

Mort Anderson, of Greenville, outlasted a field of 20 strictly-stock drivers to win the 50-lap main event. He was followed by Erv Atkinson, Norm Utting, Nelson Stormzand, Art Umlor, Hugh Linkfield, Earl TenBrink, Curly Moody, Joe Castle and Ray Flannery.

Joe Castle set fast time of 14.43 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Bill Rake, Willy TenBrink and Ray Flannery.

## Fairchild Wins His First Berlin Feature

**September 10, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Cy Fairchild of Saginaw made his first main-event victory a big one by winning the 25-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Following Fairchild were Jack Smith, Wally Sanders, Don Clawson, Dan Bryant, Fred Taylor, Flip Thompson, Art DeShone, Dick Manther and Jack Senter.

Heat race winners were Eddie VanderLaan, Jimmy Nelson and Sonny DuBois.

Jim Flannery came out the winner of the strictly-stock 25-lap feature with Mort Anderson, Erv Atkinson, Rusty Bayne, Norm Utting, Earl TenBrink, Curly Moody, Daryl Siegel, Jimmy Rinner and Eugene Riffle.

Mort Anderson set fast time of 14.67 and captured the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Wayne Rohn, Joe Castle and Bill Rake.

## Nelson Takes Fourth Berlin Feature

**September 17, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Taking over the lead on the 14<sup>th</sup> lap, Jimmy Nelson of Flint went on to win the 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Early race leader Jack Smith finished second followed by Bob Knight, Don Clawson, Dan Bryant, Duane Knoll, Bill Sherman, Flip Thompson, Mort Anderson and Gordon VanderBeek.

Nelson had the fastest qualifying lap of 24.32 and took the win in the fast-car dash and in his heat race. Duane Knoll and Don Clawson won the two other heat races.

Mort Anderson of Greenville led all the way to win the 50-lap season championship race for the strictly-stocks. Norm Utting finished second followed by Flip Thompson, Erv Atkinson, Curly Moody, Rusty Bayne, Earl TenBrink, Daryl Siegel, Paul Weisner and Joe Castle.

Heat race winners were Bill Rake and Wayne Rohn.

## Knight Is Victor In '60 Finale

**October 8, 1960 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight concluded the racing season by winning the grueling 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Knight, in gaining his second consecutive point championship at the one-half Marne oval, overtook race leader Don Clawson of Allegan on the 15<sup>th</sup> lap and went on to win the 20-lap main event. Clawson finished second followed by Jack Smith, Duane Knoll, Eddie VanderLaan, Wally Sanders, Bill Sherman, Flip Thompson, Mort Anderson and Duane Cottrell.

Jimmy Nelson set a new track record for the half-mile with a lap of 23.04. The fast-car dash win was taken by Bob Knight and the heat race winners were Mort Anderson, Don Clawson and Bill Sherman.

The strictly-stock car feature honors went to Ray Flannery of Muskegon followed by Duane Cottrell, Mort Anderson, Norm Utting, Curly Moody, Flip Thompson, Erv Atkinson, Jud Wolbrink, Art Crouch and Paul Weisner.

Anderson also set fast time of 14.30 in qualifying and won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were George Folk, Nelson Stormzand and Bob Clover.

## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1960

### Supermodifieds – Strictly Stocks

**April 23, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 23.65–New Track Record**

Dash winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat winners: Ralph Donaldson, Jimmy Nelson, Norm Brown

**Feature: (1) Norm Brown (2) Johnny Johnson (3) Bob Knight (4) Jimmy Nelson (5) Wally Sanders (6) Bill Sherman (7) Gordon VanderBeek (8) Mort Anderson (9) Dick Carter (10) Carroll Tobey**

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Herman TenBrink 14.99

Dash winner: Herman TenBrink

Heat winners: John Tafel, Dick Stewart, Eugene Riffle

**Feature: (1) Erv Atkinson (2) Dick Stewart (3) Duane Cottrell (4) Eugene Riffle (5) Mort Anderson (6) Jim Flannery (7) Wayne Berghorst (8) George Galloway (9) Harvey Redder (10) Norm Utting**

**April 30, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

Rained Out

**May 7, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

Rained Out

**May 14, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 23.45–New Track Record**

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Flip Thompson, Bill Sherman, Johnny Johnson

**Feature: (1) Johnny Johnson (2) Bob Knight (3) Jim Born (4) Gordy VanderLaan (5) Bill Sherman (6) Cy Fairchild (7) Duane Knoll (8) Ralph Baker (9) Gordon VanderBeek (10) Jack Harvey**

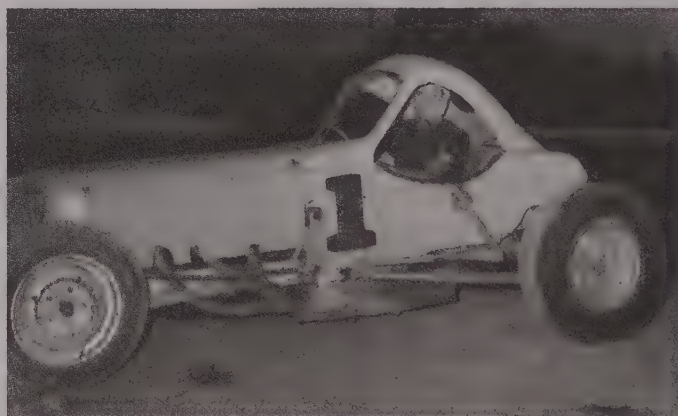
**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Duane Cottrell 14.56

Dash winner: Norm Utting

Heat winners: Ray Shineldecker, Herman TenBrink, Norm Utting, Nelson Stormzand

**Feature: (1) Duane Cottrell (2) Norm Utting (3) Erv Atkinson (4) Flip Thompson (5) Dick Stewart (6) Herman TenBrink (7) Harvey Redder (8) Jim Flannery (9) Leroy VanVleet (10) Curly Moody**



Dick Carter

Dick Lee Collection

**May 28, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

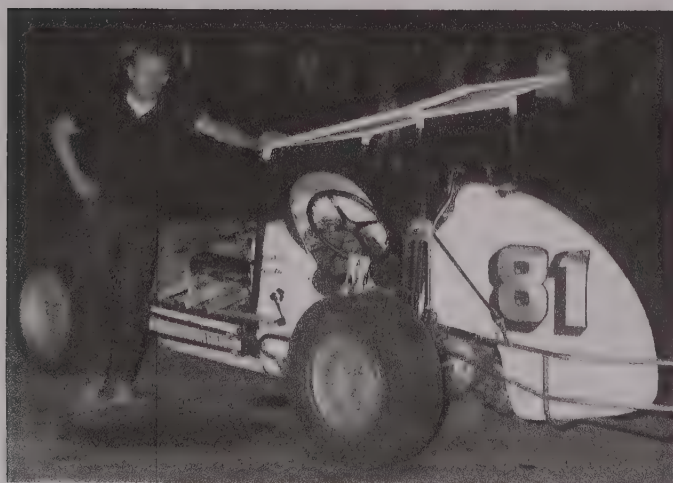
20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 25.52**

Dash winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat winners: Doug Lang, Mort Anderson, Gordy VanderLaan

**Feature: (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Johnny Johnson (3) Jim Born (4) Norm Brown (5) Bob Knight (6) Don Clawson (7) Bill Sherman (8) Elver Harrington (9) Mort Anderson (10) Jack Smith**



Bob Knight

Dick Lee Collection



### 20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Norm Utting 15.57

Heat winners: Eugene Riffle, Erv Atkinson, Curly Moody

Semi winner: Bob Clark

**Feature:** (1) Curly Moody (2) John Tafel (3) Flip Thompson (4) Bill Rake (5) Ken Sutton (6) Rusty Bayne (7) Duane Cottrell (8) Ed Marshall (9) Paul Weisner (10) Daryl Siegel

---



Curly Moody

Dick Lee Collection

### May 30, 1960 – Monday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Johnny Johnson 24.62

Dash winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat winners: Gordon VanderBeek, Johnny Johnson

**Feature:** (1) Dick Carter (2) Bob Knight (3) Johnny Johnson (4) Don Clawson (5) Wally Sanders (6) Jack Smith (7) Jim Born (8) Mort Anderson (9) Gordon VanderBeek (10) Carroll Tobey

### 20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Duane Cottrell 14.64

Dash winner: Duane Cottrell

Heat winners: Art Crouch, Paul Weisner, Norm Utting

Non-Feature winner: Art Crouch

**Feature:** (1) Curly Moody (2) Nelson Stormzand (3) Norm Utting (4) Duane Cottrell (5) Paul Weisner (6) Dick Stewart (7) Ray Shineldecker (8) Mort Anderson (9) Jim Flannery (10) Bob Estelle

---

### June 4, 1960 – Supermodifieds

#### Spring Championship

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Top Ten lined up by points

Heat winners: Gordy VanderLaan, Jack Caswell

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Bob Knight (3) Don Clawson (4) Wally Sanders (5) Mort Anderson (6) Jack Caswell (7) Duane Knoll (8) Lee France (9) Jack TenBrink (10) Carroll Tobey

#### Gordy VanderLaan – Clean Sweep Award

### 50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Top Ten lined up by points

Heat winners: Art Umlor, Bob Clark

**Feature:** (1) Duane Cottrell (2) Mort Anderson (3) Flip Thompson (4) Ed Marshall (5) Chuck Williams (6) Hugh Linkfield (7) Norm Utting (8) Bill Rake (9) Eugene Riffle (10) Amie LaCombe

---

### June 9, 1960 – Thursday – USAC (United States Auto Club) Midgets

100 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Gene Hartley 23.07

Heat winners: Jim Davies, Dick Turnkey, Bob Tattersall

Semi winner: Gene Force

**Feature:** (1) Bob Tattersall (2) Bob Wente (3) Gene Force (4) Parnelli Jones (5) Len Sutton (6) Bill Eubanks (7) Tommy Copp (8) Art Plas (9) Jimmy Davies

---

### June 11, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

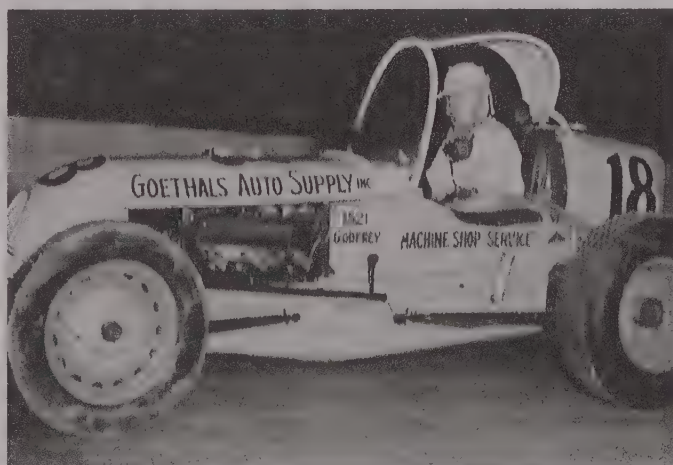
20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan 24.36

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Curly Moody, Gordy VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Bob Knight (3) Johnny Johnson (4) Dick Carter (5) Wally Sanders



Eddie VanderLaan

Dick Lee Collection

(6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Jack Smith (8) Art DeShone  
(9) Flip Thompson (10) Curly Moody

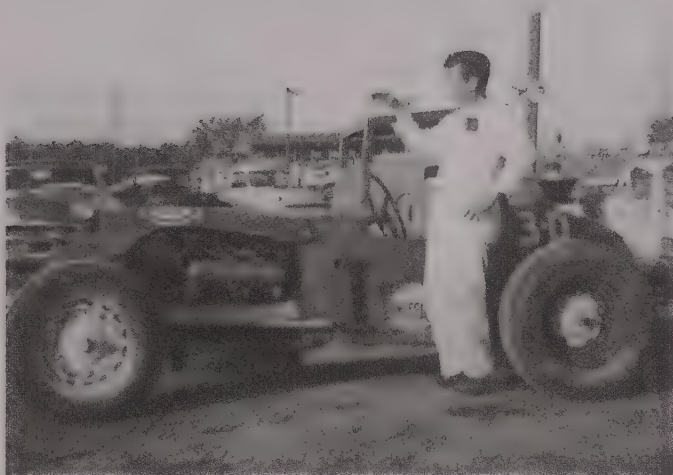
### 15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Mort Anderson 14.56

Dash winner: Mort Anderson

Heat winners: Bob Estelle, Paul Weisner, Ed Marshall

**Feature:** (1) Joe Castle (2) Flip Thompson (3) Hugh Linkfield (4) Curly Moody (5) Mort Anderson  
(6) Duane Cottrell (7) Erv Atkinson (8) Ed Marshall  
(9) Art Crouch (10) Paul Weisner



Duane Cottrell

Dick Lee Collection

### June 18, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bob Knight 24.02

Dash winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat winners: Chuck Parteho, Dick Carter

**Feature:** (1) Dick Carter (2) Bob Knight (3) Jimmy Nelson (4) Wally Sanders (5) Eddie VanderLaan  
(6) Cy Fairchild (7) Don Clawson (8) Jack Smith  
(9) Jack Caswell (10) Curly Moody

### 15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Mort Anderson 14.4S

Dash winner: Mort Anderson

Heat winners: Wayne Berghorst, Jay Crouch, Erv Atkinson

**Feature:** (1) Curly Moody (2) Flip Thompson  
(3) Duane Cottrell (4) Norm Utting (5) Hugh Linkfield  
(6) Art Crouch (7) Bin Rake (8) Joe Castle (9) Dick Stewart (10) Art Umlor

### June 24, 1960 – Friday – ARCA (Automobile Racing Club of America) New Cars

100 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Don White 26.05

Dash winner: Les Snow

Heat winners: Darrell Dake, Jack Bowsher, Dave Hershfield

**Feature:** (1) Don White (2) Les Snow (3) Nelson Stacey (4) Bill Shoulders (5) Jack Bowsher (6) Iggy Katona  
(7) Paul Wensink (8) Paul Parks (9) Darrell Dake  
(10) Ross Smith

### June 25, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 24.02

Dash winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat winners: Curly Moody, Dick Carter, Jimmy Nelson

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Dick Carter (3) Don Clawson (4) Jack Caswell (5) Gordy VanderLaan  
(6) Lee France (7) Duane Knoll (8) Curly Moody  
(9) Art DeShone (10) Mort Anderson

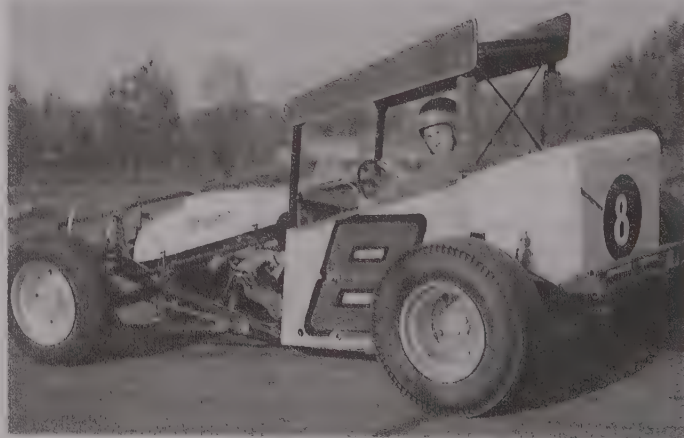
### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Jim Flannery 14.51

Dash winner: Curly Moody

Heat winners: Ed Marshall, Bill Rake, Mort Anderson, Jay Crouch

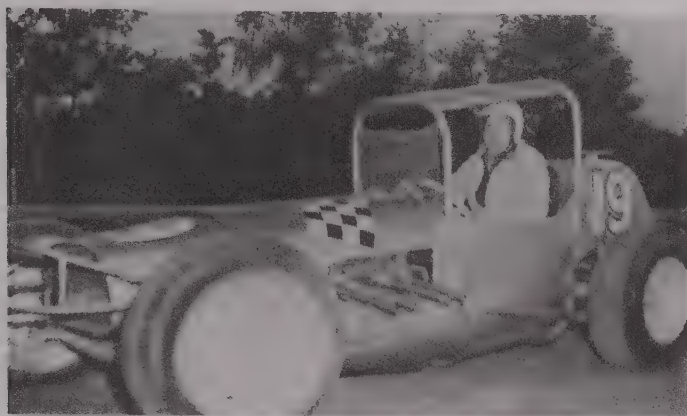
**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Curly Moody (3) Erv Atkinson (4) Duane Cottrell (5) Jim Flannery (6) Art Crouch (7) Flip Thompson (8) Daryl Siegel (9) Art Umlor (10) Paul Weisner



Jimmy Nelson

Dick Lee Collection





Dick Filkens

Dick Lee Collection

### July 2, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

Races rained out after qualifying

### July 4, 1960 – Monday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bob Knight 23.80

Dash winner: Bob Knight

Heat winners: Art DeShone, Dan Bryant, Dick Carter

Semi winner: Flip Thompson

**Feature:** (1) **Dick Carter** (2) Norm Brown (3) Bob Knight (4) Jimmy Nelson (5) Gordy VanderLaan (6) Ralph Baker (7) Wally Sanders (8) Don Clawson (9) Flip Thompson (10) Eddie VanderLaan

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Mort Anderson 14.38

Dash winner: Mort Anderson

Heat winners: Bob Hoover, Scott Presley, Butch Hulbert, Joe Castle

Semi winner: Harvey Gould

**Feature:** (1) **Mort Anderson** (2) Erv Atkinson (3) Curly Moody (4) Daryl Siegel (5) Norm Utting (6) Jim Flannery (7) Bill Rake (8) Hugh Linkfield (9) Ed Marshall (10) Butch Hulbert

### July 9, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Top Ten lined up by points

Heat winners: Cy Fairchild, Jack Caswell, Gene Simcox

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Knight** (2) Dick Carter (3) Don Clawson (4) Lee France (5) Ralph Baker (6) Roger Joneson (7) Bill Sherman (8) Art DeShone (9) Cy Fairchild (10) Flip Thompson

### 50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Duane Cottrell 14.68

Heat winners: Lyle Vincent, Ralph Lawrence

**Feature:** (1) **Erv Atkinson** (2) Mort Anderson (3) Norm Utting (4) Paul Weisner (5) Bill Rake (6) Jud Wolbrink (7) Dick Stewart (8) Daryl Siegel (9) John Tafel (10) Ed Marshall

### July 16, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 23.83

**Feature (Leg 1):** (1) **Dick Carter** (2) Bob Knight (3) Norm Brown (4) Gordy VanderLaan (5) Don Clawson (6) Jack Smith (7) Cy Fairchild (8) Wally Sanders (9) Jack Caswell (10) Dan Bryant

**Feature (Leg 2):** (1) **Dick Carter** (2) Norm Brown (3) Jack Smith (4) Don Clawson (5) Wally Sanders (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Cy Fairchild (8) Jack Caswell (9) Dan Bryant (10) Bill Sherman

**Dick Carter – Clean Sweep Award**

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Mort Anderson 14.22

Dash winner: Mort Anderson

Heat winners: Hugh Linkfield, Paul Weisner, Earl TenBrink, Wayne Rohn

**Feature:** (1) **Curly Moody** (2) Erv Atkinson (3) Mort Anderson (4) Duane Cottrell (5) Jud Wolbrink (6) Flip Thompson (7) Norm Utting (8) Paul Lonchart (9) Earl TenBrink (10) Paul Weisner

### July 23, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 23.88

Dash winner: Dick Carter



Norm Brown

Dick Lee Collection

Heat winners: Flip Thompson, Bill Sherman, Eddie VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) Norm Brown (2) Jack Smith (3) Bob Knight (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Don Clawson (6) Jimmy Nelson (7) Gordy VanderLaan (8) Duane Knoll (9) Bill Sherman (10) Jack Caswell

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

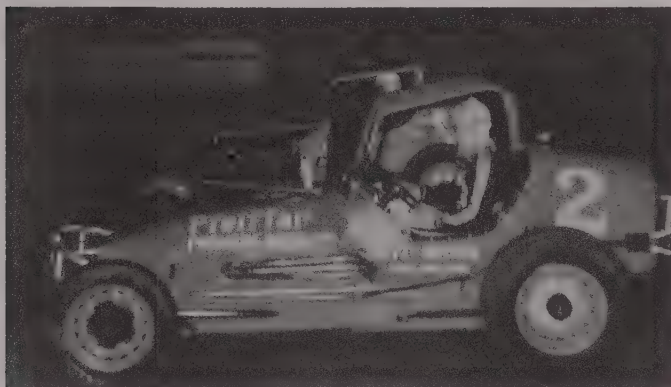
Fast qualifier: Norm Utting 15.12

Dash winner: Norm Utting

Heat winners: Nelson Stormzand, Erv Atkinson, Flip Thompson

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Jim Flannery (3) Daiyl Siegel (4) Joe Castle (5) Duane Cottrell (6) Erv Atkinson (7) Curly Moody (8) Flip Thompson (9) John Tafel (10) Art Crouch

---



Gordy VanderLaan

Dick Lee Collection

### July 30, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 23.79

Dash winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat winners: Flip Thompson, Mort Anderson, Jimmy Nelson

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Nelson (2) Bob Knight (3) Gordy VanderLaan (4) Wally Sanders (5) Jack Smith (6) Norm Brown (7) Cy Fairchild (8) Bill Sherman (9) Dan Bryant (10) Eddie VanderLaan

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Mort Anderson 14.18

Dash winner: Mort Anderson

Heat winners: Jimmy Rinner, Curly Moody, John Tafel

**Feature:** (1) Nelson Stormzand (2) Rusty Bayne (3) Mort Anderson (4) Erv Atkinson (5) Norm Utting (6) Art Umlor (7) Jud Wolbrink (8) Earl TenBrink (9) Duane Cottrell (10) Harvey Gould

---

### August 6, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Gordy VanderLaan 23.96

Dash winner: Gordy VanderLaan

Heat winners: Don Porter, Don Clawson, Eddie VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Bob Knight (3) Jack Smith (4) Wally Sanders (5) Dan Bryant (6) Don Clawson (7) Duane Knoll (8) Flip Thompson (9) Bill Sherman (10) Hank Grilliot

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Duane Cottrell 14.68

Dash winner: Mort Anderson

Heat winners: Ray Flannery, Art Umlor, Joe Castle, Bill Rake

**Feature:** (1) Erv Atkinson (2) Joe Castle (3) Flip Thompson (4) Norm Utting (5) Kenny Knoll (6) Duane Cottrell (7) Dick Stewart (8) Mort Anderson (9) Jud Wolbrink (10) Gordon Gebbens

---

### August 13, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

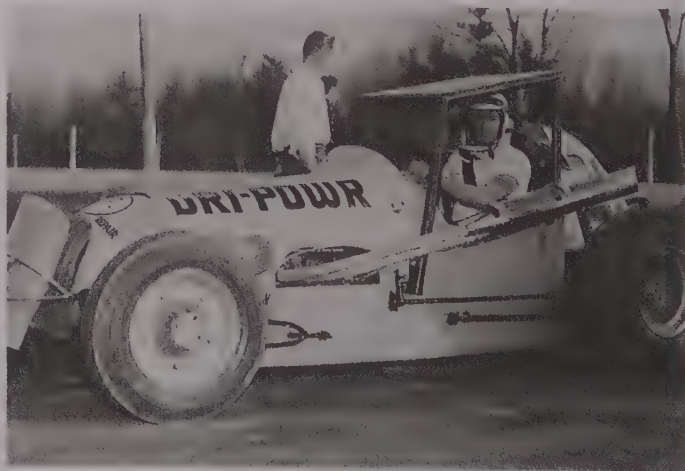
Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 24.06

Dash winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat winners: Art DeShone, Eddie VanderLaan, Jimmy Nelson

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Nelson (2) Bob Knight (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Don Clawson (5) Wally Sanders (6) Bill Sherman (7) Jack Smith (8) Don Porter (9) Mort Anderson (10) Art DeShone

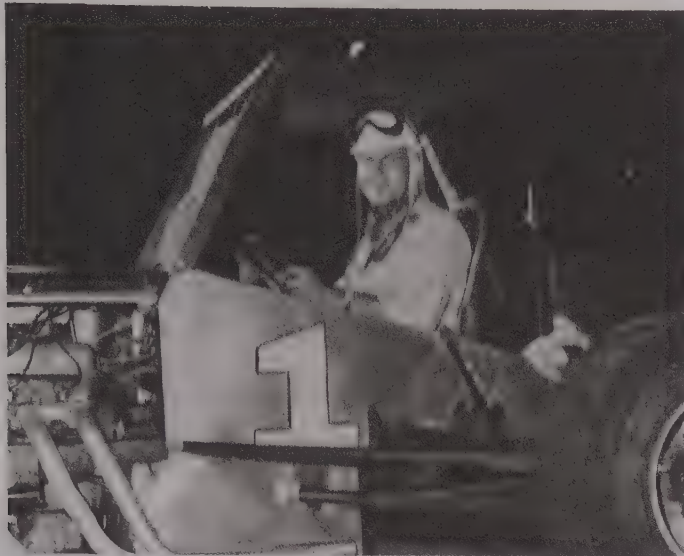
### Jimmy Nelson – Clean Sweep Award



Johnny Johnson

Dick Lee Collection





Jim Born

Dick Lee Collection

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Norm Utting 14.38

Dash winner: Mort Anderson

Heat winners: Joe Castle, Gary TenBrink, Rusty Bayne, George Folk

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Duane Cottrell (3) Dick Stewart (4) Curly Moody (5) Earl TenBrink (6) Norm Utting (7) Flip Thompson (8) Nelson Stormzand (9) Erv Atkinson (10) Butch Hulbert

### August 20, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Smith 24.49

Dash winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat winners: Sam Sessions, Duane Knoll

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Jimmy Nelson (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Jack Smith (5) Flip Thompson (6) Don Clawson (7) Bill Sherman (8) Art DeShone (9) Duane Knoll (10) Sam Sessions

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Norm Utting 16.26

Heat winners: Al McNee, Hugh Linkfield, Mort Anderson, George Folk

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Duane Cottrell (3) Ray Flannery (4) Flip Thompson (5) Gary TenBrink (6) Erv Atkinson (7) Rusty Bayne (8) Eugene Riffle (9) Bob Estelle (10) Norm Utting

### August 27, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Smith 24.07

Dash winner: Bob Knight

Heat winners: Bill Sherman, Gordv VanderLaan, Wally Sanders

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Dick Carter (4) Jack Smith (5) Bill Sherman (6) Wally Sanders (7) Flip Thompson (8) Don Porter (9) Jerry Little (10) Curly Moody

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Mort Anderson 14.85

Dash winner: Flip Thompson

Heat winners: Duane Cottrell, Bill Rake, Earl TenBrink  
Duane Cottrell

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Flip Thompson (3) Ray Flanneiy (4) Hugh Linkfield (5) Art Crouch (6) Earl TenBrink (7) Jud Wolbrink (8) Dick Stewart (9) Art Umlor (10) Ed Marshall

### September 3, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 24.23

Dash winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat winners: Bill Sherman, Cy Fairchild, Wally Sanders

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Nelson (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Bob Knight (4) Flip Thompson (5) Jack Smith (6) Lee France (7) Bill Sherman (8) Dan McGraw (9) Mort Anderson (10) Wally Sanders



Bob Tattersall

Dick Lee Collection

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Ray Flannery 14.80

Dash winner: Ray Flannery

Heat winners: George Folk, Daryl Siegel

**Feature:** (1) **Curly Moody** (2) Norm Utting (3) Flip Thompson (4) Duane Cottrell (5) Joe Castle (6) Rusty Bayne (7) Earl TenBrink (8) Jud Wolbrink (9) Daryl Siegel (10) Ed Marshall

---

### September 5, 1960 – Monday – Supermodifieds

#### *Labor Day*

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Smith 24.39

Dash winner: Jack Smith

Heat winners: Don Clawson, Bill Sherman, Jack Smith

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Knight** (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Wally Sanders

(4) Bill Sherman (5) Jack Smith (6) Don Clawson (7) Jimmy Nelson (8) Fred Taylor (9) Mort Anderson (10) Duane Cottrell

### 50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Joe Castle 14.43

Dash winner: Joe Castle

Heat winners: Bill Rake, Willy TenBrink, Ray Flannery, Bill Rake

**Feature:** (1) **Mort Anderson** (2) Erv Atkinson (3) Norm Utting (4) Nelson Stormzand (5) Art Umlor (6) Hugh Linkfield (7) Earl TenBrink (8) Curly Moody (9) Joe Castle (10) Ray Flannery

---



Cy Fairchild

Dick Lee Collection

### September 10, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Top Ten lined up by points

Heat winners: Eddie VanderLaan, Jimmy Nelson, Sonny DuBois

**Feature:** (1) **Cy Fairchild** (2) Jack Smith (3) Wally Sanders (4) Don Clawson (5) Dan Bryant (6) Fred Taylor (7) Flip Thompson (8) Art DeShone (9) Dick Manther (10) Jack Senter

---

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Mort Anderson 14.67

Dash winner: Mort Anderson

Heat winners: Wayne Rohn, Erv Atkinson, Joe Castle, Bill Rake

**Feature:** (1) **Jim Flannery** (2) Mort Anderson (3) Erv Atkinson (4) Rusty Bayne (5) Norm Utting (6) Earl TenBrink (7) Curly Moody (8) Daryl Siegel (9) Jimmy Rinner (10) Eugene Riffle

---

### September 17, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 24.32

Dash winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat winners: Duane Knoll, Jimmy Nelson, Don Clawson

**Feature:** (1) **Jimmy Nelson** (2) Jack Smith (3) Bob Knight (4) Don Clawson (5) Dan Bryant (6) Duane Knoll (7) Bill Sherman (8) Flip Thompson (9) Mort Anderson (10) Gordon VanderBeek

**Jimmy Nelson – Clean Sweep Award**

### 50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

Fast qualifier: Top Twenty lined up by points

Heat winners: Bill Rake, Wayne Rohn

**Feature:** (1) **Mort Anderson** (2) Norm Utting (3) Flip Thompson (4) Erv Atkinson (5) Curly Moody (6) Rusty Bayne (7) Earl TenBrink (8) Daryl Siegel (9) Paul Weisner (10) Joe Castle

---

### September 24, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

Rained Out

---

### October 1, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

Rained Out

---



## October 8, 1960 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile cirt

**Fast qualifier:** Jimmy Nelson 23.04—New Track Record

**Dash winner:** Bob Knight

**Heat winners:** Mort Anderson, Don Clawson, Bill Sherman

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Don Clawson (3) Jack Smith (4) Duane Knoll (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Wally Sanders (7) Bill Sherman (8) Flip Thompson (9) Mort Anderson (10) Duane Cottrell

## 20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Strictly Stocks

**Fast qualifier:** Mort Anderson 14.30

**Dash winner:** Mort Anderson

**Heat winners:** George Folk, Nelson Stormzand, Bob Clover

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Duane Cottrell (3) Mort Anderson (4) Norm Utting (5) Curly Moody (6) Flip Thompson (7) Erv Atkinson (8) Jud Wolbrink (9) Art Crouch (10) Paul Weisner



Don White

Dick Lee Collection

## Berlin Raceway Points 1960

1960 SUPERMODIFIED POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Bob Knight	82	6	2	3		
2	Dick Carter	38	5	3	2	1	1
3	Eddie VanderLaan	32	2	1	1		
4	Jimmy Nelson	31	4	5	5	2	1
5	Jack Smith	28		3	1		
6	Don Clawson	25					
7	Norm Brown	23	2				
8	Gordy VanderLaan	19	2	4	6		1
9	Johnny Johnson	19	1	1			
10	Wally Sanders	16					
11	Jim Born	6					
12	Cy Fairchild	5	1				
13	Bill Sherman	4					
14	Dan Bryant	3					
	Flip Thompson	3					
16	Jack Caswell	2					
	Lee France	2					
	Duane Knoll	2					
19	Ralph Baker	1					
	Mort Anderson	1					

# Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present

1960 STRICTLY STOCK POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Mort Anderson	63	8	8	9		
2	Erv Atkinson	40	3				
3	Curly Moody	38	5		1		
4	Duane Cottrell	34	3	3	1		
5	Flip Thompson	31			1		
6	Norm Utting	30	1	3	2		
7	Joe Castle	12	1	1	1		
8	Ray Flannery	11	1	1	1		
9	Nelson Stormzand	11	1				
10	Jim Flannery	10	1	1			
11	Dick Stewart	8					
12	Rusty Bayne	6					
	Hugh Linkfield	6					
14	Daryl Siegel	5					
15	John Tafel	4					
16	Bill Rake	3					
	Paul Weisner	3					
18	Eugene Riffle	2					
	Ed Marshall	2					
20	Art Umlor	1					
	Art Crouch	1					
	Kenny Cnoll	1					
	Ken Sutton	1					
	Chuck Williams	1					
	Earl TenBrink	1					
	Gary TenBrink	1					
	Jud Wolbrink	1					
28	Herman TenBrink	0		1	1		



# Berlin Raceway — Supermodifieds (Dirt), 1958-1965

## 1958-1960 STRICTLY STOCK POINTS

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Mort Anderson	148	18	14	11		2
2	Art Crouch	82	7	4	2		
3	Curly Moody	57	7	2	1		1
4	Flip Thompson	52	2	2	3		
5	Jim Flannery	49	5	3			
6	Bob Clover	48	7	2			
7	Doug Lang	47	2	5	6		
8	Erv Atkinson	43	3				
9	Duane Cottrell	34	2	4	1		
10	Bob Deephouse	32	2	1	1		
11	Norm Utting	30	2	4	2		
12	John Tafel	28	2	1	2		
13	Duane Milheim	28	2	1			
14	Gordon Gebbins	25	3	1			
15	Rusty Bayne	21	1				
16	Dick Stewart	15					
17	Joe Castle	12	1	5	3		
18	Ray Flannery	11	1				
	Nelson Stormzand	11	1				
20	Harvey Redder	10			1		
21	Bob Arthur	9	1	1			
22	Art Umlor	9					
23	George Folk	8	1				
24	Don Ward	8					
	Doug Persion	8					
26	Duane Varney	7					
	Mike Mankin	7					
28	Hugh Linkfield	6					
	Gordon Anderson	6					
30	Ed Bannon	5	1	1			
31	Dick Peck	5					
	Daryl Siegel	5					
33	Norm Garnder	4		1			
	Gus Bray	4		1			
35	Ray Shindelcker	4			1		
36	Elmer Lovett	4					
	Mick Ferguson	4					
	Frank Archer	4					
	Ed Marshall	4					
	Dick Stewart	4					
41	Bill TenBrink	3		1			
42	Bill Rake	3					

continued next page

# Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present

## 1958-1960 STRICTLY STOCK POINTS — CONT.

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
	Jack TenBrink	3					
	Bill Thurkettle	3					
	Paul Weisner	3					
	Bob Kenny	3					
	Bill McGregor	3					
	Art Deschon	3					
	Eugene Vugteveen	2	1				
	Ron Schipper	2					
	Eugene Riffle	2					
	Ken Sutton	1					
	Kenny Knoll	1					
	Earl TenBrink	1					
	Rocky Davis	1					
	Gary TenBrink	1					
	Chuck Williams	1					
	Jud Wolbrink	1					
	Herman TenBrink	0	1				
	Ron Sweeris	0	1				
	Ken Miller	0	1				
	Burl Sweera	0	1				
	Don Prince	0	1				
	Don Moore	0	1				
	Ron Cech	0	1				



## Berlin Raceway Media 1961

### Knight Captures Berlin Opener

**April 8, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight of Grand Rapids celebrated the kickoff of the 1961 racing season by roaring to victory in the 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at Berlin Raceway in Marne.

Knight overtook pace setter Don Clawson of Allegan on the tenth lap of the 20-lap main event and was never headed. Flip Thompson of Belding was second and followed by Nolan Johncock, Wally Sanders, Dick Carter, Jimmy Nelson, Duane Knoll, Ralph Baker, Bill Sherman and Chuck Neal.

Heat race winners were Bill Sherman of Marne, Ralph Baker of Saugatuck, and Dick Carter who was also victorious in the fast-car dash event. Carter also set fast time with 23.04 lap.

Duane Cottrell of Muskegon captured the sportsman stock car main event. Flip Thompson, Ray Flannery, Curly Moody, John Tafil, Rusty Bayne, Art Umlor, Mort Anderson, Bob Estelle and Gary TenBrink followed.

Heat race winners were John Tafil of Grand Rapids, Bob Estelle of Muskegon, and Jack TenBrink of Holland. Fast time was set by Flip Thompson with a time of 14.22 and he went on to take the fast-car dash also.

### Clawson Takes Berlin Feature

**April 15, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Don Clawson of Allegan drove his powerful supermodified to victory in the 10-mile feature race Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

Clawson, in gaining his first main-event victory on the one-half mile Marne oval withstood the challenge of Dick Carter of Breckenridge,

who finished second, followed by Nolan Johncock of Hastings, Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids and Jimmy Nelson of Flint, Flip Thompson, Dan Bryant, Mort Anderson, Don Champlin and Joe Senter.

Heat race winners were Carter, Don Champlin of Battle Creek and Johncock. Carter set fast time in qualifying with a lap of 23.82 and won the fast-car dash.

Sportsman stock car feature honors went to Norm Utting of Jenison with Duane Cottrell, Rusty Bayne, Willie TenBrink, Harvey Redder, Curly Moody, John Tafil, Harvey Gould, Ken Miller and Don Ward.

Willie TenBrink of Holland, Jim Miller of Marion and John Tafil were victors in the heat races. Flip Thompson took fast time in qualifying with a time of 14.56 and took the win in the fast-car dash.

Dock Bonday of South Bend, Indiana escaped serious injury when his race car crashed into the concrete retaining wall.

### Nelson Powers To Berlin Feature Win

**April 22, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Jimmy Nelson of Flint short of stature but long on desire and ability registered his first main event victory of the season in the 10-mile feature race for supermodified cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Following were Gordy VanderLaan, Norm Brown, Lee France, Chuck Neal, Mort Anderson, Duane Knoll, Gordon VanderBeek, Don Champlin and Emery Miller.

Nelson also set fast qualifying time of 23.86 and won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Gordon VanderBeek, Norm Brown and Johnny Roberts.

Johnny Roberts of Wheeler, who resumed his racing career after being seriously injured last year, went out of the main event with mechanical difficulties.

Flip Thompson took the win in the sportsman feature with Ray Flannery, Mort Anderson, Joe Castle, Bill VanReenan, Harvey Gould, Art Umlor, Jack TenBrink, John Tafil and Bob Clover.

Fast qualifying time of 14.15 was set by Flip Thompson with Duane Cottrell taking the win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Wayne Rohn, Bob Estelle, Mort Anderson and Eugene Riffle.

### Carter Outpowers Field For Win

**April 29, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Nolan Johncock of Hastings set the pace, but Dick Carter won top honors by powering around him in the 10-mile feature race for supermodified cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Bob Knight took third and was followed by Norm Brown, Jimmy Nelson, Gordy VanderLaan, Dan Bryant, Bill Sherman, Cy Fairchild and Mort Anderson.

Heat race winners were Paul Loushart, Cy Fairchild of Saginaw, Wally Sanders and Bennie Kieff. Carter, who was the fastest of 62 qualifiers with a lap at 23.28, won the dash event.

Duane Cottrell of Muskegon, captured the sportsman's feature race followed by Flip Thompson, Ken Miller, Mort Anderson, Paul Weisner, Jack TenBrink, Joe Castle, Art Umlor, Scott Presley and John Tafil.

Bob Clover and Al McNee of Muskegon, Harvey Gould of Holland and Bill Ponstein, of Zeeland, were heat race winners. Mort Anderson had fast time with a lap at 13.99 and Ray Flannery took the fast-car dash win.

### Wally Sanders Berlin Feature Winner

**May 6, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Wally Sanders raced to his first fea-

ture win of the season Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. He held off Dick Carter who finished second, followed by Lee France, Gordy VanderLaan, Bob Knight, Don Champlin, Jack Smith, Flip Thompson, Curly Moody and Bill Sherman.

Dick Carter set fast time of 27.05 and picked up the win of the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Eddie VanderLaan, Wally Sanders and Jack Smith.

Flip Thompson was the sportsman feature winner followed by Duane Cottrell, Scot Presley, John Tafil, Rusty Bayne, Paul Weisner, Duane Milheim, Norm Utting, Mort Anderson and Daryl Siegel.

Heat race wins were picked up by Vern Bearinger, Tony Vrablic and Duane Milheim. Harvey Redder set fast time of the night with a lap at 14.43 and he went on to win the fast-car dash.

## Roberts Captures Berlin Feature

**May 13, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Roberts of Wheeler captured the 10-mile feature race for supermodified cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Bob Knight took second followed by Jimmy Nelson, Gordy VanderLaan, Duane Knoll, Dan Bryant, Jack Smith, Wally Sanders, Mort Anderson and Flip Thompson.

Roberts also set fast time of 23.86. The fast-car dash was won by Don Clawson and heat race winners were Duane Cottrell, Dan Bryant and Bob Knight.

Mort Anderson of Greenville captured the sportsman feature race. Duane Cottrell took second and was followed by Rusty Bayne, Harvey Redder, Jud Wolbrink, Daryl Siegel, Nelson Stormzand, Bob Estelle, John Tafil and Harvey Gould.

Heat race honors went to Harvey Redder of Holland, Flip Thompson of Greenville, Anderson and Tony Vrablic of Grand Haven. Fast time was set by Harvey Redder with a time

of 14.59 and Redder followed that up with a win in the fast-car dash.

## Dick Carter Wins Second Berlin Feature

**May 20, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Dick Carter of Breckinridge warmed up for next Saturday's big Tri-State championship race by winning the accident-marred 10-mile feature race for supermodified cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Carter overtook race leader Ralph Baker of Saugatuck on the seventh lap of the 20-lap event on the half-mile Marne oval and was never headed. Jimmy Nelson of Flint was second followed by Baker, Johnny Roberts of Saginaw and Dan Bryant of Fenton, Duane Knoll, Eddie VanderLaan, Wally Sanders, Don Champlin and Mort Anderson.

Johnny Roberts had fast qualifying time of 23.52. Dick Carter won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Cy Fairchild, Flip Thompson and Jimmy Nelson.

Flip Thompson was victorious in the 25-lap sportsman feature followed by Duane Cottrell, Rusty Bayne, Ray Flannery, Mort Anderson, Scott Presley, Curly Moody, Joe Castle, Duane Milheim and Bob Clover.

Heat race honors went to Frank Creech of Grand Rapids, Hugh Linkfield of Lowell and Duane Cottrell. Ray Flannery set the fast qualifying time of 14.15 and went on to capture the fast-car dash.

## Ralph Baker Wins Tri-State Feature

**May 27, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Warming up for the big Memorial Day race card, Ralph Baker of Saugatuck outdueled Bob Knight of Grand Rapids to win the 25-mile Tri-State championship feature race for supermodifieds by less than a car

length Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Finishing behind them were Dan Bryant, Wally Sanders, Lee France, Eddie VanderLaan, Mort Anderson, Duane Milheim, Joe Senter and Gordy VanderLaan.

Heat race winners were Duane Cottrell of Muskegon, Eddie VanderLaan and Roberts. Baker was the fast qualifier with a time of 23.10.

Mort Anderson of Greenville edged Flip Thompson for the sportsman feature race honors with Curly Moody, Duane Cottrell, Harvey Redder, Bob Clover, John Tafil, Art Umlor, Joe Castle and Nelson Stormzand.

Heat race winners were Bill Ponstein, Jack TenBrink, Duane Cottrell and Lavern Koenes. Fast time was set by Ray Flannery with a lap of 14.60 and Flannery also added the fast-car dash to his win column.

## Knight Notches Last Lap Win At Berlin

**May 30, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight of Grand Rapids caught race leader Jimmy Nelson of Flint at the finish line to win the 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds by less than a car length Tuesday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Eddie VanderLaan was third in the 20-lap main event followed by Ralph Baker of Saugatuck, Lee France, Cy Fairchild, Duane Knoll, Duane Cottrell, Flip Thompson and Mort Anderson. Heat race winners were Joe Senter of Muskegon, Cy Fairchild and Flip Thompson. Bob Knight set fast time with a lap of 23.75 and then captured the fast-car dash.

Mort Anderson of Greenville captured the sportsman stock car main event followed by Ray Flannery, Flip Thompson, Duane Milheim, Curly Moody, Art Umlor, Duane Cottrell, Paul Weisner, Bob Clover and Harvey Redder.

Ray Flannery of Muskegon, Thompson, Duane Milheim, and Butch Hulbert of Grand Rapids were



heat race victors. With a lap of 14.52 Curly Moody took the top spot in the time trials while Ray Flannery picked up the win in the fast-car dash.

## Gordy VanderLaan With Comeback Win

**June 3, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Gordy VanderLaan of Grand Rapids won his first major race after being seriously injured one year ago coming in first in the 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway at Marne.

Bob Knight of Grand Rapids was second followed by Dick Carter of Breckenridge, Lee France of Flint, Don Clawson of Allegan, Dan Bryant, Wally Sanders, Jack Smith, Eddie VanderLaan and Cy Fairchild.

Heat race victors were Don Porter, Duane Knoll and Dick Carter. Carter also picked up the win in the fast-car dash while Lee France set fast qualifying time of 23.73.

Duane Cottrell picked up his third sportsman feature win of the season after setting fast time of 14.11 in qualifying time trials. Following Cottrell in the 50-lap feature were Rusty Bayne, Paul Weisner, Harvey Redder, Bob Clover, Jud Wolbrink, High Linkfield, Bob Estelle, Mort Anderson and Curly Moody.

Heat race honors went to Paul Weisner, Nelson Stormzand and Gary TenBrink.

## Carter Sweeps Third Berlin Feature

**June 10, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Dick Carter of Breckenridge one of the most promising young race drivers in the Midwest won the 25-mile championship feature race for supermodified cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Bob Knight was second followed by Don Clawson of Allegan, Lee France of Flint, Gordy VanderLaan of Grand Rapids, Ralph Baker of

Saugatuck, Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids, Bob Clover of Muskegon, Jack Smith of Grand Rapids and Fred Taylor.

Heat race winners were Eddie VanderLaan and Knight.

In the sportsman feature the winner was Flip Thompson, followed by Ray Flannery, Joe Castle, Scott Presley, Paul Weisner, Duane Milheim, Rusty Bayne, Nelson Stormzand, Daryl Siegel and Art Umlor.

Ray Flannery posted a lap of 14.34 in qualifying time trials and then went on to win the fast-car dash race. Heat race winners were Jud Wolbrink, Ed Marshall and Duane Cottrell. Hugh Linkfield took the checkered flag in the consolation race.

## Gordy VanderLaan Victor In Second Feature Win

**June 17, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran Gordy VanderLaan of Grand Rapids staved off repeated challenges of Lee France of Flint to win the 10-mile feature race for supermodified cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Eddie VanderLaan, Gordy's brother, was third in the 25-lap main event on the half-mile Marne oval. He was followed by Don Clawson of Allegan, Duane Knoll and Duane Cottrell both of Muskegon, Jack Smith, Dan McGrue, Paul Louschart and Ralph Baker.

Ralph Baker set fast time of the evening with a lap of 24.17 and then won the fast-car dash race. Heat race winners were Duane Knoll and Fred Taylor.

Flip Thompson won the sportsman feature, his second in a row. He was followed by Mort Anderson, Ray Flannery, Joe Castle, Bob Clover, Hugh Linkfield, Ken Sutton, Jud Wolbrink, Art Umlor and Nelson Stormzand.

Fastest qualifier was Jack TenBrink with a lap of 13.82. Flannery captured the fast-car dash. Heat

race winners were Gene Brown, Marv Eppink and Curly Moody. Marv Eppink took the win in the novice feature.

## Knight Takes Third Berlin Feature

**June 24, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight took his third Berlin supermodified feature race win this season. He was followed by Jack Smith, Flip Thompson, Don Clawson, Duane Knoll, Lee France, Dan Bryant, Mort Anderson, Joe Senter and Duane Cottrell.

Heat race winners were Gordy VanderLaan and Fred Taylor. Fast time of the evening went to Jimmy Nelson which a lap of 25.44 who then went on to win the fast-car dash.

In the sportsman division it was Flip Thompson taking the victory followed by Art Crouch, Ray Flannery, Duane Cottrell, Scott Presley, Curly Moody, Mort Anderson, Harvey Redder, Bob Estelle and Lavern Koenes.

Bob Clover was the fastest qualifier of the evening with a lap of 13.69. Heat race winners were Marv Eppink, Gary TenBrink and Flip Thompson. Marv Eppink took the win in the novice division feature race.

## USAC Berlin Midget Win To Davies

**June 29, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – National champion Jimmy Davies of Pacoima, California won the United States Auto Club sanctioned midget feature race Thursday night at Berlin Raceway.

Parnelli Jones of Torrance, California, the Indianapolis 500 Rookie of the Year, was second, followed by Bob Wente, of St. Louis, Missouri, A.J. Foyt, the Indianapolis 500 winner, and Porky Rachowitz of Los Angeles.

Foyt, the national driving cham-

pion, put on a spectacular performance when he came from the last starting position to win the third heat race. Other heat race winners were Wenthe, Rachowitz and Dale Swain, with Russ Congdon capturing the semi-feature.

A three-car spin sent A. J. Shepard, Bob Mathauser and Hugh Randall crashing into the concrete retaining wall, but all drivers escaped injury.

## Knight Passes Carter On Last Lap For Win

**July 1, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Defending track champion Bob Knight warmed up for Tuesday evening's holiday card by outdueling Dick Carter in a dramatic finish to win the 10-mile feature race for supermodified cars Saturday night at the Raceway.

Carter, race leader and winner-apparent for 19 laps of the 20-lap main event on the half mile oval, saw victory wrested from his grasp by inches at the finish line as Knight streaked to his fourth major win of the season. Following them were Lee France, Eddie VanderLaan, Don Clawson, Mort Anderson, Bob Clover, Duane Knoll, Jimmy Nelson and Wally Sanders.

Knight also set fast qualifying time of 23.44. Anderson took the fast-car dash and heat race winners were Wally Sanders and Dick Carter.

In the sportsman division it was Mort Anderson picking up the win followed by Flip Thompson, Duane Cottrell, Ray Flannery, Curly Moody, Scott Presley, Marv Epping, Hugh Linkfield, Nelson Stormzand and Norm Utting.

Ray Flannery took fast time with a lap of 13.93. Heat race winners were George Folk, Hugh Linkfield and Flip Thompson. Jay Crouch was the winner of the novice feature race.

## Clawson Wins Feature Knight Sets Records

**July 4, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Don Clawson of Allegan, drove the Harry Obie supermodified car to victory in the 10-mile main event Tuesday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Bob Knight of Grand Rapids was second, followed by Gordy VanderLaan, Johnny Logan of Charlotte, and Nolan Johncock of Hastings, Bob Clover, Duane Knoll, Ralph Baker, Mort Anderson and Fred Taylor.

Knight established new track records in the dash with 1:01.7 and the heat race with 3:12.47.

Other heat race winners were Johncock and Curly Moody. Knight also set fast time in qualifying with a lap of 23.30 and went on to win the fast-car dash.

Curly Moody picked up the feature win in the sportsman division with Bob Clover, Duane Cottrell, Harvey Redder, Scott Presley, Hugh Linkfield, Ray Flannery, John Tol-free, Marv Eppink and Jim Flannery following.

Ray Flannery set fast time of the night with a lap of 13.61 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were George Folk, Nelson Stormzand and Bob Clover. The novice feature winner was Art Crouch.

## Bob Knight Captures Fifth Berlin Feature

**July 8, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Defending track champion Bob Knight of Grand Rapids warmed up for next week's big race by roaring to victory in the 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Knight overtook pacesetter Don Clawson of Allegan on the tenth lap of the 20-lap main event on the half mile Marne oval and was never headed. Clawson finished second followed by Lee France of Flint, Dick Carter of Breckenridge, Gordy VanderLaan and Jack Smith of

Grand Rapids, Ralph Baker of Saugetuck, Flip Thompson, Bob Clover and Ted Shoerman.

Heat races were taken by Norm Rust, Dick Carter and Bob Knight. Lee France set fast time of the evening with a lap of 23.26. Bob Knight won the fast-car dash.

In the sportsman stock car division, Duane Cottrell took the checkered flag for the win followed by Scott Presley, Flip Thompson, Mort Anderson, Harvey Redder, Curly Moody, Jack TenBrink, Jud Wolbrink, John Tafil and Art Umlor.

Ray Flannery set fast time with a lap of 13.70 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Marv Eppink, Daryl Siegel and Scott Presley. George Folk was the winner of the novice feature race.

## Knight Takes Rain-Shortened Berlin Race

**July 15, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Defending track champion Bob Knight of Grand Rapids staved off the challenges of Don Clawson of Allegan, and Gordy VanderLaan of Grand Rapids, to win the rain-shortened Mid-Season Championship race for supermodified cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Finishing fourth through tenth were Eddie VanderLaan, Lee France, Ralph Baker, Flip Thompson, Jack Smith, Johnny Roberts and Dan Bryant.

Heat race winners were Dick Carter and Ralph Baker.

Scott Presley won his first sportsman feature of the year Saturday night and was followed by Ray Flannery, Jim Flannery, Duane Cottrell, Duane Varney, Harvey Redder, Joe Castle, Art Umlor, Jud Wolbrink and R.J. Presley.

Ray Flannery set fast time of 13.85 and then took the win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were George Folk, Hugh Linkfield and Tony Vrablic. Nelson Stormzand won the novice feature.



## Knight's Seventh Win At Berlin

**July 22, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Defending point champion Bob Knight of Grand Rapids slipped by race leader Wally Sanders at the midpoint of the feature and staved off Don Clawson of Allegan, and Dick Carter of Breckenridge, to win the 10-mile feature for supermodified cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Following Knight were Don Clawson, Dick Carter, Gordy VanderLaan, Bob Clover, Lee France, Wally Sanders, Duane Knoll, Flip Thompson and Mort Anderson.

Carter set fast qualifying time of 24.59 and won the fast-car dash and his heat race. Ted Stoerman and Gordy VanderLaan won the other heat races.

Ray Flannery of Muskegon edged fellow townsman Duane Cottrell to win the 50-lap sportsman stock car feature. Cottrell was followed by Flip Thompson, Scott Presley, Joe Castle, Mort Anderson, Jud Wolbrink, Hugh Linkfield, Art Umlor and Paul Weisner.

Heat race victors were Jim Flannery of Muskegon, Art Crouch of Cedar Springs and Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids. Art Crouch won the novice feature race.

## Knight Captures Eighth Berlin Feature

**July 29, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight of Grand Rapids turned in a near flawless driving performance to win the Berlin Raceway 25-lap feature race for supermodified cars Saturday night. Knight was followed by Eddie VanderLaan, Ralph Baker, Duane Knoll, Gordy VanderLaan, Don Clawson, Norm Rust, Wally Sanders, Fred Taylor and Curly Moody.

Ralph Baker and Lee France were heat race winners, with France and Norm Rust capturing pursuit races. Flip Thompson set fast time of 23.44.

Ray Flannery of Muskegon staved off Scott Presley of Grand Haven and Flip Thompson of Greenville to win the sportsman car main event. They were followed by Duane Cottrell, Marv Eppink, Curly Moody, Norm Utting, Mort Anderson, Nelson Stormzand and Art Umlor.

Flannery set fast qualifying time of 13.77 and won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were George Folk, Daryl Siegel and Duane Cottrell. George Folk was the winner of the novice feature race.

## Fairchild Takes First Berlin Win

**August 9, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Cy Fairchild of Saginaw captured his first Berlin Raceway supermodified feature win Wednesday night on the half-mile track. Fairchild was followed by Bob Knight, Wally Sanders, Gordy VanderLaan, Bob Clover, Dick Carter, Harold Thomas, Johnny Johnson and Len Guernsey.

Dick Carter started off the program by running a 23.74 lap in time trials. Knight picked up the win in the fast-car dash and heat race winners were Bob Clover and Wally Sanders.

Bob Elliott came in first for the checkered flag in the midget feature which was sanctioned by Midget Auto Racing Association (MARA). Elliott was followed by Russ Jacobson, Wayne Zuber, Mac Knight, Matt Chiniski, Webb Arthur, Gary Byers, Burr Krupp, Alex Hamilton and Johnny Johnson.

Elliott also set fast time with a lap of 13.14. Russ Jacobson took the win in the fast-car dash and Vern Camp and Matt Chiniski won the heat races.

## Carter And Knight Feature Winners

**August 12, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Berlin Raceway ran two 25-lap supermodified features Saturday

night. The first leg was won by Dick Carter followed by Nolan Johncock, Bob Knight, Johnny Logan, Bob Clover, Flip Thompson, Bill Sherman, Dan Bryant, Norm Rust and Jack Smith.

The second feature was won by Bob Knight followed by Nolan Johncock, Ralph Baker, Don Clawson, Eddie VanderLaan, Duane Knoll, Dan Bryant, Dick Manther, Curly Moody and Johnny Logan.

Fast qualifier of the program was Lee France with a lap of 23.45.

The sportsman stock car feature was won by Ray Flannery followed by Scott Presley, Hugh Linkfield, Joe Castle, Art Crouch, Larry Lavery, Duane Cottrell, Bob Clover, Daryl Siegel and Jud Wolbrink.

Fast qualifying went to Scott Presley with a time of 13.85. Flannery picked up the win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Tony Vrablic, Jim Flannery and Hugh Linkfield. The novice feature was won by Ed Marshall.

## Dick Carter Crashes And Wins At Berlin

**August 19, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Dick Carter of Breckenridge, Michigan outdrove a field of 22 cars Saturday night to win the 10-mile feature race for supermodified cars at the Berlin Raceway. Carter was involved in a six-car crackup during which Dick Manthie of Muskegon vaulted over a concrete retaining wall. Manthie suffered a minor leg injury.

Carter was followed by Norm Rust, Gordy VanderLaan, Dan Bryant, Wally Sanders, Lee France, Bob Clover, Don Clawson, Duane Knoll and Jack Smith.

The evening started off with Dick Carter setting fast time with a lap of 23.21. Heat race winners were Ralph Baker and Duane Knoll. Don Clawson and Duane Knoll won the two pursuit races ran.

The sportsman feature was won by Duane Cottrell followed by Flip

Thompson, Bud Meyering, Joe Castle, Jack TenBrink, Jud Wolbrink, Ken Sutton, Hugh Linkfield, R.J. Presley and Larry Lavery.

Scott Presley set fast qualifying time with a lap of 13.69. Heat race winners were Art Umlor and George Folk. Novice feature winner was Art Umlor.

## Ralph Baker Supermodified Winner

**August 26, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Ralph Baker took first place honors at Berlin Raceway in their 20-lap supermodified feature. Baker was followed by Duane Knoll, Eddie VanderLaan, Flip Thompson, Jack Smith, Lee France, Bob Knight, Wally Sanders, Dan Bryant and Gordy VanderLaan.

Audie Swartz was fast qualifier with a 24.15 lap. Heat race winners were Duane Knoll and Norm Rust. Fred Taylor and Norm Rust won the pursuit races.

Mort Anderson took the checkered flag in the sportsman feature followed by Scott Presley, Flip Thompson, R.J. Presley, Harvey Redder, Jud Wolbrink, Art Umlor, Hugh Linkfield, Bill Saber and Curly Moody.

Ray Flannery was the fast-car dash winner after setting fast qualifying time of 14.26. Heat winners were Gary TenBrink, Wayne Berghorst and Harvey Redder. Bill Ponstein was the winner of the novice feature race.

## Ralph Baker Two Features In A Row

**September 2, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Ralph Baker powered his way to a second feature win in a row by beating Dick Carter, Bob Knight, Dan Bryant, Duane Knoll, Audie Swartz, Eddie VanderLaan, Wally Sanders, Fred Taylor and Elver Harrington.

Audie Swartz set fast time with a lap at 23.77 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Bill Kourt, Fred Taylor and Dick Carter were heat race winners. Jimmy Nelson captured the pursuit race.

Marv Eppink took the sportsman feature win followed by Duane Cottrell, R.J. Presley, Flip Thompson, Scott Presley, Eugene Riffle, Harvey Redder, Ray Flannery, Jud Wolbrink and Mort Anderson.

Scott Presley took fast qualifying time with a lap of 14.37. Ray Flannery won the fast-car dash. Wayne Berghorst, Art Umlor and Duane Cottrell won the heat races. Daryl Siegel captured the novice feature race.

## Audie Swartz Tops Berlin With Winged Supermodified

**September 4, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Audie Swartz took the Labor Day supermodified feature race at Berlin Raceway Monday night. Swartz had a wing on the top of his car; he was followed by Bob Knight, Ralph Baker, Duane Knoll, Eddie VanderLaan, Flip Thompson, Bill Sherman, Jack Smith, Mort Anderson and Curly Moody.

Swartz also set the fast qualifying time of the day with a lap of 23.47 and then followed it up with a win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Mort Anderson, Bob Clover and Gordy VanderLaan. Johnny Logan captured the pursuit race.

Bob Clover of Muskegon won the 30-lap sportsman feature, winning over Scott Presley, Mort Anderson, Curly Moody, Duane Cottrell, Ray Flannery, Flip Thompson, Harvey Redder, Jud Wolbrink and Jack TenBrink.

Duane Cottrell won the fast-car dash after setting fast qualifying with a lap of 13.90. George Folk, Bill Ponstein and Scott Presley were heat race victors. Rusty Bayne won the novice feature race.

## Knight Victor Of Season Championship Race

**September 9, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight won Berlin's 50-lap season championship feature race Saturday night. Following Knight were Gordy VanderLaan, Eddie VanderLaan, Jack Smith, Duane Knoll, Wally Sanders, Bill Sherman, Fred Taylor, Jackie Lindhout and Curly Moody.

Heat race winners were; Ralph Baker, Bob Clover, Don Schippers and Jackie Lindhout.

Ray Flannery started off the sportsman stock car program by setting fast time of 14.85 and capped the evening off with the sportsman feature win. Following Flannery were Mort Anderson, Scott Presley, Flip Thompson, Harvey Redder, Bob Clover, Marv Eppink, Rusty Bayne, Joe Castle and Art Umlor.

Heat race victors were George Folk, Jud Wolbrink and Art Crouch. Ken Miller was the winner of the novice feature race.

## Baker Continues His Winning Ways

**September 16, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Ralph Baker picked up his fourth supermodified Berlin Raceway feature of the season Saturday night. It was a great night for Baker as he set fast time in qualifying with a time of 23.94 and also won the fast-car dash. Following Baker was Bob Knight, Cy Fairchild, Wally Sanders, Chuck Neal, Bill Sherman, Don Clawson, Flip Thompson, Johnny Logan and Nolan Johncock.

Heat race winners were Ted Stoerman, Lee France and Flip Thompson.

The sportsman class ran two separate programs. The first one was on the half-mile track. The ten-lap feature won by Ken Sutton who was followed by Duane Cottrell, Gordon



Gebbens, Ray Lockwood, Bill Wesler, Tony Vrablic, Marv Blaine, George Galloway, R.J. Presley and George Hogeman. Fast qualifier was Ray Flannery with no time given. Ken Sutton and Duane Cottrell won the heat races.

The sportsman class then ran a full program on the fifth-mile track with Duane Cottrell capturing the feature followed by Harvey Redder, Scott Presley, Ray Flannery, Art Crouch, Mort Anderson, R.J. Presley, Curly Moody, Hugh Linkfield and Nelson Stormzand.

Ray Flannery won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were George Folk, Joe Castle and R.J. Presley. Joe Castle picked up the win in the novice feature race.

## Carter Captures Berlin Feature

**October 7, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Dick Carter of Breckinridge captured the 20-lap supermodified feature Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Following Carter were

Bob Knight, Flip Thompson, Wally Sanders, Don Clawson, Johnny Logan, Nolan Johncock, Mort Anderson, Eddie VanderLaan and Bill Beard.

Ralph Baker set fast time in qualifying with a lap of 23.43 and took the victory in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were; Norm Nelson, Bill Beard and Dick Carter.

Flip Thompson won the sportsman feature and was followed by Ray Flannery, Scott Presley, Mort Anderson, R.J. Presley, Art Umlor, Curly Moody, Harvey Redder, Duane Cottrell and Rusty Bayne.

Fast qualifier of the night was Scott Presley with a time of 14.01. Duane Cottrell took the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Ed Marshall, Flip Thompson, Scott Presley and Jim Flannery.

## Baker Wins Berlin Closing Race

**October 14, 1961 – Berlin Raceway** – Ralph Baker took the checkered flag for the final feature race of the season at Berlin Raceway Saturday night. Following Baker were Flip Thompson, Don Clawson, Bob Knight, Wally Sanders, Jack Smith, Norm Nelson and Jackie Lindhout.

Baker was also the fastest qualifier of the night with a lap of 25.16. Wally Sanders and Bob Knight were heat race winners with Knight also taking the pursuit race.

Flip Thompson took the win with the sportsman division with Mort Anderson, Scott Presley, Harvey Redder, Bob Estelle, Hugh Linkfield, Rusty Bayne, Nelson Stormzand, Rich Senneker and Art Umlor following.

Thompson set fast time with a lap of 14.05 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Bill Ponstein, Art Umlor and Marv Eppink were heat race winners. Tony Vrablic took the win in the novice feature race.

## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1961

### Supermodifieds – Sportsman

#### April 8, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Dick Carter 23.04

Dash Winner: Dick Carter

Heat Winners: Bill Sherman, Dick Carter, Ralph Baker

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Knight** (2) Flip Thompson (3) Nolan Johncock (4) Wally Sanders (5) Dick Carter (6) Jimmy Nelson (7) Duane Knoll (8) Ralph Baker (9) Bill Sherman (10) Chuck Neal

#### 20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Flip Thompson 14.22

Dash Winner: Flip Thompson

Heat Winners: John Tafil, Bob Estelle, Jack Ten Brink

**Feature:** (1) **Duane Cottrell** (2) Flip Thompson (3) Ray Flannery (4) Curly Moody (5) John Tafil (6) Rusty Bayne (7) Art Umlor (8) Mort Anderson (9) Bob Estelle (10) Gary Ten Brink

#### April 15, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Dick Carter 23.82

Dash Winner: Dick Carter

Heat Winners: Don Champlin, Dick Carter, Nolan Johncock

**Feature:** (1) **Don Clawson** (2) Dick Carter (3) Nolan Johncock (4) Wally Sanders (5) Jimmy Nelson (6) Flip Thompson (7) Dan Bryant (8) Mort Anderson (9) Don Champlin (10) Joe Senter



Flip Thompson

Dick Lee Collection

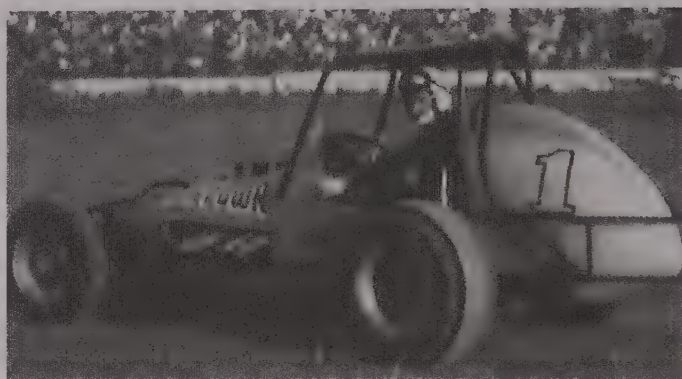
#### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Flip Thompson 14.56

Dash Winner: Flip Thompson

Heat Winners: John Tafil, Willy Ten Brink, Ken Miller

**Feature:** (1) **Norm Utting** (2) Duane Cottrell (3) Rusty Bayne (4) Willie Ten Brink (5) Harvey Redder (6) Curly Moody (7) John Tafil (8) Harvey Gould (9) Ken Miller (10) Don Ward



Bob Knight

Dick Lee Collection

#### April 22, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 23.86

Dash Winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat Winners: Gordon VanderBeek, Norm Brown, Johnny Roberts

**Feature:** (1) **Jimmy Nelson** (2) Gordy VanderLaan (3) Norm Brown (4) Lee France (5) Chuck Neal (6) Mort Anderson (7) Duane Knoll (8) Gordon VanderBeek (9) Don Champlin (10) Emery Miller

#### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

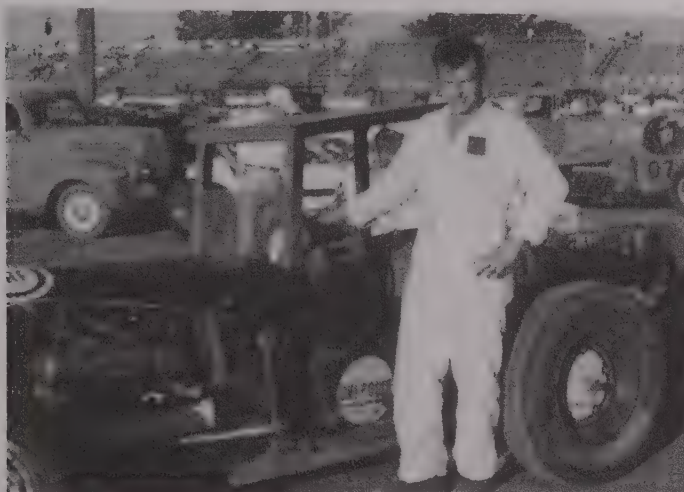
Fast Qualifier: Flip Thompson 14.15

Dash Winner: Duane Cottrell

Heat Winners: Wayne Rohn, Bob Estelle, Mort Anderson, Eugene Riffle

**Feature:** (1) **Flip Thompson** (2) Ray Flannery (3) Mort Anderson (4) Joe Castle (5) Bill Van Reenan (6) Harvey Gould (7) Art Umlor (8) Jack Ten Brink (9) John Tafil (10) Bob Clover





Duane Cottrell

Dick Lee Collection

### April 29, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Dick Carter 23.28

Dash Winner: Dick Carter

Heat Winners: Paul Louschart, Cy Fairchild, Wally Sanders, Benny Kief

**Feature:** (1) Dick Carter (2) Nolan Johncock (3) Bob Knight (4) Norm Brown (5) Jimmy Nelson (6) Gordy VanderLaan (7) Dan Bryant (8) Bill Sherman (9) Cy Fairchild (10) Mort Anderson

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Mort Anderson 13.99

Dash Winner: Ray Flannery

Heat Winners: Al McNee, Harvey Gould, Bob Clover, Bill Ponstein

**Feature:** (1) Duane Cottrell (2) Flip Thompson (3) Ken Miller (4) Mort Anderson (5) Paul Weisner (6) Jack Ten Brink (7) Joe Castle (8) Art Umlor (9) Scott Presley (10) John Tafil

### May 6, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

15 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Dick Carter 27.05

Dash Winner: Dick Carter

Heat Winners: Eddie VanderLaan, Wally Sanders, Jack Smith

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Dick Carter (3) Lee France (4) Gordy VanderLaan (5) Bob Knight (6) Don Champlin (7) Jack Smith (8) Flip Thompson (9) Curly Moody (10) Bill Sherman

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Harvey Redder 14.43

Dash Winner: Harvey Redder

Heat Winners: Vern Bearinger, Tony Vrablic, Duane Milheim, Tony Vrablic

**Feature:** (1) Flip Thompson (2) Duane Cottrell (3) Scott Presley (4) John Tafil (5) Rusty Bayne (6) Paul Weisner (7) Duane Milheim (8) Norm Utting (9) Mort Anderson (10) Daryl Siegel

### May 13, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Johnny Roberts 23.86

Dash Winner: Don Clawson

Heat Winners: Duane Cottrell, Dan Bryant, Bob Knight

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Bob Knight (3) Jimmy Nelson (4) Gordy VanderLaan (5) Duane Knoll (6) Dan Bryant (7) Jack Smith (8) Wally Sanders (9) Mort Anderson (10) Flip Thompson

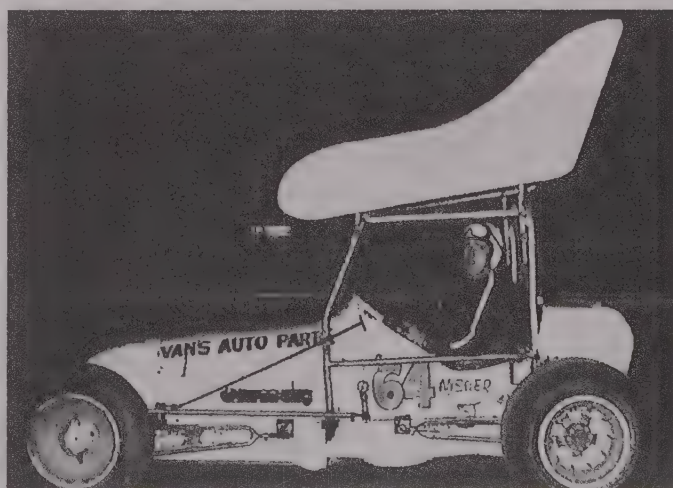
### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Harvey Redder 14.59

Dash Winner: Harvey Redder

Heat Winners: George Folk, Flip Thompson, Mort Anderson, Tony Vrablic

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Duane Cottrell (3) Rusty Bayne (4) Harvey Redder (5) Jud Wolbrink (6) Daryl Siegel (7) Norm Stormzand (8) Bob Estelle (9) John Tafil (10) Harvey Gould



Dick Carter

Dick Lee Collection

### May 20, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Johnny Roberts 23.52

Dash Winner: Dick Carter

Heat Winners: Cy Fairchild, Flip Thompson, Jimmy Nelson

Non-Feature Winner: Cy Fairchild

**Feature:** (1) Dick Carter (2) Jimmy Nelson (3) Ralph Baker (4) Johnny Roberts (5) Dan Bryant (6) Duane Knoll (7) Eddie VanderLaan (8) Wally Sanders (9) Don Champlin (10) Mort Anderson

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Ray Flannery 14.15

Dash Winner: Ray Flannery

Heat Winners: Frank Creech, Hugh Linkfield, Duane Cottrell

Non-Feature Winner: Paul Weisner

**Feature:** (1) Flip Thompson (2) Duane Cottrell (3) Rusty Bayne (4) Ray Flannery (5) Mort Anderson (6) Scott Presley (7) Curly Moody (8) Joe Castle (9) Duane Milheim (10) Bob Clover

### May 27, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Ralph Baker 23.10

Heat Winners: Duane Cottrell, Eddie VanderLaan, Johnny Roberts

**Feature:** (1) Ralph Baker (2) Bob Knight (3) Dan Bryant (4) Wally Sanders (5) Lee France (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Mort Anderson (8) Duane Milheim (9) Joe Senter (10) Gordy VanderLaan



Don Clauson

Dick Lee Collection

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Ray Flannery 14.60

Dash Winner: Ray Flannery

Heat Winners: Bill Ponstein, Jack Ten Brink, Duane Cottrell, Lavern Koenes

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Flip Thompson (3) Curly Moody (4) Duane Cottrell (5) Harvey Redder (6) Bob Clover (7) John Tafil (8) Art Umlor (9) Joe Castle (10) Nelson Stormzand

### May 30, 1961 – Tuesday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Bob Knight 23.75

Dash Winner: Bob Knight

Heat Winners: Joe Senter, Cy Fairchild, Flip Thompson

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Jimmy Nelson (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Ralph Baker (5) Lee France (6) Cy Fairchild (7) Duane Knoll (8) Duane Cottrell (9) Flip Thompson (10) Mort Anderson

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Curly Moody 14.52

Dash Winner: Ray Flannery

Heat Winners: Butch Hulbert, Flip Thompson, Duane Milheim

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Ray Flannery (3) Flip Thompson (4) Duane Milheim (5) Curly Moody (6) Art Umlor (7) Duane Cottrell (8) Paul Weisner (9) Bob Clover (10) Harvey Redder



Ralph Baker

Dick Lee Collection



### June 3, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

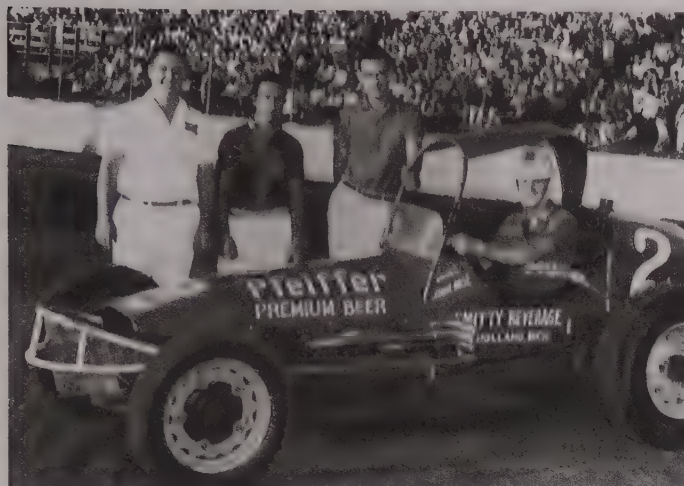
20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Lee France 23.73

Dash Winner: Dick Carter

Heat Winners: Don Porter, Duane Knoll, Dick Carter

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Bob Knight (3) Dick Carter (4) Lee France (5) Don Clawson (6) Dan Bryant (7) Wally Sanders (8) Jack Smith (9) Eddie VanderLaan (10) Cy Fairchild



Gordy VanderLaan

Dick Lee Collection

### 50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Duane Cottrell 14.11

Heat Winners: Paul Weisner, Nelson Stormzand, Gary Ten Brink

**Feature:** (1) Duane Cottrell (2) Rusty Bayne (3) Paul Weisner (4) Harvey Redder (5) Bob Clover (6) Jud Wolbrink (7) Hugh Linkfield (8) Bob Estelle (9) Mort Anderson (10) Curly Moody

### June 10, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Top Ten lined up by points

Heat Winners: Eddie VanderLaan, Bob Knight

**Feature:** (1) Dick Carter (2) Bob Knight (3) Don Clawson (4) Lee France (5) Gordy VanderLaan (6) Ralph Baker (7) Eddie VanderLaan (8) Bob Clover (9) Jack Smith (10) Fred Taylor

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Ray Flannery 14.34

Dash Winner: Ray Flannery

Heat Winners: Jud Wolbrink, Ed Marshall, Duane Cottrell

Consolation Winner: Hugh Linkfield

**Feature:** (1) Flip Thompson (2) Ray Flannery (3) Joe Castle (4) Scott Presley (5) Paul Weisner (6) Duane Milheim (7) Rusty Bayne (8) Nelson Stormzand (9) Daryl Siegel (10) Art Umlor

### June 17, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

15 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Ralph Baker 24.17

Dash Winner: Ralph Baker

Heat Winners: Duane Knoll, Fred Taylor

**Feature:** (1) Gordy VanderLaan (2) Lee France (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Don Clawson (5) Duane Knoll (6) Duane Cottrell (7) Jack Smith (8) Dan McGrue (9) Paul Louschart (10) Ralph Baker

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

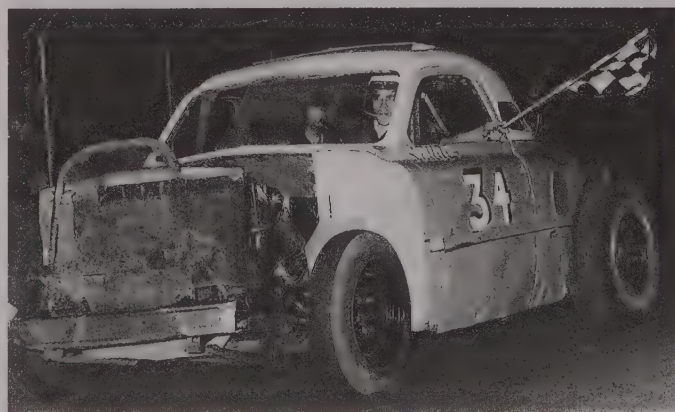
Fast Qualifier: Jack Ten Brink 13.82

Dash Winner: Ray Flannery

Heat Winners: Gene Brown, Marv Eppink, Curly Moody

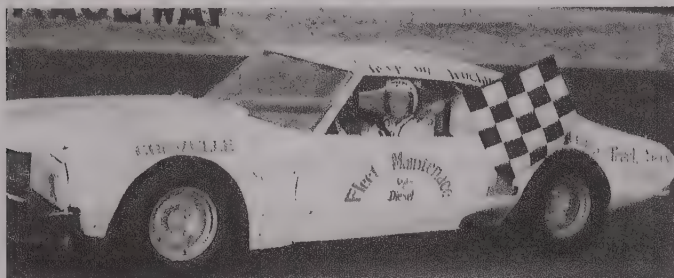
Novice Feature Winner: Marv Eppink

**Feature:** (1) Flip Thompson (2) Mort Anderson (3) Ray Flannery (4) Joe Castle (5) Bob Clover (6) Hugh Linkfield (7) Ken Sutton (8) Jud Wolbrink (9) Art Umlor (10) Nelson Stormzand



Scott Presley

Dick Lee Collection



Harvey Redder

Dick Lee Collection

### June 24, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 25.44

Dash Winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat Winners: Gordy VanderLaan, Fred Taylor

**Feature: (1) Bob Knight** (2) Jack Smith (3) Flip Thompson (4) Don Clawson (5) Duane Knoll (6) Lee France (7) Dan Bryant (8) Mort Anderson (9) Joe Senter (10) Duane Cottrell

### 20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Bob Clover 13.69

Heat Winners: Marv Eppink, Gary Ten Brink, Flip Thompson

Novice Feature Winner: Marv Eppink

**Feature: (1) Flip Thompson** (2) Art Crouch (3) Ray Flannery (4) Duane Cottrell (5) Scott Presley (6) Curly Moody (7) Mort Anderson (8) Harvey Redder (9) Bob Estelle (10) Lavern Koenes

### July 1, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Bob Knight 23.44

Dash Winner: Mort Anderson

Heat Winners: Wally Sanders, Dick Carter

**Feature: (1) Bob Knight** (2) Dick Carter (3) Lee France (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Don Clawson (6) Mort Anderson (7) Bob Clover (8) Duane Knoll (9) Jimmy Nelson (10) Wally Sanders

### 50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Ray Flannery 13.93

Heat Winners: George Folk, Hugh Linkfield, Flip Thompson

Novice Feature Winner: Jay Crouch

**Feature: (1) Mort Anderson** (2) Flip Thompson (3) Duane Cottrell (4) Ray Flannery (5) Curly Moody (6) Scott Presley (7) Marv Eppink (8) Hugh Linkfield (9) Nelson Stormzand (10) Norm Utting

### July 4, 1961 – Tuesday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Bob Knight 23.30

Dash Winner: Bob Knight

Heat Winners: Curly Moody, Nolan Johncock, Bob Knight

**Feature: (1) Don Clawson** (2) Bob Knight (3) Gordy VanderLaan (4) Johnny Logan (5) Nolan Johncock (6) Bob Clover (7) Duane Knoll (8) Ralph Baker (9) Mort Anderson (10) Fred Taylor

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Ray Flannery 13.61

Dash Winner: Ray Flannery

Heat Winners: George Folk, Nelson Stormzand, Bob Clover

Novice Feature Winner: Art Crouch

**Feature: (1) Curly Moody** (2) Bob Clover (3) Duane Cottrell (4) Harvey Redder (5) Scott Presley (6) Hugh Linkfield (7) Ray Flannery (8) John Tolfree (9) Marv Eppink (10) Jim Flannery

### July 8, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Lee France 23.26

Dash Winner: Bob Knight

Heat Winners: Norm Rust, Dick Carter, Bob Knight



Bob Clover

Dick Lee Collection



**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Don Clawson (3) Lee France (4) Dick Carter (5) Gordy VanderLaan (6) Jack Smith (7) Ralph Baker (8) Flip Thompson (9) Bob Clover (10) Ted Stoerman

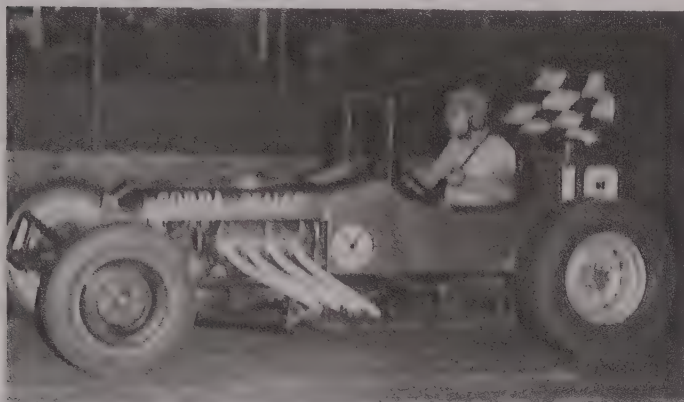
### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Ray Flannery 13.70

Dash Winner: Ray Flannery

Heat Winners: Marv Eppink, Daryl Siegel, Scott Presley

Novice Feature: George Folk



Ken Sutton

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature:** (1) Duane Cottrell (2) Scott Presley (3) Flip Thompson (4) Mort Anderson (5) Harvey Redder (6) Curly Moody (7) Jack Ten Brink (8) Jud Wolbrink (9) John Tafil (10) Art Umlor

### July 15, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

36 laps, half-mile dirt

#### Mid-Season Championship

Fast Qualifier: Top Ten lined up by points

Heat Winners: Dick Carter, Ralph Baker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Don Clawson (3) Gordy VanderLaan (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Lee France (6) Ralph Baker (7) Flip Thompson (8) Jack Smith (9) Johnny Roberts (10) Dan Bryant

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Ray Flannery 13.85

Dash Winner: Ray Flannery

Heat Winners: George Folk, Hugh Linkfield, Tony Vrablic

Novice Feature Winner: Nelson Stormzand

**Feature:** (1) Scott Presley (2) Ray Flannery (3) Jim Flannery (4) Duane Cottrell (5) Duane Varney (6) Harvey Redder (7) Joe Castle (8) Art Umlor (9) Jud Wolbrink (10) R.J. Presley

### July 22, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Dick Carter 24.59

Dash Winner: Dick Carter

Heat Winners: Dick Carter, Ted Stoerman, Gordy VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Don Clawson (3) Dick Carter (4) Gordy VanderLaan (5) Bob Clover (6) Lee France (7) Wally Sanders (8) Duane Knoll (9) Flip Thompson (10) Mort Anderson

### 50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

#### Mid-Season Championship

Fast Qualifier: Field lined up by points

Heat Winners: Jim Flannery, Art Crouch, Bud Meyering

Novice Feature: Art Crouch

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Duane Cottrell (3) Flip Thompson (4) Scott Presley (5) Joe Castle (6) Mort Anderson (7) Jud Wolbrink (8) Hugh Linkfield (9) Art Umlor (10) Paul Weisner

### July 29, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

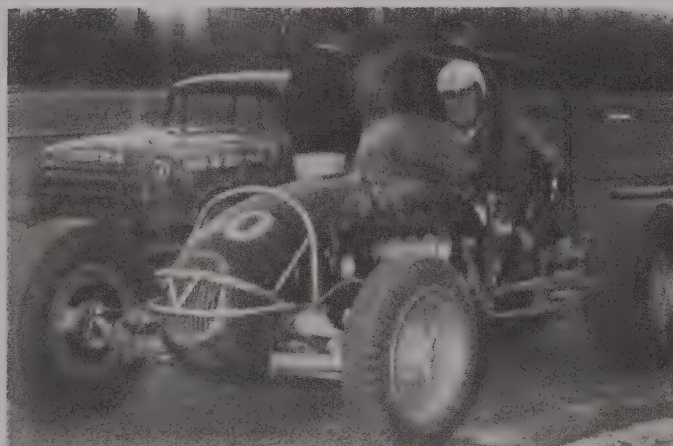
25 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Flip Thompson 23.44

Heat Winners: Lee France, Ralph Baker

First Pursuit Winner: Lee France

Second Pursuit Winner: Norm Russ



Rocky Fisher

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Ralph Baker (4) Duane Knoll (5) Gordy VanderLaan (6) Don Clawson (7) Norm Rust (8) Wally Sanders (9) Fred Taylor (10) Curly Moody

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Fast Qualifier: Ray Flannery 13.77

Dash Winner: Ray Flannery

Heat Winners: George Folk, Daryl Siegel, Duane Cottrell

Novice Feature: George Folk

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Scott Presley (3) Flip Thompson (4) Duane Cottrell (5) Marv Eppink (6) Curly Moody (7) Norm Utting (8) Mort Anderson (9) Nelson Stormzand (10) Art Umlor

---

**August 9, 1961 – Wednesday – Sprints**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: **Dick Carter 22.74—New Track Record**

Dash Winner: Bob Knight

Heat Winners: Bob Clover, Wally Sanders

**Feature:** (1) Cy Fairchild (2) Bob Knight (3) Wally Sanders (4) Gordy VanderLaan (5) Bob Clover (6) Dick Carter (7) Harold Thomas (8) Johnny Johnson (9) Len Guernsey

**20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Midgits**

Fast Qualifier: Bob Elliott 13.14

Dash Winner: Russ Jacobson

Heat Winners: Vern Camp, Matt Chiniski

**Feature:** (1) Bob Elliott (2) Russ Jacobson (3) Wayne Zuber (4) Mac Knight (5) Matt Chiniski (6) Webb Arthur (7) Gary Byers (8) Burr Krupp (9) Alex Hamilton (10) Junior Johnson

---

**August 12, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Lee France 23.45

**Feature (Leg 1):** (1) Dick Carter (2) Nolan Johncock (3) Bob Knight (4) Johnny Logan (5) Bob Clover (6) Flip Thompson (7) Bill Sherman (8) Dan Bryant (9) Norm Rust (10) Jack Smith

**Feature (Leg 2):** (1) Bob Knight (2) Nolan Johncock (3) Ralph Baker (4) Don Clawson (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Duane Knoll (7) Dan Bryant (8) Dick Manther (9) Curly Moody (10) Johnny Logan

**20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Fast Qualifier: Scott Presley 13.85

Dash Winner: Ray Flannery

Heat Winners: Tony Vrablic, Jim Flannery, Hugh Linkfield

Novice Feature: Ed Marshall

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Scott Presley (3) Hugh Linkfield (4) Joe Castle (5) Art Crouch (6) Larry Lavery (7) Duane Cottrell (8) Bob Clover (9) Daryl Siegel (10) Jud Wolbrink

---

**August 19, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Dick Carter 23.21

Heat Winners: Ralph Baker, Duane Knoll

First Pursuit Winner: Don Clawson

Second Pursuit Winner: Duane Knoll

**Feature:** (1) Dick Carter (2) Norm Rust (3) Gordy VanderLaan (4) Dan Bryant (5) Wally Sanders (6) Lee France (7) Bob Clover (8) Don Clawson (9) Duane Knoll (10) Jack Smith

**75 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Fast Qualifier: Scott Presley 13.69

Heat Winners: Art Umlor, George Folk

Novice Feature Winner: Art Umlor

**Feature:** (1) Duane Cottrell (2) Flip Thompson (3) Bud Meyering (4) Joe Castle (5) Jack Ten Brink (6) Jud Wolbrink (7) Ken Sutton (8) Hugh Linkfield (9) R.J. Presley (10) Larry Lavery

---

**August 26, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Audie Swartz 24.15

Heat Winners: Duane Knoll, Norm Rust

First Pursuit Winner: Fred Taylor

Second Pursuit Winner: Norm Rust

**Feature:** (1) Ralph Baker (2) Duane Knoll (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Flip Thompson (5) Jack Smith (6) Lee France (7) Bob Knight (8) Wally Sanders (9) Dan Bryant (10) Gordy VanderLaan



### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Ray Flannery 14.26

Dash Winner: Ray Flannery

Heat Winners: Gary Ten Brink, Wayne Berghorst, Harvey Redder

Novice Feature Winner: Bill Ponstein

**Feature:** (1) **Mort Anderson** (2) Scott Presley (3) Flip Thompson (4) R.J. Presley (5) Harvey Redder (6) Jud Wolbrink (7) Art Umlor (8) Hugh Linkfield (9) Bill Saber (10) Curly Moody

---

### September 2, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Audie Swartz 23.77

Dash Winner: Audie Swartz

Heat Winners: Bill Kourt, Fred Taylor, Dick Carter

Pursuit Winner: Jim Nelson

**Feature:** (1) **Ralph Baker** (2) Dick Carter (3) Bob Knight (4) Dan Bryant (5) Duane Knoll (6) Audie Swartz (7) Eddie VanderLaan (8) Wally Sanders (9) Fred Taylor (10) Elver Harrington

---

### 26 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Scott Presley 14.37

Dash Winner: Ray Flannery

Heat Winners: Wayne Berghorst, Art Umlor, Duane Cottrell

Novice Feature: Daryl Siegel

**Feature:** (1) **Marv Eppink** (2) Duane Cottrell (3) R.J. Presley (4) Flip Thompson (5) Scott Presley (6) Eugene Riffle (7) Harvey Redder (8) Ray Flannery (9) Jud Wolbrink (10) Mort Anderson

---

### September 4, 1961 – Monday – Supermodifieds

30 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Audie Swartz 23.47

Dash Winner: Audie Swartz

Heat Winners: Mort Anderson, Bob Clover, Gordy VanderLaan

Pursuit Winner: John Logan

**Feature:** (1) **Audie Swartz** (2) Bob Knight (3) Ralph Baker (4) Duane Knoll (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Flip Thompson (7) Bill Sherman (8) Jack Smith (9) Mort Anderson (10) Curly Moody

### 30 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Duane Cottrell 13.90

Dash Winner: Duane Cottrell

Heat Winners: George Folk, Bill Ponstein, Scott Presley

Novice Feature Winner: Rusty Bayne

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Clover** (2) Scott Presley (3) Mort Anderson (4) Curly Moody (5) Duane Cottrell (6) Ray Flannery (7) Flip Thompson (8) Harvey Redder (9) Jud Wolbrink (10) Jack Ten Brink

---

### September 9, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

50 laps, half-mile dirt

**Season Championship**

Fast Qualifier: Top Fifteen lined up by points

Heat Winners: Ralph Baker, Bob Clover, Don Schippers, Jack Lindhout

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Knight** (2) Gordy VanderLaan (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Jack Smith (5) Duane Knoll (6) Wally Sanders (7) Bill Sherman (8) Fred Taylor (9) Jackie Lindhout (10) Curly Moody

---

### 50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast Qualifier: Ray Flannery 14.85

Heat Winners: George Folk, Jud Wolbrink, Art Crouch

Novice Feature Winner: Ken Miller

**Feature:** (1) **Ray Flannery** (2) Mort Anderson (3) Scott Presley (4) Flip Thompson (5) Harvey Redder (6) Bob Clover (7) Marv Eppink (8) Rusty Bayne (9) Joe Castle (10) Art Umlor

---

### September 16, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Ralph Baker 23.94

Dash Winner: Ralph Baker

Heat Winners: Ted Stoerman, Lee France, Flip Thompson

**Feature:** (1) **Ralph Baker** (2) Bob Knight (3) Cy Fairchild (4) Wally Sanders (5) Chuck Neal (6) Bill Sherman (7) Don Clawson (8) Flip Thompson (9) Johnny Logan (10) Nolan Johncock

**10 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Fast Qualifier: Ray Flannery 13.85

Heat Winners: Ken Sutton, Duane Cottrell

**Feature: (1) Ken Sutton** (2) Duane Cottrell (3) Gordy Gebbens (4) Ray Lockwood (5) Bill Wesler (6) Tony Vrablic (7) Marv Blaine (8) George Galloway (9) R.J. Presley (10) George Hogeman

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Dash Winner: Ray Flannery

Heat Winners: George Folk, Joe Castle, R.J. Presley

Novice Feature Winner: Joe Castle

**Feature: (1) Duane Cottrell** (2) Harvey Redder (3) Scott Presley (4) Ray Flannery (5) Art Crouch (6) Mort Anderson (7) R.J. Presley (8) Curly Moody (9) Hugh Linkfield (10) Nelson Stormzand

---

**October 7, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Ralph Baker 23.43

Dash Winner: Ralph Baker

Heat Winners: Norm Nelson, Bill Beard, Dick Carter

**Feature: (1) Dick Carter** (2) Bob Knight (3) Flip Thompson (4) Wally Sanders (5) Don Clawson (6) Johnny Logan (7) Nolan Johncock (8) Mort Anderson (9) Eddie VanderLaan (10) Bill Beard.

---

**20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Fast Qualifier: Scott Presley 14.01

Dash Winner: Duane Cottrell

Heat Winners: Ed Marshall, Flip Thompson, Scott Presley, Jim Flannery

**Feature: (1) Flip Thompson** (2) Ray Flannery (3) Scott Presley (4) Mort Anderson (5) R.J. Presley (6) Art Umlor (7) Curly Moody (8) Harvey Redder (9) Duane Cottrell (10) Rusty Bayne

---

**October 14, 1961 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

15 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast Qualifier: Ralph Baker 25.16

Heat Winners: Wally Sanders, Bob Knight

Pursuit Winner: Bob Knight

**Feature: (1) Ralph Baker** (2) Flip Thompson (3) Don Clawson (4) Bob Knight (5) Wally Sanders (6) Jack Smith (7) Norm Nelson (8) Jackie Lindhout

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Fast Qualifier: Flip Thompson 14.05

Dash Winner: Flip Thompson

Heat Winners: Bill Ponstein, Art Umlor, Marv Eppink

Novice Feature Winner: Tony Vrablic

**Feature: (1) Flip Thompson** (2) Mort Anderson (3) Scott Presley (4) Harvey Redder (5) Bob Estelle (6) Hugh Linkfield (7) Rusty Bayne (8) Nelson Stormzand (9) Rich Senneker (10) Art Umlor



# Berlin Raceway Points 1961

BERLIN 1961 – SPORTSMAN		
1.	Flip Thompson	79 (8)
2.	Duane Cottrell	73 (6)
3.	Ray Flannery	55 (4)
4.	Mort Anderson	50 (5)
5.	Scott Presley	47 (1)
6.	Harvey Redder	17
7.	Curly Moody	14 (1)
8.	Rusty Bayne	14
9.	Joe Castle	12
10.	Bob Clover	11 (1)
11.	Marv Eppink	6 (1)
12.	R.J. Presley	6
13.	Norm Utting	5 (1)
14.	Ken Sutton	5 (1)
15.	Paul Weisner	5
16.	Art Crouch	5
17.	John Tafil	3
18.	Ken Miller	3
19.	Jim Flannery	3
20.	Hugh Linkfield	3
21.	Bud Meyering	3
22.	Gordy Gebbens	3
23.	Willie Ten Brink	2
24.	Duane Milheim	2
25.	Ray Lockwood	2
26.	Bill VanReenan	1
27.	Jud Wolbrink	1
28.	Duane Varney	1
29.	Jack Ten Brink	1
30.	Bob Estelle	1
31.	Bill Wesler	1

BERLIN 1961 – SUPERMODIFIEDS		
1.	Bob Knight	94 (10)
2.	Dick Carter	55 (6)
3.	Ralph Baker	39 (5)
4.	Don Clawson	37 (2)
5.	Gordy VanderLaan	36 (2)
6.	Lee France	22
7.	Eddie VanderLaan	22
8.	Nolan Johncock	19
9.	Jimmy Nelson	18 (1)
10.	Wally Sanders	17 (1)
11.	Flip Thompson	16
12.	Duane Knoll	13
13.	Dan Bryant	8
14.	Johnny Roberts	7 (1)
15.	Jack Smith	7
16.	Audie Swartz	5 (1)
17.	Norm Brown	5
18.	Johnny Logan	4
19.	Norm Rust	4
20.	Cy Fairchild	3
21.	Bob Clover	2
22.	Chuck Neal	2

## Berlin Raceway Media 1962

### Knight Victor In Berlin Opener

**April 14, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight of Grand Rapids won a solid five-length victory Saturday in the supermodified feature at Berlin Raceway beating out Nolan Johncock of Hastings. Following were Wally Sanders, Norm Rust, Ken Miller, Chuck Neal, Art Bennett, Curly Moody, Bill Sherman and Jimmy Nelson.

Flip Thompson set fast qualifying time of 23.47. Johnny White of Detroit took the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Don Schippers, Wally Sanders and Johnny White.

Mort Anderson set the pace in the sportsman feature, a 20-lap main event. Anderson was followed by Jack TenBrink, Bud Meyering, Harvey Redder, Scott Presley, Paul Weisner, John Tafil, Art Umlor, Ron Merkins and Ray Flannery.

Ray Flannery set fast time with a lap of 13.71 and picked up the win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Paul Weisner, Mort Anderson and Jack TenBrink.

### Baker Gets Win On Birthday

**April 21, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Ralph Baker fashioned his own birthday present by winning the 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Chuck Neal of Kalamazoo chased the Saugatuck speedster across the finish line followed by Flip Thompson of Belding, Bob Knight, Jimmy Nelson, Eddie VanderLaan, Johnny Logan, Duane Knoll, Art Bennett and Don Schippers.

Baker, the fastest of the 60 quali-

fiers, captured the dash event and took .06 of a second from the record for one lap held by Dick Carter and Jimmy Nelson to establish a new qualifying standard of 23.00 seconds for the half-mile distance. Heat race winners were Art Bennett, Johnny Logan and Chuck Neal.

Duane Cottrell of Muskegon out-dueled Marv Eppink of Grand Rapids and Ray Flannery of Muskegon to win the 25-lap sportsman main event. Following were Marv Eppink, Paul Weisner, Joe Castle, Tony Vrablic, Art Umlor, Hugh Linkfield, Rich Senneker and John Tafil.

Heat race winners were: Cottrell, Bill Burg of Holland and Mort Anderson of Greenville. Cottrell set fast time with a lap at 14.13 and won the fast-car dash.

### Veteran Racer Chuck Neal Scores Win

**May 5, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Chuck Neal of Kalamazoo drove his wing-type supermodified car to victory in the 10-mile feature race Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Ralph Baker of Saugatuck chased the winner across the finish line followed by Bob Knight, Johnny White of Detroit, Flip Thompson of Belding, Eddie VanderLaan, Norm Rust, Johnny Johnson, Curly Moody and Duane Milheim.

Heat race winners were Oscar Fay of South Bend, Indiana, Don Champlin of Lansing, Nolan Johncock of Hastings and Duane Milheim. Chuck Neal set fast time of 23.79 and won the fast-car dash.

Mort Anderson won the sportsman feature followed by Duane Cottrell, Paul Weisner, Ray Flannery, Scott Presley, Harvey Redder, Tony

Vrablic, Joe Castle, Ron Merkins and Art Umlor.

Heat race winners were Joe Castle, Roger Estelle, both of Muskegon, Tony Vrablic of Grand Haven and Mort Anderson of Greenville.

Ray Flannery set fast time of 14.40 and went on to win the fast-car dash.

### Audie Swartz Takes Berlin Feature

**May 12, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** – Audie Swartz took the 20-lap supermodified feature at Berlin Raceway Saturday night. Swartz was followed by Flip Thompson, Jimmy Nelson, Chuck Neal, Duane Knoll, Norm Rust, Bob Knight, Eddie VanderLaan, Bill Sherman and Johnny Johnson.

Ralph Baker set fast time with a lap of 23.49. Chuck Neal took the win in the fast-car dash with Don Champlin, Jack Smith, Bob Knight and Bob Clover capturing heat race victories.

In the sportsman division it was Duane Cottrell taking the feature race win followed by Scott Presley, Joe Castle, Curly Moody, Marv Eppink, Ray Flannery, Mort Anderson, Tony Vrablic, Harvey Redder and Hugh Linkfield.

Cottrell also set fast time of 14.41 and won the fast-car dash. Heat race wins were taken by Gary TenBrink, Bill Burg and Marv Eppink.

### Eddie VanderLaan Wins By Narrow Margin

**May 19, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids turned in the driving performance of



his racing career to win the 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

VanderLaan finished less than a car length ahead of Chuck Neal of Kalamazoo. Early race leader Flip Thompson of Belding was third. They were followed by Bob Knight, Nolan Johncock, Ban Bryant, Jimmy Nelson, Wally Sanders, Duane Knoll and Oscar Fay.

Chuck Neal broke the track record with a 22.90 lap and went on to win the fast-car dash. Jack Smith, Jimmy Nelson and Nolan Johncock took the heat race wins.

Mort Anderson of Greenville was declared the winner in a photo finish over Jack TenBrink followed by Joe Castle, Jim Flannery, Curly Moody, Roger Estelle, Bob Arthur, Bill Burg, Ray Shindelacker and Duane Cottrell in the main event for sportsmen racers.

Ray Flannery took fast qualifying time of the night with a 14.80 lap and followed that up with a win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Wayne Berghorst, Mort Anderson and Duane Cottrell. Nelson Stormzand took the victory in the consolation race.

## Two Features In A Row For Eddie VanderLaan

**May 26, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan topped the Berlin supermodified field Saturday night by capturing the 20-lap feature for the second week in a row. Bob Knight took second with Ralph Baker third followed by Audie Swartz, Chuck Neal, Duane Knoll, Dan Bryant, Flip Thompson, Jack Smith and Johnny Logan.

Chuck Neal, who broke the half-mile track record last week with a lap of 22.90 repeated his skill by setting another new record with a lap of 22.81 and then won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Duane Milheim, Don Schippers, Flip

Thompson and Duane Knoll.

In the sportsman stock cars, it was Duane Cottrell garnering the feature win followed by Jack TenBrink, Jim Flannery, Mort Anderson, Scott Presley, Bud Meyering, Joe Castle, Art Umlor, Curly Moody and Hugh Linkfield.

Fast qualifying time was a lap of 13.80 by Scott Presley. Duane Cottrell took the fast-car dash. Heat victories were taken by George Folk, Mort Anderson, Jim Flannery. Bill Burg took the win in the consolation race.

## Eddie VanderLaan Third Feature In A Row

**May 30, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan seems to be unstoppable as he captured his third feature in a row Wednesday night at Berlin Raceway. VanderLaan celebrated Memorial Day in victory lane. He was followed by Bob Knight, Audie Swartz, Ralph Baker, Flip Thompson, Nolan Johncock, Wally Sanders, Bob Clover, Gordy VanderLaan and Bill Sherman.

Audie Swartz set fast time with a lap of 23.43 and captured the fast-car dash. Ken Miller, Bob Clover and Wally Sanders won the heat races.

Duane Cottrell took the sportsman 50-lap feature race with Jack TenBrink, Harvey Redder, Art Umlor, Scott Presley, Nelson Stormzand and Hugh Linkfield following.

Ray Flannery posted a lap of 13.87 for fast time in qualifying. Flannery followed that up by winning the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were George Folk, John Tafil, Marv Eppink and Mort Anderson. Marv Eppink took the checkered flag for winning the consolation race.

## Johncock Blows Tire; Wins Tri-State Race

**June 2, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** – A blown tire carried Nolan Johncock

of Hastings across the finish line and to victory in the 50-lap Tri-State Championship race for supermodified cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Flip Thompson of Belding finished less than a car length behind the leader followed by Bob Knight of Grand Rapids, Dick Carter of Breckinridge, and Johnny Logan of Charlotte, Wally Sanders, Dan Bryant, Curly Moody, Ralph Baker and Eddie VanderLaan.

VanderLaan set fast time of the day with a lap of 23.36. Heat race winners were Bob Knight and Dick Carter.

Mort Anderson captured the sportsman 25-lap feature followed by Duane Cottrell, Jim Flannery, Ray Flannery, Paul Weisner, Joe Castle, Nelson Stormzand, Jack TenBrink, Harvey Redder and Hugh Linkfield.

Ray Flannery set fast time with a 13.81 lap and won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Wayne Berghorst, Larry Jarvis, Joe Castle and Jim Flannery. Ron Merkins was the winner of the consolation race.

## Indy 500 Star Wins At Berlin Raceway

**June 14, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** – Parnelli Jones of Torrance, California the 150-miles-per-hour Indianapolis 500 qualifier won the United States Auto Club (USAC) midget auto race 40-lap feature event Thursday night at Berlin Raceway.

Jones took over the lead on the 16<sup>th</sup> lap and ran away from the field for the victory. Bob Wente of St. Louis, Missouri was second, followed by Allen Crowe of Springfield, Illinois and Jimmy Davies of Pacoima, California. The race was slowed when Shorty Templeman hit the concrete retaining wall and severely damaged his car. He escaped with cuts and bruises. Bob Knight of Grand Rapids, the only local entry, finished tenth in the main and second in a heat race. Bobby Grim of Indianapolis, Indiana established a new one lap qualifying

record of 22.71 seconds for the mid-gets on the one-half mile track.

Heat race winners were Davies, Tommy Copp, Bud Tinglestad, Wente and Grim.

## Baker Wins Berlin Spring Championship

### June 16, 1962 – Berlin Raceway

– Ralph Baker of Saugatuck turned in a sparkling driving performance to win the Ninth Annual 50-lap Spring Championship Race for supermodified cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before an estimated 5,000 fans.

The 25-mile title event was run in two sections which saw Ralph Baker win the first leg of the two features. Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids finished second, followed by Bob Knight third, Flip Thompson fourth, Wally Sanders fifth, Johnny Logan sixth, Nolan Johncock seventh, Jack Smith eighth, Dan Bryant ninth, and Jack Throop tenth.

The second feature was won by Ralph Baker, Bob Knight second, Wally Sanders third, Nolan Johncock fourth, Eddie VanderLaan fifth, Gordy VanderLaan sixth, Duane Milheim seventh, Bob Clover eighth, Dan Bryant ninth, and Jack Throop tenth.

The event was marred by frequent spins that eliminated the cars of Mort Anderson of Greenville, Flip Thompson of Belding, Johnny Logan of Charlotte, and Don Champlin of Lansing.

In the qualifying time trials Dick Carter set a new track record with a 22.32 lap. Ken Miller won a heat race.

Duane Cottrell of Muskegon outdrove Mort Anderson, Ray Flannery of Muskegon, Jack TenBrink of Zeeland, Paul Weisner of Holland, Marv Eppink, Art Umlor, Nelson Stormzand, Curly Moody, and Tony Vrablic to win the 25-lap sportsman main event.

Paul Weisner set fast time with a lap of 13.70. Ray Flannery picked

up the checkered in the fast-car dash while Wayne Berghorst, Ron Merkins, Tony Vrablic, and Jim Flannery took the heat race wins. Norm Utting was the winner of the consolation race.

## Jack Smith Takes First Feature Of Season

### June 23, 1962 – Berlin Raceway

– Jack Smith of Grand Rapids scored his first main event victory of the season by roaring to victory in the 10-mile feature race for supermodified cars Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Kenny Knoll of Muskegon was second, followed by Flip Thompson of Belding, Ralph Baker of Saugatuck and Bob Knight. They were followed by Wally Sanders, Duane Milheim, Gordy VanderLaan, Bob Clover, and Fred Taylor.

Johnny Johnson set fast time of 23.01 and captured the fast-car dash. Heat races were won by Fred Taylor, Ralph Baker, and Eddie VanderLaan.

Johnny Logan of Charlotte escaped serious injury when his race car hit the concrete retaining wall during the event.

Mort Anderson of Greenville forged past race leader Duane Cottrell of Muskegon on the 40<sup>th</sup> lap and went on to win the 50-lap championship race for the sportsman cars. He was followed by Marv Eppink, Scott Presley, Jack TenBrink, Paul Weisner, Duane Cottrell, Harvey Redder, Jim Flannery, Art Umlor, and Joe Castle.

Heat race winners were Dan Goldner, Curly Moody, Marv Eppink, and Harvey Redder. Norm Utting took the consolation race victory.

## Smith Spins Out – Then Wins Race

### June 29, 1962 – Berlin Raceway

– Harold Smith of Dayton, Ohio drove a 1960 Ford to victory in the 100 lap feature race for ARCA (Auto-

mobile Racing Club of America) late model production cars Friday night at Berlin Raceway.

Dick Carter of Breckenridge, Michigan trailed the winner by only two car lengths in a 1961 Pontiac followed by Ken Reader of McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania and Clyde Parker and Cleo Ashley of Detroit.

The 50-mile chase over the half-mile oval saw Carter jump into an early lead. In the 24<sup>th</sup> lap he and Smith—running first and second—tangled and spun off the track. Iggy Katona took over the lead and held it until lap 88 when Smith regained the front spot.

Heat winners were Dick Freeman Dayton, Ohio and Parker. Ken Johnson of Jamestown, New York won the pursuit race.

## Carter Breaks Record; Baker Wins Race

### June 30, 1962 – Berlin Raceway

– Ralph Baker of Saugatuck warmed up for the big July 4<sup>th</sup> program by roaring to victory in the 20-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Baker traveled the 10-mile distance in record time in gaining his fourth main event victory of the season. Bob Knight of Grand Rapids was second, followed by Kenny Knoll of Muskegon, Jack Smith of Grand Rapids, and Johnny Logan of Charlotte, Dick Carter, Wally Sanders, Flip Thompson, Bob Clover, and Bill Sherman.

Dick Carter broke the one-lap track record with a lap of 22.16 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Ralph Baker, Duane Knoll, and Eddie VanderLaan.

Duane Cottrell of Muskegon and Mort Anderson of Greenville, who have captured every sportsman feature race this season, had their monopoly broken when Jack TenBrink of Zeeland roared across the finish line first in the 25-lap chase followed by Ray Flannery, Mort



Anderson, Marv Eppink, Duane Cottrell, Harvey Redder, Scott Presley, Nelson Stormzand, Hugh Linkfield, and Joe Castle.

Duane Cottrell set fast time of 13.75 and won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Vern Barringer, Ron Merkins, Nelson Stormzand, and Ray Flannery. Consolation race winner was Oppenhuizen.

## Jack Smith Tops Holiday Program

**July 4, 1962 – Berlin Raceway –** Grand Rapids' Jack Smith and Muskegon's Ray Flannery gained feature wins in the holiday racing program at Berlin Raceway Wednesday.

Smith won the 20-lap supermodified race Bob Knight finished a close second to Smith, followed by Duane Knoll, Johnny Logan, Ralph Baker, Eddie VanderLaan, Flip Thompson, Wally Sanders, Bob Clover, and Don Champlin.

Dick Carter set fast time of 22.48 and also won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Bob Clover, Eddie VanderLaan, Wally Sanders, and Dick Carter.

Ray Flannery captured the sportsman 25-lap feature followed by Jack TenBrink, Scott Presley, Marv Eppink, Duane Cottrell, Harvey Redder, Ted Stoerman, Jim Flannery, Mort Anderson, and Art Umlor.

Duane Cottrell set fast time of 13.80 and won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were John Oppenhuizen, Doug Cutler, Nelson Stormzand, and Ray Flannery. Ron Merkins took the win in the consolation race.

## Sanders Breaks; Knight Wins

**July 7, 1962 – Berlin Raceway –** Bob Knight of Grand Rapids outdueled Johnny Logan of Charlotte to win the accident-marred 10-mile feature race for supermodified cars

Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

In gaining his second main event victory of the season, Knight took over the lead when pacesetter, Wally Sanders, broke an axle and was sidelined. He was followed by Flip Thompson, Ralph Baker, Bob Clover, Don Champlin, Mort Anderson, Dick Carter, Jack Smith, and Duane Knoll. Wayne Rohn and Kenny Knoll of Muskegon were involved in an accident, but escaped serious injury.

Don Champlin was the fastest qualifier with a lap of 22.75 and he went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Johnny Logan, Bob Knight, and Mort Anderson.

Duane Cottrell of Muskegon outdrove fellow townsman Jim Flannery to win the slam bang sportsman feature race. Finishing second was Harvey Redder, followed by Scott Presley, Mort Anderson, Nelson Stormzand, Marv Eppink, Ron Merkins, Tom Delano, and Art Umlor.

Heat race winners were Roger Estelle, Tony Vrablic, Mort Anderson, and Jim Flannery. Consolation race winner was Dan Goldner.

## Knight Tops Supermodified Field

**July 14, 1962 – Berlin Raceway –** Bob Knight of Grand Rapids won the 50-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday at Berlin Raceway.

Wally Sanders also of Grand Rapids was second. Following were Johnny Logan, Bob Clover, Flip Thompson, Jack Smith, Duane Millheim, Gordy VanderLaan, Bill Sherman, and Curly Moody. The race was slowed when Grand Rapids' Freddy Taylor hit the retaining wall. There were no serious injuries.

Bob Clover set the fastest qualifying time of 23.46. Heat race winners were Dick Carter and Don Champlin.

Jack TenBrink of Zeeland won

the 25-mile main event for sportsman cars followed by Ray Flannery, Jim Flannery, Norm Utting, Mort Anderson, Harvey Redder, Nelson Stormzand, Duane Cottrell, John Tafil, and Hugh Linkfield.

Fast qualifier of the night was Duane Cottrell with a lap of 13.83. Fast-car dash winner was Ray Flannery. Heat race winners were John Oppenhuizen, Bob Diendorf, Joe Castle, and Jack TenBrink. Consolation race winner was Ron Merkins.

## Dick Carter Captures Berlin Feature

**July 21, 1962 – Berlin Raceway –** Dick Carter of Breckenridge staved off Bob Knight of Grand Rapids to win the accident-marred 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Following them were Flip Thompson, Mort Anderson, Bud Meyering, Wayne Rohn, Duane Knoll, Ken Miller, Duane Millheim, and Bob Clover.

The 20-lap main event was halted on the 17<sup>th</sup> lap by a spectacular accident when the cars of Bob Clover and Duane Millheim, both of Muskegon, collided and crashed into the concrete retaining wall. Both drivers escaped serious injury.

Knight set fast time with a lap of 23.49 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Duane Cottrell, Mort Anderson, and Bob Clover.

Duane Cottrell of Muskegon outdueled Mort Anderson of Greenville and Ray Flannery of Muskegon to win the 50-lap championship sportsman main event. Following were Marv Eppink, Jack TenBrink, Scott Presley, Jim Flannery, Art Umlor, Nelson Stormzand, and Ron Merkins.

Heat race winners were Dan Goldner, Ralph Lawrence, Tony Vrablic, and Marv Eppink.

Ray Shineldecker captured the consolation race.

## Sanders Wins Crash-Filled Feature

**August 4, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** – Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids finished a car length ahead of Bob Knight also of Grand Rapids to win one of the most hectic supermodified feature races ever run at the Berlin Raceway Saturday night. Following Sanders and Knight were Duane Knoll, Don Champlin, Dick Carter, Ralph Baker, Mort Anderson, Bud Meyering, Ken Miller, and Bill Sherman.

The fireworks started in the 20-lap event when Flip Thompson of Belding hit the concrete retaining wall on the fifth lap. On the restart of the race Dick Carter of Breckenridge lost control of his car. One lap later, Bill Sherman of Marne catapulted on top of the racer of Jack Smith of Grand Rapids. While the two were avoiding the spinning cars of Mort Anderson of Greenville, Ken Miller of Muskegon, hit the wall on the last lap of the 10-mile event. All drivers involved escaped serious injury.

Knight was the fastest qualifier with a time of 23.47 and he went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Eddie VanderLaan, Dick Carter, and Ralph Baker.

In the sportsman stock car division it was Ray Flannery taking the victory in the feature race. He was followed by Scott Presley, Duane Cottrell, Joe Castle, Harvey Redder, Ray Shineldecker, Art Umlor, Eugene Riffle, Curly Moody, and Ron Merkins.

Cottrell was fast qualifier with a time of 13.87 and picked up the win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Larry Jarvis, Ralph Lawrence, Jim Flannery, and Ray Flannery. Laverne Koenes won the consolation race.

## Sanders Takes Two Features In A Row

**August 11, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** – Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids nosed out Bob Knight for first place in the supermodified race Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

Finishing third and back was Ralph Baker, Bill Sherman, Jack Smith, Flip Thompson, Norm Brown, Mort Anderson, Eddie VanderLaan, and Dick Carter.

In the supermodified division Dick Carter won the fast-car dash along with setting fast qualifying time of the night with a lap of 23.17. Carter, Anderson and Bill Thurkettle took the heat races.

Greenville's Mort Anderson captured the feature race of the sportsman's class. Following Anderson were Duane Cottrell, Jack TenBrink, Joe Castle, Ray Flannery, Harvey Redder, Jim Flannery, Norm Utting, R.J. Presley, and Nelson Stormzand. The heat race winners in the sportsman class included Ralph Lawrence, Lavern Koenes, Curly Moody, and Jack TenBrink. Marv Eppink took fast time of the night with a lap of 13.70 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Curly Moody took the win in the consolation race.

## Sanders Takes 100-Lapper

**August 18, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** – Hard-driving Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids won the accident-marred 100-lap race for supermodifieds Saturday evening at Berlin Raceway.

Dick Carter of Breckenridge was second, followed by Johnny Logan of Charlotte, Norm Brown of Rockford, Jack Smith of Grand Rapids, and Johnny Roberts of Wheeler.

The 50-mile grind was halted five times when cars driven by Mort Anderson of Greenville, Don Champlin of Lansing, Bill Sherman of Marne, early race leader Bob Knight of Grand Rapids, and Ralph Baker of Saugatuck, hit the wall and cluttered the track.

The supermodified 100-lapper was run in two 50-lap legs. The first leg had Bob Knight the winner followed by Wally Sanders, Ralph Baker, Dick Carter, Jack Smith, Johnny Johnson, Johnny Roberts, Flip Thompson, Duane Milheim, and Duane Knoll.

The second leg finish had Wally Sanders winning followed by Dick

Carter, Johnny Logan, Norm Brown, Jack Smith, Johnny Roberts, Flip Thompson, Eddie VanderLaan, Duane Knoll, and Nick Rowe.

Anderson took the 25-lap main event for sportsman cars. He was followed by Jack TenBrink, Scott Presley, Duane Cottrell, Ray Flannery, Bud Meyering, Ray Shineldecker, Harvey Redder, and Laverne Koenes.

Bud Meyering had fast time of the sportsman with a lap of 13.85. The fast-car dash was taken by Ray Flannery with the heat races won by Denmark Lilly, Eugene Riffle, Art Umlor, and Mort Anderson. Eugene Riffle took the consolation race.

## Carter Captures Berlin Feature

**September 1, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** – Dick Carter took the supermodified 20-lap feature Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Carter held off Eddie VanderLaan, Johnny Logan, Johnny Roberts, Bob Knight, Johnny Johnson, Bill Sherman, Jack Smith, Ralph Baker, and Duane Knoll for the win.

Fast time in qualifying went to Jack Smith with a lap of 23.63 and he went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Carter, Flip Thompson, and Ralph Baker.

Scott Presley picked up the feature win in the sportsman cars with Mort Anderson, Ray Flannery, Jim Flannery, Gene Gillette, Art Umlor, Nelson Stormzand, R.J. Presley, Doug Cutler, and Jack TenBrink.

Mort Anderson set fast time of the day with a lap of 13.93 and then took the win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Joe Castle, Wayne Berg horst, Jack TenBrink, and Mort Anderson. Ron Merkins took the checkered flag in the consolation race.

## Sanders Takes Holiday Feature

**September 3, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** – Wally Sanders from Grand Rapids stamped himself a top



contender for next Saturday's race by winning the 25-lap feature race for supermodifieds Monday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Sanders finished less than a car length ahead of Bob Knight of Grand Rapids, Jimmy Nelson of Flint, and Johnny Logan of Charlotte to record his fourth main event victory in his last five starts. They were followed by Ralph Baker, Norm Brown, Curly Moody, Johnny Roberts, Eddie VanderLaan, and Flip Thompson.

Carter set fast time with a lap at 23.46 and then won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Eddie VanderLaan, Duane Knoll, and Jimmy Nelson.

Duane Cottrell of Muskegon outdrove Mort Anderson of Greenville, Harvey Redder of Holland, Art Umlor, and R.J. Presley of Grand Haven, to win the 25-lap main event for the sportsman cars. They were followed by Nelson Stormzand, Jack TenBrink, Jimmy Rinner, John Tafil, and Tom Delano.

Heat race winners were Denmark Lilly, of Coopersville, Ed Marshall, of Lowell, Paul Weisner, of Holland, and Mort Anderson of Greenville. Fast qualifier of the night was Duane Cottrell with a time of 13.72 and then followed that up by winning the fast-car dash. Gene Gillette picked up the win in the consolation race.

## Anderson Wins Rain Shorted Feature

**September 8, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** — Mort Anderson of Greenville took over the lead on the 34th lap of the fifth-mile track from pacesetter Duane Cottrell of Muskegon Saturday night and went on to win the rain-punctuated 50-lap season championship race for sportsman cars at Berlin Raceway.

Cottrell finished second followed by Scott Presley of Grand Haven, Ray Flannery of Muskegon, and Jack TenBrink of Zeeland.

Heat race winners were Ralph Lawrence of Lowell, Gene Gillette of Grand Haven, Nolan Johncock of Hastings, and Don Skippers of Kalamazoo. Gillette was the winner

of the consolation race.

The rain-postponed 50-lap championship supermodified main event will be run next Saturday night before the 100-lap main event.

## Sanders And VanderLaan Take Berlin Features

**September 15, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** — Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids topped one of the most hectic programs of the season by flashing across the finish line only inches ahead of Nolan Johncock of Hastings to win the 100-lap section of the Mid-American race for supermodified cars, Saturday night, at the Berlin Raceway.

Jimmy Nelson of Flint who led the race for 88 laps, finished third followed by Johnny Logan of Charlotte, Bob Knight and Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids, Dick Pratt of Union City, Oscar Faye of South Bend, Indiana, and Johnny Roberts of Wheeler.

The race was run in 2 legs with Jimmy Nelson victorious in the first leg and Wally Sanders in the second leg.

In the rained-out supermodified feature race from September 8th, Eddie VanderLaan was the feature winner in the 50-lap race. He was followed by Nolan Johncock, Jimmy Nelson, Johnny Roberts, Jack Smith, Ralph Baker, Jay Mashburn, Nick Rowe, Duane Knoll, and Norm Nelson.

The sportsman division feature was also run in two legs with Duane Cottrell taking the first feature and Jack TenBrink winning the second leg.

## Sanders Takes Another Berlin Feature

**September 22, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** — Wally Sanders continued his winning ways at Berlin Raceway by winning Saturday's supermodified feature. Chasing him were

Jimmy Nelson, Bob Knight, Jack Smith, Ralph Baker, Duane Knoll, Duane Cottrell, Jay Mashburn, Nick Rowe, and Ted Stoerman.

Norm Brown set fast qualifying time with a lap of 25.85. The fast-car dash was taken by Jimmy Nelson with Knight, Smith, and Nelson coping the heat races.

Mort Anderson took the win in the sportsman feature followed by Scott Presley, Ray Flannery, Harvey Redder, Bud Meyering, Claude Epperham, Jack TenBrink, Laverne Koenes, R.J. Presley, and Duane Cottrell.

Paul Weisner set fast time in qualifying with a lap of 14.29 while Bud Meyering captured the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Larry Jarvis, Ed Marshall, R.J. Presley, and Jack TenBrink. The consolation race was won by Ed Marshall.

## Veteran Racer Johnny Logan Takes Berlin Feature

**September 29, 1962 – Berlin Raceway** — Veteran racer Johnny Logan picked off the 20-lap supermodified feature Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. He was followed by Wally Sanders, Bob Knight, Eddie VanderLaan, Flip Thompson, Jackie Lindhout, Duane Knoll, Duane Cottrell, Nick Rose, and Ted Stoerman.

Knight set fast time of the evening with a lap at 23.32 and then won the fast-car dash. Heat race wins were taken by Ted Stoerman and Eddie VanderLaan.

Bob Clover picked off the sportsman feature with Duane Cottrell, Scott Presley, Mort Anderson, Harvey Redder, Lavern Koenes, R.J. Presley, Bob Lang, and John Tafil following.

Harvey Redder set fast qualifying time of 14.23 and went on to win the fast-car dash race. Heat race winners were Doug Cutler, Bill Brower, and Mort Anderson.

## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1962

### Supermodifieds – Sportsman

**April 14, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

15 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Flip Thompson 23.47

Dash winner: Johnny White

Heat winners: Don Schippers, Wally Sanders, Johnny White

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Knight** (2) Nolan Johncock (3) Wally Sanders (4) Norm Rust (5) Ken Miller (6) Chuck Neal (7) Art Bennett (8) Curly Moody (9) Bill Sherman (10) Jimmy Nelson

**20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Fast qualifier: Ray Flannery 13.71

Dash winner: Ray Flannery

Heat winners: Paul Weisner, Mort Anderson, Jack TenBrink

**Feature:** (1) **Mort Anderson** (2) Jack TenBrink (3) Bud Meyering (4) Harvey Redder (5) Scott Presley (6) Paul Weisner (7) John Tafel (8) Art Umlor (9) Ron Merkins (10) Ray Flannery



Duane Cottrell

Dick Lee Collection

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Fast qualifier: Duane Cottrell 14.13

Dash winner: Duane Cottrell

Heat winners: Bill Burg, Mort Anderson, Duane Cottrell

**Feature:** (1) **Duane Cottrell** (2) Ray Flannery (3) Marv Eppink (4) Paul Weisner (5) Joe Castle (6) Tony Vrablic (7) Art Umlor (8) Hugh Linkfield (9) Rich Senneker (10) John Tafel

**Duane Cottrell – Clean Sweep Award**

**April 28, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

Rained Out

**May 5, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Chuck Neal 23.79

Dash winner: Chuck Neal

Heat winners: Oscar Fay, Don Champlin, Nolan Johncock, Duane Milheim

**Feature:** (1) **Chuck Neal** (2) Ralph Baker (3) Bob Knight (4) Johnny White (5) Flip Thompson (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Norm Rust (8) Johnny Johnson (9) Curly Moody (10) Duane Milheim



Bob Knight

Dick Lee Collection

**April 21, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

25 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Ralph Baker 23.00—New Track Record

Dash winner: Ralph Baker

Heat winners: Art Bennett, Johnny Logan, Chuck Neal

**Feature:** (1) **Ralph Baker** (2) Chuck Neal (3) Flip Thompson (4) Bob Knight (5) Jimmy Nelson (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Johnny Logan (8) Duane Knoll (9) Art Bennett (10) Don Schippers



### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Ray Flannery 14.40

Dash winner: Ray Flannery

Heat winners: Joe Castle, Tony Vrablic, Mort Anderson, Roger Estelle

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Duane Cottrell (3) Paul Weisner (4) Ray Flannery (5) Scott Presley (6) Harvey Redder (7) Tony Vrablic (8) Joe Castle (9) Ron Merkins (10) Art Umlor

### May 12, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Ralph Baker 23.49

Dash winner: Chuck Neal

Heat winners: Don Champlin, Jack Smith, Bob Knight, Bob Clover

**Feature:** (1) Audie Swartz (2) Flip Thompson (3) Jimmy Nelson (4) Chuck Neal (5) Duane Knoll (6) Norm Rust (7) Bob Knight (8) Eddie VanderLaan (9) Bill Sherman (10) Johnny Johnson

*(This was the first feature win at Berlin Raceway for a winged supermodified.)*

### 20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Duane Cottrell 14.41

Dash winner: Duane Cottrell

Heat winners: Gary TenBrink, Bill Burg, Marv Eppink

Consolation Winner: Ron Merkins

**Feature:** (1) Duane Cottrell (2) Scott Presley (3) Joe Castle (4) Curly Moody (5) Marv Eppink (6) Ray Flannery (7) Mort Anderson (8) Tony Vrablic (9) Harvey Redder (10) Hugh Linkfield



Wally Sanders

Dick Lee Collection



Jack TenBrink

Dick Lee Collection

### May 19, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Chuck Neal 22.90—New Track Record

Dash winner: Chuck Neal

Heat winners: Jack Smith, Jimmy Nelson, Nolan Johncock

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Chuck Neal (3) Flip Thompson (4) Bob Knight (5) Nolan Johncock (6) Dan Bryant (7) Jimmy Nelson (8) Wally Sanders (9) Duane Knoll (10) Oscar Fay

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Ray Flannery 14.80

Dash winner: Ray Flannery

Heat winners: Wayne Berghorst, Mort Anderson, Duane Cottrell

Consolation winner: Nelson Stormzand

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Jack TenBrink (3) Joe Castle (4) Jim Flannery (5) Curly Moody (6) Roger Estelle (7) Bob Arthur (8) Bill Burg (9) Ray Shineldecker (10) Duane Cottrell

### May 26, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Chuck Neal 22.81—New Track Record

Dash winner: Chuck Neal

Heat winners: Duane Milheim, Don Schippers, Flip Thompson, Duane Knoll

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Bob Knight (3) Ralph Baker (4) Audie Swartz (5) Chuck Neal (6) Duane Knoll (7) Dan Bryant (8) Flip Thompson (9) Jack Smith (10) Johnny Logan

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Scott Presley 13.80

Dash winner: Duane Cottrell

Heat winners: George Folk, Mort Anderson, Jim Flannery

Consolation Race: Bill Burg

**Feature:** (1) Duane Cottrell (2) Jack TenBrink (3) Jim Flannery (4) Mort Anderson (5) Scott Presley (6) Bud Meyering (7) Joe Castle (8) Art Umlor (9) Curly Moody (10) Hugh Linkfield



Ralph Baker

Dick Lee Collection

### May 30, 1962 – Wednesday – Supermodifieds Memorial Day

25 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Audie Swartz 23.43

Dash winner: Audie Swartz

Heat winners: Ken Miller, Bob Clover, Wally Sanders

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Bob Knight (3) Audie Swartz (4) Ralph Baker (5) Flip Thompson (6) Nolan Johncock (7) Wally Sanders (8) Bob Clover (9) Gordy VanderLaan (10) Bill Sherman

### 50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Ray Flannery 13.87

Dash winner: Ray Flannery

Heat winners: George Folk, John Tafil, Marv Eppink, Mort Anderson

Consolation Winner: Marv Eppink

**Feature:** (1) Duane Cottrell (2) Jack TenBrink (3) Harvey Redder (4) Art Umlor (5) Scott Presley (6) Ray Flannery (7) Ron Merkins (8) Eugene Riffle (9) Nelson Stormzand (10) Hugh Linkfield

### June 2, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan 23.36

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Dick Carter

**Feature:** (1) Nolan Johncock (2) Flip Thompson (3) Bob Knight (4) Dick Carter (5) Johnny Logan (6) Wally Sanders (7) Dan Bryant (8) Curly Moody (9) Ralph Baker (10) Eddie VanderLaan

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Ray Flannery 13.81

Dash winner: Ray Flannery

Heat winners: Wayne Berghorst, Larry Jarvis, Joe Castle, Jim Flannery

Consolation winner: Ron Merkins

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Duane Cottrell (3) Jim Flannery (4) Ray Flannery (5) Paul Weisner (6) Joe Castle (7) Nelson Stormzand (8) Jack TenBrink (9) Harvey Redder (10) Hugh Linkfield

### June 14, 1962 – Thursday – USAC (United States Auto Club) – Midgets

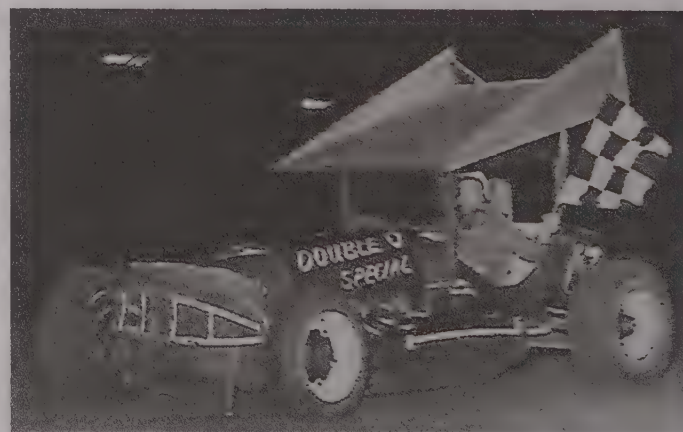
40 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bobby Grim 22.71

Heat winners: Jimmy Davies, Tommy Copp, Bud Tinglestad, Bob Wente, Bobby Grim

**Feature:** (1) Parnelli Jones (2) Bob Wente, (3) Allen Crowe (4) Jimmy Davies

*(Shorty Templeton crashed hard in turn four and was taken to hospital.)*



Eddie VanderLaan

Dick Lee Collection



### June 16, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Dick Carter 22.32—New Track Record

Heat winner: Ken Miller

**Feature 1:** (1) Ralph Baker (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Bob Knight (4) Flip Thompson (5) Wally Sanders (6) Johnny Logan (7) Nolan Johncock (8) Jack Smith (9) Dan Bryant (10) Duane Milheim

**Feature 2:** (1) Ralph Baker (2) Bob Knight (3) Wally Sanders (4) Nolan Johncock (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Gordy VanderLaan (7) Duane Milheim (8) Bob Clover (9) Dan Bryant (10) Jack Throop

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Paul Weisner 13.70

Dash winner: Ray Flannery

Heat winners: Wayne Berghorst, Ron Merkins, Tony Vrablic, Jim Flannery

Consolation winner: Norm Utting

**Feature:** (1) Duane Cottrell (2) Mort Anderson (3) Ray Flannery (4) Jack TenBrink (5) Paul Weisner (6) Marv Eppink (7) Art Umlor (8) Nelson Stormzand (9) Curly Moody (10) Tony Vrablic

### June 23, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

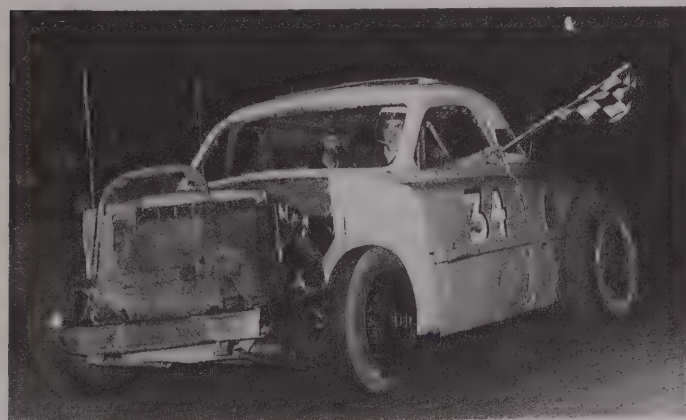
20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Johnny Johnson 23.01

Dash winner: Johnny Johnson

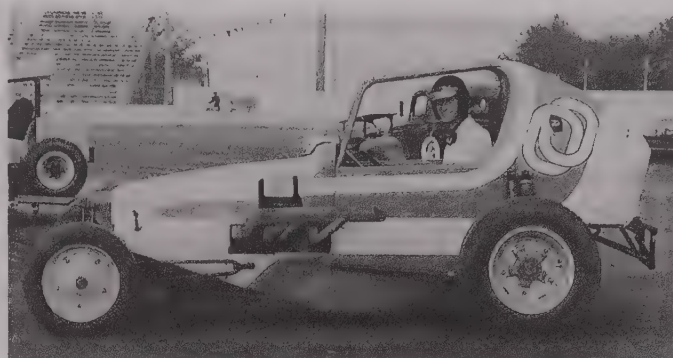
Heat winners: Fred Taylor, Ralph Baker, Eddie VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) Jack Smith (2) Duane Knoll (3) Flip Thompson (4) Ralph Baker (5) Bob Knight (6) Wally Sanders (7) Duane Milheim (8) Gordy VanderLaan (9) Bob Clover (10) Fred Taylor



Scott Presley

Dick Lee Collection



Jack Smith

Dick Lee Collection

### 50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Top Ten lined up by points

Heat winners: Dan Goldner, Curly Moody, Marv Eppink, Harvey Redder

Consolation winner: Norm Utting

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Marv Eppink (3) Scott Presley (4) Jack TenBrink (5) Paul Weisner (6) Duane Cottrell (7) Harvey Redder (8) Jim Flannery (9) Art Umlor (10) Joe Castle

### June 29, 1962 – Friday – MARC (Midwest Association for Race Cars) – New Cars

100- laps, half-mile dirt

**Feature:** (1) Harold Smith, (2) Dick Carter (3) Ken Reader (4) Clyde Parker (5) Leo Ashley

*(Harold Smith and Dick Carter tangled during the race and both were sent to the rear of the field.)*

### June 30, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Fast qualifier:** Dick Carter 22.16—New Track Record

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Ralph Baker, Duane Knoll, Eddie VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) Ralph Baker (2) Bob Knight (3) Kenny Knoll (4) Jack Smith (5) Johnny Logan (6) Dick Carter (7) Wally Sanders (8) Flip Thompson (9) Bob Clover (10) Bill Sherman

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Duane Cottrell 13.75

Dash winner: Duane Cottrell

Heat winners: Vern Barringer, Ron Merkins, Nelson Stormzand, Ray Flannery

Consolation winner: John Oppenhuizen

**Feature:** (1) Jack TenBrink (2) Ray Flannery (3) Mort Anderson (4) Marv Eppink (5) Duane Cottrell (6) Harvey Redder (7) Scott Presley (8) Nelson Stormzand (9) Hugh Linkfield (10) Joe Castle

---

## July 4, 1962 – Wednesday – Supermodifieds

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 22.48

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Bob Clover, Eddie VanderLaan, Wally Sanders, Dick Carter

**Feature:** (1) Jack Smith (2) Bob Knight (3) Duane Knoll (4) Johnny Logan (5) Ralph Baker (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Flip Thompson (8) Wally Sanders (9) Bob Clover (10) Don Champlin

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Duane Cottrell 13.80

Dash winner: Duane Cottrell

Heat winners: John Oppenhuizen, Doug Cutler, Nelson Stormzand, Ray Flannery,

Consolation winner: Ron Merkins

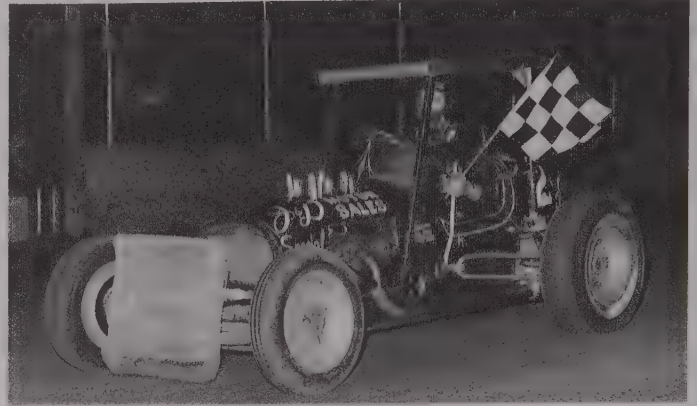
**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Jack TenBrink (3) Scott Presley (4) Marv Eppink (5) Duane Cottrell (6) Harvey Redder (7) Ted Stoerman (8) Jim Flannery (9) Mort Anderson (10) Art Umlor

---



Parnelli Jones

Dick Lee Collection



Nolan Johncock

Dick Lee Collection

## July 7, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Don Champlin 22.75

Dash winner: Don Champlin

Heat winners: Johnny Logan, Bob Knight, Mort Anderson

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Johnny Logan (3) Flip Thompson (4) Ralph Baker (5) Bob Clover (6) Don Champlin (7) Mort Anderson (8) Dick Carter (9) Jack Smith (10) Duane Knoll

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Duane Cottrell 13.75

Dash winner: Duane Cottrell

Heat Winners: Roger Estelle, Tony Vrablic, Mort Anderson, Jim Flannery

Consolation winner: Dan Goldner

**Feature:** (1) Duane Cottrell (2) Jim Flannery (3) Harvey Redder (4) Scott Presley (5) Mort Anderson (6) Nelson Stormzand (7) Marv Eppink (8) Ron Merkins (9) Tom Delano (10) Art Umlor

---

## July 14, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bob Clover 23.46

Heat winners: Dick Carter, Don Champlin

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Wally Sanders (3) Johnny Logan (4) Bob Clover (5) Flip Thompson (6) Jack Smith (7) Duane Milheim (8) Gordy VanderLaan (9) Bill Sherman (10) Curly Moody



### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Duane Cottrell 13.83

Dash winner: Ray Flannery

Heat winners: John Oppenhuizen, Bob Diendorf, Joe Castle, Jack TenBrink

Consolation winner: Ron Merkins

**Feature:** (1) Jack TenBrink (2) Ray Flannery (3) Jim Flannery (4) Norm Utting (5) Mort Anderson (6) Harvey Redder (7) Nelson Stormzand (8) Duane Cottrell (9) John Tafel (10) Hugh Linkfield

---

### July 21, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bob Knight 23.49

Dash winner: Bob Knight

Heat winners: Duane Cottrell, Mort Anderson, Bob Clover

**Feature:** (1) Dick Carter (2) Bob Knight (3) Flip Thompson (4) Mort Anderson (5) Bud Meyering (6) Wayne Rohn (7) Duane Knoll (8) Ken Miller (9) Duane Milheim (10) Bob Clover

### 50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Field lined up by points

Heat winners: Dan Goldner, Ralph Lawrence, Tony Vrablic, Marv Eppink

Consolation winner: Ray Shineldecker

**Features:** (1) Duane Cottrell (2) Mort Anderson (3) Ray Flannery (4) Marv Eppink (5) Jack TenBrink (6) Scott Presley (7) Jim Flannery (8) Art Umlor (9) Nelson Stormzand (10) Ron Merkins

---

### July 28, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

Rained Out

---

### August 4, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bob Knight 23.47

Dash winner: Bob Knight

Heat winners: Eddie VanderLaan, Dick Carter, Ralph Baker

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Bob Knight (3) Duane Knoll (4) Don Champlin (5) Dick Carter (6) Ralph Baker (7) Mort Anderson (8) Bud Meyering (9) Ken Miller (10) Bill Sherman

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Duane Cottrell 13.87

Dash winner: Duane Cottrell

Heat winners: Larry Jarvis, Ralph Lawrence, Jim Flannery, Ray Flannery

Consolation winner: Laverne Koenes

**Feature:** (1) Ray Flannery (2) Scott Presley (3) Duane Cottrell (4) Joe Castle (5) Harvey Redder (6) Ray Shineldecker (7) Art Umlor (8) Eugene Riffle (9) Curly Moody (10) Ron Merkins

---

### August 11, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 23.17

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Dick Carter, Mort Anderson, Bill Therkettle

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Bob Knight (3) Ralph Baker (4) Bill Sherman (5) Jack Smith (6) Flip Thompson (7) Norm Brown (8) Mort Anderson (9) Eddie VanderLaan (10) Dick Carter

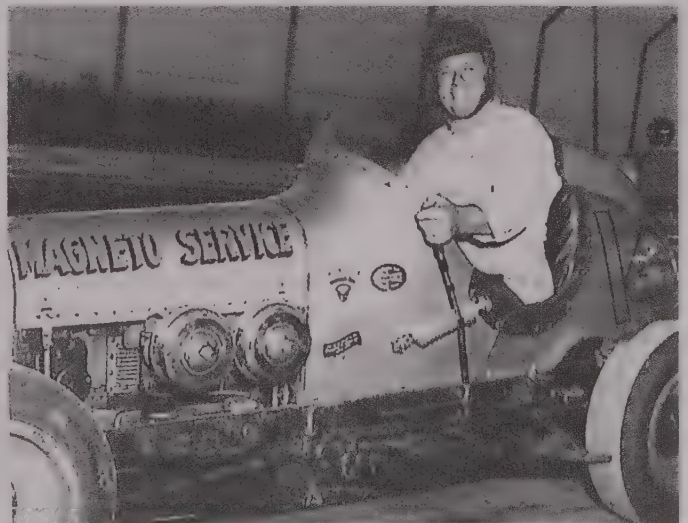
### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Marv Eppink 13.70

Dash winner: Marv Eppink

Heat winners: Ralph Lawrence, Curly Moody, Laverne Koenes, Jack TenBrink

Consolation winner: Curly Moody



Shorty Templeman

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Duane Cottrell  
(3) Jack TenBrink (4) Joe Castle (5) Ray Flannery  
(6) Harvey Redder (7) Jim Flannery (8) Norm Utting  
(9) R.J. Presley (10) Nelson Stormzand

---

### August 18, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

2 - 50 lap features, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 22.78

**Feature (Leg 1):** (1) Bob Knight (2) Wally Sanders  
(3) Ralph Baker (4) Dick Carter (5) Jack Smith  
(6) Johnny Johnson (7) Johnny Roberts (8) Flip  
Thompson (9) Duane Milheim (10) Duane Knoll

**Feature (Leg 2):** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Dick Carter  
(3) Johnny Logan (4) Norm Brown (5) Jack Smith  
(6) Johnny Roberts (7) Flip Thompson (8) Eddie  
VanderLaan (9) Duane Knoll (10) Nick Rowe

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Bud Meyering 13.85

Dash winner: Ray Flannery

Heat winners: Denmark Lilly, Eugene Riffle, Art Umlor,  
Mort Anderson

Consolation winner: Eugene Riffle

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Jack TenBrink  
(3) Scott Presley (4) Duane Cottrell (5) Ray Flannery  
(6) Bud Meyering (7) Ray Shineldecker (8) Harvey  
Redder (10) Laverne Koenes

---

### August 25, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

Rained Out

---

### September 1, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Smith 23.63

Dash winner: Jack Smith

Heat winners: Dick Carter, Flip Thompson, Ralph  
Baker

**Feature:** (1) Dick Carter (2) Eddie VanderLaan  
(3) Johnny Logan (4) Johnny Roberts (5) Bob Knight  
(6) Johnny Johnson (7) Bill Sherman (8) Jack Smith  
(9) Ralph Baker (10) Duane Knoll

---

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Mort Anderson 13.93

Dash winner: Mort Anderson

Heat winners: Joe Castle, Wayne Berghorst, Jack  
TenBrink, Mort Anderson

Consolation winner: Ron Merkins

**Feature:** (1) Scott Presley (2) Mort Anderson (3) Ray  
Flannery (4) Jim Flannery (5) Gene Gillette (6) Art  
Umlor (7) Nelson Stormzand (8) R.J. Presley (9) Doug  
Cutler (10) Jack TenBrink

---

### September 3, 1962 – Monday – Supermodifieds

#### Labor Day

25 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 23.46

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Eddie VanderLaan, Duane Knoll, Jimmy  
Nelson

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Bob Knight (3) Jimmy  
Nelson (4) Johnny Logan (5) Ralph Baker (6) Norm  
Brown (7) Curly Moody (8) Johnny Roberts (9) Eddie  
VanderLaan (10) Flip Thompson

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Duane Cottrell 13.72

Dash winner: Duane Cottrell

Heat winners: Denmark Lilly, Ed Marshall, Paul  
Weisner, Mort Anderson

Consolation winner: Gene Gillette

**Feature:** (1) Duane Cottrell (2) Mort Anderson  
(3) Harvey Redder (4) Art Umlor (5) R.J. Presley  
(6) Nelson Stormzand (7) Jack TenBrink (8) Jimmy  
Rinner (9) John Tafel (10) Tom Delano

---

### September 8, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Top Ten lined up by points

Heat winners: Nolan Johncock, Don Schippers

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Nolan Johncock  
(3) Jimmy Nelson (4) Johnny Roberts (5) Jack Smith  
(6) Ralph Baker (7) Jay Mashburn (8) Nick Rowe  
(9) Duane Knoll (10) Norm Nelson



**50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Rain delayed til September 15, 1962.

Fast qualifier: Top ten lined up by points

Heat winners: Ralph Lawrence, Gene Gillette

Consolation winner: Gene Gillette

**Feature:** (1) **Mort Anderson** (2) Duane Cottrell  
(3) Scott Presley (4) Ray Flannery (5) Jack TenBrink  
(6) Paul Weisner (7) Art Umlor (8) R.J. Presley  
(9) Harvey Redder (10) Ray Flannery

---

**September 15, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

50 laps, half-mile dirt

**Feature 1:** Jimmy Nelson

**Feature 2:** Wally Sanders

**50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

**Feature 1:** Duane Cottrell

**Feature 2:** Jack TenBrink

---

**September 22, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Norm Brown 25.85

Dash winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Jack Smith, Jimmy Nelson

**Features:** (1) **Wally Sanders** (2) Jimmy Nelson  
(3) Bob Knight (4) Jack Smith (5) Ralph Baker  
(6) Duane Knoll (7) Duane Cottrell (8) Jay Mashburn  
(9) Nick Rowe (10) Ted Stoerman

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Fast qualifier: Paul Weisner 14.29

Dash winner: Bud Meyering

Heat winners: Larry Jarvis, Ed Marshall, R.J. Presley,  
Jack TenBrink

Consolation winner: Ed Marshall

**Feature:** (1) **Mort Anderson** (2) Scott Presley  
(3) Ray Flannery (4) Harvey Redder (5) Bud Meyering  
(6) Claude Epperham (7) Jack TenBrink (8) Laverne  
Koenes (9) R.J. Presley (10) Duane Cottrell

---

**September 29, 1962 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bob Knight 23.32

Dash winner: Bob Knight

Heat winners: Ted Stoerman, Eddie VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) **Johnny Logan** (2) Wally Sanders (3) Bob  
Knight (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Flip Thompson  
(6) Jackie Lindhout (7) Duane Knoll (8) Duane Cottrell  
(9) Nick Rowe (10) Ted Stoerman

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Fast qualifier: Harvey Redder 14.23

Dash winner: Harvey Redder

Heat winners: Doug Cutler, Bill Brower, Mort  
Anderson

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Clover** (2) Duane Cottrell (3) Scott  
Presley (4) Mort Anderson (5) Harvey Redder  
(6) Laverne Koenes (7) R.J. Presley (8) Tom Delano  
(9) Bob Lang (10) John Tafel

# Berlin Raceway Points 1962

1962 SUPERMODIFIED POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Bob Knight	77	4	3	3		
2	Wally Sanders	49	6				
3	Ralph Baker	42	4	2	1	1	
4	Eddie VanderLaan	31	4	1			
5	Flip Thompson	29		1			
6	Johnny Logan	24	1				
7	Dick Carter	19	2	6	4	2	
8	Jimmy Nelson	19	1		1		
9	Jack Smith	18	1	1	1		
10	Chuck Neal	16	1	3	4	2	
11	Nolan Johncock	16	1				
12	Duane Knoll	11					
13	Audie Swartz	10	1	1	1		
14	Johnny Roberts	4					
15	Bob Clover	3		1			
16	Kenny Knoll	3					
17	Don Champlin	2		1	1		
18	Norm Brown	2		1			
19	Johnny White	2			1		
20	Norm Rust	2					
	Bill Sherman	2					
	Mort Anderson	2					
23	Bud Meyering	1					
	Ken Miller	1					
25	Johnny Johnson	0		1	1		



# Berlin Raceway — Supermodifieds (Dirt), 1958-1965

## 1962 SPORTSMAN POINTS

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Duane Cottrell	72	9	8	8		1
2	Mort Anderson	70	9	1	1		
3	Jack TenBrink	48	3				
4	Ray Flannery	42	2	5	8		
5	Scott Presley	40	1	1			
6	Jim Flannery	17			1		
7	Harvey Redder	15		1	1		
8	Marv Eppink	14		1	1		
9	Joe Castle	11					
10	Paul Weisner	8		2			
11	Bob Clover	5	1				
12	Bud Meyering	4		1	1		
13	Art Umlor	4					
14	Curley Moody	3					
15	Norm Utting	2					
16	R. J. Presley	1					
	Gene Gillette	1					

## Berlin Raceway Media 1963

### Knight Captures Berlin Opener

By Shirley Glass

**April 13, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight of Grand Rapids forged past Jack Smith on the second lap and went on to win the 20-lap feature race for super-modified cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Following the winner in the 1963 season opener was Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids, Jack Smith of Grand Rapids, Ralph Baker of Saugatuck, and Dick Carter of Breckenridge. They were followed by Flip Thompson, Jim Murphy, Paul Jones, Gordon Johncock, and Sammy Sessions.

Fast qualifying time went to Dick Carter with a lap of 23.59 and he then won the fast-car dash race. Heat race winners were Gordon Johncock, Wally Sanders, and Ralph Baker.

The program was marred by heavy accidents of Gordy Johncock, Sam Sessions, Don Schippers, Johnny Logan, Baker, and Knight, all whom hit the concrete retaining wall. All drivers escaped serious injuries.

Scott Presley of Grand Haven outdrove Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids, and Duane Cottrell of Muskegon to win the 25-lap feature race for sportsman cars. Following the trio were Ray Wright, Art Umlor, R.J. Presley, Ray Lockwood, Bob Johnson, Ray Flannery, and Mort Anderson.

### Logan Holds Off Sanders For Berlin Win

By Shirley Glass

**April 20, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Logan of Charlotte, one of the leading race drivers in the Midwest, out-dueled Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids to win the 10-mile feature race for super-modified cars

by less than a foot Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

Following the leaders across the finish line were Bob Knight of Grand Rapids, Dick Carter of Breckenridge, Ralph Baker of Saugatuck, and Norm Brown of Rockford, Don Friend, Norm Healy, Norm Nelson, and Jim Murphy.

Fast time in qualifying was set by Dick Carter with a lap of 23.00 and he followed up by winning the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Carter, Knight, and Sanders.

The 25-lap sportsman feature went to Ray Wright of Indiana who outdrove Bob Johnson of Kalamazoo, Scott Presley of Grand Haven, Harvey Redder of Holland, Rich Senneker, Ray Lockwood, Ken Crampton, Hiram Lockwood, Art Umlor, and Willie TenBrink.

Heat race winners were Ken Stratton of Kalamazoo, John Tafil of Grand Rapids, and Ray Lockwood of South Haven. Ralph Lawrence won the semi-feature. Ray Wright set fast time of 13.71 while Bud Meyering won the fast-car dash.

### Logan Two In A Row At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**April 27, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Logan of Charlotte turned in a sparkling driving performance to win the 10-mile feature race for super-modified cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Logan caught race leader Nolan Johncock of Hastings on the 18<sup>TH</sup> lap and went on to win the duel. Following them were Bob Knight, Dick Carter, Ralph Baker, Wally Sanders, Eddie VanderLaan, Jack Smith, Ted Stoerman, and Bill Smith.

Fast qualifying time of 22.97 was set by Dick Carter who followed that up with a win in the fast-car dash. Norm Healy, Norm Brown, and Carter were heat race winners.

Scott Presley of Grand Haven,

the driving engineering student from Michigan State University, made it two victories out of three attempts this season by capturing the 25-lap sportsman car feature. Presley was followed by Bud Meyering, Ray Lockwood, Jacob TenBrink, Ray Wright, Bob Johnson, Mort Anderson, Harvey Redder, Duane Cottrell, and Willie TenBrink.

Ray Wright of Muskegon set fast time of 13.64 and picked up the win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Paul Weisner of Holland, Bob Johnson of Kalamazoo, Johnny Roberts of Wheeler, and Hugh Linkfield of Lowell.

### Sanders Holds Off Logan For Win

By Shirley Glass

**May 11, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Hard-driving Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids gained the lead from Dick Carter of Breckenridge on the 18th lap and went on to win one of the most exciting super-modified 20-lap feature races ever run at Berlin Raceway Saturday night.

Johnny Logan of Charlotte was second, less than a car length behind, followed by Bob Knight of Grand Rapids, Nolan Johncock of Hastings, and newcomer Oscar Faye of South Bend, Indiana. Following were Curly Moody, Duane Cottrell, Jack Smith, Jay Mashburn, and Dick Carter.

Fast qualifier was Dick Carter with a time of 22.55; Carter also won the fast-car dash race. Heat race winners were Jack Smith, Nolan Johncock, and Flip Thompson.

Johnny Roberts of Wheeler outdrove Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids, Scott Presley of Grand Haven, and Mort Anderson of Greenville to win the 25-lap main event for sportsman cars. Following the front pack were Harvey Redder, Bud Meyering, Don Dowdy, Art Umlor, R.J. Presley, and Dick Fowle.

Bud Meyering set fast time of



13.83 for the sportsman cars and also won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were George Folk, Art Houck, and Johnny Roberts.

## Carter Outdrives Fast Field For Win

By Shirley Glass

**May 18, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Dick Carter of Breckenridge drove his race car to victory in the 50-lap feature race for super-modified cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Nolan Johncock of Hastings was second, followed by Norm Brown of Rockford, Johnny Logan of Charlotte, Ralph Baker of Saugatuck, Eddie VanderLaan, Johnny Roberts, Jimmy Nelson, Cy Fairchild, and Otto Meyer.

Dick Carter set fast time for the program with a lap of 23.18. Heat race winners were Otto Meyer, Wally Sanders, and Nick Rowe.

Mort Anderson of Greenville outdrove Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids, Johnny Roberts of Wheeler, and Harvey Redder of Holland, to win the 25-lap feature race for sportsman cars. Following them was Paul Weisner, Rich Senneker, Jack TenBrink, Scott Presley, Hugh Linkfield, and Duane Cottrell.

## VanderLaan Survives 14 Car Pile Up For Berlin Feature Win

By Shirley Glass

**May 25, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids won the 10-mile feature race for super-modified cars Saturday that was marred by a major crack-up at the Berlin Raceway.

The first lap of the main event saw 14 cars pile into and over the walls on the second turn on the one-half mile Marne oval. All drivers escaped serious injury.

Jimmy Nelson of Flint, was

second, followed by Dick Carter of Breckenridge, Nolan Johncock of Hastings, early race-leader Ralph Baker of Saugatuck, Curly Moody, Duane Cottrell, Jack Smith, Bill Marshall, and Buddy Stewart.

Dick Carter set fast time of 23.51 and also won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Bob Knight, Ralph Baker, and Wally Sanders.

Paul Weisner emerged the winner of the 25 lap feature race for sportsman followed by Jack TenBrink, Bud Meyering, Harvey Redder, Johnny Roberts, R.J. Presley, Mort Anderson, Hugh Linkfield, Doug Cutler, and Ed Hite.

Bud Meyering set fast time of 13.49 and won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Larry Jarvis, Tony Vrablic, Paul Weisner, and Ron Merkins.

## Last Lap Win To Knight

By Shirley Glass

**May 30, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Defending track champion Bob Knight of Grand Rapids caught leader Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids one lap from the finish line and went on to win the 25-lap feature race for super-modified cars Thursday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Duane Knoll of Muskegon was second followed by Sanders, Eddie VanderLaan, Curly Moody, Ralph Baker, Nolan Johncock, Norm Brown, Duane Knoll, and Dick Carter.

Fast qualifying time was set by Jimmy Nelson with a lap of 22.97. Nelson won the fast-car dash race. Duane Cottrell, Wally Sanders, and Norm Brown won the heat races.

Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids outdrove Bud Meyering, Paul Weisner of Holland, Johnny Roberts of Wheeler, Scott Presley of Grand Haven, Harvey Redder, R.J. Presley, Gene Gillette, Hugh Linkfield, and Mort Anderson to win the 30-lap sportsman main event.

Bud Meyering set fast time with a 13.34 qualifying lap and also won

the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Ralph Lawrence, Mort Anderson, Jack TenBrink, and Ron Merkins.

## Carter Wins Accident-Marred Race

By Shirley Glass

**June 1, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Dick Carter of Breckenridge won the accident-marred 10-mile feature race for super-modified cars Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

The 20-lap main event was slowed on two occasions, first when Bob Knight, Norm Brown and Jack Smith spun out and blocked the track. Leader Eddie VanderLaan hit the concrete retaining wall one lap later and was struck by the cars of Johnny Roberts of Wheeler, Nolan Johncock of Hastings, and Duane Knoll of Muskegon. All escaped serious injury.

Following Carter was Ralph Baker, Norm Brown, Gordon Johncock, Curly Moody, Ted Stoerman, Eddie VanderLaan, and Duane Knoll.

Mort Anderson of Greenville, outdrove Scott Presley of Grand Haven, Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids, Harvey Redder of Holland, Paul Weisner, R.J. Presley, Johnny Roberts, Jack TenBrink, Duane Cottrell, and Dick Fowle to win the 25-lap main event for sportsman cars.

Fast qualifying time of 13.55 was set by Bud Meyering who went on to win the fast-car dash race. Heat race winners were Ron Merkins, Verne Barringer, Mort Anderson, and Tony Vrablic.

## Homer Newland Of Detroit Beats Late Model Field

By Shirley Glass

**June 7, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran race driver Homer Newland of Detroit forged his late model Ford past race leader Ralph

Baker of Saugatuck, driving a '60 Chevy, on the 17<sup>th</sup> lap and went on to win the 20-lap feature race for late model stock cars Friday night at Berlin Raceway. Following the leaders was George Cooper, Lil' Richard Simmons, Len Kannie, Danny Byrd, Jackie Lindhout, Tom Anderson, Bob Knight, and Jim Adema.

Heat race winners on the big one-half mile Marne oval were Len Kannie of Pontiac and Homer Newland. Ralph Baker was victorious in both the dash and pursuit events and in addition Baker set fast time with a lap of 26.71.

In the sportsman stock cars Harvey Redder took fast time with a lap of 14.23. Ken Crampton took the checkered flag in the pursuit race.

Heat race winners were Gene Gillette and Harvey Redder. *(There was no information on feature race results.)*

## Crampton Wins Crash Shortened Race

By Shirley Glass

**June 8, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Kenny Crampton of Kalamazoo won the accident riddled 10-mile feature race on the half-mile track for sportsman stock cars Saturday night at Berlin raceway.

The race was halted in the 19<sup>th</sup> lap of the 20-lap chase when Ken Sutton of Muskegon who was running second hit the inside retaining wall and did a spectacular flip, end-over-end. Sutton was taken to Butterworth Hospital.

Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids was second followed by Jack TenBrink of Zeeland, Jack Vilwalk of Holland, Rich Senneker, Tom Delano, Art Houck, Scott Presley, Art Umlor, and Ralph Lawrence.

Ken Sutton had fast time of the evening with a lap of 26.02. Sutton also took the win in the fast-car dash. Ken Crampton captured the pursuit race, and Art Umlor won the consolation race.

Heat race winners were Ken Sut-

ton, Ralph Lawrence, Kenny Cramp-ton, and Jack TenBrink.

## Anderson Survives Eleven-Car Pileup For Win

By Shirley Glass

**June 15, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Mort Anderson of Greenville won the 25-lap feature race for sportsman cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Anderson survived an 11-car pileup that occurred on the first lap and managed to finish ahead of Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids, Paul Weisner of Holland, Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids, Scott Presley of Grand Haven, Jack TenBrink, R.J. Presley, Willie TenBrink, Art Umlor, and Art Houck.

Heat race winners were Denmark Lilly of Coopersville, Willie TenBrink of Zeeland, and Larry Jarvis of Holland. Fast qualifier was Bud Meyering with a lap at 13.77 and followed it up with a fast-car dash win. The fast-pursuit winner was Scott Presley with Art Umlor taking the win in the slow pursuit race.

Bob Knight set fast time of 24.53 and picked up the win in the fast-car dash. Bob Clover was the heat race winner.

## R J Presley Picks Up Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**June 22, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – R.J. Presley of Holland picked up the feature win at Berlin Raceway in the sportsman division. He was followed by Harvey Redder, Scott Presley, Jack TenBrink, Rich Senneker, Bud Meyering, Paul Weisner, Art Umlor, Doug Cutler, and Art Houck.

Bud Meyering set the fast time of the evening with a lap of 13.61 and also picked up the win in the fast-car dash race. Harvey Redder won the pursuit race.

Heat race winners were Bill Brower, Bud Meyering, Paul Weisner, Art Umlor, Doug Cutler, and Art Houck.

## Homer Newland Of Detroit Captures Another Late Model Feature At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**June 28, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Race veteran Homer Newland of Detroit pushed his big Ford late model stock car to victory in the 10-mile main event Friday night at the Berlin Raceway's half-mile track. Newland, warming up for the big Fourth of July race card, finished ahead of Danny Byrd of Pontiac, Tommy Lane of Muskegon, Ralph Baker of Saugatuck, Lil' Richard Simmons, Dick Mitchell, Jerry Jackman, Fred Larabell, Jim Murphy, and Jack Goodwin.

Heat race winners were Byrd, Jack Goodwin of Detroit, and Newland. Tommy Lane of Muskegon set fast qualifying time of 26.07 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Newland was the winner of the pursuit race.

In sportsman stock car action, John Bunker of Muskegon and Mort Anderson of Greenville, won heat races. *(There was no information on feature race results.)*

## Meyering Wins By Inches

By Shirley Glass

**June 29, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids and Ken Crampton of Kalamazoo crossed the finish line at the same time with Meyering being judged the winner in the 15-lap feature race for sportsman cars Saturday night on the half-mile track at Berlin Raceway. Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids was third, Jack TenBrink of Zeeland, R.J. Presley and Scott Presley, both of Holland, Jim Eberstein, Leo Havens, Larry Lawrence, and Art Houck.



Rich Senneker set fast time of 23.03 and picked up the win in the fast-car dash. Tom Delano, Ken Sutton, and Bud Meyering were heat race winners. Ron Merkins won the consolation race.

The program was marred by a series of accidents, in the motorcycle racing portion of the program, that hospitalized Tom Delano, of Grand Haven, and Tim Ansler, of Goshen, Indiana, who was run over by a motorcycle during the final event won by Verse Brow of Flint.

The sportsman division also ran a program on Berlin's fifth-mile track with Harvey Redder setting fast-time of 14.69 and Redder went on to win the pursuit race. John Bunker won a heat race. *(There was no information on feature results.)*

## Bob Knight Wins Clean Sweep Award

By Shirley Glass

**July 4, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** — Bob Knight led a fast field of super-modifieds to victory Thursday night at Berlin Raceway. He was followed by Jack Smith, Curly Moody, Bill Marshall, Jim Murphy, and Nick Rowe.

Knight also set fast qualifying time of 22.97 and won his heat race. Jim Murphy won the other heat race that was run.

The sportsman feature also ran on the half-mile track and was won by Hiram Lockwood followed by Bud Meyering, Gail Cobb, Jack Vilwalk, Scott Presley, Ken Crampton, Jack TenBrink, Ray Lockwood, Jim Eberstein, and Bill Wesler.

Fast qualifying time of 25.71 was set by Bud Meyering who also won the fast-car dash. The pursuit race was captured by Human Lockwood. Heat race winners were Art Herney, Verne Barringer, Jim Walsh, Rich Senneker, and Ralph Lockwood.

The sportsman division then ran a program on the fifth-mile track. Harvey Redder set fast qualifying time of 13.93 and went on to win the pursuit race and the heat race.

*(No information was given on the feature race results.)*

## Knight Captures Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**July 5, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** — Hiram Lockwood of South Haven edged out Bud Meyering and Gail Cobb of Grand Rapids, Friday in winning the ten-mile feature race for sportsman cars at Berlin Raceway.

Trailing was Jack Vilwalk of Muskegon, and Scott Presley of Grand Haven.

Bob Knight outdrove Jack Smith for victory as Grand Rapids pilots dominated the super-modified main event.

Victors in heat races were Meyering, Vern Barringer of Holland, Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids, Ralph Warrens of Lowell, Jim Murphy of South Haven, Knight, and Harvey Redder of Holland.

## Lockwood Wins By Inches At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**July 6, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** — Hiram Lockwood of South Haven crossed the finish line only inches ahead of Rich Senneker to win the ten-mile feature race for sportsman stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway on the fast half-mile track.

Jack Vilwalk of Muskegon was third followed by Scott Presley of Grand Haven, Jack TenBrink of Zeeland, R.J. Presley, Gene Gillette, Art Umlor, Leo Havens, and Larry Lawrence.

Bud Meyering set fast time on the half-mile track with a time of 25.38. The fast-car dash was taken by Rich Senneker. Heat race winners were Gene Gillette, Art Umlor, Hiram Lockwood, and Jim Thompson.

The sportsman cars also ran a program on the fifth-mile track with

Wayne Berghorst setting fast time of 14.02 and Harvey Redder won the heat race. *(There was no information available on the feature results.)*

Ronnie Rall, of Mansfield, Ohio, defeated Bart Markel, the defending national motorcycle champion to win the expert final event in the American Motorcycle Association card.

## Knight Gets Fourth Main Event Win

By Shirley Glass

**July 20, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** — Defending track champion Bob Knight of Grand Rapids roared to his fourth main event victory of the season by crossing the finish line first in the ten-mile feature race for super-modifieds Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

Curly Moody of Grand Rapids was second followed by Bob Clover and Duane Cottrell, both of Muskegon, Dave Taylor of Grand Rapids, Jack Smith, Buddy Stewart, Carl Schalow, Bill Marshall, and Bob Shattuck.

Jack Smith set fast qualifying time of 23.48 and won the fast-car dash race. Heat race winners were Buddy Stewart and Bob Knight.

Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids out-dueled Jack Vilwalk of Muskegon, Scott Presley of Grand Haven, Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids, R.J. Presley, Ray Lockwood, Hugh Linkfield, Ralph Lawrence, Eugene Riffle, and Bill Burg, to win the sportsman event which was also run on the half-mile track.

Rich Senneker set fast time of 26.73. Hiram Lockwood took the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Eugene Riffle, Ralph Lawrence, and Bud Meyering.

The sportsman cars ran another program on the fifth-mile track with Wayne Berghorst setting fast time of 14.46. Harvey Redder won the heat race. *(There was no information of feature race results.)*

## Knight Scores One Car Length Victory

By Shirley Glass

**July 27, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Track champion Bob Knight of Grand Rapids forged past leader Curly Moody then went on to score a one-car length victory in the ten-mile feature race for super-modifieds Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Jack Smith of Grand Rapids was third, followed by Duane Cottrell of Muskegon, Jim Beisel, Jay Mashburn, Flip Thompson, Bill Sherman, Buddy Stewart, and Carl Schalow.

Jack Smith set fast time at 23.59 and went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Buddy Stewart, Curly Moody, and Jack Smith.

Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids out-duelled Rich Senneker on the half-mile track to register his second consecutive sportsman feature victory of the season. Following were Jack Vilwalk, Hugh Linkfield, Art Houck, Ralph Lawrence, John Tafil, Bill Burg, Art Umlor, and Junior Ressinguie.

A four-car crash involving the cars of Scott Presley of Grand Haven, Doug Cutler, Clarence Towne, and Vern Barringer of Muskegon, marred the running of the main event. All drivers escaped serious injury in the spectacular melee that knocked down two light poles.

Rich Senneker set fast qualifying time of 25.92 and then won the fast-car dash. Art Houck and Bud Meyering captured the heat races.

The sportsman cars then ran a program on the fifth-mile track with Harvey Redder setting fast time with a lap of 14.40. Wayne Berghorst won a heat race. *(There was no information given on the feature race results.)*

## Clover Escapes Multi-Car Wreck For Berlin Win

By Shirley Glass

**August 3, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Clover of Muskegon climaxed a wild and hectic night of auto racing by rolling to victory in the ten-mile feature race for super-modifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

The main event was marred by a six-car crash involving Bill Marshall, Jack Smith, Bill Sherman, Duane Cottrell, Bob Knight and Curly Moody, who flipped end over end. All drivers escaped serious injury.

Clover was followed by Duane Knoll, Bob Knight, Jack Smith, Buddy Stewart, Don Champlin, Red Parkhouse, Bill Marshall, Curly Moody and Bill Sherman.

Duane Knoll took the fast-car dash while Curly Moody and Bob Knight took the wins in the heat races.

Bob Johnson of Kalamazoo coming from deep in the 24-car lineup of the fastest qualifiers took over the lead on the 23<sup>rd</sup> lap and went on to win the 25-lap race for sportsman cars on the half-mile track.

Johnson was followed by Scott Presley, Jack Vilwalk, John Tafil, Hugh Linkfield, Art Houck, Duane Cottrell, Jack TenBrink, Dick Fowle, and Art Umlor.

The thrilling event saw brilliant driving performances of Bud Meyering, Rich Senneker and Bud Crampton of Kalamazoo. All crashed while leading the race and were eliminated.

Heat race winners were Dick Fowle, Leo Havens and Scott Presley.

The sportsman cars ran a program on the fifth-mile track with Harvey Redder putting in a lap of 14.33 for fast time and he also won the heat race. *(There is no information available on feature race results.)*

## Clover Wins Two In A Row At Berlin Raceway

By Shirley Glass

**August 10, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Clover of Muskegon scored his second consecutive super-modified victory by winning the ten-mile main event at Berlin Raceway.

Pre-race favorites Duane Knoll of Muskegon, Curly Moody, Bob Knight and Jack Smith all of Grand Rapids were all eliminated from the contest after being involved in a five-car accident on the first lap.

Following Clover was Flip Thompson, Buddy Stewart, Bill Sherman, Bob Shattuck, Bill Marshall, Ted Otten, Red Parkhouse, Ed Roberts, and Jay Mashburn.

Fast time in qualifying was set by Jack Smith with a lap at 23.05. Duane Knoll won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Bill Marshall and Bob Knight.

Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids passed race leader Jack Vilwalk of Muskegon on the 18<sup>th</sup> lap on the fifth-mile track and went on to win the 25-lap feature race for sportsman cars. Following them was Hugh Linkfield, Nelson Stormzand, Jack TenBrink, Art Umlor, R.J. Presley, Duane Cottrell, Bill Burg, and John Tafil.

Scott Presley set fast time with a lap of 14.27. Bud Meyering captured the fast-car dash race and heat race winners were Art Houck, Hugh Linkfield, Jack Vilwalk, and Jerry Van Ness.

## Knight Wins Mid-Season Championship Race At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**August 17, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Knight of Grand Rapids took the lead on the 18<sup>th</sup> lap from pacesetter Bob Clover of Muskegon and went on to win the 30-lap mid-



season championship race for super-modified cars Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

Duane Knoll of Muskegon was second in the accident-marred event, followed by Johnny Logan of Charlotte, Bill Sherman of Marne and Curly Moody of Grand Rapids.

Red Parkhouse of Portland was sidelined when his car hit the concrete retaining wall and became engulfed in flames. He suffered only minor injuries.

Heat race winners were Logan, Knight, and Clover.

Gene Riffle of Muskegon, after five years of trying, ran off with top honors in the sportsman main event.

Heat race winners were Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids, Nelson Stormzand of Lowell, R.J. Presley of Grand Haven, and Jimmy Rinner of Grand Rapids.

## Veteran Johnny Logan Wins At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**August 24, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran Johnny Logan of Charlotte outdrove a classy field of super-modified drivers and went on to win the ten-mile feature race Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Chasing Logan across the finish line was Duane Knoll of Muskegon, Dick Carter of Breckinridge, Bob Knight, Eddie VanderLaan, Curly Moody, Bill Sherman, Mort Anderson, Jim Murphy, and Flip Thompson.

Fast qualifying time was set by Dick Carter with a lap of 23.34. Duane Knoll took the win of the fast-car dash. Heat race victories were taken by Don Schippers, Wally Sanders, and Rich Senneker.

Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids outfoxed Gene Riffle of Muskegon on the last lap and captured the 25-lap main event for sportsman cars. They were followed by R.J. Presley, Jimmy Rinner, John Tafil, Harvey Redder, Doug Cutler, Nelson Stormzand, Bill Burg and Hugh Linkfield.

Meyering also set fast time with a lap of 13.79 and captured the fast-car dash.

Heat race winners were Ralph Lawrence and Nelson Stormzand, both of Lowell, Art Houck of Muskegon, and Meyering,

## Knoll Clean Sweep Winner At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**August 31, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Duane Knoll pulled off a clean sweep Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Knoll set fast time with a lap of 23.50, won the fast-car dash, won his heat race and followed that up by winning the super-modified feature on Marne's fast half-mile dirt track.

Knoll was followed in the feature by Bob Knight, Bob Clover, Bill Thurkettle, Jim Murphy, Jay Mashburn, Don Champlin, Flip Thompson, Buddy Stewart, and Bill Marshall.

Bill Marshall and Bob Clover took the remaining heat races.

The sportsman feature race was won by Jack TenBrink, followed by Bud Meyering, Gene Gillette, Hugh Linkfield, Art Houck, Bill Burg, Art Umlor, Doug Cutler, Nelson Stormzand, and Harvey Redder.

Fast time was set by Bud Meyering with a lap of 13.79, and he followed it up with a victory in the fast-car dash race. Heat race winners were Nelson Stormzand, Bill Burg, and Duane Cottrell.

## VanderLaan Holiday Winner At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**September 2, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan celebrated Labor Day with a victory in the super-modified feature at Berlin Raceway Monday evening. VanderLaan was followed by Ralph Baker,

Johnny Logan, Duane Knoll, Dick Carter, Bob Knight, Sam Sessions, Bill Sherman, Flip Thompson, and Bill Marshall.

Fast time was set by Duane Knoll with a lap at 23.37 and Knoll went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Jim Murphy, Dick Carter, and Don Schippers.

The sportsman feature was won by Gene Gillette, followed by Eugene Riffle, R.J. Presley, Harvey Redder, Jimmy Rinner, Scott Presley, Art Umlor, Art Houck, Doug Cutler, and Bill Burg.

Jack TenBrink set fast time of 13.90 and picked up the win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Bill Brower, Nelson Stormzand, Eugene Riffle, and Jim Thompson.

## Dick Carter In Berlin's Victory Lane

By Shirley Glass

**September 7, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Dick Carter of Breckinridge picked up the feature win with the super-modifieds Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Carter was pursued by Johnny Logan, Duane Knoll, Mort Anderson, Bill Sherman, Rich Senneker, Flip Thompson, Buddy Stewart, Jay Mashburn and Red Parkhouse.

Logan set fast time with a 23.78 lap and followed it up with a win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Jack Smith, Bill Sherman, and Mort Anderson.

Jack TenBrink took the checkered flag in the sportsman feature followed by Scott Presley, Harvey Redder, R.J. Presley, Bill Burg, Art Umlor, Doug Cutler, Hugh Linkfield, Art Houck, and Larry Lawrence.

Bud Meyering set fast time with a lap of 13.82. Heat race winners were Ralph Lawrence, Art Houck, and Bill Burg.

## Duane Knoll Wins Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**September 14, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Duane Knoll captured the super-modified feature at Berlin Raceway Saturday night on the fast half-mile track. Knoll was followed by Norm Brown, Dick Carter, Mort Anderson, Wally Sanders, Bill Sherman, Ralph Baker, Flip Thompson, Rich Senneker, and Buddy Stewart. Knoll also set fast time with a lap of 22.93.

Heat race winners were Wally Sanders, Mort Anderson and Norm Brown.

The sportsman feature was taken by Scott Presley. He was followed

by Harvey Redder, Jack TenBrink, Jimmy Rinner, Doug Cutler, Hugh Linkfield, Nelson Stormzand, Irv Atkinson, Art Umlor and Wayne Berghorst.

Harvey Redder set fast time with a lap of 13.65. Jack TenBrink took the win in the fast-car dash.

Heat race winners were Dick Fowle, Ray Shineldecker, and Doug Cutler.

## Linkfield Wins Berlin Closing Race

By Shirley Glass

**September 21, 1963 – Berlin Raceway** – Hugh Linkfield closed out the season by winning the

sportsman feature Saturday night on the fifth-mile track. He was followed by Jack TenBrink, Jimmy Rinner, Duane Cottrell, John Tafil, Bud Meyering, Doug Cutler, Ray Shineldecker, Nelson Stormzand, and Dick Fowle.

Fast time was set by Jack TenBrink with a lap of 13.86, TenBrink also picked up the win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Leon Kennedy, Joe Castle, and Hugh Linkfield. Art Houck took the win in the pursuit race.



## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1963

### Supermodifieds – Sportsman

**April 13, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 23.59

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Gordon Johncock, Wally Sanders, Ralph Baker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Wally Sanders (3) Jack Smith (4) Ralph Baker (5) Dick Carter (6) Flip Thompson (7) Jim Murphy (8) Paul Jones (9) Gordon Johncock (10) Sammy Sessions

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Fast qualifier: Bud Meyering 13.80

Dash winner: Bud Meyering

Heat winners: Ray Lockwood, R.J. Presley, Hiram Lockwood

**Feature:** (1) Scott Presley (2) Rich Senneker (3) Duane Cottrell (4) Ray Wright (5) Art Umlor (6) R.J. Presley (7) Ray Lockwood (8) Bob Johnson (9) Ray Flannery (10) Mort Anderson



Scott Presley

Dick Lee Collection

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Fast qualifier: Ray Wright 13.71

Dash winner: Bud Meyering

Heat winners: John Tafel, Ken Stratton, Ray Lockwood

Semi winner: Ralph Lawrence

**Feature:** (1) Ray Wright (2) Bob Johnson (3) Scott Presley (4) Harvey Redder (5) Rich Senneker (6) Ray Lockwood (7) Ken Crampton (8) Hiram Lockwood (9) Art Umlor (10) Willie TenBrink

**April 20, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

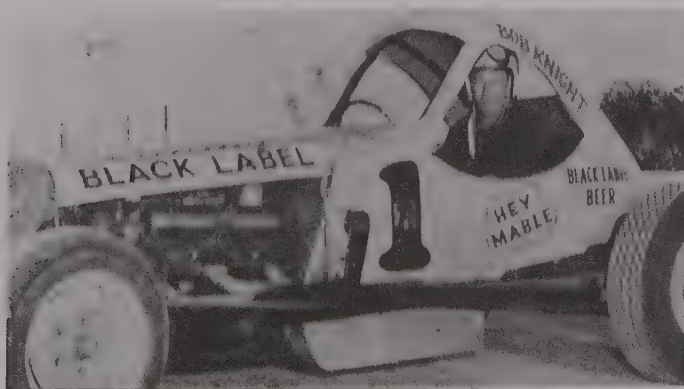
20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 23.00

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Dick Carter, Bob Knight, Wally Sanders

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Logan (2) Wally Sanders (3) Bob Knight (4) Dick Carter (5) Ralph Baker (6) Norm Brown (7) Don Friend (8) Norm Healy (9) Norm Nelson (10) Jim Murphy



Bob Knight

Dick Lee Collection

**April 27, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 22.97

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Norm Healy, Norm Brown, Dick Carter

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Logan (2) Nolan Johncock (3) Bob Knight (4) Dick Carter (5) Ralph Baker (6) Wally Sanders (7) Eddie VanderLaan (8) Jack Smith (9) Ted Stoerman (10) Bill Smith

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Fast qualifier: Ray Wright 13.64

Dash winner: Ray Wright

Heat winners: Paul Weisner, Bob Johnson, Johnny Roberts, Hugh Linkfield

**Feature:** (1) Scott Presley (2) Bud Meyering (3) Ray Lockwood (4) Jacob TenBrink (5) Ray Wright (6) Bob Johnson (7) Mort Anderson (8) Harvey Redder (9) Duane Cottrell (10) Willie TenBrink

## May 4, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

Rained Out

## May 11, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 22.55

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Jack Smith, Nolan Johncock, Flip Thompson

**Feature:** (1) Wally Sanders (2) Johnny Logan (3) Bob Knight (4) Nolan Johncock (5) Oscar Fay (6) Curly Moody (7) Duane Cottrell (8) Jack Smith (9) Jay Mashburn (10) Dick Carter

## 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Bud Meyering 13.83

Dash winner: Bud Meyering

Heat winners: George Folk, Art Houck, Johnny Roberts

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Roberts (2) Rich Senneker (3) Scott Presley (4) Mort Anderson (5) Harvey Redder (6) Bud Meyering (7) Don Dowdy (8) Art Umlor (9) R.J. Presley (10) Dick Fowle



Rich Senneker

Dick Lee Collection

## 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Paul Weisner 13.81

Dash winner: Paul Weisner

Heat winners: Willie TenBrink, Ed Hite, R. J. Presley

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Bud Meyering (3) Johnny Roberts (4) Harvey Redder (5) Paul Weisner (6) Rich Senneker (7) Jack TenBrink (8) Scott Presley (9) Hugh Linkfield (10) Duane Cottrell

## May 25, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 23.51

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Ralph Baker, Wally Sanders

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Jimmy Nelson (3) Dick Carter (4) Nolan Johncock (5) Ralph Baker (6) Curly Moody (7) Duane Cottrell (8) Jack Smith (9) Bill Marshall (10) Buddy Stewart

## 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Bud Meyering 13.49

Dash winner: Bud Meyering

Heat winners: Larry Jarvis, Tony Vrablic, Paul Weisner, Ron Merkins

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Jack TenBrink (3) Bud Meyering (4) Harvey Redder (5) Johnny Roberts (6) R.J. Presley (7) Mort Anderson (8) Hugh Linkfield (9) Doug Cutler (10) Ed Hite

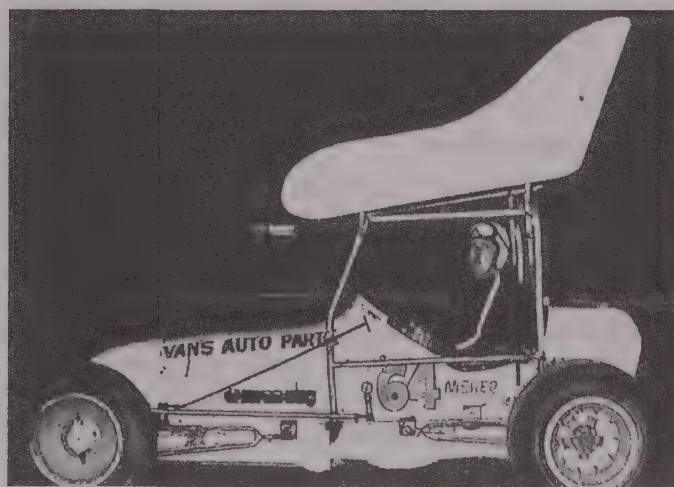
## May 30, 1963 – Thursday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 22.97

Dash winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat winners: Duane Cottrell, Wally Sanders, Norm Brown



Dick Carter

Dick Lee Collection

## May 18, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 23.18

Heat winners: Otto Meyer, Wally Sanders, Nick Rowe

**Feature:** (1) Dick Carter (2) Nolan Johncock (3) Norm Brown (4) Johnny Logan (5) Ralph Baker (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Johnny Roberts (8) Jimmy Nelson (9) Cy Fairchild (10) Otto Meyer



**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Duane Cottrell (3) Wally Sanders (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Curly Moody (6) Ralph Baker (7) Nolan Johncock (8) Norm Brown (9) Duane Knoll (10) Dick Carter

### 30 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Bud Meyering 13.34

Dash winner: Bud Meyering

Heat winners: Ralph Lawrence, Mort Anderson, Jack TenBrink, Ron Merkins

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Bud Meyering (3) Paul Weisner (4) Johnny Roberts (5) Scott Presley (6) Harvey Redder (7) R.J. Presley (8) Gene Gillette (9) Hugh Linkfield (10) Mort Anderson

---

### June 1, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 23.04

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Wally Sanders, Eddie VanderLaan, Ted Stoerman

**Feature:** (1) Dick Carter (2) Ralph Baker (3) Norm Brown (4) Gordon Johncock (5) Curly Moody (6) Ted Stoerman (7) Eddie VanderLaan (8) Duane Knoll (9) Johnny Roberts (10) Bob Knight

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Bud Meyering 13.55

Dash winner: Bud Meyering

Heat winners: Ron Merkins, Verne Barringer, Mort Anderson, Tony Vrablic

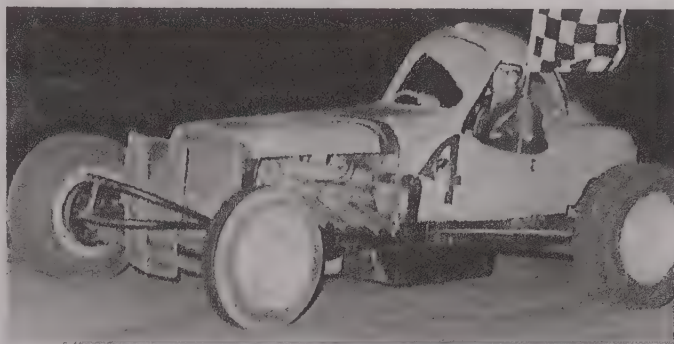
**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Scott Presley (3) Bud Meyering (4) Harvey Redder (5) Paul Weisner (6) R.J. Presley (7) Johnny Roberts (8) Jack TenBrink (9) Duane Cottrell (10) Dick Fowle

---



Jack TenBrink

Dick Lee Collection



Duane Knoll

Dick Lee Collection

### June 7, 1963 – Friday – MARC (Midwest Auto Racing Club)

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Ralph Baker 26.71

Dash winner: Ralph Baker

Heat winners: Len Kannie, Homer Newland

Pursuit Winners: Ralph Baker

**Feature:** (1) Homer Newland (2) Ralph Baker (3) George Cooper (4) Lil' Richard Simmons (5) Len Kannie (6) Danny Byrd (7) Jackie Lindhout (8) Tom Anderson (9) Bob Knight (10) Jim Adema

### 20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Harvey Redder 14.23

Heat winners: Gene Gillette, Harvey Redder

Pursuit winner: Ken Crampton

**Feature:** no information given

---

### June 8, 1963 – Saturday – Sportsman

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Ken Sutton 26.02

Dash winner: Ken Sutton

Heat winners: Ralph Lawrence, Ken Crampton, Jack TenBrink

Pursuit winner: Ken Crampton

Consolation winner: Art Umlor

**Feature:** (1) Ken Crampton (2) Bud Meyering (3) Jack TenBrink (4) Jack Vilwalk (5) Rich Senneker (6) Tom Delano (7) Art Houck (8) Scott Presley (9) Art Umlor (10) Ralph Lawrence

---

---

**June 15, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bob Knight 24.53

Dash winner: Bob Knight

Heat winner: Bob Clover

**Feature:** no information given

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Fast qualifier: Bud Meyering 13.77

Dash winner: Bud Meyering

Heat winners: Denmark Lilly, Willie TenBrink, Paul Weisner, Larry Jarvis

Fast Pursuit winner: Scott Presley

Slow Pursuit winner: Art Umlor

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Bud Meyering (3) Paul Weisner (4) Rich Senneker (5) Scott Presley (6) Jack TenBrink (7) R.J. Presley (8) Willie TenBrink (9) Art Umlor (10) Art Houck

---

**June 22, 1963 – Saturday – Sportsman**

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bud Meyering 13.61

Dash winner: Bud Meyering

Heat winners: Bill Brower, Bud Meyering, Rich Senneker

Pursuit winner: Harvey Redder

**Feature:** (1) R.J. Presley (2) Harvey Redder (3) Scott Presley (4) Jack TenBrink (5) Rich Senneker (6) Bud Meyering (7) Paul Weisner (8) Art Umlor (9) Doug Cutler (10) Art Houck

---



Bob Clover

Dick Lee Collection

---

**June 28, 1963 – Friday – MARC (Midwest Auto Racing Club)**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Tommy Lane 26.07

Dash winner: Tommy Lane

Heat winners: Homer Newland, Danny Byrd, Jack Goodwin

Pursuit winner: Homer Newland

**Feature:** (1) Homer Newland (2) Danny Byrd (3) Tommy Lane (4) Ralph Baker (5) Lil' Richard Simmons (6) Dick Mitchell (7) Jerry Jackman (8) Fred Larabell (9) Jim Murphy (10) Jack Goodwin

**20 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Heat winners: John Bunker, Mort Anderson

**Feature:** no information given

---

**June 29, 1963 – Saturday – Sportsman**

15 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker 26.03

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Tom Delano, Ken Sutton, Bud Meyering

Consolation winner: Ron Merkins

**Feature:** (1) Bud Meyering (2) Ken Crampton (3) Rich Senneker (4) Jack TenBrink (5) R.J. Presley (6) Scott Presley (7) Jim Eberstein (8) Leo Havens (9) Larry Lawrence (10) Art Houck

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Fast qualifier: Harvey Redder 14.69

Heat winner: John Bunker

Pursuit winner: Harvey Redder

**Feature:** no information given

---



Wally Sanders

Dick Lee Collection



## July 4, 1963 – Thursday – Supermodifieds

### *Independence Day*

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bob Knight 22.97

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Jim Murphy

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Jack Smith (3) Curly Moody (4) Bill Marshall (5) Jim Murphy (6) Nick Rowe

**Bob Knight – Clean Sweep Award**

### 20 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Bud Meyering 25.71

Dash winner: Bud Meyering

Heat winners: Art Herney, Verne Barringer, Jim Walsh, Rich Senneker

Pursuit winner: Hiram Lockwood

Consolation winner: Ralph Lawrence

**Feature:** (1) Hiram Lockwood (2) Bud Meyering (3) Gail Cobb (4) Jack Vilwalk (5) Scott Presley (6) Ken Crampton (7) Jack TenBrink (8) Ray Lockwood (9) Jim Eberstein (10) Bill Wesler

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Harvey Redder 13.93

Heat winner: Harvey Redder

Pursuit winner: Harvey Redder

**Feature:** no information given

**Harvey Redder – Clean Sweep Award**



Eddie VanderLaan

Dick Lee Collection

## July 6, 1963 – Saturday – Sportsman

25 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Bud Meyering 25.38

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Gene Gillette, Art Umlor, Hiram Lockwood, Jim Thompson



Paul Weissner

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature:** (1) Hiram Lockwood (2) Rich Senneker (3) Jack Vilwalk (4) Scott Presley (5) Jack TenBrink (6) R.J. Presley (7) Gene Gillette (8) Art Umlor (9) Leo Havens (10) Larry Lawrence

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Wayne Berghorst 14.02

Heat winner: Harvey Redder

**Feature:** no information given

## July 13, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

Rained Out

## July 20, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

15 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Smith 23.48

Dash winner: Jack Smith

Heat winners: Buddy Stewart, Bob Knight

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Curly Moody (3) Bob Clover (4) Duane Cottrell (5) Dave Taylor (6) Jack Smith (7) Buddy Stewart (8) Carl Schalow (9) Bill Marshall (10) Bob Shattuck

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker 26.73

Dash winner: Hiram Lockwood

Heat winners: Eugene Riffle, Ralph Lawrence, Bud Meyering

**Feature:** (1) Bud Meyering (2) Jack Vilwalk (3) Scott Presley (4) Rich Senneker (5) R.J. Presley (6) Ray Lockwood (7) Hugh Linkfield (8) Ralph Lawrence (9) Eugene Riffle (10) Bill Burg

### 20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Wayne Berghorst 14.46

Heat Winner: Harvey Redder

**Feature:** no information given

---

### July 27, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Smith 23.59

Dash winner: Jack Smith

Heat winners: Buddy Stewart, Curly Moody, Jack Smith

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Knight** (2) Curly Moody (3) Jack Smith (4) Duane Cottrell (5) Jim Beisel (6) Jay Mashburn (7) Flip Thompson (8) Bill Sherman (9) Buddy Stewart (10) Carl Schalow

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker 25.92

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Art Houck, Bud Meyering

**Feature:** (1) **Bud Meyering** (2) Rich Senneker (3) Jack Vilwalk (4) Hugh Linkfield (5) Art Houck (6) Ralph Lawrence (7) John Tafel (8) Bill Burg (9) Art Umlor (10) Junior Ressingue

### 20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Harvey Redder 14.40

Heat winner: Wayne Berghorst

**Feature:** no information given

---

### August 3, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

15 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: No information available

Dash winner: Duane Knoll

Heat winners: Curly Moody, Bob Knight



Art Braithwaite

Dick Lee Collection



Chuck Neal

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Clover** (2) Duane Knoll (3) Bob Knight (4) Jack Smith (5) Buddy Stewart (6) Don Champlin (7) Red Parkhouse (8) Bill Marshall (9) Curly Moody (10) Bill Sherman

### 25 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Top Fourteen lined up by points

Heat winners: Dick Fowle, Leo Havens, Scott Presley

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Johnson** (2) Scott Presley (3) Jack Vilwalk (4) John Tafel (5) Hugh Linkfield (6) Art Houck (7) Duane Cottrell (8) Jack TenBrink (9) Dick Fowle (10) Art Umlor

### 20 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Harvey Redder 14.33

Heat winner: Harvey Redder

**Feature:** no information given

**Harvey Redder – Clean Sweep Award**

---

### August 10, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

15 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack Smith 23.05

Dash winner: Duane Knoll

Heat winners: Bill Marshall, Bob Knight

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Clover** (2) Flip Thompson (3) Buddy Stewart (4) Bill Sherman (5) Bob Shattuck (6) Bill Marshall (7) Ted Otten (8) Red Parkhouse (9) Ed Roberts (10) Jay Mashburn

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Scott Presley 14.27

Dash winner: Bud Meyering

Heat Winners: Art Houck, Hugh Linkfield, Jack Vilwalk, Jerry Van Ness

**Feature:** (1) **Bud Meyering** (2) Jack Vilwalk (3) Hugh



Linkfield (4) Nelson Stormzand (5) Jack TenBrink  
(6) Art Umlor (7) R.J. Presley (8) Duane Cottrell  
(9) Bill Burg (10) John Tafel

### August 17, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

30 laps, half-mile dirt

Heat winners: Johnny Logan, Bob Knight, Bob Clover

**Feature:** (1) Bob Knight (2) Duane Knoll (3) Johnny Logan (4) Bill Sherman (5) Curly Moody.

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Heat winners: Bud Meyering, Nelson Stormzand, R.J. Presley, Jimmy Rinner

**Feature:** (1) Gene Riffle

### August 24, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 23.34

Dash winner: Duane Knoll

Heat winners: Don Schippers, Wally Sanders, Rich Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Logan (2) Duane Knoll (3) Dick Carter (4) Bob Knight (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Curly Moody (7) Bill Sherman (8) Mort Anderson (9) Jim Murphy (10) Flip Thompson

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Bud Meyering 13.85

Dash winner: Bud Meyering

Heat winners: Ralph Lawrence, Art Houck, Bud Meyering, Nelson Stormzand

**Feature:** (1) Bud Meyering (2) Gene Riffle (3) R.J. Presley (4) Jimmy Rinner (5) John Tafel (6) Harvey Redder (7) Doug Cutler (8) Nelson Stormzand (9) Bill Burg (10) Hugh Linkfield

**Bud Meyering – Clean Sweep Award**



Fred Taylor

Dick Lee Collection



Johnny Johnson

Dick Lee Collection

### August 31, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

15 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Duane Knoll 23.50

Dash winner: Duane Knoll

Heat winners: Bill Marshall, Bob Clover, Duane Knoll

**Feature:** (1) Duane Knoll (2) Bob Knight (3) Bob Clover (4) Bill Thurkettle (5) Jim Murphy (6) Jay Mashburn (7) Don Champlin (8) Flip Thompson (9) Buddy Stewart (10) Bill Marshall

**Duane Knoll – Clean Sweep Award**

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Bud Meyering 13.79

Dash winner: Bud Meyering

Heat winners: Nelson Stormzand, Bill Burg, Bud Meyering, Duane Cottrell

**Feature:** (1) Jack TenBrink (2) Bud Meyering (3) Gene Gillette (4) Hugh Linkfield (5) Art Houck (6) Bill Burg (7) Art Umlor (8) Doug Cutler (9) Nelson Stormzand (10) Harvey Redder

### September 2, 1963 – Monday – Supermodifieds

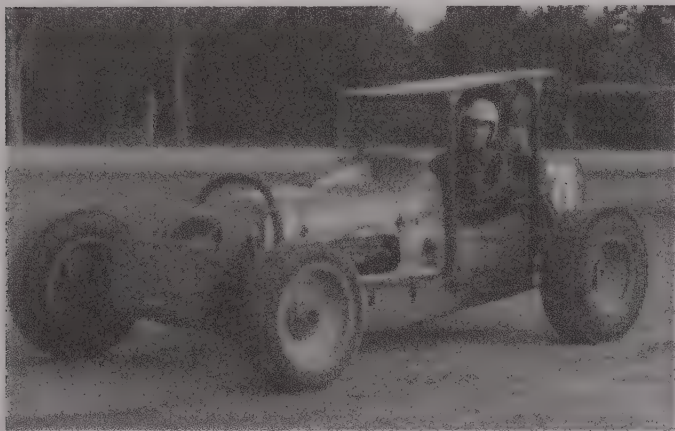
20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Duane Knoll 23.37

Dash winner: Duane Knoll

Heat winners: Jim Murphy, Dick Carter, Don Schippers

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Ralph Baker (3) Johnny Logan (4) Duane Knoll (5) Dick Carter (6) Bob Knight (7) Sam Sessions (8) Bill Sherman (9) Flip Thompson (10) Bill Marshall



Johnny Logan

Dick Lee Collection

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Jack TenBrink 13.90

Dash winner: Jack TenBrink

Heat winners: Bill Brower, Nelson Stormzand, Eugene Riffle, Jim Thompson

**Feature:** (1) Gene Gillette (2) Gene Riffle (3) R.J. Presley (4) Harvey Redder (5) Jimmy Rinner (6) Scott Presley (7) Art Umlor (8) Art Houck (9) Doug Cutler (10) Bill Burg

### 25 laps, half-mile dirt – MARC (Midwest Auto Racing Club)

Heat winner: Ralph Baker

**Feature:** no information given

### September 7, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Johnny Logan 23.78

Dash winner: Johnny Logan

Heat winners: Jack Smith, Bill Sherman, Mort Anderson

**Feature:** (1) Dick Carter (2) Johnny Logan (3) Duane Knoll (4) Mort Anderson (5) Bill Sherman (6) Rich Senneker (7) Flip Thompson (8) Buddy Stewart (9) Jay Mashburn (10) Red Parkhouse

### 50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Bud Meyering 13.82

Heat winners: Ralph Lawrence, Art Houck, Bill Burg

**Feature:** (1) Jack TenBrink (2) Scott Presley (3) Harvey Redder (4) R.J. Presley (5) Bill Burg (6) Art Umlor (7) Doug Cutler (8) Hugh Linkfield (9) Art Houck (10) Larry Lawrence

### September 14, 1963 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

40 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Duane Knoll 22.93

Heat winners: Wally Sanders, Mort Anderson, Norm Brown

**Feature:** (1) Duane Knoll (2) Norm Brown (3) Dick Carter (4) Mort Anderson (5) Wally Sanders (6) Bill Sherman (7) Ralph Baker (8) Flip Thompson (9) Rich Senneker (10) Buddy Stewart

### 25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Harvey Redder 13.65

Dash winner: Jack TenBrink

Heat winners: Dick Fowle, Ray Shineldecker, Doug Cutler

**Feature:** (1) Scott Presley (2) Harvey Redder (3) Jack TenBrink (4) Jimmy Rinner (5) Doug Cutler (6) Hugh Linkfield (7) Nelson Stormzand (8) Irv Atkinson (9) Art Umlor (10) Wayne Berghorst

### September 21, 1963 – Saturday – Sportsman

25 laps, fifth-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jack TenBrink 13.86

Dash winner: Jack TenBrink

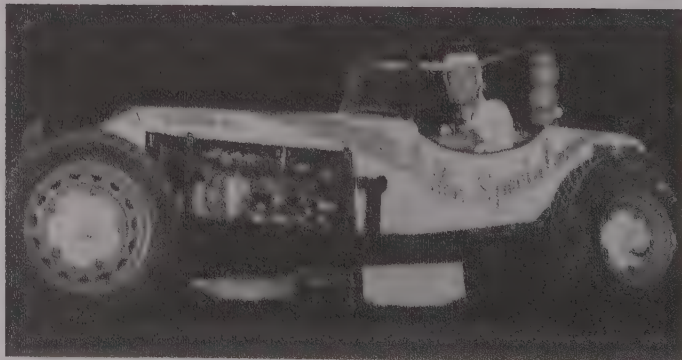
Heat winners: Leon Kennedy, Joe Castle, Hugh Linkfield

Pursuit winner: Art Houck

**Feature:** (1) Hugh Linkfield (2) Jack TenBrink (3) Jimmy Rinner (4) Duane Cottrell (5) John Tafel (6) Bud Meyering (7) Doug Cutler (8) Ray Shineldecker (9) Nelson Stormzand (10) Dick Fowle

### September 28, 1963 – Saturday – Sportsman

Rained Out



Johnny Roberts

Dick Lee Collection



# Berlin Raceway Points 1963

1963 SUPERMODIFIED POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Bob Knight	53	6	2	1		1
2	Johnny Logan	31	3	1	1		
3	Dick Carter	30	3	8	6		
4	Duane Knoll	27	2	3	5		1
5	Wally Sanders	17	1				
6	Bob Clover	16	2				
7	Ralph Baker	14					
	Curly Moody	14					
9	Eddie VanderLaan	13	2				
10	Jack Smith	12		3	2		
11	Nolan Johncock	12					
12	Norm Brown	10					
13	Duane Cottrell	8					
14	Bill Sherman	5					
15	Jimmy Nelson	4		1	1		
16	Buddy Stewart	4					
	Flip Thompson	4					
	Mort Anderson	4					
19	Bill Thurkettle	2					
	Gordon Johncock	2					
	Jim Murphy	2					
	Bill Marshall	2					
23	Oscar Fay	1					
	Dave Taylor	1					
	Jim Beisel	1					
	Bob Shattuck	1					

# Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present

1963 SPORTSMAN POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Bud Meyering	59	4	12	12		1
2	Scott Presley	44	3	1			
3	Rich Senneker	31	1	3	3		
4	Jack TenBrink	30	2	2	3		
5	Harvey Redder	22	1	6	2		2
6	Jack Vilwack	21					
7	Mort Anderson	17	3	1	1		
8	R.J. Presley	15	1				
9	Paul Weisner	13	1	1	1		
10	Gene Riffle	13	1				
	Hugh Linkfield	13	1				
12	Johnny Roberts	11	1				
13	Huram Lockwood	10	2		1		
14	Ken Crampton	9	1				
	Bob Johnson	9	1				
16	Ray Wright	8	1	2	1		
17	Gene Gillette	8	1				
18	Jimmy Rinner	8					
19	John Tafel	4					
20	Gail Cobb	3					
	Ray Lockwood	3					
22	Art Houck	2					
	Duane Cottrell	2					
	Jacob TenBrink	2					
	Nelson Stormzand	2					
26	Doug Cutler	1					
	Art Umlor	1					
	Bill Burg	1					
29	Wayne Berghorst	0		2			
30	Ken Sutton	0		1	1		



## Berlin Raceway Media 1964

### Jimmy Nelson Wins Berlin Opener

By Shirley Glass

**April 11, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Hard-driving Jimmy Nelson of Flint kicked off the 1964 racing season by edging Dick Carter of Breckenridge in the ten-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Nolan Johncock of Hastings was third followed by Sam Sessions of Hastings, Bill Sherman of Marne, Nick Rowe, Wally Sanders, Johnny Logan, and Ted Stoerman.

Nelson set fast time with a lap of 24.36. Fast-car dash winner was Wally Sanders while heat race winners were Bill Sherman, Jimmy Nelson, and Wally Sanders.

Bob Johnson of Kalamazoo outdrove Art Houck of Muskegon and Jack TenBrink of Zeeland to win the sportsman stock car main event.

### Rust Holds Off Carter For Feature At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**April 18, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Hard-driving Norm Rust of Novi withstood the strong challenges of Dick Carter of Breckenridge and Nolan Johncock of Hastings Saturday night to win the accident-marred ten-mile feature race for supermodified cars at Berlin Raceway.

Jimmy Nelson of Flint escaped serious injury when his car sheared a wheel and crashed into the concrete retaining wall.

Johnny Roberts of Wheeler finished fourth in the feature followed by Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids, and Sam Sessions of Hastings.

Nelson set fast time with a lap of 23.43. Dick Carter picked up the win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Butch Fedewa, Jimmy Nelson, and Norm Rust.

Ray Wright of Elkhart, Indiana,

edged Herb Kirts and Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids to win the 15-lap feature race for the sportsman stock cars.

Heat race winners were Bob Johnson of Kalamazoo, Ralph Lawrence of Lowell, Bill Rake of Muskegon, and Ray Lockwood of South Haven.

### Nelson Tops Race Field At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**April 25, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Jimmy Nelson of Flint flashed past race leader Norm Rust of Novi and went on to win the grueling ten-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

Nolan Johncock of Hastings was second in the accident-free event followed by Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids, Rust, and Duane Knoll of Muskegon.

Heat race winners were Dick Carter of Breckenridge, Sam Sessions of Hastings, Johnny Logan of Charlotte, and Nelson, who was also the fastest among 30 qualifiers.

Herb Kirts proved the toast of the sportsman cars by copping top honors in the 15-lap main event.

Heat race winners were Ray Wright of Elkhart, Indiana, Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids, and Tom Delano of Muskegon.

### Carter Roars To Victory At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**May 2, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Dick Carter of Breckenridge climaxed a wild and hectic race program by roaring to victory in the ten-mile main event for supermodifieds Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids was second followed by Nolan Johncock of Hastings, Jim

Murphy of South Haven, and Duane Knoll of Muskegon.

Fast time of the supermodifieds was set by Dick Carter with a lap of 23.33. Nelson took the win in the fast-car dash and Bill Cox, Elver Harrington, Carter, and Duane Knoll won the heat races.

The accident-riddled program sent Gene Riffle of Muskegon and Ray Lockwood of South Haven to Butterworth Hospital for treatment of injuries. Both suffered head and body bruises when their cars flipped in separate accidents.

Al Woodward of Lansing, Elver Harrington of Kalamazoo, Duane Cottrell of Muskegon, Jimmy Nelson of Flint, Flip Thompson of Belding, and Hiram Lockwood of South Haven, all escaped serious injury in other accidents on the program. Their injuries were treated at the track.

Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids out-dueled Paul Weisner and Jack Vilwalk of Muskegon to win the sportsman main event.

Heat winners were Harrington, Ray Lockwood, Senneker, and Wayne Rohn of Muskegon.

### Nelson Out-Duels VanderLaan At Berlin Raceway

By Shirley Glass

**May 9, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Flint's Jimmy Nelson out-dueled Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids to win the ten-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids was third, followed by Mort Anderson of Greenville.

Heat race winners were Jimmy Nelson and Elver Harrington of Kalamazoo. Nelson was also the program's fastest qualifier and captured the fast-car dash event.

Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids outdrove Jack Vilwalk and Wayne

Rohn both of Muskegon, and Jack TenBrink of Zeeland, to win the main event for the sportsman stock cars.

Heat race winners were Senneker, Rohn and Tony Vrablic of Grand Haven.

## Johncock Passes Sanders For Win

By Shirley Glass

**May 16, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Taking over the lead on the 11<sup>th</sup> lap from pacesetter Wally Sanders, Nolan Johncock of Hastings went on to win the ten-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Jimmy Nelson of Flint was second, followed by Johnny Logan of Charlotte, Nick Rowe of Lansing, and Bill Thurkettle of Muskegon.

Race veteran Dick Carter of Breckenridge was hospitalized after his race car piggy-backed over the car of Jack Smith and crashed into the concrete retaining wall.

Heat race winners were Dick Carter, Wally Sanders, and Elver Harrington of Kalamazoo.

Rich Senneker survived a ten-car pileup and captured his third consecutive sportsman win of the season.

Heat race winners were Paul Weisner, Art Houck, and Rich Senneker.

## Nelson Takes Fourth Feature At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**May 23, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Jimmy Nelson of Flint in a dramatic driving performance rallied to capture the grueling ten-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

Nelson captured his fourth main event of the season when he shot past leaders Johnny Logan of Charlotte, and Nolan Johncock of Hastings and was never headed. Duane Knoll of

Muskegon was fourth, Mort Anderson, Don Champlain, Bill Sherman, Ted Stoerman, Jack Smith, and Curly Moody.

In addition, Nelson also set fast qualifying time with a lap at 23.44 and then went on to win the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Ted Stoerman and Johnny Logan.

Irv Atkinson of Muskegon outdrove Jack Vilwalk of Muskegon and R.J. Presley of Grand Haven to capture the 15-lap main event for sportsman stock cars.

Paul Weisner of Muskegon and Ray Lockwood of South Haven were hospitalized after a head-on accident in a sportsman heat race.

## Nelson Adds Fifth Berlin Feature Win

By Shirley Glass

**May 30, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Jimmy Nelson of Flint roared to his fifth supermodified victory of the season Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Dick Carter of Breckenridge was second, followed by Johnny Logan of Charlotte, Eddie VanderLaan, Mort Anderson, Duane Knoll, Wally Sanders, and Curly Moody.

Nelson also set fast qualifying time of 22.49 and took the win in the fast-car dash. Heat races were taken by Bill Thurkettle and Mort Anderson.

Rich Senneker won the sportsman feature despite being involved in an early accident which sent him to the rear of the field.

Heat race winners were Senneker, Ed VandenBosch, Jack Vilwalk, Harvey Redder, and Tony Vrablic.

## Knoll Wins First Feature Of Season

By Shirley Glass

**June 6, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Duane Knoll of Muskegon made his first main event victory of the

season a big one as he captured the 50-lap race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids was second, less than a car length behind the winner who ran out of fuel as he crossed the finish line followed by Johnny Logan of Charlotte, Bill Sherman of Marne, Don Champlin of Lansing, Buddy Stewart, Jack Smith, Mort Anderson, and Sam Hill. An overheated engine forced top contender Jimmy Nelson of Flint to retire from the race while challenging for the lead and running second.

Fast time was set by Jimmy Nelson with a time of 23.03. Dash winner was Bill Sherman and Wally Sanders won the heat race.

Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids coming from 25<sup>th</sup> starting position won the accident-filled 15-lap feature race for sportsman stock cars.

Accidents were numerous in the race card with John Openhuizen of Holland, Dick Carter of Breckenridge, Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids, Al Huls and Irv Atkinson both of Muskegon, and Sam Hill of Rockford, all involved. Ted Stoerman of Muskegon was hospitalized with a broken leg after a stuck accelerator sent his race car hurtling into the wall during the time trials.

## Nelson Notches 7<sup>th</sup> Feature At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**June 13, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Jimmy Nelson of Flint drove into the victory circle for the seventh time this season as he captured the 20-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. The main event, which restarted on six different occasions, saw Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids finish second, followed by Dick Carter of Breckenridge, Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids, and Duane Knoll of Muskegon, in that order.

Fast time of the night was set by Duane Knoll with a lap of 22.96.



Nelson won the fast-car dash while heat race victories went to Wally Sander and Dick Carter/Jimmy Nelson who finished in a dead heat at the checkered flag.

Duane Cottrell of Muskegon captured his first main-event victory of the season when he won the 15-lap feature for sportsman cars, finishing ahead of Jack TenBrink of Zeeland, and Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids.

Heat race winners were Senneker, Cottrell, Sid Hill, Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids, and Leon Kennedy of Lowell. Gene Riffle of Muskegon was hospitalized when his car hit the concrete retaining wall.

## Anderson Takes First Berlin Win

By Shirley Glass

**June 20, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Mort Anderson of Greenville captured his first main event victory of the season by staving off Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids, Duane Knoll of Muskegon, Jimmy Nelson of Flint, and Dick Carter of Breckenridge, Wally Sanders, Curly Moody, Jack Smith, Ken Miller and Dan Mills to win the accident marred ten-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

The race was slowed on the 11<sup>th</sup> lap of the main event when the cars of Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids, and Don Champlin of Lansing hit the concrete retaining wall.

Jimmy Nelson set fast time for the night with a lap of 23.45. Duane Knoll picked up the win in the fast-car dash. Ken Miller and Bill Sherman won the heat races.

Bill Rake of Muskegon captured the 15-lap main event for sportsman stock cars which was highlighted by a spectacular crash when Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids sheared a wheel from his race car and crashed into the wall while challenging for the lead. Senneker was taken to Butterworth Hospital.

Heat race winners were: Irv Atkinson from Muskegon, Ralph

Lawrence of Lowell, Bill Rake, and Rich Senneker.

## Nelson Cops Feature At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**June 27, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Jimmy Nelson of Flint outdueled Duane Knoll of Muskegon to win the accident-marred, ten-mile feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

Jerry Varney of Muskegon brought the 20-lap main event to a halt on the ninth lap when his car flipped end over end and then catapulted onto the concrete retaining wall. He suffered multiple lacerations and the car was demolished.

Knoll was second in the main event followed by Jack Smith of Grand Rapids, Jim Murphy of South Haven, and Mort Anderson of Greenville.

Duane Knoll and Jimmy Nelson won the heat races.

Huram Lockwood of South Haven finished less than a car length in front of Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids to win the 50-lap sportsman stock car event.

Heat race winners were Ron Merkins of Marne, Joe Elenbaas of Muskegon, Tony Vrablic, and R. J. Presley both of Grand Haven.

*(Huram Lockwood took the checkered flag first but was disqualified due to an "illegal engine".)*

## Knoll Wins At Berlin By Less Than Car Length

By Shirley Glass

**July 4, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Duane Knoll of Muskegon crossed the finish line less than a car length ahead of Jimmy Nelson of Flint, Jack Smith of Grand Rapids, Mort Anderson of Greenville, Johnny Roberts of Wheeler, and Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids to win the 30-lap feature race

for supermodifieds Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

Heat race winners were Duane Knoll, Jim Murphy, and Dick Fowle.

Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids dogged Jack TenBrink of Zeeland for 28 laps, then charged into the lead and went on to win the 30-lap feature race for sportsman stock cars.

Heat race winners were Senneker, Wayne Rohn, Ken Sutton, Don Fowler, and Paul Weisner.

## Nelson Spins – Knoll Wins

By Shirley Glass

**July 11, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Taking over the lead after pace-setter Jimmy Nelson spun his car, Duane Knoll of Muskegon set a blistering pace and went on to win the 50-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

The main event, in which Bill Thurkettle of Muskegon was hospitalized, Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids finished second, followed by Jack Smith of Grand Rapids, Jim Murphy of South Haven, and Bill Sherman of Marne.

Heat race winners were Bill Sherman and Jimmy Nelson.

Kenny Sutton completed the Muskegon domination by out-driving Jack TenBrink of Zeeland, Rich Senneker, and Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids, to win the 15-lap main event for sportsman stock cars.

Heat race winners were TenBrink, Sutton, Ralph Lawrence of Lowell, and Meyering.

## Jack Smith Wins First Feature Of Season

By Shirley Glass

**July 18, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Grand Rapids' Jack Smith scored his first main event victory of the season by capturing the ten-mile supermodified race Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Wally Sanders of

Grand Rapids was second, followed by Don Champlin of Lansing, and Duane Knoll of Muskegon, Curly Moody, Bill Thurkettle, Ken Sutton, Arnie Mortimer, Jim Murphy, and Bill Sherman.

Duane Knoll set fast time with a lap of 23.52 and then won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Bill Thurkettle and Wally Sanders.

Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids outdrove Jack TenBrink of Zeeland, Bill Rake of Muskegon, Ken Sutton of Muskegon, and Scott Presley of Holland, to win the 15-lap main event for sportsman stock cars.

Heat race winners were Tony Vrablic, of Grand Haven, Al Hulls, Paul Weisner of Muskegon, and Jack TenBrink.

## Nelson Declared Winner In Crash Filled Feature Ending

By Shirley Glass

**July 25, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Both the Berlin Fair and the Berlin Raceway program were given a sensational finale Saturday night.

When the race car of Wally Sanders did an end-over-end flip near the fourth turn of the Marne half-mile dirt oval, it set up unexpected fireworks for the final race of the night of the fair and the windup event of the racing program – the supermodified feature race.

As Sanders' car hurtled into the retaining wall, Curley Moody's car also smashed into the track's concrete wall. Jack TenBrink of Zeeland, looking for an opening, crashed through the steel pit gate into the fairgrounds midway, which had attracted a crowd of thousands but fortunately missed everyone.

The feature race was suspended with three laps to go. None of the racers was hurt. The sensational windup events ended a brilliant duel between Jimmy Nelson of Flint and Duane Knoll of Muskegon.

Nelson was declared the winner with Knoll second, TenBrink third, Sanders fourth, and Bill Sherman of Marne, fifth.

Heat race winners were Duane Knoll, Jim Murphy, and Jimmy Nelson.

Ken Sutton of Muskegon forged into the lead on the last lap to win the 15-lap main event for sportsman stock cars. Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids was second followed by Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids, and Scott Presley of Grand Haven.

Heat race winners were Duane Cottrell and Dick Fowle, of Muskegon, Ken Sutton, and Paul Weisner of Holland. Ken Sutton also won the pursuit race, giving him a clean sweep by winning every event he was entered in.

## Smith Captures Second Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**August 1, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Taking over the lead on the seventh lap, Jack Smith of Grand Rapids roared to his second main event victory of the season by capturing the 20-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

Duane Knoll of Muskegon was second in the 10-mile main event on the half-mile oval, followed by Dick Carter of Breckenridge, Jim Murphy of South Haven, Curly Moody of Grand Rapids, Ken Miller, Flip Thompson, Artie Mortimer, Don Champlin and Bill Marshall.

Duane Knoll was the fastest qualifier with a time of 23.05; he then went out and won the fast-car dash, along with winning a heat race. Curley Moody won the other heat race.

Irv Atkinson of Muskegon outdrove Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids, Jack TenBrink of Zeeland, and Scott Presley of Grand Haven, to win the 15-lap main event for sportsman stock cars.

Heat race winners were Ken

Sutton, Jack Vilwalk, Paul Weisner, Atkinson, and Dennis Sheid, Kenny Knoll, all from Muskegon.

## Jim Murphy Takes First Feature Win Of Season

By Shirley Glass

**August 8, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Jim Murphy of South Haven drove his Buick powered supermodified to victory in the ten-mile feature race Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

It was Murphy's first main event victory of the season and he was followed across the finish line by Bill Sherman of Marne, and Curly Moody of Grand Rapids.

Mechanical difficulties sidelined pre-race favorites Duane Knoll of Muskegon, and Jack Smith of Grand Rapids.

Heat race winners were Bill Thurkettle, Jim Murphy, and Duane Knoll.

Kenny Sutton of Muskegon captured his second consecutive sportsman main event victory by finishing ahead of Jack TenBrink of Zeeland, Hiram Lockwood of South Haven, and Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids.

Heat race winners were Dave Flannery, Paul Weisner, and Ken Sutton.

## Murphy Wins On Last Lap Over Knoll

By Shirley Glass

**August 14, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** – Jim Murphy of South Haven overtook pace-setter Duane Knoll of Muskegon on the last lap and went on to win the 25-lap Mississippi Valley Sprint Car feature race Friday night at Berlin Raceway.

Bill Thurkettle of Muskegon was third, followed by Oscar Fay of South Bend, and Dick Carter of Breckenridge.



## 100-Lap Michigan State Championship To Nelson

By Shirley Glass

**August 15, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** — Jimmy Nelson had to hold off both Dick Carter and Duane Knoll in order to win the 100-lap 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Michigan State Championship for supermodified race cars.

The sportsman stock cars ran a 100-lap feature on the fifth-mile track which was won by Tony Vrablic with Norm Utting finishing second.

## Jack Smith Takes Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**August 29, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** — Jack Smith came out as the winner of the 20-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at Berlin Raceway on the fast dirt half-mile track.

In the sportsman stock car division, Ken Sutton won the 50-lap feature race on the fifth-mile track for the Mid-Season Championship Race. Vern Koenes won a heat race.

## Iggy Katona Captures ARCA Race

**September 4, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** — The Automobile Racing Club of America (ARCA) put on a 100-lap race for new cars. Iggy Katona came out the victor with Ralph Baker and Jim Roberts following him.

## Duane Knoll Takes Labor Day Berlin Win

By Shirley Glass

**September 7, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** — Berlin Raceway ran its Labor Day show Monday with Muskegon's Duane Knoll copping the 20-lap supermodified feature race on Berlin's fast half-mile track. Johnny Logan finished second; Eddie VanderLaan took third, and Mort Anderson fourth.

Heat race winners were Elver Harrington, Johnny Logan, and Duane Knoll.

In the sportsman feature, it was Jack TenBrink capturing the 15-lap feature.

Heat winners were; Jack TenBrink, Ralph Lawrence, Dick Fowler, Ray Rohn, and Art Houck.

## Carter Takes Second Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**September 12, 1964 Berlin Raceway** — Dick Carter topped a tough field of supermodifieds on Berlin's fast half-mile dirt track for his second supermodified feature win of the year in a hard fought 20-lap race.

Ray Lockwood captured the 15-lap feature race on Berlin's dirt fifth-mile track for the sportsman division stock cars. Jack TenBrink won the heat race.

## Norm Brown Takes Berlin's Closing Race

By Shirley Glass

**October 3, 1964 – Berlin Raceway** — Norm Brown of Rockford outraced Duane Knoll of Muskegon in winning the 20-lap supermodified feature race at Berlin Raceway on Saturday night.

Jack TenBrink won the 25-lap feature race for sportsman cars on Berlin Raceway's dirt fifth-mile track followed by Bud Meyering and Rich Senneker.

## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1964

### Supermodifieds – Sportsman

April 4, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

Rained Out

April 11, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 24.36

Dash winner: Wally Sanders

Heat winners: Bill Sherman, Jimmy Nelson, Wally Sanders

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Nelson (2) Dick Carter  
(3) Nolan Johncock (4) Bill Cox (5) Bill Marshall  
(6) Bill Sherman (7) Nick Rowe (8) Wally Sanders  
(9) Johnny Logan (10) Ted Stoerman

April 18, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 23.43

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Butch Fedewa, Jimmy Nelson, Norm Rust

**Feature:** (1) Norm Rust (2) Dick Carter (3) Nolan Johncock (4) Johnny Roberts (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Sam Sessions

15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

**Feature:** (1) Bob Johnson (2) Art Houck (3) Jack TenBrink



Rich Senneker

Dick Lee Collection

April 25, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Nelson (2) Nolan Johncock  
(3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Norm Rust (5) Duane Knoll

15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

**Feature:** (1) Herb Kirts

May 2, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 23.33

Dash winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat winners: Bill Cox, Elver Harrington, Dick Carter, Duane Knoll

**Feature:** (1) Dick Carter (2) Eddie VanderLaan  
(3) Nolan Johncock (4) Jim Murphy (5) Duane Knoll

15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker

May 9, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Nelson

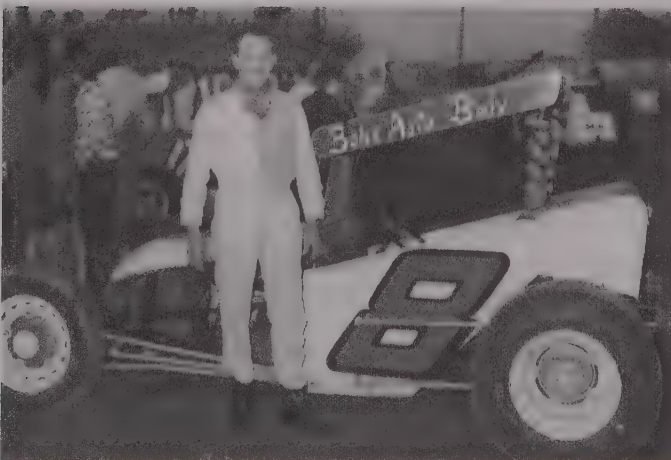
15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Wayne Rohn (3) Jack TenBrink

May 16, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Feature:** (1) Nolan Johncock



Jimmy Nelson

Dick Lee Collection





Duane Knoll

Dick Lee Collection

---

### 15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Feature: (1) Rich Senneker

---

### May 23, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 23.44

Dash winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat winners: Ted Stoerman, Johnny Logan

Feature: (1) **Jimmy Nelson** (2) Johnny Logan (3) Nolan Johncock (4) Duane Knoll (5) Mort Anderson (6) Don Champlin (7) Bill Sherman (8) Ted Stoerman (9) Jack Smith (10) Curly Moody

### 15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Feature: (1) Irv Atkinson

---

### May 30, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

30 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 22.49

Dash winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat winners: Bill Thurkettle, Mort Anderson

Feature: (1) **Jimmy Nelson** (2) Dick Carter (3) Johnny Logan (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Mort Anderson (6) Duane Knoll (7) Wally Sanders (8) Curly Moody (9) Car #98 (10) Don Champlin

### 30 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Heat winners: Harvey Redder, Rich Senneker, Ed VandenBosch, Jack Vilwalk, Tony Vrablic

Feature: (1) **Rich Senneker**

**Rich Senneker – Clean Sweep Award**

---

### June 6, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

#### *Tri-State Championship Race*

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 23.03

Dash winner: Bill Sherman

Heat winners: Wally Sanders

Feature: (1) **Duane Knoll** (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Johnny Logan (4) Bill Sherman (5) Curly Moody (6) Don Champlin (7) Buddy Stewart (8) Jack Smith (9) Mort Anderson (10) Sam Hill

### 15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Feature: (1) Rich Senneker

---

### June 13, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Duane Knoll 22.96

Dash winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat winners: Wally Sanders, Dick Carter/Jimmy Nelson (dead heat)

Feature: (1) **Jimmy Nelson** (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Dick Carter (4) Wally Sanders (5) Duane Knoll (6) Jack Smith (7) Mort Anderson (8) Curly Moody (9) Bill Marshall (10) Buddy Stewart

### 15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman

Feature: (1) Duane Cottrell

---

### June 20, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 23.45

Dash winner: Duane Knoll

Heat winners: Ken Miller, Bill Sherman



Dick Carter

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Duane Knoll (4) Jimmy Nelson (5) Dick Carter (6) Wally Sanders (7) Curly Moody (8) Jack Smith (9) Ken Miller (10) Dan Mills

**15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Heat winners: Irv Atkinson, Ralph Lawrence, Bill Rake, Rich Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bill Rake

**Bill Rake – Clean Sweep Award**



Bill Rake

Dick Lee Collection

**June 27, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Nelson

**50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

*Tri-State Championship Race*

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker\*

(\*Huram Lockwood took the checkered flag first, but was disqualified due to an "illegal engine.")

**July 4, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

30 laps, half-mile dirt

**Feature:** (1) Duane Knoll (2) Jimmy Nelson (3) Jack Smith (4) Mort Anderson (5) Johnny Roberts (6) Wally Sanders

**30 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Heat winner: Don Fowler, Rich Senneker, Wayne Rohn, Ken Sutton, Paul Weisner.

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Jack TenBrink



Jack Smith

Dick Lee Collection

**July 11, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

50 laps, half-mile dirt

Heat winners: Bill Sherman, Jimmy Nelson

**Feature:** (1) Duane Knoll (2) Wally Sanders (3) Jack Smith (4) Jim Murphy (5) Bill Sherman (6) ? (7) Jimmy Nelson

**15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Heat winners: Ralph Lawrence, Ken Sutton, Jack TenBrink, Bud Meyering

**Feature:** (1) Ken Sutton (2) Jack TenBrink (3) Rich Senneker (4) Bud Meyering

**Ken Sutton – Clean Sweep Award**

**July 18, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Duane Knoll 23.52

Dash winner: Duane Knoll

Heat winners: Bill Thurkettle, Wally Sanders

Pursuit winner: Jack TenBrink

**Feature:** (1) Jack Smith (2) Wally Sanders (3) Don Champlin (4) Duane Knoll (5) Curly Moody (6) Bill Thurkettle (7) Ken Sutton (8) Arnie Mortimer (9) Jim Murphy (10) Bill Sherman

**15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Heat winners: Tony Vrablic, Al Hulls, Ken Sutton, Paul Weisner

Pursuit winner: Jack TenBrink

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Jack TenBrink (3) Bill Rake (4) Ken Sutton (5) Scott Presley



**July 25, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

**Berlin Fair**

17 laps, half-mile dirt

Heat winners: Duane Knoll, Jim Murphy, Jimmy Nelson

**Feature: (1) Jimmy Nelson\***

\*Feature stopped when Jack TenBrink went through the pit gate into the midway of the Berlin Fair

**Jimmy Nelson – Clean Sweep Award**

**15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Heat winners: Duane Cottrell, Dick Fowler, Ken Sutton, Paul Weisner

Pursuit winner: Ken Sutton

**Feature: (1) Ken Sutton**

**Ken Sutton – Clean Sweep Award**

---

**August 1, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Duane Knoll 23.05

Dash winner: Duane Knoll

Heat winners: Curly Moody, Duane Knoll

**Feature: (1) Jack Smith (2) Duane Knoll (3) Dick Carter (4) Jim Murphy (5) Curly Moody (6) Ken Miller (7) Flip Thompson (8) Arnie Mortimer (9) Don Champlin (10) Bill Marshall**

**15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Heat winners: Ken Sutton, Jack Vilwalk, Paul Weisner, Irv Atkinson, Dennis Sheid

**Feature: (1) Irv Atkinson (2) Rich Senneker (3) Jack TenBrink (4) Scott Presley**

**Irv Atkinson – Clean Sweep Award**

---



Mort Anderson

Dick Lee Collection

**August 8, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Feature: (1) Jim Murphy (2) Bill Sherman (3) Curly Moody**

**15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

**Feature: (1) Ken Sutton (2) Jack TenBrink (3) Hiram Lockwood (4) Rich Senneker**

---

**August 14, 1964 – Friday – Mississippi Valley Sprint Cars**

25 laps, half-mile dirt

**Feature: (1) Jim Murphy (2) Duane Knoll (3) Bill Thurbottle (4) Oscar Fay (5) Dick Carter**

---

**August 15, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

**14th Annual Michigan State Championship**

100 laps, half-mile dirt

**Feature: (1) Jimmy Nelson (2) Dick Carter (3) Duane Knoll**

**100 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

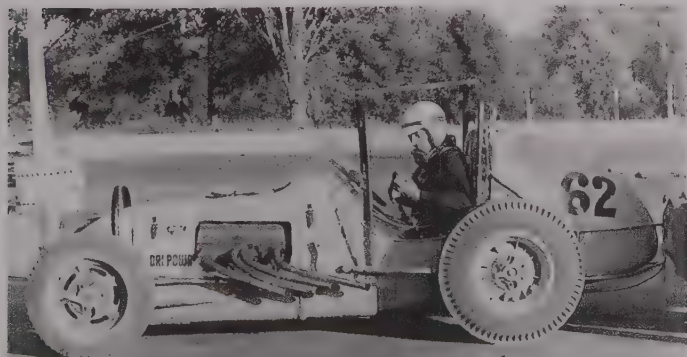
**Feature: (1) Tony Vrablic (2) Norm Utting**

---

**August 22, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

Rained Out

---



Jim Murphy

Dick Lee Collection



Norm Brown

Dick Lee Collection

---

**August 29, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Feature: (1) Jack Smith**

**50 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

*Mid-Season Championship Race*

Heat winner: Vern Koenes

**Feature: (1) Ken Sutton**

---

**September 4, 1964 – Friday – ARCA –  
Automobile Racing Club of America**

100 laps, fifth-mile dirt

**Feature: (1) Iggy Katona (2) Ralph Baker (3) Jim  
Roberts**

---

**September 5, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Feature: (1) Jimmy Nelson**

---

**September 7, 1964 – Monday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Heat winners: Elver Harrington, Don Champlin, Duane Knoll

**Feature: (1) Duane Knoll (2) Johnny Logan (3) Eddie  
VanderLaan (4) Mort Anderson**

**Duane Knoll – Clean Sweep Award**

**15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Heat Winners: Jack TenBrink, Ralph Lawrence, Dick Fowler, Ray Rahn, Art Houck

**Feature: (1) Jack TenBrink**

**Jack TenBrink – Clean Sweep Award**

---

**September 12, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

**Feature: (1) Dick Carter**

**15 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Heat winner: Jack TenBrink

**Feature: (1) Ray Lockwood**

---

**September 19, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

Rained Out

---

**September 26, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

Rained Out

---

**October 3, 1964 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

*Season Championship Race*

**Feature: (1) Norm Brown (2) Duane Knoll**

**25 laps, fifth-mile dirt – Sportsman**

**Feature: (1) Jack TenBrink (2) Bud Meyering (3) Rich  
Senneker**

---



Iggy Katona Dick Lee Collection



## Berlin Raceway Points 1964

1964 SUPERMODIFIED POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Jimmy Nelson	56	10	6	4		1
2	Duane Knoll	41	4	3	3		1
3	Dick Carter	33	2	1	1		
4	Eddie VanderLaan	25					
5	Jack Smith	21	3				
6	Nolan Johncock	21	1				
7	Johnny Logan	14					
8	Jim Murphy	11	1				
	Mort Anderson	11	1				
10	Wally Sanders	10			1		
11	Norm Rust	7	1				
12	Bill Sherman	7			1		
13	Curly Moody	6					
14	Norm Brown	5	1				
15	Don Champlin	3					
	Johnny Roberts	3					
17	Bill Cox	2					
18	Bill Marshall	1					

1964 SUPER STOCK POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Paul Smith	10	2		1		2
2	Paul Weisner	9	1				
3	R. Busscher	7					
4	Al Hegner	5	1				
5	Bob DePauw	4					
	Roger Edwards	4					
7	Jim Adema	3					
	R. Engler	3					
	Bob Signor	3					
10	Bob Young	2					

# Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present

1964 SPORTSMAN POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Rich Senneker	52	8				1
2	Jack TenBrink	31	2				1
3	Ken Sutton	22	4				2
4	Irv Atkinson	10	2				1
5	Bil Rake	8	1				1
6	Bud Meyering	6					
7	Herb Kirts	5	1				
	Tony Vrablic	5	1				
	Duane Cottrell	5	1				
	Ray Lockwood	5	1				
	Bob Johnson	5	1				
12	Art Houck	4					
	Norm Utting	4					
	Wayne Rohn	4					
15	Scott Presley	3					
	Huram Lockwood	3					



## Berlin Raceway Media 1965

### Anderson Takes Berlin Feature Opener

By Shirley Glass

**April 24, 1965 — Berlin Raceway** - Mort Anderson, 11 year area veteran, literally tore up Chet Mysliwiec's newly renovated clay track Saturday night at Marne's Berlin Raceway as he lapped one-quarter of a classy field to take the supermodified feature before an enthusiastic audience of 1,500 hardy fans.

The majority of fans, obviously Jimmy Nelson backers, watched Anderson cop the honors. Nelson, although getting in good spurts of speed on the straightaways, pushed Anderson most of the way but ran into trouble trying to pass Johnny Logan and Duane Knoll, of Crapshooter fame. The feature, although uneventful in the spill department, was won in extraordinarily fast time. The car performance in the evening's card showed ample promise that Berlin's clay surface renovation will give area drivers opportunity for new track records.

The Marne oval has been newly refurbished for this season and the concrete retaining wall encompassing three-fourths of the track has been eliminated. The track has been widened to varying widths between 60 and 75 feet which promise qualifying and feature race records.

Rich Senneker made a clean sweep of the sportsman division when he won the fast-car dash, his heat race and the feature race of 15-laps on Marne's dirt half-mile track. Finishing behind Senneker was Jack Vilwalk second, Jack TenBrink third, Tony Vrablic fourth and Bud Meyer-fifth.

Vrablic also won a heat race.

### Dick Carter Wrests Main From Anderson At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**May 1, 1965 — Berlin Raceway**— Last week's main event winner Mort Anderson had to settle for second place in Berlin's hectic main Saturday night as track record holder Dick Carter, Breckenridge's favorite son, aced him out in a classy and thrill-filled race. Rooster tails trailed the two speedsters as they caromed virtually sideways through the loosened clay of Chet Mysliwiec's carefully groomed racing surface.

Johnny Logan who last week informed the media that he was joining the USAC sprint car circuit, finished third in front of Jim Murphy. Duane Knoll took fifth.

Carter set fast qualifying time with a lap of 22.96 and captured the fast-car dash race. Anderson and Larry Gathman won heat races.

In the sportsman class Rich Senneker kept to his winning ways in a carbon copy of last week's races by winning the fast-car dash, fast heat and main event, scoring a clean sweep in the card.

Finishing second was Jack Vilwalk, third Tony Vrablic, fourth Dick Fowler, and fifth Paul Weisner. Fast-car dash winner was Senneker. Tony Vrablic, Rich Senneker, and Roger Six were heat race winners.

### Nelson Trounces Field At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**May 8, 1965 — Berlin Raceway** — It was Jimmy Nelson benefit night or so it seemed, at Berlin Raceway Saturday night as the hard-charging driver completely trounced the large

field on hand.

Turning in the fastest time of the evening at 22:49, Nelson went on to capture the fast-car dash, the fast heat and the action packed 20-lap feature for supermodifieds.

Last week's feature winner, Dick Carter, was sidelined for the evening when mechanical troubles plagued him during the fast-car dash.

The feature lined up with Eddie VanderLaan bringing the field around for Dick Zimmerman's green flag. Seconds after the start, the red flag came out as ten cars tangled up in the first turn. However, all racers stayed upright and there were no injuries. Eliminated in the pile up were Duane Knoll, Johnnie Johnson, and Rich Senneker.

The race resumed with Nelson charging up from his ninth starting spot to take the lead from VanderLaan on the third lap. VanderLaan and Nelson staged a tremendous two-car duel that had the fans on their feet as the two speedsters traded the lead several times. VanderLaan then was sidelined with mechanical ills. Johnny Logan then gave Nelson a stiff challenge for the lead, but failed in his bid. Nelson flashed home the winner in 7 minutes, 53 seconds. Jack Smith took third, Jim Murphy fourth and Chuck Partello fifth.

Wally Sanders picked up the checkered flag for winning his heat race.

The thrilling sportsman feature was taken by Paul Weisner after inheriting the lead on lap 13 from Bill Rake when the latter developed heating problems. Finishing behind Weisner was Jack TenBrink, Art Houck, Bill Thurkettle, and Jack Vilwalk.

John Catlin brought the crowd to its feet when he smacked the outer retaining wall coming out of the fourth turn on the second lap of the

first sportsman heat. Catlin escaped unhurt but his car was severely damaged.

Bud Meyering set fast time with a lap of 25.37 on the half-mile track and then won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Joe Castle and Bill Rake.

## Nelson – Two Straight Features

By Shirley Glass

**May 15, 1965 – Berlin Raceway** — It definitely was not sponsor's night at Berlin Raceway Saturday night as Jimmy Nelson, driving his # 8 charged-up Chevy, captured his second consecutive main event in a 'survival-of-the-fittest' ten-mile feature race for supermodifieds that saw 13 accidents and three complete restarts.

Nelson, in the accident-marred event, moved fast from his ninth starting spot and became involved in a fracas which sent Johnny Logan into the wall and Dick Carter momentarily off the track. Logan returned in Jack Smith's Double 00. Chuck Partello then decided it was his turn to rest when his #51 was forced out because of front-end alignment woes. Carter didn't last long in his re-try as he, Ken Miller and Elver Harrington spun-out on the first turn sending Miller to the hospital with a broken arm.

Bill Cox then briefly left the race but returned to end up in fifth place. Johnny Johnson, who had been plagued by car troubles all evening and Bill Marshall, spun and cracked up on the second turn.

Only seven of the original entrants were around when Nelson, followed by Eddie VanderLaan, Muskegon's Duane Knoll, Johnny Logan in the borrowed '00', and Kalamazoo's Bill Cox, crossed the line in that order.

A new fast-car dash record for the supers was put in the Berlin books when Jimmy Nelson streaked across the finish line ahead of Carter, Logan and Knoll in a blistering 1:08.41. In the two super heats Elver Harrington and Jimmy Nelson copped the wins.

The sportsman dash was taken by Rich Senneker with Art Houck, Paul Weisner, and Bud Meyering hard on his heels. The first heat was won by Dick Fowles who later became involved in the tragic starting line accident, Jack Vilwalk in #10 and Joe Castle was second and third.

The second new record of the night occurred when Rich Senneker took the second sportsman heat in 2:25.08. Following behind Senneker in his performance were Bill Rake second and Bud Meyering who settled for third place.

In the thrilling sportsman feature Jack TenBrink of Zeeland caught race leader Bud Meyering and Rich Senneker at the finish line to win the 15-lap main event by only inches.

## Nelson – Berlin's Spring Champ

By Shirley Glass

**May 22, 1965 – Berlin Raceway** — It was a cool, breezy evening that greeted the drivers for the beginning of qualifications at Berlin Raceway, Saturday night. Dick Carter turned in the fastest time of the evening at 22.78, to gain the pole position for the big 35 lap Spring Championship feature event that saw no serious accidents take place.

Taking the lead in the second lap and holding it for the remainder of the race was the story of Jimmy Nelson's third straight feature win on the half-mile Berlin oval. Nelson started in second position by virtue of his qualifying lap, and once in the

lead was never seriously threatened by anyone, including second place finisher, Dick Carter.

Bob DePauw and Jack Smith were winners of heat races.

Bill Cox survived a spectacular flip over the outside retaining wall during a warm-up lap for the first super heat. Cox locked wheels with another car while jockeying for position, and the other car rolled along the top of the wall four times, landing outside the speedway.

Rich Senneker was the winner of the sportsman feature that saw him fight off challenges again and again from Jack TenBrink. Senneker was also the winner of the fast-car dash and a heat race. T. Pennington was the winner of a heat race.

## Nelson Sweeps Berlin Races

By Shirley Glass

**May 29, 1965 – Berlin Raceway** — Jimmy Nelson set fast time in the supermodified division, and won the dash, second heat, and the feature. Johnny Logan took second Roger Ryder third. Bill Marshall took the first heat in the supers.

In the sportsman division, Bill Rake captured the sportsman feature with Senneker second, Jack TenBrink third. Rich Senneker had the fastest time. Joe Castle took the first and Bill Rake the second heat race in that division.

## Rain, Mud, Luck Run With Nelson

By Shirley Glass

**May 31, 1965 – Berlin Raceway** — Monday's evening's races on the one-half mile clay track got off to a wet start with the racers drawing



for position instead of time trials. If Jimmy Nelson's luck hasn't been good enough in driving, he lucked out by drawing first position for the evening's feature attraction. The show was wild and woolly, due to the rain-slicked clay, luckily nobody did any damage to one another, but the slipping and sliding done by the mudders was a real crowd pleaser.

In the supermodified first heat Jimmy Nelson had pole position and held it for the win followed by Johnny Logan and Johnny Johnson. The second super heat was won by Duane Knoll, with Chuck Partello taking second and Wally Sanders third.

It was Jimmy Nelson again in the feature, and Dick Carter, a broad-sliding expert, took second, Johnny Logan and Jack Smith sloshed it out for the third and fourth spots.

Laverne Koenes won the sportsman first heat, with Rich Senneker nipping at his heels. It was Art Houck for the win in the second sportsman heat and Bill Rake and Bill Thurkettle took second and third respectively.

Rich Senneker took the checker in the sportsman feature event, with Jack TenBrink and Paul Weisner, threatening.

There were no records broken, due to muddy conditions, but the forty competitors put on a good show.

## Knoll Wins First Feature Of Season

By Shirley Glass

**June 5, 1965 – Berlin Raceway** — Duane Knoll held off the efforts of Dick Carter in winning the supermodified 20-lap feature Saturday night. Jack Smith was third, Don Champlin fourth, and Bud Meyering fifth.

Jimmy Nelson took fast time honors. Carter won the fast-car dash

and a heat race. Don Champlin took the other heat race.

Rich Senneker captured the sportsman feature along with the fast-car dash. Bud Meyering took second in the feature plus winning a heat race.

## Jimmy Nelson Spring Champ Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**June 12, 1965 – Berlin Raceway** — Jimmy Nelson of Flint nursed his race car through time trials, dash events, and the heats, but came on strong as he captured his seventh main event victory of the season in the supermodified program Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Jim Murphy of South Haven chased the winner across the finish line, followed by Bill Marshall of Lansing, Johnny Johnson and Jack Smith both of Grand Rapids.

Heat race winners were Jim Murphy and Duane Knoll.

A spin by race leader Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids on the 25<sup>th</sup> lap gave Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids the 25 lap victory for sportsman stock cars in their spring championship race. Jack TenBrink of Zeeland was third, followed by Tony Vrablic of Grand Haven, and Leo Havens of Muskegon.

Heat race winners were Roger Rider, Ron Wilke, and Art Houck.

## Veteran Johnny Logan Wins In Wild Nite Of Spins, Flips, And Pileups

By Shirley Glass

**June 19, 1965 – Berlin Raceway** — Surviving a sixth car crash on the first lap Johnny Logan of Charlotte went on to win the 10-mile feature

race for supermodified cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

The accident scarred program was one of the most hectic of the season at the one-half mile Marne oval. Red Parkhouse of Portland flipped end over end in the first heat. Johnny Johnson of Grand Rapids running over the wheel of another race car, vaulted end over end in the second heat, Duane Knoll of Muskegon suffered a broken axle hitting the wall in the same event and after the six-car crash Carl Schalow of Lansing halted the main event when a sheered wheel sent his race car spinning in front of the pack causing a wild melee. All drivers escaped serious injury.

Fast qualifying time was set by Duane Knoll at 22.66. Jim Murphy, Don Champlin, and Duane Knoll were winners of heat races.

Perennial winner Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids flashed across the finish line two car lengths ahead of Jack Vilwalk of Muskegon and Paul Weisner of Holland to win the 15-lap sportsman stock car main event.

Heat race winners were Bill Thurkettle of Muskegon, TenBrink, and Senneker. Jack TenBrink set fast time with a lap of 23.44 and won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Rich Senneker and Bill Thurkettle.

## Duane Knoll Captures Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**June 26, 1965 – Berlin Raceway** — Duane Knoll of Muskegon coming from deep in the starting lineup caught race leader Johnny Logan of Charlotte on the 16<sup>th</sup> lap and went on to win the 20-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Bill Sherman of Marne was third, followed by Roger Ryder of Lansing and Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids.

Former track champion Bob

Knight of Grand Rapids after a two year absence, returned to action and was running second when forced out by mechanical failure.

Duane Knoll Set fast qualifying time with a lap of 22.66 and then won the fast-car dash. Johnny Logan won the heat race.

Wayne Rohn of Muskegon finished a car length ahead of fellow townsman Bill Thurkettle and Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids to win the 15-lap main event for sportsman stock cars.

Jack TenBrink set fast time in qualifying with a lap of 23.44. Wayne Rohn won the fast-car dash. Bill Thurkettle and Jack Vilwalk were the heat race victors.

Paul Smith of Battle Creek outdrove Paul Weisner of Muskegon and Jim Adema of Grand Rapids to win the super-stock car main event. Heat race winner was Paul Smith.

## Nelson Back In Victory Lane At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**July 3, 1965 – Berlin Raceway** – Jimmy Nelson returned to victory lane at Berlin Raceway Saturday night by taking the win in the 25-lap supermodified feature on Berlin's dirt half-mile track. Bill Sherman and Duane Knoll followed the winner.

Knoll took the win in the fast-car dash. Jim Murphy and Knoll won the heat races.

Rich Senneker was the winner again in the sportsman division feature and was followed by Laverne Koenes and Bud Meyering.

Senneker was also the winner in the fast-car dash while Tom Delano and Wayne Rohn picked up the heat race victories.

Paul Smith won his second super-stock feature in a row. R. Busscher and B. Engler followed. Smith also captured the fast-car dash.

## Third Win For Knoll At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**July 5, 1965 – Berlin Raceway** – Duane Knoll of Muskegon captured his third main event victory by crossing the finish line first in the 10-mile feature race for supermodifieds Monday night at the Berlin Raceway. Jack Smith and Jim Murphy finished behind him.

Knoll also captured the fast-car dash and his heat race. Dick Stemler won the other heat race.

Bill Thurkettle of Muskegon emerged the victor in one of the most spectacular crash-filled sportsman stock car main events ever witnessed at the half mile Marne oval. The main event was halted on the fifth lap when Rich Senneker flipped end over end after tangling with Tony Vrablic of Grand Haven and LaVerne Koenes of Holland. After the restart Koenes again spun his machine sending the second place car Vrablic into the concrete retaining wall. Further action ensued when R.J. Presley of Grand Haven threw a wheel spinning his car and sending Tom Delano of Muskegon into the concrete barrier. Jim Weller of Parchment totaled his car when he hit the wall on the front straightaway. Thurkettle and Senneker were heat race winners. Senneker also won the fast-car dash.

## Dick Carter Captures Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**July 10, 1965 – Berlin Raceway** – Saturday night's racing at Berlin Raceway was action packed with a full card of three classes (supermodified, sportsman and super-stocks) of cars participating.

The supermodified feature was just that – super. The caution flag was out when Don Champlin took the third turn high, and jumped the retainer. Mort Anderson pushed Dick Carter all the way to the end, with Carter winning by only half a car length. Duane Knoll took third place.

Duane Knoll took the lead in the supermodified fast-car dash and had no trouble keeping up front for the win. The first heat for supermodifieds was re-started when Bill Beard and Ken Crampton hit the wall. Both cars were wrecked, but the men were unhurt. Don Champlin took over for the win. Carter won the other heat race.

The sportsman feature was halted when Bill Thurkettle spun out in front of the stands. Art Houck took the win followed closely by Ken Sutton and Thurkettle.

The sportsman dash was well matched and a close race. Bill Thurkettle came in for the win just in front of Ken Sutton and Bud Meyering, who were second and third for the event.

Fred DeLong paced the field for the win in the first sportsman heat, and LaVerne Koenes pushed Ron Merkins all the way in the second heat, but Ron was the victor.

The super-stock feature was stopped when Roger Six rolled over several times coming out of the second turn. Paul Weisner carried the flag for the win, followed by Bob DePauw, and Busscher.

Ralph Lawrence was the victor in the first super-stock heat race. Paul Smith hit the retainer on the straight-away, spun around, and received the third place checkered flag backwards in the second heat with Al Hagan winning the second heat.



## Duane Knoll Tops Marne Feature

By Shirley Glass

**July 17, 1965 — Berlin Raceway** — Threatening weather with hail and thundershowers earlier in the afternoon held down the crowd and the field of cars at Berlin Raceway Saturday night.

Duane Knoll in his Crapshooter Special (#7/11) took a substantial lead and held it for the win. Johnny Logan and Mort Anderson took second and third positions in this exciting race.

Bill Sherman hit the wall in the first lap of the supermodified main event, demolishing his car #98, but Bill was unscathed.

Jim Murphy took the win in the supermodified fast-car dash. Mort Anderson was second and Jack Smith third. Bill Marshall battled it out with Bill Sherman in the second heat, with Marshall winning and third place was taken by Curly Moody.

The second supermodified heat was taken by Johnny Logan in a time of 3:07.32. Duane Knoll was second and Mort Anderson third.

During the sportsman feature event a wheel came off one of the cars and the car sheared the light pole, the pole then fell across the track cutting the track's lights and holding the show up for approximately 20 minutes while the ground crew fixed things up. Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids got the lead on the restart and held it for the win with Ken Sutton and Paul Weisner in hot pursuit taking second and third spots.

Larry Marble picked up the win in the first sportsman heat, followed by Fred DeLong and Tom Delano. Bill Rake carried the flag in the second heat and Ken Sutton and Bill Thurkettle were second and third.

## Anderson Closes Off Berlin Fair With Win

By Shirley Glass

**July 24, 1965 — Berlin Raceway** — Mort Anderson of Greenville warmed up for next week's big mid-season championship race by roaring to victory in the ten-mile feature race for supermodified cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

The closing program of the 110th year of the Berlin Fair saw former track champion Bob Knight of Grand Rapids finish second followed by Dick Carter of Breckenridge, Jim Murphy of South Haven and Johnny Logan of Charlotte.

Carter outdrove Knight, Duane Knoll of Muskegon, and Bill Marshall of Lansing to win the fast-car dash event. Heat races were won by Mort Anderson and Carl Shalow.

Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids crossed the finish line ahead of Art Houck, Ken Sutton and Paul Weisner all of Muskegon to win the 15-lap main event for sportsman stock cars.

Heat race winners were Jack TenBrink of Zeeland, and Tony Vrablic of Grand Haven. Ken Sutton took the fast-car dash.

## Anderson Outruns Field At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**August 7, 1965 — Berlin Raceway** — Mort Anderson of Greenville outdueled Dick Carter of Breckenridge and went on to win the 40-lap feature race for supermodified cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Anderson crossed the finish line with an empty fuel tank. Duane Knoll of Muskegon was third followed by Jim Murphy of South Haven, Elver Harrington and Ken Crampton of Kalamazoo.

Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids caught race leader Ken Sutton of Muskegon on the 13th lap and went on to win the 15-lap main event of sportsman stock cars.

Tom Delano of Muskegon escaped serious injury as his car was demolished hitting the concrete retaining wall during the feature race.

## Dick Carter Fatally Injured At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**August 14, 1965 — Berlin Raceway** — Over 36 supermodifieds and sportsman timed in on a balmy Saturday night at Berlin Raceway's half-mile mile track.

Dick Carter of Breckenridge took the win in the supermodified dash, and also the third heat. Rich Senneker took the sportsman dash win in a time of 1:11.90 just 0.15 slower than the super mod dash time of 1:10.40. The heat wins went to Bob Knight, Laverne Koenes and Carter. The third heat race was stopped when Duane Knoll pulled on the front stretch with an injured forehead and was taken to the hospital for treatment of an injury received from a rock hitting him in the forehead.

Bob Knight chauffeured his #C1 for the fourth heat win, with Jim Weller second. Knight stepped into Duane Knoll's #7-11 and in his first ride in the car eliminated the field in the pursuit race.

What started out to be a routine main event for Dick Carter of Breckenridge ended in tragedy on the 15th lap as he collided with another car going into the first turn. It wasn't known, only suspected, to what extent Dick's injuries were at that time. It was learned later that he was gone, the victim of a broken neck.

Jim Murphy of South Haven went on to win in his roadrunner #62, thus giving Jim his first feature win of the 1965 season.

## Knoll Wins – Murphy Hurt At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**August 21, 1965 – Berlin Raceway** – Saturday night at Berlin Raceway was the benefit race for Dick Carter. The first event of the evening was the fast-car dash with the win going to Jim Murphy being chased over the finish by Mort Anderson and Duane Knoll. In the second heat Bud Meyering lost a wheel going into the fourth turn and Ray Rohn ran into him. They took Ray in for a check-up. Rich Senneker led the pack for six laps with Duane Knoll on his back all the way and then Knoll took over the lead and won the race.

In the exciting feature event Murphy and Anderson collided and Murphy rolled and flipped about seven times. At one time his road-runner sprint was standing on its tail and spinning like a top then continued to flip. Murphy was taken to the hospital and treated for a broken wrist and an eye injury. Paul Weisner in his flying 'o' lost a wheel which flew into the parking lot. Duane Knoll took the win with Mort Anderson on his bumper for the second spot followed by Bob Knight and Rich Senneker.

The heat wins went to Meyering, Koenes, Knoll and Moody. Rich Senneker drove in the evening's events with his foot in a cast.

## Berlin Stages Last Show On Dirt Half-Mile

By Shirley Glass

**September 6, 1965 – Berlin Raceway** – The split show with supermodifieds, sportsman, and super stocks had nine thrilling events, the stock feature being the most exciting event of all. Carl Parney lost a wheel going into the first turn. Gordy Bissett ran third most of the way, then passed Al Hegner and Roger Edwards who were leading. Coming in for the last lap, Bissett scattered his rear end and spun, causing Edwards

who was attempting to pass, to also spin. Hegner put on a burst of speed and nosed past Edwards for the win, leaving Edwards in second spot.

The supermodified feature was an exhibition of driving skill, and Duane Knoll who started at the rear of the pack worked through traffic for the win followed by Jack Smith, Rich Senneker, and Laverne Koenes.

Heat wins went to Jack Smith, Bud Meyering, Curly Moody and Jack Vilwalk in the supermodified and sportsman events. Meyering taking two wins, one also in the dash. Super-stock heat wins went to Roger Edwards and Bob Signor.



## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1965

### Supermodifieds – Sportsman – Super Stocks

**April 24, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 22.76

Dash winner: Jim Murphy

Heat winners: Bill Cox, Jimmy Nelson

**Feature:** (1) **Mort Anderson** (2) Jack Smith (3) Duane Knoll (4) Jim Murphy (5) Johnny Logan (6) Rich Senneker (7) Elver Harrington (8) Larry Gathman (9) Bill Cox (10) Don Champlin

**15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Tony Vrablic, Rich Senneker

**Feature:** (1) **Rich Senneker** (2) Jack Vilwalk (3) Jack TenBrink (4) Tony Vrablic (5) Bud Meyering

**Rich Senneker – Clean Sweep Award**

**May 1, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 22.96

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Mort Anderson, Larry Gathman

**Feature:** (1) **Dick Carter** (2) Mort Anderson (3) Johnny Logan (4) Jim Murphy (5) Duane Knoll

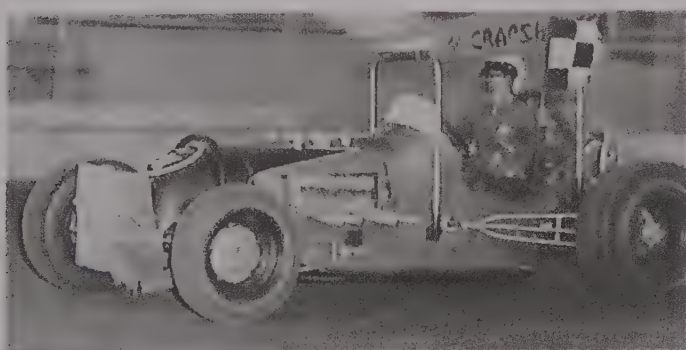
**15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Tony Vrablic, Rich Senneker, Roger Six

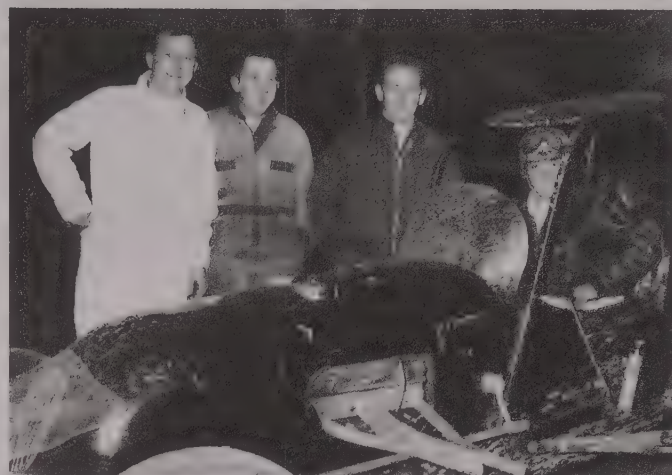
**Feature:** (1) **Rich Senneker** (2) Jack Vilwalk (3) Tony Vrablic (4) Dick Fowler (5) Paul Weisner

**Rich Senneker – Clean Sweep Award**



Duane Knoll

Dick Lee Collection



Jimmy Nelson

Dick Lee Collection

**20 laps, half-mile dirt**

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson 22.49

Dash winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat winners: Wally Sanders, Jimmy Nelson

**Feature:** (1) **Jimmy Nelson** (2) Johnny Logan (3) Jack Smith (4) Jim Murphy (5) Chuck Partello

**Jimmy Nelson – Clean Sweep Award**

**15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Fast qualifier: Bud Meyering 25.37

Dash winner: Bud Meyering

Heat winners: Joe Castle, Bill Rake

**Feature:** (1) **Paul Weisner** (2) Jack TenBrink (3) Art Houck (4) Bill Thurkettle (5) Jack Vilwalk

**May 15, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Dash winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat winners: Elver Harrington, Jimmy Nelson

**Feature:** (1) **Jimmy Nelson** (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Duane Knoll (4) Johnny Logan (5) Bill Cox

**Jimmy Nelson – Clean Sweep Award**

**15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman**

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Dick Fowler, Rich Senneker

**Feature:** (1) **Jack TenBrink** (2) Bud Meyering (3) Rich Senneker



Paul Weissner

Dick Lee Collection

---

### May 22, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

35 laps, half-mile dirt

Spring Championship

Fast qualifier: Dick Carter 22.78

Heat winners: Bob DePauw, Jack Smith

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Nelson (2) Eddie VanderLaan  
(3) Duane Knoll (4) Johnny Logan (5) Bill Cox

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Dick Fowles, Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Jack TenBrink (2) Bud Meyering  
(3) Rich Senneker

---

### May 29, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson (no time available)

Dash winner: Jimmy Nelson

Heat winners: Bill Marshall, Jimmy Nelson

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Nelson (2) Johnny Logan  
(3) Roger Ryder

**Jimmy Nelson – Clean Sweep Award**

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker

Dash winner: Bill Rake

Heat winners: Joe Castle, Bill Rake

**Feature:** (1) Bill Rake (2) Rich Senneker (3) Jack  
TenBrink

---

### May 31, 1965 – Monday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Heat winners: Jimmy Nelson, Duane Knoll

**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Nelson (2) Dick Carter (3) Johnny  
Logan (4) Jack Smith

**Jimmy Nelson – Clean Sweep Award**

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Heat winners: Laverne Koenes, Art Houck

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Jack TenBrink (3)  
Paul Weisner

---

### June 5, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Jimmy Nelson

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Dick Carter, Don Champlin

**Feature:** (1) Duane Knoll (2) Dick Carter (3) Jack  
Smith (4) Don Champlin (5) Bud Meyering

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winner: Bud Meyering

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Bud Meyering

---

### June 12, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Heat winners: Jim Murphy, Duane Knoll

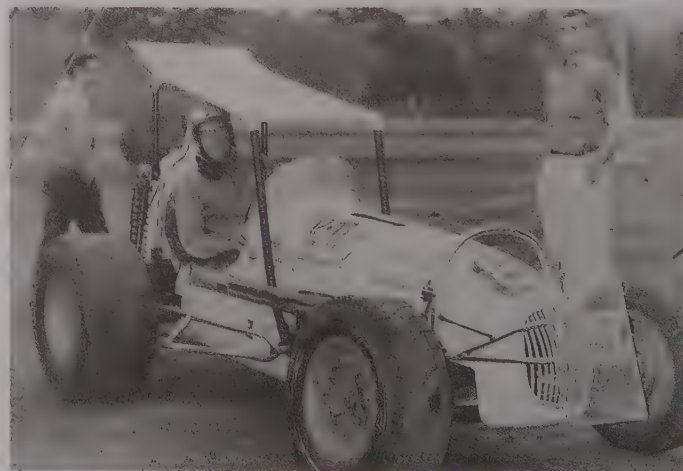
**Feature:** (1) Jimmy Nelson (2) Jim Murphy (3) Bill  
Marshall (4) Johnny Johnson (5) Jack Smith

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Heat winners: Roger Rider, Ron Wilke, Art Houck

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Bud Meyering (3) Jack  
TenBrink (4) Tony Vrablic (5) Leo Havens

---



Mort Anderson

Dick Lee Collection





Johnny Logan

Dick Lee Collection

### June 19, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Duane Knoll 22.66

Dash winner: Duane Knoll

Heat winners: Johnny Logan, Don Champlin, Duane Knoll

**Feature: (1) Johnny Logan (2) Rich Senneker (3) Bill Marshall (4) Jim Murphy (5) Bud Meyering**

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Jack TenBrink 23.44

Dash winner: Jack TenBrink

Heat winners: Rich Senneker, Bill Thurkettle

**Feature: (1) Rich Senneker (2) Jack Vilwalk (3) Paul Weisner**

### June 26, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Fast qualifier: Duane Knoll 22.66

Dash winner: Duane Knoll

Heat winner: Johnny Logan

**Feature: (1) Duane Knoll (2) Johnny Logan (3) Bill Sherman (4) Roger Ryder (5) Wally Sanders**

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Fast qualifier: Jack TenBrink 23:44

Dash winner: Wayne Rohn

Heat winners: Bill Thurkettle, Jack Vilwalk

**Feature: (1) Wayne Rohn (2) Bill Thurkettle (3) Rich Senneker**

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Super Stocks

Heat Winner: Paul Smith

**Feature: (1) Paul Smith (2) Paul Weisner (3) Jim Adema**

**Paul Smith – Clean Sweep Award**

### July 3, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, half-mile dirt

Dash winner: Duane Knoll

Heat winners: Jim Murphy, Jimmy Nelson

**Feature: (1) Jimmy Nelson (2) Bill Sherman (3) Duane Knoll**

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Tom Delano, Wayne Rohn

**Feature: (1) Rich Senneker (2) Laverne Koenes (3) Bud Meyering**

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Super Stocks

Dash winner: Paul Smith

**Feature: (1) Paul Smith (2) R. Busscher (3) B. Engler**  
**Paul Smith – Clean Sweep Award**

### July 5, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Dash winner: Duane Knoll

Heat winners: Dick Stemler, Duane Knoll

**Feature: (1) Duane Knoll (2) Jack Smith (3) Jim Murphy**

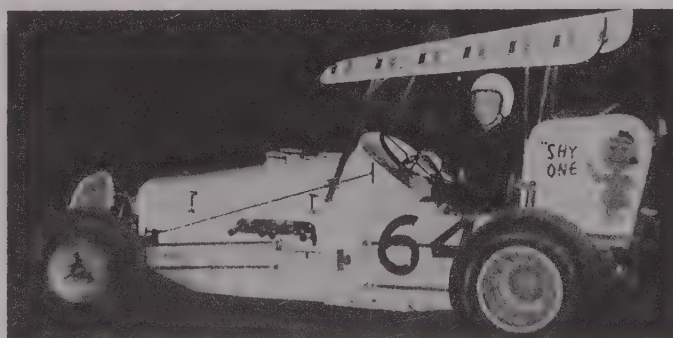
**Duane Knoll – Clean Sweep Award**

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Bill Thurkettle, Rich Senneker

**Feature: (1) Bill Thurkettle (2) Art Houck (3) Paul Weisner**



Dick Carter

Dick Lee Collection



Jim Murphy

Dick Lee Collection

---

### July 10, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Dash winner: Duane Knoll

Heat winners: Don Champlin, Dick Carter

**Feature:** (1) Dick Carter (2) Mort Anderson  
(3) Duane Knoll

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Dash winner: Bill Thurkettle

Heat winners: Fred DeLong, Ron Merkins

**Feature:** (1) Art Houck (2) Ken Sutton (3) Bill  
Thurkettle

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Super Stocks

Heat winners: Ralph Lawrence, Al Hagan

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Bob DePauw (3) R.  
Busscher

---

### July 17, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Heat winners: Johnny Logan, Jim Murphy

**Feature:** (1) Duane Knoll (2) Johnny Logan (3) Mort  
Anderson

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Heat winners: Larry Marble, Bill Rake, Bill Marsh

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker

---

### July 24, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winners: Mort Anderson, Carl Shalow

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Bob Knight (3) Dick  
Carter (4) Jim Murphy (5) Johnny Logan

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Dash winner: Ken Sutton

Heat winners: Jack TenBrink, Tony Vrablic

**Feature:** (1) Bud Meyering (2) Art Houck (3) Ken  
Sutton (4) Paul Weisner

---

### July 31, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

Rained Out

---

### August 7, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

40 laps, half-mile dirt

Mid-Season Championship

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Dick Carter  
(3) Duane Knoll (4) Jim Murphy (5) Elver Harrington  
(6) Ken Crampton

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Ken Sutton

---

### August 14, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Dash winner: Dick Carter

Heat winner: Dick Carter

Pursuit winner: Bob Knight

**Feature:** (1) Jim Murphy (2) Bob Knight (3) Laverne  
Koenes (4) Dick Stemler

\*Dick Carter fatally injured on lap 15 of feature.

### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

**Feature:** No information available



Rich Senneker

Dick Lee Collection





Art Houck

Dick Lee Collection



Bill Rake

Dick Lee Collection

### August 21, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Dash winner: Jim Murphy

Heat winners: Duane Knoll, Curly Moody, Mort Anderson

Feature: (1) Duane Knoll (2) Mort Anderson (3) Bob Knight (4) Rich Senneker

#### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Heat winners: Bud Meyering, Laverne Koenes

Feature: No information available

### August 28, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Cancelled due to Power Failure

### September 4, 1965 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Feature: (1) Duane Knoll

### September 6, 1965 – Monday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, half-mile dirt

Dash winner: Jack Smith

Heat winner: Curly Moody

Feature: (1) Duane Knoll (2) Jack Smith (3) Rich Senneker (4) Laverne Koenes

**\*\* Last Race on Berlin Raceway's dirt track \*\***

#### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Sportsman

Dash winner: Bud Meyering

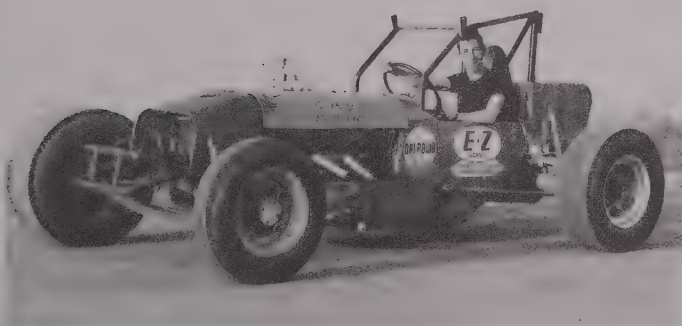
Heat winners: Bud Meyering, Jack Vilwalk

Feature: No information available

#### 15 laps, half-mile dirt – Super Stocks

Heat winners: Roger Edwards, Bob Signor

Feature: (1) Al Hegner (2) Roger Edwards (3) Bob Signor (4) Bob Young



Bill Thurkettle

Dick Lee Collection

# Berlin Raceway Points 1965

1965 SUPERMODIFIED POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Duane Knoll	54	7	2	5		1
2	Jimmy Nelson	35	7	4	3		4
3	Mort Anderson	30	3				
4	Johnny Logan	29	1				
5	Dick Carter	25	2	2	4		
6	Jim Murphy	24	1		2		
7	Jack Smith	21			1		
8	Bob Knight	11					
9	Rich Senneker	9					
10	Eddie VanderLaan	8					
11	Bill Sherman	7					
12	Bill Marshall	6					
13	Laverne Koenes	5					
	Roger Ryder	5					
15	Bud Meyering	2					
	Johnny Johnson	2					
	Don Champlin	2					
	Bill Cox	2					
	Dick Stemler	2					
20	Wally Sanders	1					
	Chuck Partello	1					
	Elver Harrington	1					



# Berlin Raceway — Supermodifieds (Dirt), 1958–1965

## 1965 SUPER STOCK POINTS

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Paul Smith	10	2		1		2
2	Paul Weisner	9	1				
3	R. Busscher	7					
4	Al Hegner	5	1				
5	Bob DePauw	4					
	Roger Edwards	4					
7	Jim Adema	3					
	Bob Signor	3					
	B. Engler	3					
10	Bob Young	2					

## 1965 SPORTSMAN POINTS

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Rich Senneker	58	9	1	8		2
2	Jack TenBrink	27	2	2	1		
3	Bud Meyering	25	1	1	2		
4	Bill Thurkettle	18	1		1		
5	Paul Weisner	17	1				
6	Jack Vilwalk	17					
7	Art Houck	16	1				
8	Ken Sutton	11			1		
9	Tony Vrablic	7					
10	Bill Rake	5	1		1		
	Wayne Rohn	5	1		1		
12	Laverne Koenes	4					
13	Dick Fowler	2					
14	Leo Havens	1					



Dick Carter

Dick Lee Collection

In the late 1950's and early 1960's Berlin Raceway had two drivers who lived near each other in Breckenridge and Wheeler, Michigan. Johnny Roberts and Dick Carter were close buddies and, in fact, Roberts helped Carter get into racing by building his first stock car for him. They treated each other like a brother.

But that's where the similarities ended. Personality wise, you could not find two people more different. Carter had a great sense of humor while Roberts had a rather serious side to him. Carter was always the "hired Gun" driver for car owners, while Roberts mainly built his own race cars to drive.

The two racers differed 180 degrees apart in their driving styles. Dick was always on the gas running just as hard as his car would go one-hundred percent of the time. He would come into the fourth turn of

Berlin Raceways dirt half-mile completely sideways running up high on the dirt cushion. John had an entirely different way for getting through Berlin's fourth turn. He's back the car down and he was so smooth that he would put the front tires of his super modified in the same spot on each and every lap. He became known as Mr. Smooth.

The one way that John and Dick were alike is that they were big time winners. From 1957 through 1965, Carter won twenty-four super modified features on Berlin's dirt half-mile and Roberts picked off eighteen. Robert's was almost fatally injured in 1959 at the Ionia Fairgrounds in a crash and took the 1960 season off due to his injuries and seldom raced at Berlin after that.

Johnny Roberts won the Mid-season championship race at Berlin Raceway in 1957, 1958 and 1959.



Dick Carter won Berlin's Season Championship race in 1957, Spring Championship race in 1961, and the Tri-State championship race in 1963.

The ends of their racing careers were completely different. On August 14, 1965, on the way from Breckinridge to Marne, Dick met with a USAC (United States Auto Club) midget car owner and put together a deal where he would drive a USAC midget for a couple of upcoming races. It would be his first step up in the USAC midget and sprint car circuits, which would hopefully lead to a ride in the Indianapolis 500.

That night he raced at Berlin Raceway, where he was the track record holder, and set fast time, won the fast car dash, his heat race, and was leading the feature when on the 15<sup>th</sup> lap, he ran over the right rear wheel of a lapped car in turn one. Carter took a flip and when rescue workers reached him, he was dead of a broken neck.

Dick Carter and Johnny Roberts have both been inducted into the Michigan Motor Sports Hall of Fame. Two race drivers with different personalities and driving styles reached the top of their sport at Berlin Raceway.



Johnny Roberts

Dick Lee Collection

# Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present

## 1958-1965 SUPERMODIFIED POINTS

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Bob Knight	374	29	10	10		1
2	Dick Carter	257	24	33	32	3	1
3	Jimmy Nelson	187	25	23	20	6	7
4	Ralph Baker	160	11	7	1	1	
5	Duane Knoll	148	13	8	11		6
6	Eddie VanderLaan	144	8	2	2		
7	Johnny Logan	125	6	2	2		
8	Wally Sanders	119	8				
9	Johnny Roberts	99	14	7	2		
10	Glen Rockey	88	14	5	0	0	1
11	Jack Smith	83	1	4	2		
12	Nolan Johncock	71	2				
13	Gordy VanderLaan	68	8	5	7		1
14	Bill Wiltse	62	2	1	1		1
15	Norm Brown	56	4	1			
16	Johnny Johnson	47	4	4	1	1	
17	Flip Thompson	56		2			
18	Mort Anderson	50	4	1	2		
19	Lee France	45			3		
20	Jim Born	44	4				
21	Jim Murphy	37	2		2		
22	Bill Sherman	31			2		
23	Bud Meyering	30	1				
24	Don Clawson	25					
25	Bob Clover	22	2	1			
26	Curly Moody	20					
27	Chuck Neal	19	1	3	4	2	
28	Harold Ende	16	1				
29	Audie Swartz	15	2	4	3		
30	Cy Fairchild	13	2				
31	Norm Rust	13	1				
32	Dan Bryant	11					
33	Rich Senneker	9					
	Bill Marshall	9					
35	Wayne Harrington	8	1				
36	Duane Cottrell	8					
37	Don Champlin	7		1	1		
28	Bill Rider	5					
	Roger Ryder	5					
	Laverne Koenes	5					
31	Jack Nelson	4		1	1		
	Buddy Stewart	4					

continued next page



**Berlin Raceway — Supermodifieds (Dirt), 1958–1965**

<b>1958-1965 SUPERMODIFIED POINTS—CONT.</b>							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
	Bill Cox	4					
34	Kenny Knoll	3					
35	Johnny White	2		1			
36	Gordon Johncock	2					
	Bill Thurkettle	2					
	Elver Harrington	2					
	Jack Caswell	2					
	Dick Stemler	2					
	Jimmy Rinner	2					
	Buck Havens	2					
	Dale Visher	2					
44	Oscar Fay	1					
	Chuck Partello	1					
	Jim Beisel	1					
	Don Porter	1					
	Dave Taylor	1					
	Ken Miller	1					
	Bob Shattuck	1					
	Jack Beduhn	1					
	Neil Burson	1					
	Bud Wilson	1					
54	George Roberts	0		1			1

**1956-1962 NEW TRACK RECORDS - HALF MILE DIRT TRACK**

Date	Time	Driver
September 3, 1956	29.05	Glen Rockey
May 30, 1957	27.46	Johnny Roberts
July 4, 1957	27.41	Gordy VanderLaan
July 27, 1957	26.47	Gordy VanderLaan
October 5, 1957	26.45	Bill Wiltse
October 12, 1957	25.81	Jimmy Nelson
April 26, 1958	25.10	Jimmy Nelson
June 7, 1958	25.07	Glen Rockey
June 14, 1958	24.52	Jimmy Nelson
August 30, 1958	24.31	Johnny Johnson
September 1, 1958	23.95	Jimmy Nelson
April 18, 1959	23.77	George Roberts
April 23, 1959	23.65	Jimmy Nelson
May 14, 1960	23.45	Dick Carter
October 8, 1960	23.04	Jimmy Nelson
April 19, 1962	23.00	Ralph Baker
May 19, 1962	22.90	Chuck Neale
May 26, 1962	22.81	Chuck Neale
June 16, 1962	22.32	Dick Carter
June 30, 1962	22.16	Dick Carter

**1958-1965 FIRST TIME WINNERS - DIRT TRACK**

Driver	Date	
Johnny Logan	April 19, 1958	Supermodified
Ralph Baker	June 14, 1958	Supermodified
Johnny Johnson	July 12, 1958	Supermodified
George Roberts	August 9, 1958	Supermodified
Jimmie Nelson	September 6, 1958	Supermodified
Wayne Harrington	September 6, 1958	Supermodified
Jim Born	April 18, 1959	Supermodified
Norm Brown	August 8, 1959	Supermodified
Cy Fairchild	September 10, 1960	Supermodified
Don Clawson	April 15, 1961	Supermodified
Audie Swartz	September 4, 1961	Supermodified
Chuck Neal	May 5, 1962	Supermodified
Nolan Johncock	June 2, 1962	Supermodified
Jack Smith	June 23, 1962	Supermodified
Duane Knoll	September 14, 1963	Supermodified
Norm Rust	April 18, 1964	Supermodified
Mort Anderson	June 20, 1964	Supermodified
Jim Murphy	August 7, 1965	Supermodified



# Berlin Raceway — Supermodifieds (Dirt), 1958–1965

## 1961–1965 SPORTSMAN POINTS

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Duane Cottrell	158	18	12	11		1
2	Rich Senneker	141	18	4	11		3
3	Jack TenBrink	138	9	5	4		1
4	Mort Anderson	137	17	3	2		
5	Scott Presley	134	5	6			
6	Ray Flannery	97	6	16	22		
7	Bud Meyering	97	5	14	15		1
8	Flip Thompson	79	8	4	3		
9	Harvey Redder	54	1	9	5		2
10	Ken Sutton	38	5	1	2		2
11	Jack Vilwalk	38					
12	Paul Weisner	37	3	1	1		
13	Joe Castle	24					
14	Art Houck	22	1				
	R.J. Presley	22	1				
16	Marv Eppink	20	1	1	1		
17	Jim Flannery	20			1		
18	Bob Clover	16	2	1			
19	Hugh Linkfield	16	1				
20	Bill Thurkettle	14	1		1		
21	Bob Johnson	14	1				
22	Rusty Bayne	14					
23	Bill Rake	13	2		1		
	Huram Lockwood	13	2		1		
25	Gene Riffle	13	1				
26	Tony Vrablic	12	1				
27	Johnny Roberts	11	1				
	Norm Utting	11	1				
29	Irv Atkinson	10	2				1
30	Ray Lockwood	10	1				
31	Wayne Rohn	9	1		1		
32	Ken Crampton	9	1				
	Gene Gillette	9	1				
34	Ray Wright	8	1	2	1		
35	Jimmy Rinner	8					
36	John Tafil	7					
37	Art Crouch	6					
38	Herb Kirts	5	1				
39	Art Umlor	5					
40	Laverne Koenes	4					
41	Curly Moody	3		1			
42	Gail Cobb	3					

continued next page

# Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present

## 1961-1965 SPORTSMAN POINTS — CONT.

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
	Ken Miller	3					
45	Duane Milheim	2					
	Jacob TenBrink	2					
	Willie TenBrink	2					
	Nelson Stormzand	2					
	Dick Fowler	2					
50	Doug Cutler	1					
	Duane Varney	1					
	Leo Havens	1					
	Jud Wolbring	1					
	Bill VanReenan	1					
	Bob Estelle	1					
	Bill Burg	1					
	Bill Wesler	1					
58	Wayne Burghorst	0		1			



## *Berlin Raceway*

*1966 – 1968*

### Era of Supermodifieds — Paved Track

At the end of the 1965 season Chet Mysliwiec looked at the success the Grand Rapids Speedrome had once they paved their half-mile track. At the same time, Berlin Raceway had seen the car count going steadily down, along with the fans in the grandstands. He refigured his track from a half-mile dirt and built a new paved .438 mile track.

Duane Knoll won the last feature on the dirt track on September 6, 1965. The following year of 1966, Bob Smith from Ohio won the first feature on the newly paved track. The supermodified drivers were Duane Knoll, Eddie VanderLaan, Art Bennett, Johnny Logan, Wayne Root, Johnny Benson, Jackie Lindhout, Eldon Schrader, Nolan Johncock, and Jim Eberstein.

Who at that time would have guessed that as the midgets had had their day and then died out, now it was also true of the supermodifieds. Auto racing was now going in a different direction again.

A new type of race car came on the scene called semi-late model stock cars. As time went on they evolved into the present day late models. During the 1966-1967 seasons, convertibles were allowed to compete. Some of the racers who excelled in those days were Bob Senneker, Rich Senneker, Bob Carnes, Tom Marks, Randy Sweet, Herb Kirts, Johnny Benson, Gene Eding, Rick Knotts, Gail Cobb, Ken Sutton, and Jim Adema.

As the years moved on, the late models became more sophisticated, faster and expensive. Some of the drivers who competed at that time were: Ed Howe, Bob Senneker, Eddie VanderLaan, Johnny Benson, Randy Sweet, Terry Senneker Sr., Rich Senneker, Rick Knotts, Butch Miller, Tom Maier, Bob Carnes, Bob Sensiba, Gail Cobb, Jim Dyke, and Fred Campbell.

Berlin Raceway had such a good reputation to race on that it drew many notable drivers such as Earl Ross from Ontario, Canada. Ross went on to



Aerial View of Paved Track

Dick Lee Collection

race with NASCAR and won the Cup race at Martinsville Speedway in 1974.

The '80's late models saw drivers such as: Fred Campbell, Bruce VanderLaan, Gene Eding, Mike Vansparrantak, Ed Howe, Dick Harrington, Bob Sensiba, Bob Holley, Jack Gritter, Tom Martin, Chris Orr, Tom Martin, John Grega, Dave Sensiba, Jeff Finley, Tim Steele, Joe Bush, and Gledis Frye. On June 21, 1980 Berlin Raceway ran the first ART-GO race in Michigan.

The '90's late model racers saw Bob Holley, Fred Campbell, Joe Bush, Chris Orr, Dave Sensiba, Jack Gritter, Scott Presley, Johnny Benson Jr., Tim Curry, John Jutila, Joe Mazie, Terry Senneker Sr., Scott Baker, Randy Sweet, John Grega, Bruce VanderLaan, Rob Lewis, Tim DeVos, Ken Warner, Randy Sweet, and Brian Wiersma.

The years of 2000 up to the present brought out drivers such as Randy Sweet, Lee Anderson, Chad Blount, Tim DeVos, Greg Zimmerman, Tom Thomas, Fred Campbell, John Grega, Joe Bush, Leroy Magoon, Dave Stehouwer, Johnny Benson Jr., Al Marcott, Ross Meeuwssen, Terry Senneker Jr., Brian Campbell, Terry VanHaitsma, Tim Yonker, Caleb Bisacky, Chris Anthony, Scott Thomas, Steve Needles, Ray Clay, Alec Carll, Monte Tolan, Chris Koslek, Brian Bergakker, and Jordon Dahlke.

In the year of 2011 there were two classes of late models. In addition to the outlaw late models a new class of super late models was introduced. The super late models had bodies similar to street cars. It reached the point where the outlaw late models were being phased out and the super late models were the weekly top division at Berlin.

One of the ways to measure the success of Berlin Raceway is to look at the race drivers who got their start at Berlin and then launched their racing careers on the national level. Norm Brown who went racing sprint cars and Indy cars with USAC. Bob Senneker, with ASA. Butch Miller, with various divisions with NASCAR. Jake Sprague won a championship with

the truck division in NASCAR. Mike Garvey went on to being a full time racer with the southern stock car groups. And Johnny Benson Jr., who went on to becoming an ASA champion, and season champions in the NASCAR truck division and then added a Cup win to his laurels.

When Chet Mysliwiec began racing at the Marne Fair Grounds in 1951, he had to lease the grounds from the Ottawa County Fairgrounds. So each new promotor had to purchase the existing lease. The covered grandstands that were there from the old horse racing days were mysteriously burned down on July 8, 1973. In the 1980's the track was repaved.

In 2001 the Whitecaps purchased the lease from the Mysliwiec family. The Whitecaps put in new restrooms, upgraded the sound system, constructed a new catch fence, and built new party areas.

In 2008, Mike Blackmer purchased the lease from the Whitecaps, built new make-ready shoots and tech area.

In 2011, the lease was purchased by DBD Ventures, led by Don DeWitt. In 2012, the track was covered by dirt to host the World of Outlaws Sprint cars in September. The track has been converted to dirt in the fall each year since then. In 2014, new grandstands were purchased from Michigan International Speedway. A Press Box and suites were constructed on top of the grandstands. A full service bar was built under the grandstands. In 2016, the track became a NASCAR sanctioned home track. 2018 found Berlin Raceway doing away with heat races with each division of cars running two full features.

Currently, we find Berlin Raceway as being the fastest, most competitive paved short track in Michigan. So enjoy the current racing, hold the past in reverence, and look expectantly towards the future in whatever form it manifests itself.

I leave you with this thought: "I know of no way to judge the future, but by the past."



## Berlin Raceway Media 1966

### Bob Smith Takes Win On New Berlin Track

By Shirley Glass

**April 9, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Smith won the first supermodified feature race at the newly paved Berlin .438 mile track. Following Smith was Jim Murphy, Benny Rapp, Rich Senneker, Jack TenBrink, Mike Stone, and Buddy Stewart.

In qualifying time trials, Norm Rust of Novi, Michigan set a track record of 17.90. Bob Smith took wins in the fast-car dash and a heat race. Benny Rapp of Toledo won the other heat race.

In the super-stock car feature it was Bob Senneker taking the win. Along with his feature win, Bob set a track record for semi-late stocks with a lap of 19.38, he then went on to win the fast-car dash and his heat race, which gave Senneker a clean sweep for the night.

Following Senneker in the feature was Glen Tanis, Bob Signor, Ray Lockwood, Johnny Johns, Mile Praag, Fred Britton, and Jack TenBrink.

Johnny Johns picked up the win in the remaining heat race.

### Veteran Benny Rapp Takes Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**April 16, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran Benny Rapp of Toledo, Ohio took the checkered flag at Berlin Raceway Saturday night in the supermodified ranks by defeating Buddy Stewart, Johnny Logan, Jim Murphy, Wayne Harrington, Bill Heeney, Oscar Fay, Rich Senneker, Bob Smith and Curly Moody.

Norm Rust started the program off by running a lap of 17.50 for fast time and also eclipsing his record from last week of 17.90. Bob Smith was the fast-car dash winner and won his heat race. Bill Heeney took the win in the pursuit race and cap-

tured the other heat race.

In the super stock division it was Paul Weisner grabbing the win followed by Ray Lockwood, Bob DePauw, Ron Laban, Duane LaCombe, Dick Hurdlebrink, Bill Lazarus, Carl Newman, Russ Chapman and Ralph Lawrence.

Glen Tanis set fast time of the night with a 20.18 lap and then took the win in the fast-car dash. Along with that Tanis also won the pursuit race. Ray Lockwood and Ralph Lawrence took the heat race victories.

### Harold Smith Hustles To Victory

By Shirley Glass

**April 30, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Harold Smith of Dayton, Ohio flashed across the finish line first to capture the 25-lap feature race for supermodifieds and top off one of the most hectic nights of auto racing at the Berlin Raceway Saturday night. Following Smith were John Boerman and Ron Laban.

The cars of Curly Moody of Grand Rapids, Wally Sanders, Elver Harrington of Kalamazoo, and Norm Rust of Novi were knocked out of the race in a first lap melee at the starting line. Following Smith was Tom Pruner of Fort Wayne in second in the grueling event followed by Johnny Logan of Charlotte, Benny Rapp of Toledo, Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids and Rocky Fisher.

All drivers escaped injury during the second heat as the cars of Mort Anderson of Greenville, Bob Knight of Grand Rapids, Bill Heeney of Howell and Todd Gibson of Columbus, Ohio crashed. Pruner went over the bank during that event.

Fast qualifying time of the evening went to Norm Rust with a lap of 18.09. Rust went on to capture the fast-car dash. Todd Gibson took the pursuit race while Benny Rapp and Jim Murphy were victorious in the heat races.

Paul Weisner of Muskegon emerged the winner of the 25-lap semi-late model stock main event when Jim Martin of Fort Wayne, Indiana and Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids hit the retaining wall while challenging for the lead one lap from the finish line. Finishing behind Weisner was John Boerman, Ron Laban, Denny Harris, Jim Leonard and Bob Signor.

Jim Martin set fast time of the night; Bob Senneker took the fast-car dash and the pursuit race. Martin won the heat race.

### Norm Rust Berlin Winner

By Shirley Glass

**May 7, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Norm Rust of Novi took every advantage of the four lane high-banked asphalt racing surface to outdrive a 27-car line-up to win the 25-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Todd Gibson of Richwood, Ohio was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the grueling main event on the .438 Marne oval followed by Wayne Root of Lansing, Wally Sanders of Grand Rapids, Mort Anderson of Greenville, Leon Weiske and Benny Rapp of Toledo, Ohio.

Tom Pruner set fast time with a lap of 17.52. Heat race winners were Mort Anderson, Cy Fairchild, Bill Smith and Norm Rust.

Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids out-dueled John Boerman of Allegan, Dick Hurdlebrink of Battle Creek and Bob DePauw of Otsego to win the 25-lap main event for super stock cars.

Heat race winners were Mike Garvey, Ken Sutton of Muskegon, Bill Smith of Benton Harbor, Johnny Roberts of Wheeler, and Mort Anderson of Greenville.

Gibson captured the pursuit honors giving him a lion's share of the more than \$2000. purse.

Gibson driving an Indianapolis roadster out-duelled Tom Pruner of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Harold Smith of Dayton, Ohio, and Wayne Root, to win the fast-car dash for supermodifieds.

Senneker also captured the dash event in the super stock ranks.

### Todd Gibson Berlin Winner

By Shirley Glass

**May 14, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Todd Gibson of Richwood, Ohio drove deep into the hearts of West Michigan race fans by turning in a brilliant performance to win the grueling 25-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Coming from deep in the 21 car lineup, Gibson out-duelled Norm Rust of Novi, Bob Smith of Columbus, Ohio and Wayne Root of Lansing and forged into the lead on the 15<sup>th</sup> lap and was never headed in the accident-marred event.

The main event on the four lane banked asphalt Marne oval was slowed on five occasions when the cars of Norm Wood, Mort Anderson, Gene Bell, Elver Harrington of Kalamazoo and Johnny Logan of Charlotte spun out of contention and over the bank of the track. Jim Murphy of South Haven escaped serious injury when a broken axle caused his car to flip end over end.

The most spectacular mishap of the race occurred in the third heat race when the throttle on Bob Knight's car stuck sending him into the machine of Jack Smith and over the top clearing the concrete retaining wall. No one was injured fortunately.

Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids outdrove Jerry Spear of Battle Creek, Ken Sutton of Muskegon and Glen Tanis of Hudsonville, to win the 20-lap main event for super stock cars. Bob Smith proved to be the fastest of 30 supermodified qualifiers, touring the .438 mile, one-lap distance in: 17.33 seconds for a new record.

Norm Rust set a new record time for the dash win at a time of 1:10.35. Todd Gibson won the pursuit, with heat wins going to Bill Heeney, Mort Anderson and Todd Gibson with the record-splitting time of 2:25.10 for supermodifieds.

Super stock heat wins were recorded by Jerry Spear, Jerry Peloquin and the big winner Bob Senneker who won the dash, pursuit, and feature, as well as having fast time.

### Crash Stops Race – Bennett Wins

By Shirley Glass

**May 21, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Art Bennett of Battle Creek regained the lead from top challenger Todd Gibson of Richwood, Ohio on the 19<sup>th</sup> lap and was declared the winner in an abbreviated 21 lap feature race over a sparkling field of supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

The main event scheduled for 25-laps was halted on the 21<sup>st</sup> lap when Tom Pruner's car slammed into a pole and knocked out half of the lighting system. The race was called at this point, and Bennett declared the winner.

Following Bennett were Todd Gibson, Eddie VanderLaan, Wayne Landon, Jack TenBrink, Bob Knight, Jack Smith, Tom Pruner, Elver Harrington and Norm Rust in the more than \$3,000.00 event.

Fast-car dash honors went to Mort Anderson. Art Bennett captured the pursuit race. Heat race wins went to Todd Gibson and Rich Senneker.

John Boerman of Allegan out-duelled Ken Sutton of Muskegon and Gail Cobb of Grand Rapids to score a one car length victory in the hectic 25-lap main event for the super stock cars. They were followed by Dick Hurdlebrink, Bob Patrick, Glen Tanis, Bill Cox, John Bliss, Ralph Lawrence and Larry Boes. Jerry

Spear of Battle Creek, running in front by a large margin was sidelined by a blown tire a few laps from the finish line. Spear set fast time of 19.74, won the fast-car dash and the pursuit race.

Heat race winners were Spear, Sutton, Larry Boes of Kalamazoo, Bob Young of Battle Creek, Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids, Bennett, Gibson and Anderson.

Anderson also established a new one-lap qualifying record for the .438 mile track at: 17.31 seconds.

### Bennett Two Wins In A Row At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**May 28, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Warming up for next week's big spring season championship race, Art Bennett of Battle Creek outdrove a power packed field to capture the action packed 25-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Finishing two car lengths behind the winner were Todd Gibson of Richwood, Ohio followed by Wayne Root of Lansing, Mort Anderson of Greenville, and Elver Harrington of Kalamazoo, in a field of 20 on the four-lane banked asphalt .438 Marne oval.

Nolan Johncock and Wayne Landon of Hastings, escaped injury as their cars spun over the bank and out of contention during the running of the main event.

In qualifying time trials Mort Anderson set a new track record of 17.17. Heat race winners were Bill Rake, John Kessler, Bob Knight, and Mort Anderson.

Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids coming from deep in the line-up out-duelled Jerry Spear of Battle Creek and Bud Meyering of Grand Rapids to win the 25-lap main event for super stock cars.

Heat race winners were Bob Senneker, Bill Rake of Muskegon and Jerry Spear.



## VanderLaan Captures Feature And Sets New Track Record

By Shirley Glass

**May 30, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan started things off by breaking the Berlin Raceway track record by taking a 16.87 lap in qualifying time trials. Then VanderLaan took the supermodified feature win over Elver Harrington, Jack Smith, Wayne Root and Bob Knight.

Todd Gibson took the win in the pursuit race. Heat race victors were Johnny Logan, Todd Gibson and Mort Anderson.

In the semi-late stock car action Ken Sutton of Muskegon held off Bob Senneker for the feature win. Senneker took the win in the pursuit race and won his heat race. John Bliss, Jerry Spear and Bill Cox were winners in the heat races.

## Flagman Injured; VanderLaan Wins At Berlin Oval

By Shirley Glass

**June 4, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Turning in a brilliant driving performance Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids won the 50-lap spring championship race for super-modifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Mort Anderson of Greenville was second followed by Cy Fairchild of Saginaw, Nolan Johncock of Hastings, and Leon Weiske of Columbus, Ohio. They were followed by Norm Rust, Jim Eberstein, Jack Nichols, Harold Smith, and Jack Houseworth.

VanderLaan ran his earnings for this week to \$1,335.

The main event was halted on the 33<sup>rd</sup> lap when the cars of Red Parkhouse of Lansing, Ralph Smith of Columbus, Ohio and Norm Rust of Novi collided and spun over the bank of the track. All drivers escaped serious injury.

Cy Fairchild set fast time in qualifying with a lap of 17.17. Heat race winners were Buddy Stewart and Art Bennett.

Flagman Dick Zimmerman of Kalamazoo was rushed to Butterworth hospital after being hit by a race car during qualification runs. He is listed in satisfactory condition suffering a fractured pelvis, punctured bladder and a broken ankle.

Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids out-dueled Jerry Spear of Battle Creek and Kenny Sutton of Muskegon to win the 25-lap main event for semi-late model stock cars.

Heat race winners were Hiram Lockwood and Bob Senneker.

## Jimmy Knight In USAC Win – Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**June 8, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Jimmy Knight of Chicago, Illinois shot past pace setter Mel Kenyon on the 49<sup>th</sup> lap and went on to win the 50-lap national championship midget auto feature race Wednesday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Ray Elliot finished third in the United States Auto Club-sanctioned \$2,500 event followed by Sonny Ates, Don Meacham, Mike McGreevy, Bill Mehner, Gary Byers and Bob Wenthe.

The program, a return to the newly resurfaced .438 four-lane banked asphalt Marne oval saw heat event victories going to Kenyon, Wenthe, Elliot, Meacham and Bill Humphries.

Trophy dash honors went to national champion McGreevy.

Kenyon, fifth place finisher at this year's Indy "500," proved to be the fastest of 24 qualifiers with a 17.75 seconds qualifying run.

Carved wooden shoes were presented to Gordon Johncock who finished fourth at this year's Indy "500" by Netherland's council John P. Steketee. Johncock, regarded by many as one of the brightest stars in championship car racing, acted as honorary starter for the USAC event.

Other wooden shoe awards

were given to Bobby Grim, Sammy Sessions, McGreevy, Kenyon and Henry Banks by track promoter Chet Mysliwiec. NSSN writer Bob Lewis, author of the Michigander column, staged and MC'd the presentation.

## Wayne Root Wins Berlin And Sets Race Record

By Shirley Glass

**June 11, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Chased to a new 25-lap record, Wayne Root of Lansing out-dueled Art Bennett of Battle Creek, Jack Nichols of Sturgis, Leon Weiske of St. Clair Shores, Michigan, Jim Eberstein, Rich Senneker, Bob Knight, Johnny Logan, Ken Crampton and Dick Stemler, to win the grueling main event for supermodifieds and a lion's share of a \$3,350 purse Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before a large crowd.

Jim Eberstein of Kalamazoo was fifth followed by Buddy Stewart and Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids, Johnny Logan of Charlotte, Nolan Johncock of Hastings, and former track champion Bob Knight.

Root also set fast qualifying time with a lap of 17.06 and won the fast-car dash. Art Bennett was the winner of the pursuit race. Heat race winners were Ken Crampton and Art Bennett.

Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids displayed his driving talents to 33 other speedsters by capturing the crash filled 40-lap spring championship race for semi-late model stock cars.

The main event was halted on the fifth lap when a spectacular accident sent the cars of Jim Adema of Hudsonville, Ron Labon and Ken Sutton of Muskegon, over the bank. All drivers escaped injury.

Senneker was followed by Glen Tanis, Terry Schmid and Al Peters.

Senneker took fast time with a lap of 19.28 and also won his heat race. Ivan Wolf and Mike Garvey Sr. captured the remaining heat races.

## Mort Anderson Cops Another Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**June 18, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Continuing the finest season of his racing career, Mort Anderson of Greenville outdueled a field of 30 leading drivers to win the 25-lap feature race for supermodifieds and a lion's share of the more than \$3,300 purse Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Duane Knoll of Muskegon chased the winner across the finish line followed by Jack Nichols of Sturgis, Leon Weiske of St. Clair Shores, Michigan, Harold Smith of Dayton, Ohio and Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids.

Wayne Root of Lansing proved to be the fastest of 68 qualifiers and established a new record for the one lap distance of 16.82 seconds for the .438 mile paved Marne oval. Root also captured the fast-car dash event, the third heat race but did not compete in the main event after hitting the wall during the pursuit race won by Anderson.

Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids waded through the 30-car lineup and caught race leader Ron Laban of Muskegon on the 19<sup>th</sup> lap and went on to win the 20-lap main event for semi-late model stock cars.

Senneker set fast time in qualifying with a time of 19.16. He also copped the pursuit honors.

Heat race winners were Bill Rake of Muskegon, John Bliss, Bob Knight, and Buddy Stewart of Grand Rapids and Ron Laban of Muskegon.

## Knoll Takes Second Feature Of Season

By Shirley Glass

**June 25, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – For the second time this season, Duane Knoll took the checkered flag with his supermodified at Berlin Raceway on Saturday night.

Following Knoll was Leon Weiske, Jack Smith, Buddy Stewart, Wayne Harrington, Ralph Baker, Jack TenBrink, Terry Sinke, Curly Moody and Bob Clover.

Knoll also picked up the win in the pursuit race. Wayne Root set fast time in qualifying. Heat races were taken by Gordon Dukes and Leon Weiske.

Bob Senneker notched another feature win in the semi-late model stocks and was followed by Ken Sutton, Gail Cobb, Glen Tanis and Don VanderMolen.

Jim Adema turned in a lap of 19.26 for fast qualifying time and picked up the win in the fast-car dash race. Ken Sutton was the pursuit race winner in addition to taking a heat race win. Ron Boukamp and Bill Rake took heat race victories.

## Tom York Takes Berlin Win

By Shirley Glass

**July 2, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – On his way to becoming one of the greatest drivers of our time, national driving champion Mario Andretti of Nazareth, Pennsylvania will spearhead the star studded field of Indianapolis '500' veterans who will compete in a national championship midget auto racing program Friday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Andretti will be out to establish a world's record for the .438 mile distance behind the wheel of multi-millionaire John Mecom's highly tuned midget race car. Andretti has set the racing world on fire having broken qualifying records at Phoenix, Arizona, Trenton, New Jersey, the Indianapolis "500", Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Langhorn, Pennsylvania, and Atlanta, Georgia.

The young Italian has not been passed in competition in the last 500 miles in gaining wins at Atlanta, Langhorne and Milwaukee.

Tom York of South Bend, Indiana staved off Johnny Logan of Charlotte, and a power packed field

to win the 25-lap main event for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Following York and Logan were Darel Harrison, Jack Ellsworth, Duane Knoll, Jack Nichols, Jack Smith and Bob Senneker.

Wayne Root the track record holder for one 1 & 25-lap distances, is in fair condition at Butterworth hospital in Grand Rapids after a stuck accelerator sent his race car over a ten foot dirt embankment.

Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids out-dueled Kenny Sutton of Muskegon to rack up his ninth semi-late model stock feature win. Senneker also won the fast-car dash and his heat race.

Bob Hegner, Glen Tanis and Ken Sutton won their heat races.

## Gibson Picks Up Second Win Of Season

By Shirley Glass

**July 4, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Todd Gibson picked up his second supermodified feature of the season Monday night at Berlin Raceway. Finishing behind Gibson was Duane Knoll, Jack Nichols, Jack Smith, Cy Fairchild, Jim Eberstein, Dick Stemler, Elver Harrington, Curly Moody and Jack TenBrink.

Fast time of the night was set by Mort Anderson at 17.31 who then turned around and picked up the victory in the fast-car dash. Gibson took the win in the pursuit race. Wayne Harrington and Duane Knoll captured wins in the heat races.

The semi-late model stock feature was taken by Bob Senneker with Ken Sutton following. Senneker also set fast time of 19.20 and took the win in the fast-car dash. Pursuit race winners were Don VanderMolen and Ken Sutton. Heat race winners were Duane LaCombe, Ken Sutton and Don VanderMolen.



## Andretti Woos And Wows Berlin Fans

By Shirley Glass

**July 8, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** — The National Indy Car Champion Mario Andretti of Nazareth, Pennsylvania made his first midget racing appearance of the season a stunning success by turning in a brilliant driving performance to win the 50-lap national midget championship feature race with the United States Auto Club (USAC) in record time Friday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Andretti drove deep into the hearts of West Michigan racing fans by coming from 13<sup>th</sup> starting position in the 18-car lineup in spectacular fashion. He forged into fifth position on the seventh lap, was fourth on the ninth lap, third on the eleventh, up to second on the 17<sup>th</sup> lap and dove into the lead under pace setter Jimmy Knight of Chicago on the 21<sup>st</sup> lap and was never headed.

Mel Kenyon finished second in the half century chase followed by Knight, Bob Tattersall of Streater, Illinois, Bob Wente of Kansas City, Kansas, Les Scott, John Batts, Gary Byers, Ray Elliot and Sonny Ates.

The 28 car field saw heat race honors go to Tattersall, Ralph Ligouri, Bob Wente and Andretti. Semi-feature honors went to Ralph Ligouri Tampa, Florida, with Knight outriving McGreevy, the program's fastest qualifier, to win the trophy dash on the four lane .438 mile banked asphalt Marne oval.

## Art Bennett Wins Berlin Checkers

By Shirley Glass

**July 9, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** — In a battle of veteran speedsters, Art Bennett of Battle Creek flashed across the finish line only inches ahead of Nolan Johncock of Hastings to win the 25-lap main event for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Jack Nichols of Sturgis was third followed by Johnny Logan of Charlotte, Duane Knoll of Muskegon and Jack Smith of Grand Rapids.

The main event was slowed on two occasions when Benny Rapp of Toledo, Ohio, spun and slammed into the concrete retaining wall and when the cars of Jack TenBrink of Zeeland and Dick Stemler of Lansing spun over the bank. No one was hurt.

Race leaders Bob Hegner, and Jerry Spear of Battle Creek saw their racing duel end when Kenny Sutton of Muskegon forged into the lead on the 19<sup>th</sup> lap and went on to win the 20-lap feature race for semi-late model stock cars. Sutton was followed by Bob Hagner, Jerry Spear, Don VanderMolen, Glen Tanis, Jerry Van Dyke, Jess Austin, Bill Cox, Leo Vanderhulst, and Joe Ellenbaas.

Heat race winners were Spear, Sutton, Bill Cox of Kalamazoo, Knoll, Nichols and Jim Murphy of South Haven. Pursuit honors went to Nichols and Sutton.

Bob Senneker won the superstock 25-lap feature over Johnny Roberts, Jimmy Roberts, Jim Adema, Glen Tanis and Cleo Ashley. Joy Fair captured the pursuit race and a heat race while Jim Adema and Moose Myers took the other heat races.

## Senneker Beats The Best At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**July 15, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** — In one of the most fiercely contested main events of the season Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids used his familiarity of the race track to successfully stave off veteran drivers Moose Meyers of Fort Wayne, Indiana and Joy Fair of Detroit to win the 25-lap feature race for superstocks Friday night at the Berlin Raceway.

They were followed by Andy Schutt, Jim Roberts, Johnny Roberts, Jim Adema, Al Peters, Glen Tanis and Cleo Ashley of Detroit.

Joy Fair captured the pursuit race and a heat race. Moose Meyers took the other heat race.

Kenny Sutton extended his winning streak at the Marne oval by roaring to victory in the semi-late model stock car main event. He was followed by Jim Adema, Jerry Peloquin, Don VanderMolen, John Bliss, Jess Austin, Glen Tanis, Dick Newson, Andy Schutt and Joe Ellenbaas.

Joy Fair set a new track record in qualifying with a lap of 18.62 and won the pursuit race. Jim Adema and Larry Lawrence won the other heats.

## Nichols Takes Second Supermod Main

By Shirley Glass

**July 16, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** — Surviving a first lap spin out, Jack Nichols of Sturgis won his second main event victory of the season by crossing the finish line first in the caution light filled 25-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Jim Eberstein of Kalamazoo was second followed by Buddy Stewart of Grand Rapids, Johnny Logan of Charlotte, Bill Denninger of Lansing, Bob Seelman of Lansing, Butch Fedewa, Jack TenBrink, Larry Osborne, and Terry Sinke.

Duane Knoll set fast time of 17.00 and won the fast-car dash. Art Bennett won the pursuit race and a heat race with Benny Rapp winning the other heat race.

Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids regained the lead on the 36<sup>th</sup> lap from pace setter Kenny Sutton of Muskegon and went on to win the 40-lap mid-season championship race for semi-late model stock cars. Senneker's 13<sup>th</sup> victory of the season was worth \$515.

In addition, Senneker set fast qualifying time of 19.20 and won a heat race. Heat race winners were; Don VanderMolen and Dale Bergakker.

Heat race winners were Don VanderMolen, Glenn Tanis, Senneker, Rapp, Art Bennett of Battle Creek, and Duane Knoll of Muskegon.

## Senneker Wins Another Feature

By Shirley Glass

**July 22, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Shooting past race leader Joy Fair of Detroit on the 23<sup>rd</sup> lap Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids roared to victory in the 25-lap feature race for semi-late model stocks Friday night at the Berlin Raceway.

The Berlin Fair event saw Moose Meyers of Fort Wayne, Indiana finish second followed by Jack Goodwin of Detroit, Gail Cobb of Grand Rapids and Ken Sutton of Muskegon.

Joy Fair set fast qualifying time and won the fast-car dash and a heat race. Senneker won the other heat race.

Kenny Sutton of Muskegon out-dueled Jim Adema, Glenn Tanis of Grand Rapids, and Bill Rake of Muskegon to win the 15-lap feature event for super-stock cars.

Heat race winners were Sutton, Don VanderMolen of Kalamazoo who was also victorious in the pursuit event, Bob Sensiba of Middleville and Senneker.

## Duane Knoll Has Clean Sweep Night

By Shirley Glass

**July 23, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Warming up for next week's big mid-season championship race Duane Knoll of Muskegon celebrated the final night of the 111<sup>th</sup> year of the Berlin Fair by roaring to victory in the 25-lap feature race for super-modifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before a capacity crowd.

The veteran Knoll took a lion's share of the more than \$3,000 purse by finishing a car length ahead of Nolan Johncock of Hastings, who was

followed by Johnny Logan of Charlotte, Jim Eberstein of Kalamazoo, Jack Nichols of Sturgis and Benny Rapp of Toledo, Ohio.

Knoll had a clean sweep for the night by setting fast time and winning his heat race, along with the feature. Other heat race winners were; Bob Knight, Howard Metzmaker, Cy Fairchild and Johnny Logan.

Jim Adema of Hudsonville out-dueled Don VanderMolen, Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids and Ken Sutton of a 28-car field to win the 20-lap main event for semi-late model stock cars.

Heat race winners were Jim Sinkler of Kalamazoo, Jerry Peloquin of Grand Rapids, and Sutton.

## Art Bennett Takes Berlin Mid-Season Race

By Shirley Glass

**July 30, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Art Bennett of Battle Creek turned in a sterling driving performance to win the 40-lap mid-season championship race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway before a capacity crowd.

Bennett warmed up for next week's big Michigan State championship race that carries \$1,000 to the winner by flashing across the finish line five-car lengths ahead of Nolan Johncock of Hastings, Duane Knoll of Muskegon, Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids, (who was substituting for the injured Wayne Root) and Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids, Buddy Stewart, Jack Smith, Cy Fairchild, Jim Gresley and Rich Senneker in the 35-car field.

Eddie VanderLaan set fast time of 16.93 and won the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were; Steve Baur, Jim Gresley and Nolan Johncock.

Bob Senneker rang up another semi-late model stock car main event victory finishing ahead of Kenny Sutton of Muskegon, Jerry Spear of Battle Creek, and Glenn Tanis of

Hudsonville, Bill Rake, Dick Aspinall, Dale Talsma, Bob Sensiba, Dale Bergakker and Wayne Kline.

Senneker won every event he was entered in; fast time at 19.02, fast-car dash, and heat race giving him a clean sweep for the night. Dale Talsma won the other heat race.

Vic LaMonti of Los Angeles, California and Larry Osborn of Saginaw escaped serious injury as their race cars catapulted over the crash wall during the running of the hectic supermodified main event.

## Bennett Two In A Row At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**August 6, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Short, stocky Art Bennett of Battle Creek, a veteran campaigner, turned in a terrific driving performance to win the caution flag filled 50-lap Michigan State championship race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Bennett took over the lead on the 15<sup>th</sup> lap when pace setter Duane Knoll of Muskegon blew an engine and spun out of the race. The winner staved off a 24-car starting line-up and the strong challenges of Johnny Logan of Charlotte who finished second and third place finisher Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids to capture the \$1,000 first place prize and a huge trophy. Nolan Johncock was fourth followed by Jackie Lindhout of Grand Rapids, Gordon Dukes, Duane Knoll, Jim Eberstein of Kalamazoo, Norm Rust of Novi and Cy Fairchild of Saginaw.

A five car wreck halted the title chase on the 25<sup>th</sup> lap as the cars of Jack Smith, Buddy Stewart, Nick Rowe, Larry Gathman and Rich Senneker tangled and plowed into the concrete retaining wall. No one was injured. Senneker's car suffered a broken u-joint on the parade lap of the feature and he was unable to compete in the feature.

Duane Knoll set the new track record at 16.70 and Bob Senneker



tied it. Heat race winners were Mort Anderson and Buddy Stewart. The consolation race was taken by Jack Smith.

45 supermodifieds took time trials and the total purse was \$5,300.

Kenny Sutton of Muskegon emerged as the winner of the slam-bang feature race for semi-late model stock cars. Terry Schmid was second followed by Glenn Tanis, Gail Cobb and Bob Senneker who was knocked out of contention and had to restart at the rear of the field. They were followed by Bob DePauw, Jerry VanDyke, Bill Rake, Dale Bergakker and Andy Schutt.

Bob Senneker set fast time and broke the track record with a lap of 18.99 and he went on and captured the fast-car dash and a heat victory. Larry Lawrence won the other heat race and Rog McGowen took the consolation race.

## Eddie VanderLaan Berlin Winner Over Star-Studded Field

By Shirley Glass

**August 13, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids staved off red-hot Johnny Benson and Duane Knoll of Muskegon to win the 25-lap feature race over a power-packed supermodified field Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Wayne Root of Lansing was fourth followed by Jim Eberstein of Kalamazoo, Johnny Logan of Charlotte, Jackie Lindhout of Grand Rapids, and Jim Gresley of Battle Creek.

Trailing race leader Gale Cobb of Grand Rapids for 49 laps, John Boerman of Allegan, caught the pacesetter at the finish line and went ahead by inches to win the 50-lap Michigan State Championship race for semi-late model stock cars.

Glenn Tanis of Hudsonville was third followed by Bob Senneker and

Terry Schmid of Grand Rapids.

There were numerous accidents but only Dale Bergakker of Holland was hospitalized.

Heat race winners were Terry Sinke of Kalamazoo, Bill Denninger of Lansing, Leon Weiske of St. Clair Shores, Mort Anderson of Greenville, Jim Burrows of Holland and Ron Laban of Grand Rapids.

Johnny Benson was the fastest of 44 supermodified qualifiers and outdrove Root, Lindhout and Logan to win the supermodified fast-car dash event.

## Bob Senneker Takes Berlin 100

By Shirley Glass

**August 18, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Senneker, in his brand new “Model Linen” sponsored Chevy, won his second MARC Times Invite Race Thursday night, on M & H Racemaster tires before a very enthusiastic crowd.

This race was one for the record books in as much as it was the first century match on the beautiful new .438 mile asphalt oval, and it was the first main event to be run in the history of the Berlin Raceway races to go straight through without the need of one single caution flag.

In the first lap Jerry Spear lost his Ringo # 7 in turn four and caused a restart, this was the first and only appearance of the yellow flag for the entire 100 laps.

Senneker went home \$535 richer as he also won the fast-car dash followed by Gail Cobb of Grand Rapids, Dick Dunshee of Kalamazoo and Jim Adema of Grand Rapids.

The first heat was won by the eldest Senneker, Rich, in a loosey-goosey #44 chased by Don VanderMolen and Buck Jones of Kalamazoo. Hmmm, all little Dutch Boys! The second heat saw Ray Barnard in #62 the winner of Toledo's big race Wednesday night pushing Max Hiscock across the finish line with Jerry Murphy hot on their bumpers.

The third and fastest heat brought the fans to their feet as Don Oldenberg of Hessville, Indiana staved off the wild onslaught of Jim Adema and track favorite Bob Senneker to win by inches with the crowd roaring for more.

The feature was a well fought race for the first 75 laps as Gail Cobb kept nipping at Senneker's tail at a breath taking pace only to be sidelined with tire problems. Gail was the only charger to leave the race and return to carry on where he left off.

There was only one accident and that was in warm-ups when Daniel Boone tried to trap Ivan Wolf's car in the second turn. Jerry Van Dyke spun on the backstretch and Ken Sutton was sporting blistered tires most of the last 50 laps for a ninth place finish. Glenn Tanis, as did Dick Dunshee, kept picking off the slower paced cars to end up in second place, with Dick swimming his Michigan Swim Pool Buick into third followed by Don VanderMolen, Jerry Spear, Joe Ellenbass, Dick Hurdlebrink, Jerry VanDyke, Ken Sutton, Gail Cobb, Jim Adema, Rich Senneker, Max Hiscock, Buck Jones, Ray Barnard, Bill Rake, Don Oldenberg, Ron Laban, Jerry Murphy, and Tom DeLano.

The race proved the durability of man, the driver, as well as machine. Bob Senneker received the beautiful MARC Times perpetual trophy from starter and Match Race promoter, Dick Beebe, and also Bob received the driver's trophy and his mechanic and co-owner Doug Cutler took the mechanic's award, from race track promoter, Chet Mysliwiec.

## Benson Moves To New Playground

By Shirley Glass

**August 20, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Weaving through a power packed field like a half back on a broken field run, Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids roared to victory in the 25-lap feature race for supermodi-

fieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway. Benson had been running his supermodified at the Grand Rapids Speedrome until it closed its doors and shut down.

The veteran speedster scored his first career victory at the Marne oval by coming from deep in the lineup and forging past the race leader Norm Wood of Grand Rapids on the 16<sup>th</sup> lap and was never headed. Wayne Root of Lansing was second followed by Jackie Lindhout and Eddie VanderLaan both of Grand Rapids, Norm Wood, Ken Crampton and Jim Eberstein of Kalamazoo.

Benson also set fast qualifying time of the night with a lap of 16.90 and picked up the win in the fast-car dash.

Gail Cobb of Grand Rapids kept his late season surge intact by roaring across the finish line a car length ahead of consistent winner Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids to win the 20-lap main event for semi-late model stock cars. Cobb set fast qualifying time with a lap of 19.23 and also scored the win in the fast-car dash.

Consolation feature winners were Mort Anderson of Greenville, and John Bliss of Grand Rapids. Heat race winners were Cobb, Jerry Pond, Dick Quackenbush, Dick Hurdlebrink, Jerry Sinke, Root and Anderson. Pursuit victories were scored by VanderLaan and Cobb. Benson fastest of 38 qualifiers outdrove Lindhout, Rich Senneker and VanderLaan to win the fast-car dash event.

## Benson Takes Main At Carter-Nelson Memorial Race At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**August 27, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – The first annual Dick Carter-Jimmy Nelson Memorial racing program saw Johnny Benson and Gail Cobb turn in sterling driving

performances to win the supermodified and semi-late model stock car main events Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Mrs. Shirley Carter presented a trophy to the veteran Benson who wrapped up his second consecutive feature win on the .438 mile Marne oval by coming from deep in the line-up and storming to the front on the tenth lap and was never headed. Jackie Lindhout of Grand Rapids, was second followed by Ed VanderLaan, Ken Crampton of Kalamazoo, Duane Knoll of Muskegon and Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids.

Gail Cobb of Grand Rapids staved off big winner Bob Senneker to win the 20-lap main event for semi-late model stock cars. The race was halted on the fifth lap when Kenny Sutton of Muskegon flipped end over end. He escaped serious injury.

Gene Eding of Grand Rapids was not injured as his semi-late model stock car vaulted over a 10 foot sand wall completely demolishing his race car during the running of the first heat race.

Pursuit honors were captured by Cobb and VanderLaan. Heat race winners were Bill McClure, Curly Moody, Gail Cobb, John Bliss, Andy Schutt, Senneker and Benson who in addition to copping the fast-car dash was the fastest of 76 qualifiers.

## Logan Wins Berlin Supermods

By Shirley Glass

**September 3, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Warming up for the big Labor Day racing program, veteran driver Johnny Logan of Charlotte set a blistering pace and crossed the finish line first to win the grueling 25-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids who saw his victory string snapped, was second followed by Duane Knoll of Muskegon, Eddie VanderLaan

of Grand Rapids, Jim Eberstein of Kalamazoo and Nolan Johncock of Hastings.

Gail Cobb of Grand Rapids made it six victories in a row by out-driving Ron Laban and Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids and John Boerman of Allegan to win the 20-lap accident marred main event for semi-late model stock cars.

Jim Adema of Holland escaped serious injury when his car flipped end over end during the feature event.

Benson, fastest of 90 qualifiers copped the fast-car dash event. Heat race winners were Bob Crowley, Benny Rapp, Cy Fairchild, Leo Havens, John Bliss and Ron Laban.

## Root Scores At Marne Labor Day

By Shirley Glass

**September 5, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Wayne Root of Lansing returned to top racing form after suffering a broken jaw at mid-season and roared to victory in the 30-lap feature race for supermodifieds Monday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Starting on the pole, Root successfully staved off many leading drivers in the Midwest to gain a lion's share of the \$4,500 purse. Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids was second followed by Johnny Logan of Charlotte, Duane Knoll of Muskegon, Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids and Art Bennett of Battle Creek.

Howard Metzmaker of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was hospitalized after being involved in a three car pile-up during the hectic main event.

Bob Senneker rang up his 18<sup>th</sup> victory of the season by crossing the finish line first in the 30-lap main for semi-late model stock cars. Gail Cobb was second followed by John Boerman of Allegan, Jim Adema of Holland, Glenn Tanis of Hudsonville and Kenny Sutton of Muskegon.

Duane Knoll, fastest of 87 qualifiers, copped the fast-car dash event. Heat race winners were



Wayne Landon of Hastings, Casey Jones of Mishawaka, Indiana, who also copped the consolation feature, Kenny Crampton of Kalamazoo, Bob Hegner of Battle Creek, Chet Jones of Muskegon, Gail Cobb and Denny Harris. Pursuit honors went to Root. Senneker copped the semi-late model dash.

## Benson Scores Again— Third One

By Shirley Glass

**September 10, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids warming up for next week's big Season Championship Race roared to victory in the 25-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Benson scored his third main event victory out of the last five race meets by forging past race leader Kenny Crampton of Kalamazoo on the tenth lap. He was never headed. Johnny Logan of Charlotte, chased the winner across the finish line followed by Jack Nichols of Sturgis, Crampton, Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids and Art Bennett of Battle Creek.

Getting through a mass wreck on the first lap, Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids scored his 20<sup>th</sup> main event victory by crossing the finish line first in the 40-lap feature race for semi-late model stock cars. Gail Cobb of Grand Rapids was second followed by John Boerman of Allegan, and Glenn Tanis of Hudsonville.

Terry Schmid of Grand Rapids was hospitalized after his car hit the concrete retaining wall during time trials. Duane Wilson and Len Guernsey escaped serious injuries as their modified race cars flipped end over end with Wilson catapulting over the retaining wall.

Heat race winners were Buddy Stewart, Randy Sweet, Les Lemon, Kenny Crampton, Jack Gordon, John Bliss, Al Geldhof and Gail Cobb.

VanderLaan, fastest of 70 qualifiers with a 16.76 lap, won the dash event. Senneker broke the track record for semi-late models with a lap of 18.68.

## Duane Knoll Wins Big At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**September 17, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Duane Knoll of Muskegon finished a car length ahead of Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids and Johnny Logan of Charlotte to win the 40-lap championship race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

In the event that was marked by many spin outs, Jack Nichols of Sturgis was fourth followed by Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids, Art Bennett of Battle Creek, Casey Jones of Mishawaka, Indiana and Nolan Johncock of Hastings. Spin out victims were Jackie Lindhout, Jack TenBrink, Nick Rowe, Bill Beard, Buddy Stewart, Curly Moody and Kenny Crampton who hit the concrete retaining wall. No one was seriously injured.

Gail Cobb of Grand Rapids chased Bob Senneker to his 21<sup>st</sup> main event victory of the season in the 20-lap feature event for semi-late model stock cars. Dick Dunshee was third followed by Bob Carnes, Dick Hurdlebrink, and Max Hiscock.

Heat race winners were Dick Filkins, Gene Bell, Logan, Bill McClure, Cobb, Dave Thwaites, Bob Sensiba, Hurdlebrink and Gordy VanderBeek.

Eddie VanderLaan set fast time for supermodifieds with a lap of 16.75 and Gail Cobb took fast time with the semi-lates with a lap of 18.94.

## Knoll Takes Second Mod Main

By Shirley Glass

**September 24, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Duane Knoll of Muskegon made it two in a row in his main event victory of the season by roaring to victory in the 20-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Curly Moody of Grand Rapids was second, followed by Jim Eberstein of Kalamazoo, Larry Gathman of Lansing, Bob Carnes of Kalamazoo and Gordy Bissett of Battle Creek. The main event was halted when the car of Jack Smith did a spectacular flip and roll coming to rest upright with the driver escaping serious injury.

Bob Carnes made his second appearance at the .438 mile Marne oval highly successful as he staved off Bob Senneker, Gail Cobb of Grand Rapids and Ed Howe of Beaverton to win the 20-lap feature race for semi-late model and super-stock cars. Carnes had a clean sweep by winning every event he was in.

Heat race winners were Bob Carnes, Dick Quakenbush, Dick Aspenall, Dick Hurdlebrink, Gordy Bissett, Duane Knoll, with Carnes coming back to take the pursuit event.

## Berlin Closes For Season

By Shirley Glass

**October 1, 1966 – Berlin Raceway** – Rain and cold weather forced cancellation of the final supermodified and semi-late model and super-stock racing program Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

With the 1966 season concluded track manager Chet Mysliwiec will initiate a program of track improvements in preparing for the .438 mile track opener next April. Improvements will include additional seating, widening of the track surface and a small wall erected on the third and fourth turns and pit area expansion.

## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1966

### Supermodifieds Super Stocks – Semi Lates

**April 9, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier: Norm Rust 17.90—New Track Record**

**Dash winner:** Bob Smith

**Heat winners:** Benny Rapp, Bob Smith

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Smith** (2) Jim Murphy (3) Benny Rapp (4) Rich Senneker (5) Jack TenBrink (6) Mike Stone (7) Buddy Stewart

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks**

**Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 19.38—New Track Record**

**Dash winner:** Bob Senneker

**Heat winners:** Bob Senneker, Johnny Johns

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Senneker** (2) Glen Tanis (3) Bob Signor (4) Ray Lockwood (5) Johnny Johns (6) Mile Praag (7) Fred Britton (8) Jack TenBrink

**Bob Senneker – Clean Sweep Award**

**April 16, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

25 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier: Norm Rust 17.50—New Track Record**

**Dash winner:** Bob Smith

**Heat winners:** Bill Heeney, Bob Smith

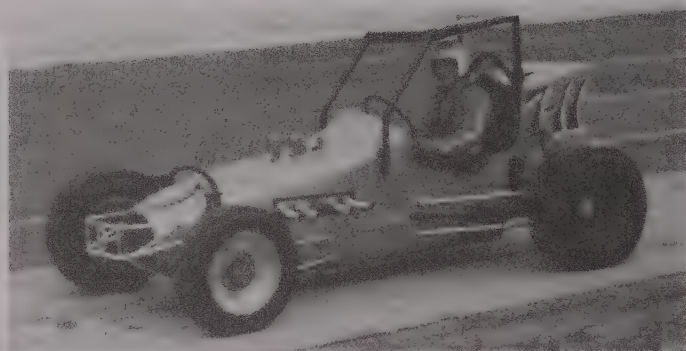
**Pursuit winner:** Bill Heeney

**Feature:** (1) **Benny Rapp** (2) Buddy Stewart (3) Johnny Logan (4) Jim Murphy (5) Wayne Harrington (6) Bill Heeney (7) Oscar Fay (8) Rich Senneker (9) Bob Smith (10) Curly Moody



Mario Andretti

Dick Lee Collection



Duane Knoll

Dick Lee Collection

**25 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks**

**Fast qualifier:** Glen Tanis 20.18

**Dash winner:** Glen Tanis

**Heat winners:** Ray Lockwood, Ralph Lawrence

**Pursuit winner:** Glen Tanis

**Feature:** (1) **Paul Weisner** (2) Ray Lockwood (3) Bob DePauw (4) Ron Laban (5) Duane LaCombe (6) Dick Hurdlebrink (7) Bill Lazarus (8) Carl Newman (9) Russ Chapman (10) Ralph Lawrence

**April 23, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

No information available

**April 30, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

25 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier:** Norm Rust 18.09

**Dash winner:** Norm Rust

**Heat winners:** Benny Rapp, Jim Murphy

**Pursuit winner:** Todd Gibson

**Feature:** (1) **Harold Smith** (2) Tom Pruner (3) Johnny Logan (4) Benny Rapp (5) Rich Senneker (6) Rocky Fisher

**25 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks**

**Fast qualifier:** Jim Martin - no time given

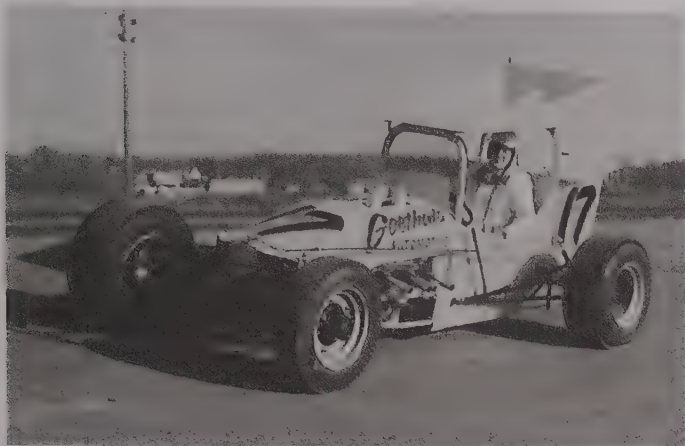
**Dash winner:** Bob Senneker

**Heat winner:** Jim Martin

**Pursuit winner:** Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) **Paul Weisner** (2) John Boerman (3) Ron Laban (4) Denny Harris (5) Jim Leonard (6) Bob Signor





Eddie VanderLaan

Dick Lee Collection

### May 7, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Tom Pruner 17.52

Dash winner: Todd Gibson

Heat winners: Mort Anderson, Cy Fairchild, Bill Smith, Norm Rust

Pursuit winner: Todd Gibson

Feature: (1) Norm Rust (2) Todd Gibson (3) Wayne Root (4) Leon Weiske (5) Benny Rapp

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Mike Garvey Sr., Ken Sutton, Johnny Roberts

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

Feature: (1) Bob Senneker (2) John Boerman (3) Dick Hurdlebrink (4) Bob DePauw

---

### May 14, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bob Smith 17.33—New Track Record

Dash winner: Norm Rust

Heat winners: Bill Heeney, Mort Anderson, Todd Gibson

Feature: (1) Todd Gibson (2) Norm Rust (3) Bob Smith (4) Wayne Root

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker – no time given

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Jerry Spear, Jerry Peloquin, Bob Senneker

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

Feature: (1) Bob Senneker (2) Jerry Spear (3) Ken Sutton (4) Glen Tanis

Bob Senneker – Clean Sweep Award

---

### May 21, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Mort Anderson 17.31—New Track Record

Dash Winner: Mort Anderson

Heat Winners: Todd Gibson, Rich Senneker

Pursuit Winner: Art Bennett

Feature: (1) Art Bennett (2) Todd Gibson (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Wayne Landon (5) Jack TenBrink (6) Bob Knight (7) Jack Smith (8) Tom Pruner (9) Elver Harrington (10) Norm Rust

\*\*Race stopped on 21<sup>st</sup> lap when car hit light pole and it was too dark to continue.

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks

Fast qualifier: Jerry Spear 19.74

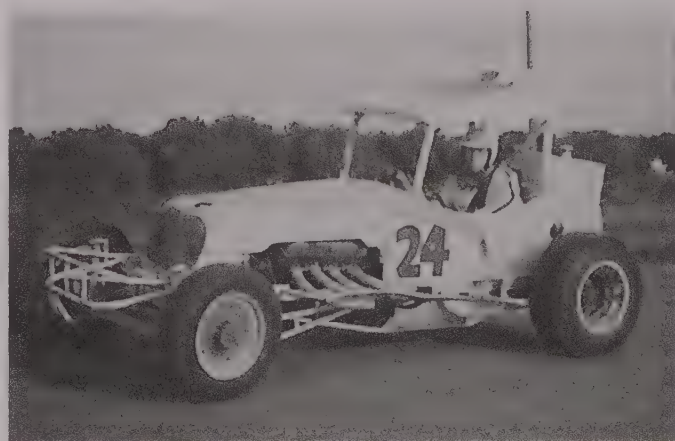
Dash winner: Jerry Spear

Heat winners: Larry Boes, Ken Sutton, Jerry Spear

Pursuit winner: Jerry Spear

Feature: (1) John Boerman (2) Ken Sutton (3) Gail Cobb (4) Dick Hurdlebrink (5) Bob Patrick (6) Glen Tanis (7) Bill Cox (8) John Bliss (9) Ralph Lawrence (10) Larry Boes

---



Johnny Logan

Dick Lee Collection

**May 28, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

25 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier: Mort Anderson 17.17—New Track Record**

Heat winners: Bill Rake, John Kessler, Bob Knight, Mort Anderson

**Feature: (1) Art Bennett (2) Todd Gibson (3) Wayne Root (4) Mort Anderson (5) Elver Harrington**

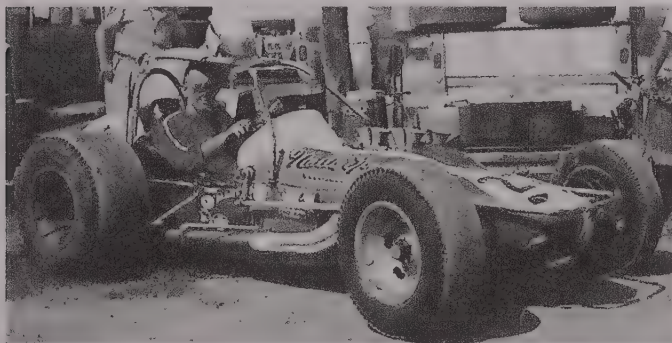
**25 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks**

Heat winners: Bob Senneker, Jerry Spear, Bill Rake

**Feature: (1) Bob Senneker (2) Jerry Spear (3) Bud Meyering**

**Bob Senneker – Clean Sweep Award**

---



Bob Smith

Dick Lee Collection

**May 30, 1966 – Monday – Supermodifieds**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan 16.87—New Track Record**

Heat winners: Johnny Logan, Todd Gibson, Mort Anderson

Pursuit winner: Todd Gibson

**Feature: (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Elver Harrington (3) Jack Smith (4) Wayne Root (5) Bob Knight**

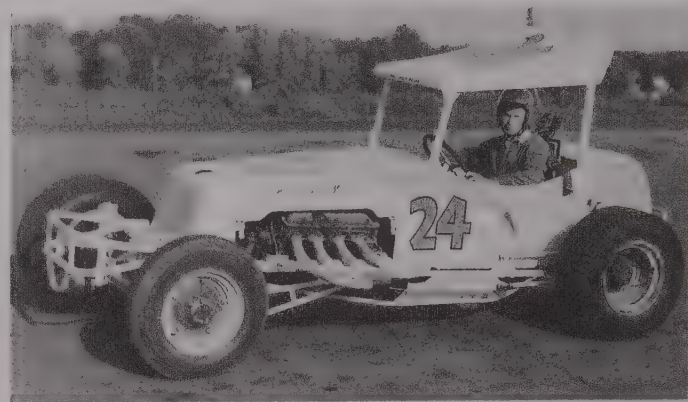
**30 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks**

Heat winners: Bob Senneker, John Bliss, Jerry Spear, Bill Cox

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

**Feature: (1) Ken Sutton (2) Bob Senneker**

---



Wayne Root

Dick Lee Collection

**June 4, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

50 laps, .438 mile paved

Spring Championship

**Fast qualifier: Cy Fairchild 17.17**

Heat winners: Buddy Stewart, Art Bennett

**Feature: (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Mort Anderson (3) Cy Fairchild (4) Nolan Johncock (5) Leon Wieske (6) Norm Rust (7) Jim Eberstein (8) Jack Nichols (9) Harold Smith (10) Jack Houseworth**

*(This is the night that flagman, Dick Zimmerman, was struck by a race car which led to his death.)*

**25 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks**

Heat winners: Hiram Lockwood, Bob Senneker

**Feature: (1) Bob Senneker (2) Jerry Spear (3) Ken Sutton**

**Bob Senneker – Clean Sweep Award**

---

**June 8, 1966 – Wednesday – USAC (United States Auto Club) – Midgets**

50 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier: Mel Kenyon – no time given**

**Dash winner: Mike McGreevy**

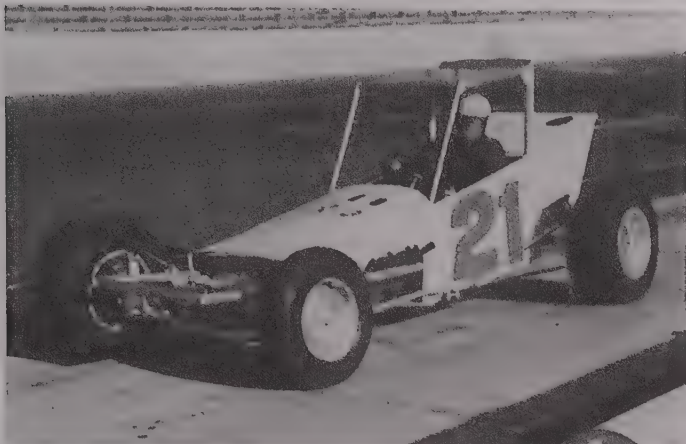
Heat winners: Mel Kenyon, Bob Wente, Ray Elliott, Don Meacham

Consolation Winner: Bill Humphreys

**Feature: (1) Jimmy Knight (2) Mel Kenyon (3) Ray Elliott (4) Sonny Ates (5) Don Meacham (6) Mike McGreevy (7) Bill Mehner (8) John Batts (9) Gary Byers (10) Bob Wente**

---





Johnny Benson

Dick Lee Collection

---

### June 11, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Wayne Root 17.06

Dash winner: Wayne Root

Heat winners: Ken Crampton, Art Bennett

Pursuit winner: Art Bennett

**Feature:** (1) Wayne Root (2) Art Bennett (3) Jack Nichols (4) Leon Weiske (5) Jim Eberstein (6) Rich Senneker (7) Bob Knight (8) Johnny Logan (9) Ken Crampton (10) Dick Stemler

### 40 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks

Spring Championship

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 19.28

Semi winner: Bob Young

Heat winners: Ivan Wolf, Mike Garvey Sr., Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Glen Tanis (3) Terry Schmid (4) Al Peters

**Bob Senneker – Clean Sweep Award**

---

### June 18, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Wayne Root 16.82—New Track Record

Dash winner: Wayne Root

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Buddy Stewart, Wayne Root

Pursuit winner: Mort Anderson

**Feature:** (1) Mort Anderson (2) Duane Knoll (3) Jack Nichols (4) Leon Weiske (5) Harold Smith (6) Rich Senneker (7) Elver Harrington (8) Ken Crampton (9) Buddy Stewart (10) Paul Smith

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 19.16

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Bill Rake, John Bliss, Ron Laban

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Ron Laban (3) Ken Sutton

---

### June 25, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Wayne Root 16.82

Dash winner: Duane Knoll

Heat winners: Gordon Dukes, Leon Wieske

Pursuit winner: Wayne Root

**Feature:** (1) Duane Knoll (2) Leon Wieske (3) Jack Smith (4) Buddy Stewart (5) Wayne Harrington (6) Ralph Baker (7) Jack TenBrink (8) Terry Sinke (9) Curly Moody (10) Bob Clover

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks

Fast qualifier: Jim Adema 19.26

Dash winner: Jim Adema

Heat winners: Ken Sutton, Ron Boukamp, Bill Rake

Pursuit winner: Ken Sutton

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Ken Sutton (3) Gail Cobb (4) Glen Tanis (5) Don VanderMolen

---

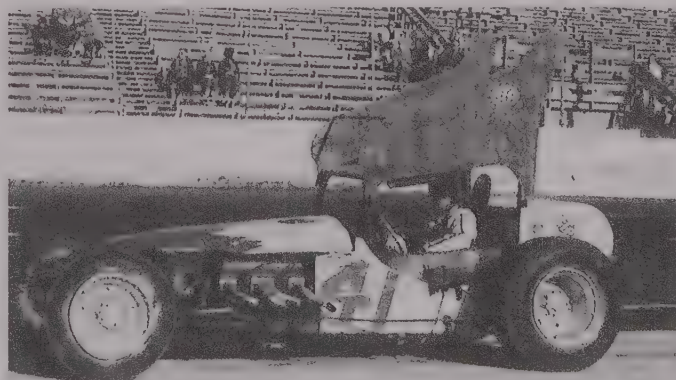
### July 2, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Wayne Root – no time given

Dash winner: Clare Lawicki

Heat winners: Wayne Harrington, Cy Fairchild



Jack Nichols

Dick Lee Collection

Pursuit winner: Wayne Root

**Feature:** (1) Tom York (2) Johnny Logan (3) Darrell Harrison (4) Jack Ellsworth (5) Duane Knoll (6) Jack Nichols (7) Jack Smith (8) Bob Senneker

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Bob Hegner, Glen Tanis, Ken Sutton

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Ken Sutton

---

## July 4, 1966 – Monday – Supermodifieds

### *Independence Day*

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Mort Anderson 17.31

Dash winner: Mort Anderson

Heat winners: Wayne Harrington, Duane Knoll

Pursuit winner: Todd Gibson

**Feature:** (1) Todd Gibson (2) Duane Knoll (3) Jack Nichols (4) Jack Smith (5) Cy Fairchild (6) Jim Eberstein (7) Dick Stemler (8) Elver Harrington (9) Curly Moody (10) Jack TenBrink

### 30 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 19.20

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Duane Lacombe, Ken Sutton, Don VanderMolen

Pursuit winners: Don VanderMolen, Ken Sutton

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Ken Sutton

---

## July 8, 1966 – Friday – USAC (United States Auto Club) – Midgits

50 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Mike McGreavy 17.51

Dash winner: Jimmy Knight

Heat winners: Bob Tattersall, Ralph Ligouri, Bob Wente, Mario Andretti

Semi winner: Ralph Ligouri

**Feature:** (1) Mario Andretti (2) Mel Kenyon (3) Jimmy Knight (4) Bob Tattersall (5) Bob Wente (6) Les Scott (7) John Batts (8) Gary Byers (9) Ray Elliot (10) Sonny Ates

---



Nolan Johncock

Dick Lee Collection

## July 9, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Duane Knoll 17.23

Heat winners: Duane Knoll, Jack Nichols, Jim Murphy

Pursuit winner: Jack Nichols

**Feature:** (1) Art Bennett (2) Nolan Johncock (3) Jack Nichols (4) Johnny Logan (5) Duane Knoll (6) Jack Smith (7) Jim Eberstein (8) Mort Anderson (9) Rich Senneker (10) Buddy Stewart

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Fast qualifier: Jerry Spear 19.19—New Track Record

Dash winner: Jerry Spear

Heat winners: Ken Sutton, Bill Cox

Pursuit winners: Ken Sutton

**Feature:** (1) Ken Sutton (2) Bob Hagner (3) Jerry Spear (4) Don VanderMolen (5) Glen Tanis (6) Jerry Van Dyke (7) Jess Austin (8) Bill Cox (9) Leo Vanderhulst (10) Joe Ellenbaas

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks

Heat winners: Joy Fair, Jim Adema, Moose Myers

Pursuit winner: Joy Fair

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Johnny Roberts (3) Jim Roberts (4) Jim Adema (5) Glen Tanis (6) Cleo Ashley

---

## July 15, 1966 – Friday – Semi-Lates

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Joy Fair 18.62—New Track Record

Dash winner: Ken Sutton

Heat winners: Jim Adema, Larry Lawrence



Pursuit winner: Joy Fair

**Feature:** (1) Ken Sutton (2) Jim Adema (3) Jerry Peloquin (4) Don VanderMolen (5) John Bliss (6) Jess Austin (7) Glen Tanis (8) Dick Newson (9) Andy Schutt (10) Joe Ellenbaas

**25 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks**

Heat winners: Joy Fair, Moose Myers

Pursuit winner: Joy Fair

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Moose Myers (3) Joy Fair (4) Andy Schutt (5) Jim Roberts (6) Johnny Roberts (7) Jim Adema (8) Al Peters (9) Glen Tanis (10) Cleo Ashley

---

### July 16, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Duane Knoll 17.00

Dash winner: Duane Knoll

Heat winners: Benny Rapp, Art Bennett

Pursuit winner: Art Bennett

**Feature:** (1) Jack Nichols (2) Jim Eberstein (3) Buddy Stewart (4) Johnny Logan (5) Bill Denninger (6) Bob Seelman (7) Butch Fedewa (8) Jack TenBrink (9) Larry Osborne (10) Terry Sinke

**40 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks**

*Mid-Season Championship*

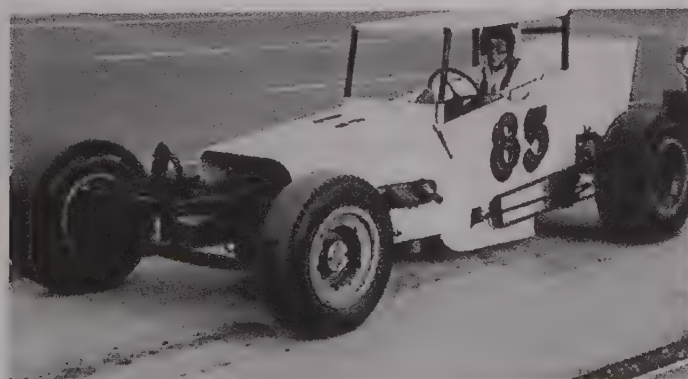
Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 19.20

Heat winners: Don VanderMolen, Dale Bergakker, Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Ken Sutton (3) Glen Tanis

**Bob Senneker – Clean Sweep Award**

---



Jim Eberstein

Dick Lee Collection

### July 22, 1966 – Friday – Semi-Lates

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Joy Fair – no time given

Dash winner: Joy Fair

Heat winners: Joy Fair, Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Moose Meyers (3) Jack Goodwin (4) Gail Cobb (5) Ken Sutton

**15 laps, .438 mile paved – Super Stocks**

Heat winners: Ken Sutton, Don VanderMolen, Bob Sensiba

Pursuit winner: Don VanderMolen

**Feature:** (1) Ken Sutton (2) Jim Adema (3) Glen Tanis (4) Bill Rake

---

### July 23, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Duane Knoll – no time given

Heat winners: Bob Knight, Howard Metzmaker, Cy Fairchild, Johnny Logan, Duane Knoll

**Feature:** (1) Duane Knoll (2) Nolan Johncock (3) Johnny Logan (4) Jim Eberstein (5) Jack Nichols (6) Benny Rapp

**Duane Knoll – Clean Sweep Award**

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates**

Heat winners: Jim Sinkler, Jerry Peloquin, Ken Sutton

**Feature:** (1) Jim Adema (2) Don VanderMolen (3) Bob Senneker (4) Ken Sutton

---

### July 30, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

*Mid-Season Championship*

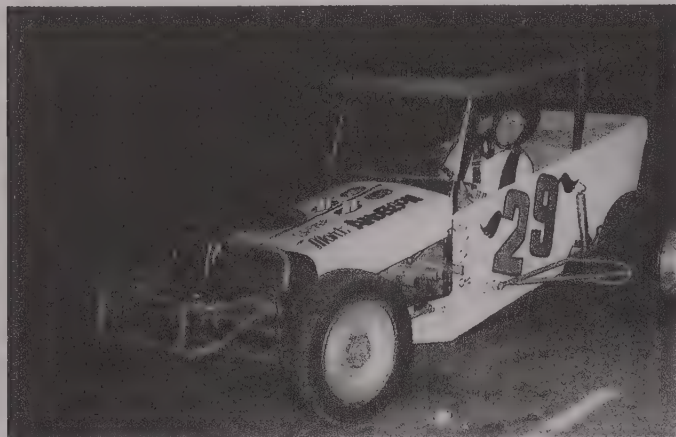
40 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan 16.93

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Steve Bauer, Jim Gresley, Nolan Johncock

**Feature:** (1) Art Bennett (2) Nolan Johncock (3) Duane Knoll (4) Bob Senneker (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Buddy Stewart (7) Jack Smith (8) Cy Fairchild (9) Jim Gresley (10) Rich Senneker



Mort Anderson

Dick Lee Collection

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 19.02

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Dale Talsma, Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Ken Sutton (3) Jerry Spear (4) Glen Tanis (5) Bill Rake (6) Dick Aspinall (7) Dale Talsma (8) Bob Sensiba (9) Dale Bergakker (10) Wayne Kline

**Bob Senneker – Clean Sweep Award**

---

### August 6, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

50 laps, .438 mile paved

Michigan State Championship

**Fast qualifier:** Bob Senneker/Duane Knoll 16.70—  
**New Track Record**

Heat winners: Mort Anderson, Buddy Stewart

Consolation winner: Jack Smith

**Feature:** (1) Art Bennett (2) Johnny Logan (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Nolan Johncock (5) Jackie Lindhout (6) Gordon Dukes (7) Duane Knoll (8) Jim Eberstein (9) Norm Rust (10) Cy Fairchild

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

**Fast qualifier:** Bob Senneker 18.99—**New Track Record**

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Larry Lawrence, Bob Senneker

Consolation winner: Rog McGowan

**Feature:** (1) Ken Sutton (2) Terry Schmid (3) Glen Tanis (4) Gail Cobb (5) Bob Senneker (6) Bob DePauw (7) Jerry VanDyke (8) Bill Rake (9) Dale Bergakker (10) Andy Schutt

### August 13, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson – no time given

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Jerry Sinke, Bill Denninger, Leon Weiske, Mort Anderson, Jim Burrows

Pursuit winner: Ron Bazan

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Johnny Benson (3) Duane Knoll (4) Wayne Root (5) Jim Eberstein (6) Johnny Logan (7) Jackie Lindhout (8) Jim Gresley

### 50 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Michigan State Championship

Fast qualifier: John Boerman 19.13

**Feature:** (1) John Boerman (2) Gail Cobb (3) Bill Rake (4) Glen Tanis (5) Bob Senneker

**John Boerman – Clean Sweep Award**

---

### August 18, 1966 – Thursday – Semi-Lates

MARC Times Invite

100 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker – no time given

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Rich Senneker, Max Hiscock, Don Oldenberg

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Glen Tanis (3) Dick Dunshee (4) Don VanderMolen (5) Jerry Spear (6) Joe Ellenbaas (7) Dick Hurdlebrink (8) Jerry Vandyke (9) Ken Sutton (10) Gail Cobb

---

### August 20, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 16.90

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Jerry Sinke, Wayne Root, Mort Anderson

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Consolation Winner: Mort Anderson

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Wayne Root (3) Jackie Lindhout (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Norm Wood (6) Ken Crampton (7) Jim Eberstein



### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Fast qualifier: Gail Cobb 19.23

Dash winner: Gail Cobb

Heat winners: Jerry Pond, Dick Quackenbush, Dick Hurdlebrink

Pursuit winner: Gail Cobb

Consolation winner: John Bliss

**Feature:** (1) Gail Cobb (2) Bob Senneker

---

### August 27, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, .438 mile paved

First Annual Dick Carter/Jimmy Nelson Memorial

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson – no time given

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Johnny Benson, Bill McClure, Curly Moody, Andy Schutt

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Jackie Lindhout (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Nick Rowe (5) Duane Knoll (6) Rich Senneker

---

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 19.14

Heat winners: Gail Cobb, John Bliss, Bob Senneker

Pursuit winner: Gail Cobb

**Feature:** (1) Gail Cobb (2) Bob Senneker

---

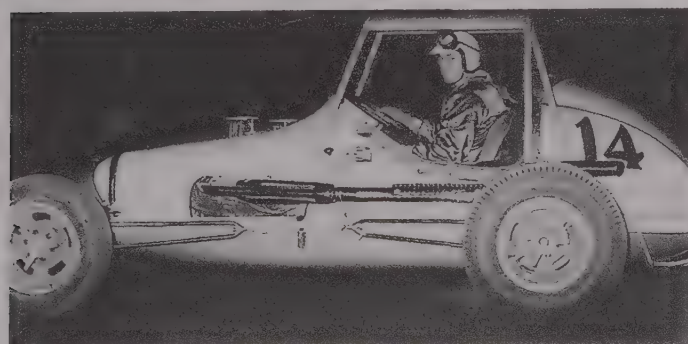
### September 3, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson—no time given

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Benny Rapp, Bob Crowley, Cy Fairchild



Benny Rapp

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Logan (2) Johnny Benson (3) Duane Knoll (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Jim Eberstein (6) Nolan Johncock

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Heat winners: Leo Havens, John Bliss, Ron Laban

**Feature:** (1) Gail Cobb (2) Ron Laban (3) Bob Senneker (4) John Boerman

---

### September 5, 1966 – Monday – Supermodifieds

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Duane Knoll – no time given

Dash winner: Duane Knoll

Heat winners: Wayne Landon, Casey Jones

Pursuit winner: Wayne Root

Consolation winner: Casey Jones

**Feature:** (1) Wayne Root (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Johnny Logan (4) Duane Knoll (5) Johnny Benson (6) Art Bennett

---

### 30 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Ken Crampton, Bob Hegner, Chet Jones, Denny Harris

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Gail Cobb (3) John Boerman (4) Jim Adema (5) Glen Tanis (6) Ken Sutton

---

### September 10, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan 16.76

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Randy Sweet, Les Lemon, Ken Crampton, Buddy Stewart

Pursuit winner: Ken Crampton

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Johnny Logan (3) Jack Nichols (4) Ken Crampton (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Art Bennett

---

### 40 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 18.7—New Track Record

Heat winners: Jack Gordon, John Bliss, Al Geldhof, Gail Cobb

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Gail Cobb (3) John Boerman (4) Glen Tanis

---

**September 17, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

40 laps, .438 mile paved

Season Championship Race

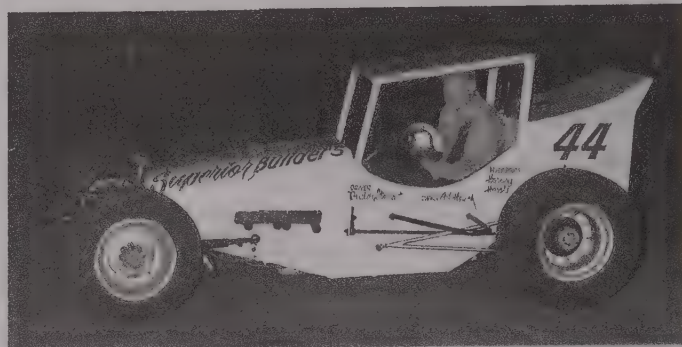
Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan 16.75

**Feature:** (1) Duane Knoll (2) Eddie VanderLaan  
(3) Johnny Logan (4) Jack Nichols (5) Johnny Benson  
(6) Art Bennett (7) Casey Jones (8) Nolan Johncock

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates**

Fast qualifier: Gail Cobb 18.94

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Gail Cobb (3) Dick  
Dunshee (4) Bob Carnes (5) Dick Hurdlebrink (6) Max  
Hiscock



Buddy Stewart

Dick Lee Collection

**September 24, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Heat winners: Duane Knoll, Gordy Bissot

**Feature:** (1) Duane Knoll (2) Curly Moody (3) Jim  
Eberstein (4) Larry Gathman (5) Bob Carnes (6) Gordy  
Bissot

**Duane Knoll – Clean Sweep Award**

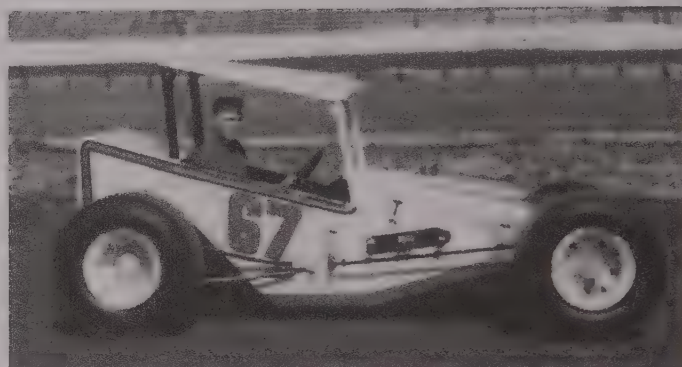
**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates**

Heat winners: Bob Carnes, Dick Quackenbush, Dick  
Aspenall, Dick Hurdlebrink

Pursuit winner: Bob Carnes

**Feature:** (1) Bob Carnes (2) Bob Senneker (3) Gail  
Cobb (4) Ed Howe

**Bob Carnes – Clean Sweep Award**

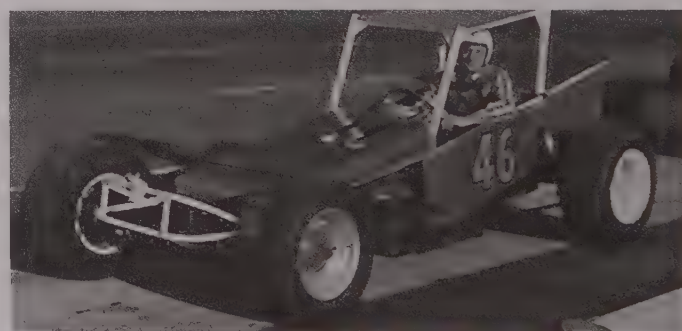


Duane Wilson

Dick Lee Collection

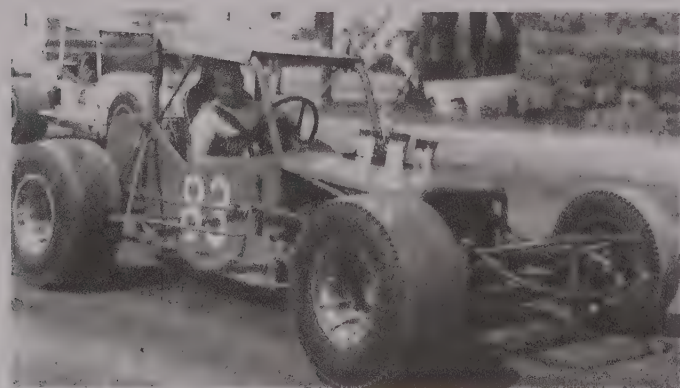
**October 1, 1966 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

Rained Out



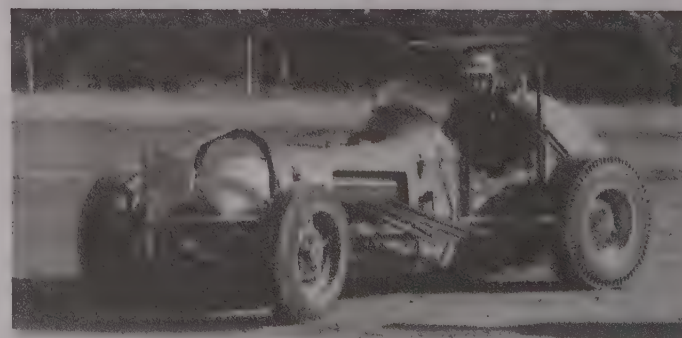
Eldon Schrader

Dick Lee Collection



Wayne Landon

Dick Lee Collection

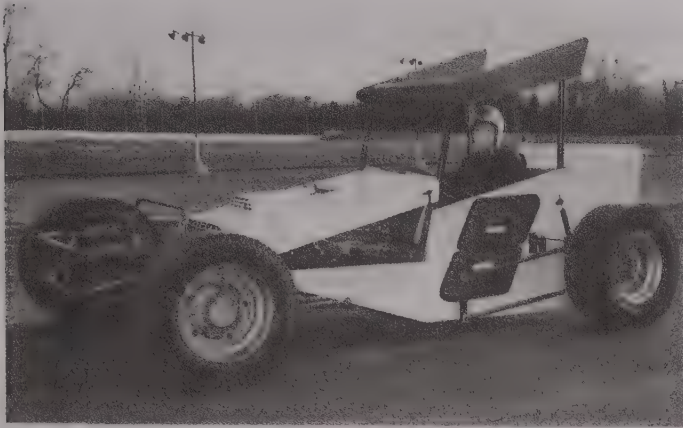


Jim Murphy

Dick Lee Collection



## Berlin Raceway — Supermodifieds (Pavement), 1966–1968



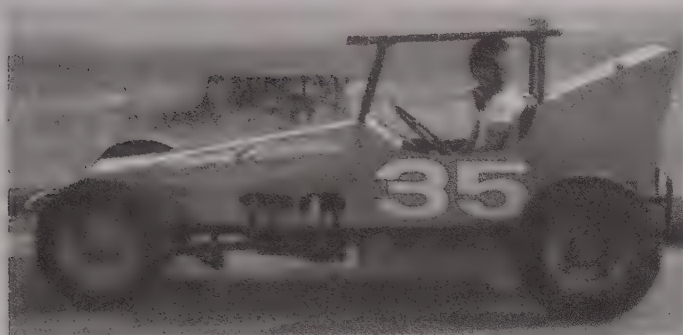
Wayne Root

Dick Lee Collection



Jim Gresley

Dick Lee Collection



Ken Crampton

Dick Lee Collection



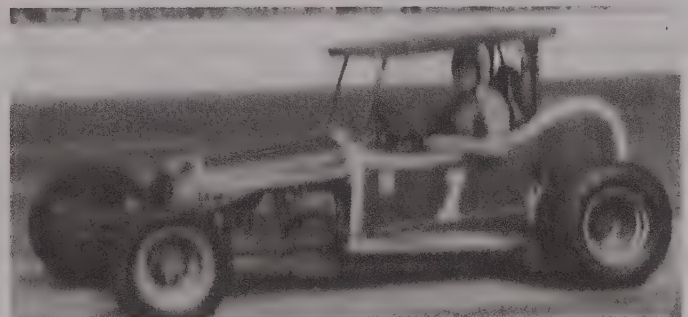
Jim Murphy

Dick Lee Collection



Jack Smith

Dick Lee Collection



Bill Heeney

Dick Lee Collection

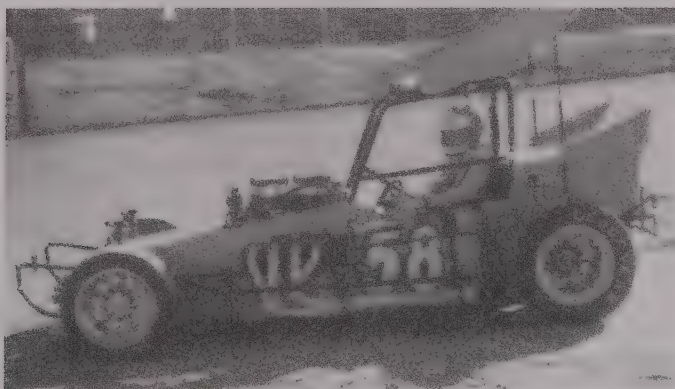
# Berlin Raceway Points 1966

1966 SUPERMODIFIED POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Duane Knoll	42	4	5	3	1	2
2	Eddie VanderLaan	38	3	4	2	1	
3	Johnny Logan	36	1				
4	Art Bennett	29	5				
5	Wayne Root	26	2	4	2	1	
6	Johnny Benson	25	3	4	4		
7	Jack Nichols	23	1				
8	Todd Gibson	22	2		1		
9	Nolan Johncock	16					
10	Jim Eberstein	12					
11	Mort Anderson	11	1	3	2	2	
12	Benny Rapp	11	1				
13	Leon Weiske	11					
14	Norm Rust	9	1	3	2	2	
15	Buddy Stewart	9					
16	Bob Smith	8	1	1	2	1	
17	Jack Smith	8					
	Jackie Lindhout	8					
19	Harold Smith	6	1				
20	Jim Murphy	6					
21	Tom York	5	1				
22	Elver Harrington	5					
23	Cy Fairchild	4		1			
	Tom Pruner	4		1			
25	Curly Moody	4					
26	Rich Senneker	3					
	Daryl Harrison	3					
28	Bob Senneker	2		1		1	
29	Wayne Landon	2					
	Jack TenBrink	2					
	Nick Rowe	2					
	Ken Crampton	2					
	Wayne Harrington	2					
	Larry Gathman	2					
	Jack Ellsworth	2					
36	Norm Wood	1					
	Bob Carnes	1					
	Bob Knight	1					
	Bill Denninger	1					
40	Clare Lawicki	0			1		



# Berlin Raceway — Supermodifieds (Pavement), 1966–1968

1966 SUPER STOCK POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Bob Senneker	69	13	6	7	1	6
2	Ken Sutton	39	2				
3	Glen Tanis	19		1	1		
4	John Boerman	13	1				
5	Jerry Spear	12		1	1		
6	Paul Weisner	10	2				
7	Ron Laban	9					
8	Jim Adema	6		1	1		
9	Gail Cobb	6					
	Ray Lockwood	6					
11	Bob DePauw	5					
	Dick Hurdlebrink	5					
13	Johnny Roberts	4					
	Jim Roberts	4					
	Moose Meyers	4					
16	Terry Schmid	3					
	Bud Meyering	3					
	Joy Fair	3					
	Bob Signor	3					
20	Bill Rake	2					
	Andy Schutt	2					
	Al Peters	2					
	Denny Harris	2					
24	Bob Patrick	1					
	Duane LaCombe	1					
	Don VanderMolen	1					
	Jim Leonard	1					
	Johnny Johns	1					
29	Jim Martin	0		1			



Larry Blasedele

Dick Lee Collection

# Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present

1966 SEMI-LATE POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Bob Senneker	39	3	5	4	2	1
2	Gail Cobb	38	3	2	1		
3	Ken Sutton	22	3		1		
4	Glen Tanis	15					
5	John Boerman	13	1	1			1
6	Jim Adema	11	1				
7	Don VanderMolen	10					
8	Bob Carnes	7	1				1
9	Jerry Spear	7		1	1	1	
10	Dick Dunshee	6					
11	Bill Rake	4					
	Terry Schmid	4					
	Ron Laban	4					
	Bob Hagner	4					
	Moose Meyers	4					
16	Jerry Peloquin	3					
	Jack Goodwin	3					
18	Ed Howe	2					
19	John Bliss	1					
	Dick Hurdlebrink	1					
21	Joy Fair	0		2	1	1	



## Berlin Raceway Media 1967

### VanderLaan Captures Berlin Opener

By Shirley Glass

**April 15, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan captured the opening night super -modified feature of 20-laps. He was followed by Johnny Benson, Ken Crampton, Wayne Landon, Gordon Dukes, Bill Beard, Rich Senneker, Buddy Stewart, Mort Anderson, and Nick Rowe.

Ken Crampton set fast time of the evening with a lap of 17.31 and then took the win in the fast-car dash. Heat winners were Eddie VanderLaan and Mort Anderson. Benson won the pursuit race.

Bob Senneker took the win in the semi-late model stock car feature, followed by Gail Cobb, Bob fellows, and Denny Nyari.

Senneker set fast time at 18.73 and won the fast-car dash and the pursuit race. Heat race winners were Gail Cobb and Jerry VanDyke.

### Eddie Makes It Two In A Row In Thriller

By Shirley Glass

**April 29, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Eddie VanderLaan and up and coming Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids proved to be the toast of the 78 car field in the supermodified and semi-late model stock car racing program Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

A fiercely contested supermodified feature race was climaxed on the ninth lap when race leader Wayne Landon of Hastings and challenger VanderLaan tangled. Landon spun into the infield and VanderLaan was on his way to his second consecutive 20-lap main event victory on the .438 mile Marne oval.

The hectic main event was also halted on the eighth lap when the oil of a blown engine sent Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids, Joe Chanz

of Hastings, and Benny Rapp of Toledo, Ohio out of contention. Jackie Lindhout of Grand Rapids chased VanderLaan across the finish line followed by Norm Rust of Novi and Mort Anderson of Greenville.

The crash filled semi-late model feature, in which the race was halted on two occasions due to a 12-car and a six-car pile-up, saw Bob Senneker duplicate his win of last week. Gail Cobb was second followed by Don VanderMolen, Jerry Spear and Gordy Bissot.

Senneker raced to a clean sweep by winning every event he raced in.

Heat race winners were Glenn Stevens, Senneker, Fran Harden, Gary Fedewa, Benson, VanderLaan, Jim Gresley, Anderson and Butch Fedewa.

### First Win Of Year For Benson At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**May 6, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids forged past race leader Jackie Lindhout of Grand Rapids on the ninth lap and staved off veteran Eddie VanderLaan and a classy 20-car field to win the 20-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

VanderLaan, who won the two previous events this season, was second followed by Lindhout, Johnny Logan of Charlotte, Nolan Johncock of Hastings, Gordon Dukes of Toledo, Ohio and Norm Rust of Novi.

Duane Knoll of Muskegon escaped serious injury when his race car blew an engine and spun off the track after being hit broadside by another race car.

Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids made it 3 consecutive feature wins by finishing ahead of Gail Cobb of Grand Rapids and Bob Patrick of Kalamazoo to win the 20-lap main event for semi-late model stock cars.

Heat race winners were Rocky

Fisher of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids, Mort Anderson of Greenville, VanderLaan, Bob Senneker, Denny Harris of Kalamazoo, Ralph Holcomb of Battle Creek, Bob Sensiba of Middleville and Eddie VanderLaan the fastest of 78 qualifiers with a lap of 17.08. Johnny Benson won the fast-car dash. Pursuit honors went to Bob Senneker and VanderLaan.

### Lindhout Returns To Victory Lane

By Shirley Glass

**May 13, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Jackie Lindhout of Grand Rapids out of the winner's circle for more than a year roared to victory in the accident-marred 20-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Norm Rust of Novi was second followed by Buddy Stewart of Grand Rapids, Art Bennett of Battle Creek, Jim Eberstein of Kalamazoo and Johnny Logan of Charlotte.

The hectic main event was halted on three occasions. Jack Nichols of Sturgis slammed into the concrete retaining wall and his car caught fire. Racing was again halted on the seventh lap when Bill Beard of Portland, Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids, and Logan tangled and blocked the track. Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids brought out the yellow light on the ninth lap when he shot off the race track and into the trees while challenging for the lead with all drivers escaping injury.

Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids returned from the hospital after flipping a supermodified four times during qualifying in time to win the 20-lap main event for semi-late model stock cars.

Pace setter Don VanderMolen tangled with Senneker while challenging for the lead and spun into the concrete retaining wall. He was not injured.

Heat race winners were Jim Weller, Jerry VanDyke, Don VanderMolen, Ivan Wolfe, Dick Stemmler and Jackie Lindhout. Pursuit honors went to Rich and Bob Senneker with fast-car dash events won by Bob Senneker and Benson. Eddie VanderLaan slammed into the concrete retaining wall during the second heat race and did not compete in the supermodified main event.

## VanderLaan Takes Third Feature At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**May 20, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – With over 30 supermodifieds and about 30 semi-lates, Berlin was the spot where the action was Saturday night. The fastest supers were all Grand Rapids boys: Johnny Benson, Eddie VanderLaan, Rich Senneker and Jackie Lindhout. They finished in that order. The fastest stocks were Bob Senneker, Dick Hurdelbrink, Gail Cobb and Bob Fellows.

Senneker won the dash with Cobb and Fellows right on his tail. The first supermodified heat went to Mort Anderson over Eldon Schrader, driving Denny Scheid's #46, and George Neff. Terry Sinke drove head on into the wall – severe damage to car, slight damage to driver. The second heat went to Joe Chance with Norm Rust, Anderson and Johnny Logan trailing. Heat three was VanderLaan's despite efforts of Lindhout and Benson. Heat four went to Schrader. Jim Gresley held off VanderLaan and Benson to take the pursuit. VanderLaan took his third feature with the following behind him: Benson, Lindhout, Anderson and Art Bennett in Jim Eberstein's usual ride #85. Jim was called home mid-race as his wife was about to have a baby!

The semi-late stock heats were: Bob Sensiba, Jim Weller and Jim Rowley, topping the first heat and Senneker, Cobb and Bissett taking the money in the second heat.

Senneker took the pursuit race, Senneker has yet to be beaten in a feature, although Cobb, Gene Eding, Joe Elenbaas and Jim Weller were in there trying. A multi-car pileup had Bob Young and Bissett at either end of Rick Knotts #21, shortening it considerably. Dale Talsma spun to avoid the others and hit the front end of Jim Dyke's new #26. Dyke has been doing a fine job in his first stock ride. Jerry Peloquin also did a roll-over inside the backstretch but escaped injury. First appearances of the season were made by supers #92 with Curly Moody at the wheel and #99 with Chuck Partello driving. The stocks added Bill Rake in the #11, Max Hiscock in the #24 and Talsma in the #99 to their ranks.

Tough luck of the week went to Cy Fairchild who had two rides and two engine failures and no racing. A popular visitor to Berlin Raceway was fatally injured in an Ohio highway crash. Bob Smith, driver of the orange #66 – the Lawless Chevy – died May 6<sup>th</sup> at age 29.

## VanderLaan Beats Benson For Berlin Feature Win

By Shirley Glass

**May 27, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – The fans really got a full evening of racing thrills! The fastest four supermodifieds were Eddie VanderLaan, Jim Eberstein, Johnny Benson and Rich Senneker. In their dash VanderLaan took the checkered flag. Benson beat out Eberstein for second and Senneker spun out in the infield. The stock dash was Bob Senneker's over Jerry Spear, Gail Cobb and Bob Fellows.

The first supermodified heat flag fell to Dick Stemler in Hub Becker's unique #44 – the super with the driver and engine side by side. Curly Moody and Gordy Bissett followed. The first stock heat went to Denny Harris in a new machine. Paul Howell, Dwight Smith and Lyle Erl in the Circle #7, were new faces at Berlin.

Duane Knoll, Bill Beard, Buddy Stewart and Ken Crampton were the leaders in the second supermodified heat. Bob Patrick won a battle with Dale Talsma for the second semi-late stock heat with Ron Laban and Gail Cobb also up front. The third supermodified heat honors went to Jackie Lindhout over VanderLaan and Benson. The third semi-late stock heat found Jim Weller, leading Glen Tanis, Jerry VanDyke and Mel Gillette in the #11 to the checkered flag.

Jack Smith spun going into the first turn in the consolation event for supermodifieds. Dick Stemler had no place to go but over Smith's wheel, then flew over the wall and into a slide that ended with a broken fencepost off turn 1. He was taken to the hospital for a checkup and then released. VanderLaan overtook Nick Rowe to win the pursuit honors.

The semi-late stock pursuit was really wild! Talsma and Patrick were continuing their evening long battle. Trying to go under both of them Bob Senneker found the space narrower than he planned. He spun along the inside hub rail, hit the big tire in front of the platform and really tore up the #84. He escaped injury. Gillett ended up the winner with Patrick second.

The stock consi was Jim Weller's with Harris and Smith behind him. Winning the stock feature—with Senneker out of contention—was the aim of several drivers. Cobb worked up to the lead and kept it. There was plenty of action before the checkered flag dropped. Laban, Fellows and Bob DePauw were next in line.

Eddie VanderLaan took the lead in the supermodified feature in short order. Despite repeated attempts by Benson to pass him VanderLaan won the race for the checkered flag. Benson settled for second. Nick Rowe drove a good steady race for third. Logan, Eberstein and Rust followed.

It was good to see Wayne Root in a supermodified again. Other new faces for this season were Red Parkhouse in a sharp roadster #Mark II, Merl Mulder with a new super #64,



Bob Clover driving the #14, Jim Adema in the #98 and Jim Pierce in the Bingo #151.

The stock roster grew with the addition of the new #74 driven by Leo DeLavern, X-10 with Mike Janosz at the wheel, Bill Collins of Jackson in the #99, Glen Tanis driving #5, Jack Lovett in the #8 Ball, John Boerman in the old faithful #55, Mike Hill in the #1 and Bob Sensiba had a new machine.

## Benson Takes Holiday Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**May 30, 1967 – Berlin raceway** – A field of 83 cars put on some good bang-up action – as good as the fireworks – for a record crowd.

Fastest supermodified of the evening was Jim Eberstein! We have enjoyed watching this fellow improve over this past year and hope his next milestone will be a feature win. Johnny Benson beat Eberstein off the flag in the dash, with Jim Pierce and Eddie VanderLaan behind. Stock dash went to Bob Senneker, as usual, followed by Gail Cobb, Don VanderMolen and Dale Talsma.

Supermodified heat one found Len Guernsey out front of Sonny McHenry and Jim Murphy. Semi-late model heat one went to a new face at Berlin, Jim Fulton in the #129, Leo Havens and Steve Bauer next.

Second supermodified heat money went to Joe Chanz, Art Bennett and Jack Smith. Jim Rowley bested the second semi-late stock heat. Glen Tanis and Ken Sutton tied for second. This was Ken's first appearance of the season. This year's #1 is a pretty deep blue and white machine and it looks like it will become as competitive as the red #1 of 1966.

Nick Rowe beat VanderLaan and Lindhout for third supermodified heat honors. Senneker took the third semi-late stock heat over Bob Patrick and Stan Suski. Semi-late stock heat four had Bob Morgan of Lansing

beating Jim Weller and Duane LaCombe.

The supermodified consy was a triumph for Jim Murphy as he ran away from Mort Anderson and Larry Gathman. The pursuit races went to VanderLaan and Eberstein in the supermodifieds. Senneker got the checkered flag for stocks over a terrific driving job by Bob Patrick and loud protests from the fans. If it's any consolation to Patrick, he was never passed. Senneker was said to be a bumper ahead at the flag.

The supermodified feature was one of those races with something for everyone. VanderLaan took the lead and was sailing along smoothly until Benson caught up to him and staged a real duel. Several groups of cars were battling for better positions. Pierce held off Knoll and Lindhout until his tires wore down and he had to settle for sixth. Benson managed to get past VanderLaan for his second feature win. Jim Eberstein was third.

Senneker is back to his winning ways. Cobb was right behind him most of the way until his car let him down – and out. John Boerman with a smoking tire took second, Bob Fellows and Jerry Spear followed.

Chet Mysliwicz is famous for his fireworks and he lived up to those high standards. The sky-divers would have been red-faced if we had seen them close-up. They missed by a half-mile. In their last showing, one man had his foot on the target and one missed by just a couple of feet. The wind was their undoing.

New supermodified faces: #32 (one of the Harrington's?) Merl Muyser with the beautiful #3 back together after a bottom-side-up flight over the wall and some fences on opening night, #91 Art Braithwaite of Jackson, Paul Baumhauer of Ohio in the #62, South Bend's Casey Jones in #1, Wild Bill Dendinger in #85 and Jim Lovett in #71.

New stock faces: Please excuse the spelling these first couple are beauties! Let's try anyway: #14 Greg Bonchahar, #21 Terry Strothitt, #59 R.A. Long (there that's easier!) #41

Russ Brant, #21 Jim Williams and #30 Melvin Thompkins.

## Veteran Johnny Logan Takes Berlin Win

By Shirley Glass

**June 3, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – The race driver's kind of driver Johnny Logan of Charlotte, caught race leader Mort Anderson of Greenville on the tenth lap and went on to gain a car length victory over Jim Eberstein of Kalamazoo in the 20-lap feature race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids was third followed by Jackie Lindhout of Grand Rapids, and Rich Senneker also of Grand Rapids. Highly regarded Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids, was forced out of contention on the 19th lap due to mechanical difficulties while running in fourth position.

The supermodifieds ran their whole program with only one yellow flag. Sounds peaceful enough but there was plenty of wild shuffling. Johnny Benson was the fastest qualifier, besting Jim Eberstein, Jackie Lindhout, and Johnny Logan driving Pete Webster's very competitive Bingo #151. Joe Chanz was the third fastest qualifier but broke his drive shaft and was done. In the dash, Logan got around Lindhout for third. Lindhout had the brand new Behnke Express Special – owned and built by Rex Olmstead – out for the first time. Color is still red but the number is changed to #66.

The first heat was tightly contested and ended with Rich Senneker, Art Bennett, Norm Rust, Buddy Stewart, and Eldon Schrader snaking past the checkered flag bumper to bumper. Heat two was a hard fought duel with Eddie VanderLaan the victor over Logan and Mort Anderson. Four cars finished the pursuit race: VanderLaan, Logan, Lindhout, and Eberstein.

The feature was the end of a long dry spell for Johnny Logan. He really



made a splash, coming from ninth to take the lead early in the race. He survived challenges from Eberstein, Benson and Lindhout.

Bob Senneker made it six wins in seven attempts by roaring to victory in the 20-lap main event for semi-late model stocks. Senneker was relegated to the rear of the 22 car starting field after spinning out on the sixth lap attempting to avoid an accident that blocked the track.

Heat race winners were Rich Senneker, Mike Janose, Jim Rowley, Bob Morgan, Lyle Earl and VanderLaan. Benson, fastest of 63 qualifiers, won the dash event with pursuit race honors going to VanderLaan and Bob Senneker.

Mike Janose took his first win at Berlin in heat one. Kenny Sutton nearly had him when his engine went sour and he settled for third behind Lyle Earl. The second heat win went to Jim Rowley. Jim Weller and Bob Sensiba also shared in the loot.

Heat three was a wild one with lots of good drivers, good machinery and action. There seemed to be a battle going on for every place. Near the end, Jerry Spear – who's been down on his luck lately – had to be towed back to the pits. The survivors of the fast paced race were Bob Morgan in the Red Baron, Gordy Bissett, Bob Fellows and Jim Dyke. Earl, Janose and Tom VanEns took the money in the consolation feature.

The feature had the crowd paying attention! Senneker tangled with Bob Fellows and spun. Glen Tanis and Bob Patrick spun to miss Senneker and they all got to restart at the rear of the field.

In response to the question of what does MARC Times stand for, M.A.R.C. stands for Michigan Auto Racing Chronicle. Now you know the rest of the story.

"The Little 500" at Anderson Speedway at Anderson, Indiana had a number of Berlin Raceway drivers represented. Cy Fairchild relieved Darl Harrison and captured the checkered flag. Benny Rapp, an Ohio boy who often appears here was fifth. Rocky Fisher was 12<sup>th</sup>, Bob Seelman

was 13<sup>th</sup> and Art Braithwaite was 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Bowsher Wins USAC Late Model Race

By Shirley Glass

**June 9, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – The USAC (United States Auto Club) late model stock cars put on a memorable show with Jack Bowsher running off with the top honors. Bowsher had run into trouble at Soldier's Field in Chicago and didn't finish repairing his '67 Ford until afternoon. He then drove to Marne, arriving last and turned in the fastest qualifying time. Bowsher is no stranger, he ran with John Marcum's super stocks last year. He led a fast 100 laps that did the USAC rookie credit. As of June 5<sup>th</sup>, Bowsher was fourth in the point standings behind leaders Parnelli Jones, Mario Andretti, and Don White. If he can run with names like those, he should be destined to go far.

After Bowsher the fastest qualifiers were Don White in a '67 Charger, Al Unser also in a Charger and J.C. Klotz in a '65 Plymouth. The dash was run inverted and finished with White in the lead, then Klotz, Unser, and Bowsher, just inches apart.

The first heat win went to Unser, followed by Bowsher, Jim Martin, Eddie Meyers, and that familiar face from Wheeler, Johnny Roberts. Heat two was taken by White, Norm Nelson, Klotz, and Tom Jones.

The 100 lap feature was run in two parts with the fastest car on the pole. After 12 laps, Rollie Hinke hit the wall with his Chevelle. Bowsher, White and Unser were running one, two, and three while Bay Darnell had moved in front of Klotz for fourth. After 30 laps Dave Hirschfield's suspension gave out and he went into the infield. Seven laps later Jones spun and was hit by John Martin. The first half ended with Bowsher holding the lead over White, Unser, Darnell, and Klotz.

Seven laps into the second leg,

Roberts spun out. Nelson passed Klotz to take fifth. Don White really dogged Bowsher whenever they were closed up, but Bowsher managed to pull away from him each time. For the last 43 laps, Unser, Darnell and Nelson ran nose-to-tail with each trying all of his tricks to move up. On the very last lap, Darnell got out wide on the backstretch, slid along the wall on turn three and ended with his back end to the wall on turn three to end the three-car fight for third. Bowsher led White, Unser, and Nelson past the finish line to end some really fine racing.

## Spring Championship To Benson

By Shirley Glass

**June 10, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – Rain was threatening again and everyone was trying to get the racing program in ahead of the weather. 33 supermodifieds qualified, including the return of Oscar Faye of South Bend, Indiana, LaVerne Koenes, "Little Dutch", formerly of the sportsman class, Ed Otten, Bill Heeny and Gene Bell. Johnny Benson turned a 16.81 for fast time, the record is 16.70. Jim Eberstein, Eddie VanderLaan and Johnny Logan, in Bingo #151 again were next. The fast-car dash had Benson winning, followed by VanderLaan, Logan and Eberstein.

Thirty-nine stocks were on hand for their Spring Championship with some newcomers: "Dinky" Delton of Belding, Ron Brabbon of Allegan, Al Lewis of Middleville, and Larry Bird. Bob Senneker had fast time, followed by Jerry Spear and Gail Cobb with identical times and Bill Rake. The dash ended in that order.

The first supermodified heat was wild. As I saw it, Ted Otten tangled with George Neff, who spun. Norm Rust appeared to go over a wheel then across Otten's hood and into a violent series of rolls and long bounding end-over-end flips. He was taken to Butterworth Hospital where



he was doing well Sunday morning in intensive care following surgery. His well-built car held up well. Ted Otten's brand new car rolled and was badly bent but Ted was okay. Neff and Koenes went off the backstretch also but were able to restart. Red Parkhouse spun and was nudged off turn one by Bell. He retired to the pits. That left Curly Moody the winner after leading most of the race. Jack Smith, Bell, Neff and Merl Mudler completed the field.

Supermodified heat two went to Joe Chanz with Fay and Rich Senneker sharing the loot. Supermodified heat three saw a tremendous driving job by Benson who set a new track record for eight laps while coming from last to first. Logan and VanderLaan were next in line. In the pursuit, Benson and Logan eliminated lots of cars in short order. Benson got Logan and went after Nick Rowe, the last remaining car. It was no easy task, but Benson got around Rowe for the win.

The supermodified feature was going along fast and smooth with Joe Chanz well into the lead when Dick Stemler spun out on turn one. In bringing out the yellow flag the flagman either accidentally dropped it or a car blew it out of his hand onto the track. Some cars slowed and some did not and confusion resulted in Benson, Eberstein and Cy Fairchild spinning on the backstretch. They restarted at the rear of the field. There was a bit of action a few laps later when Mort Anderson bumped a tire and spun into the infield. The runaway tire caused Bill McClure to roll once. Drivers were fine, cars were out of it.

Meanwhile, Benson displayed his record-breaking form by passing car after car until he caught and passed Chanz with two laps to spare. Following Benson were Chanz, VanderLaan, Eberstein, Logan and Knoll.

The semi-late models, not to be outdone, also put on a dazzling show. In the first heat, Tom VanEns bumped Dwight Smith who rolled onto the wall, took the fence down,

came down on the track and as the dust settled the car's body very slowly tipped up, over and onto the track in front of Smith in his naked roll cage. Weird? You had to have seen it. Anyway, Leo Havens went on to win over Lewis and Jack Lovett. Jim Rowley took the second heat with Lyle Earl and Jim Dyke behind him. Watch that Dyke, fans, after five rides he has shown some real capabilities.

Gail Cobb set a new record in the stock third heat. He was well ahead of Bob Sensiba and Ron Laban. In the consi, Lyle Earl bested Dale Bergakker and Steve Bauer. Then it was intermission and a chance for the fans to unwind. As the cars were lining up for the 50-lap feature the pits suddenly started emptying out the pit-gate and we expected to see the rhubarb of the year when suddenly it dawned on us that he sky had opened up without warning and was dumping buckets of water on the backstretch, the pits and then the exposed fans. End of championship feature for this week, it will be held June 17.

## Two In A Row For Benson At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**June 17, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – The good news from Berlin is that Norm Rust was released from the hospital from last week's crash.

Johnny Benson's fast time retained his pole spot in the supermodified dash. Jim Eberstein was again second. Eddie VanderLaan had third fastest time and Jackie Lindhout was fourth, but Lindhout got around VanderLaan for third place in the dash.

The fastest of the semi-late models was Bob Senneker followed by Bill Rake, Jerry Spear, and Gail Cobb. The dash event was Senneker's with Spear and Cobb next as Rake went wide on the first lap and had to take fourth.

The semi-lates provided some real surprises! The first heat was run

nonstop, although Russ Brant hit the guard rail on the main straight. "Dinky" Delton hit the outside wall in front and Mike Janose spun into the infield between turns three and four. Surviving the action to grab the money were Denny Harris, Terry Schmid (with a brand new #69) and Andy Schutt.

The postponed 50-lap Spring Championship feature was run next. On lap seven, Lyle Earl spun out and Jerry Spear pitted with troubles. The caution flag came out again on lap 13 when a drive shaft was removed from the track. Bill Rake pulled off the track, so I would guess that he owned it. Spear came back out. On lap 18 Glen Tanis hit the wall at the pit gate. After 25 laps the leaders were Senneker, Cobb, Bob Fellows, Don VanderMolen, Bob Sensiba and Jerry VanDyke. On lap 24 Sensiba threw a wheel and there were 12 cars left. On lap 42 Jerry Spear hit the wall in turn four. All through the race Cobb was breathing down Senneker's neck. On lap 49 Senneker and Cobb came up behind a slower car in turn three. One went over and one went under and the wrong choice was made by leader Senneker. Cobb came around first and took the big trophy. Senneker was second ahead of VanderMolen, VanDyke, and Jim Dyke.

The second heat was so full of #1's that it took some concentration: there were three #1's, C-1 (Jim Adema's first stock appearance this year) and 01. Betsy Ross's pride (USA-#1) took the win driven by Tom Mark. The car is red, white and blue with gold stars. Bill Massuch of Lansing was second in #01, Rick Knotts in a new #67 – the "Dog-patch Ford" was third and Jim Rowley was a smashing fourth. He hit the wall just past the finish line.

The third stock heat went to Senneker, then Cobb, VanDyke and Sensiba. Heat four went to Jerry Peloquin with a new car, new number – 3 – and a new color – red. Tom VanEns spun twice. The second time he caught Ron Merkins and spun him. Neither was able to restart.



The regular feature for these boys was barely started when Senneker spun in turn three on lap three. All cars got by him except Knotts. Both cars retired. Gail Cobb got the lead and kept it for his second feature win of the evening. Bob Sensiba gave Cobb some competition. This is another boy who has been improving steadily for over a year and is getting into the money. Jim Dyke was battling Don VanderMolen and Fellows for third when he spun into the infield leaving VanderMolen third and Fellows fourth.

Back to the supermodifieds.... The first heat went to Curly Moody over Bill Beard. The second heat win went to Mort Anderson. Ken Crampton and Jack Smith also shared the loot. Heat three went to Nick Rowe – who was probably trying to get away from the charging mob behind him. It was full of thrills down to the finish. Lindhout took second, VanderLaan was third and Johnny Logan was fourth. Ken Crampton had enough lead built up so that Benson couldn't catch him in the pursuit race.

The supermodified feature was restarted after Duane Knoll spun on turn four on the first lap. Art Bennett spun into the back infield on the fourth lap. Buddy Stewart spun off turn one on lap eight. The following lap, Jack Smith spun on the third turn and Stewart spun to miss him. He didn't succeed and Smith retired to the pits. Bennett spun again into the infield on lap 11. The remaining laps were without caution flags. Crampton led about half way when VanderLaan and then Benson got past him. Benson got by VanderLaan for the lead and onto the checkered flag despite threats by VanderLaan and Crampton who were behind him. Lindhout was fourth and Eberstein fifth.

New faces in the supermodified ranks: Duane Wilson in the #11, Ray Wright of Elkhart, Indiana driving the #56, Dick Filkins driving the #98, Wayne Kline of Three Rivers driving #32, Al Holcomb in the rust brown car with no number and Ron Keebler in the #11 came in too late to qualify.

In our weekly post-race stroll through the pits, Karl (my hubby) and I had a nice chat with Jackie Lindhout. He commented that he was happy with the new Behnke Special. It is fairly free of bugs and is doing well. Lindhout, formerly a midget driver with 16 feature wins to his credit in one season.

### Last Lap Win In USAC Midgets

By Shirley Glass

**June 22, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – The USAC (United States Auto Club) midgets put in their 1st appearance of the season Thursday at Berlin. Some big names were on hand: The Bettenhausen boys, Gary and Merle, Tom Sellberg, Tommy Copp – back to the midgets after recovering from a serious accident, Don Meachum, Bob Wenthe, Mel Kenyon – this year's point leader, and Mike McGreevy midget champion in 1965 and 1966.

The dash went to Wenthe with third fastest time. He slipped into the lead going into the first turn and was never headed. Meachum was second, Chuck Arnold third. He slipped into the lead going into the first turn and was never headed. Meachum was second, Chuck Arnold third and fastest-qualifier Kenyon was fourth. The first heat went to Kenyon, Newt White and Meachum. McGreevy captured the second heat from Les Scott of Livonia, Wenthe, and Jack Skellenger in an offset roadster. Third heat honors went to Arnold in a V6 Buick-powered machine. Gary Byers in a 4-cylinder Chevy II, Gary and Merle Bettenhausen. Meachum took the consi event over John Tenney of Battle Creek, Sellberg and Copp.

The midget pilots put on a display of precision driving preceding the feature. 14 cars followed the pace car single file, doubled up, four abreast and back to doubled up to start racing. Quite a sight! About 12 laps into the feature, Tenney and Merle Bettenhausen spun on the

third turn. Both were able to restart. Tommy Copp had stretched out a nice lead. When the caution flag drew the field up close, Wenthe, Meachum and McGreevy sailed past Copp. Then Kenyon passed Copp and Meachum to join in a hard-fought duel with Wenthe and McGreevy for the lead. Kenyon got out front and stayed there until Wenthe saw the white flag come out. He passed Kenyon in turn one, took the checkered flag and won the trophy. Kenyon settled for second, McGreevy third and Gary Bettenhausen fourth.

The wild scrambling these boys do, it seems incredible that only two caution flags have been thrown in the last three appearances of USAC midgets!

As members of USAC, we receive the USAC News which lists upcoming events and purses to be paid. It showed that Berlin's promoter paid well above average purses to both the USAC stocks and USAC midgets. Even so, it seems hard to induce the cars to haul this far north.

### VanderLaan Takes Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**June 24, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – The last two events for the semi-late models had the crowd on its feet. The pursuit race was rare—five cars spent half the race nose-to-tail, unable to change position, Jim Adema's new car seems to have been built well and he really put his foot in it to stay ahead of the fastest four stocks: Gail Cobb, Bill Rake, Bob Senneker and fastest qualifier Jerry Spear. The fans applauded in delight after this display of racing as its best.

Tom Marks really tore up the pretty USA#1 when he and Jerry Pelquin tangled on the third lap of the feature and headed for the fence in the field off turn one. Spear had built up a comfortable lead when Scott Presley spun on lap 11. The caution flag drew the field up tight. Senneker had to work to nose out Spear on the



last lap after chasing him for nine laps to the checker. Spear deserves a tremendous amount of credit for the performance he turned in. The finish was so close that we were buzzing over the result of the first two positions and neglected to note who followed! Cobb took third.

The supermodified consolation race was definitely won by Eldon Schrader. He worked himself thru the pack and passed leader Len Guernsey. Bob Carnes in the #40 spun out. On the restart, Guernsey was the leader (they always restart as they were running the previous complete lap, for scoring purposes) and Schrader just got around him when Duane Wilson hit the wall. Guernsey regained the lead and Eldon passed him again! No doubt, Schrader was glad to see the checker fluttering in his face. Guernsey, Peloquin and Les Lemmon followed.

The super feature had gone five laps when Jackie Lindhout spun and Gordy Bissett spun to miss him. Both restarted. On lap 13 Jack Nichols and Bill McClure touched and McClure spun into the inside of turn four and was done. The next lap Knoll apparently blew a radiator hose on the #7-11 and tangled with Art Bennett. Bennett, driving "The Stripteaser" #6 was able to continue. One lap later, Les Lemmon spun out. Eddie VanderLaan passed leader Mort Anderson midway and kept the lead to the flag. Anderson was a close second followed by Johnny Benson, Bennett, and Nicholas.

Of the four cars involved in the feature accident last week, only Jim Eberstein was not back and running. His absences are so seldom that it is unusual to race without him.

Four supermodifieds were on hand but never raced due to an accident in warm-ups: Buddy Stewart's #44, Arnie Mortimore's #73, Nick Rowe's #T1 and #Mark II.

New faces: Larry Treece in the stock #47, Dave Salter, and Dave Carey in the Bingo #7. (We tried to get these straight, but hearing the announcer is difficult—especially when cars are running) George Ever-

sole was new to the supers in #151.

Met four fans who have been coming all the way from Saginaw to Berlin. They are: Jerry Goodman, Lin Ruthenbeck, Dale Vincent and Marilyn Tanger. Hope they keep coming.

It was nice to see the M.A.R.F.C. (Michigan Auto Racing Fan Club) members who were guests at Berlin this week. We talked to President Vito LoPiccolo, his wife Barb, and their two daughters after the races. Vito is having a lot of pain with that arm is finding the long road to its recovery discouraging. If you know any good jokes, why not pass them on to him to cheer him up?

## Berlin Feature To Benson

By Shirley Glass

**July 1, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – Defending national champion Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids scored a five-car-length victory over Jimmy Eberstein of Kalamazoo to win the accident-married 40-lap mid-season championship race for supermodifieds Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Jackie Lindhout of Grand Rapids, Bill Beard of Portland and Casey Jones of South Bend, Indiana escaped serious injury after their cars hit the concrete retaining wall on the 35th lap.

Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids caught race leader Tom Marks of Kalamazoo on the 17th lap and went on to win the 20-lap feature for the semi-late model stock cars. Dale Talsma of Grand Rapids caromed off and over the retaining wall but was not seriously injured when his car caught fire.

Heat race winners were Bob Seelman of Lansing, Jim Pierce of Hastings, Dale Hill of Grand Rapids, Dale Bergakker of Holland, Jerry VanDyke, and Bill Rake of Muskegon. Johnny Logan of Charlotte, the fastest of 84 qualifiers, won the supermodified dash.

## Logan Takes Second Feature At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**July 4, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran Johnny Logan of Charlotte picked up his second supermodified feature win of the season. He was followed by Jim Eberstein, Bill Beard, Bill McClure, Eddie VanderLaan and Wayne Root.

Johnny Benson started off the program with a fast qualifying time of 17.12 and followed that with the win in the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Bill Heeney, Jack TenBrink and Jackie Lindhout. The pursuit winner was Rich Senneker.

In the semi-late model stocks it was Bob Senneker setting fast time with a lap of 19.07, then winning the fast-car dash. Heat race winners were Denny Harris, Bob Sensiba, Bob DePauw and Jerry Spear. Pursuit winner was Ron Laban.

The stock feature was won by Bob Senneker followed by Tom Marks, Jerry Spear, Ron Laban and Bill Rake.

## Berlin Feature To Mort Anderson

By Shirley Glass

**July 8, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – The supermodified feature was the scene of the action: on lap one Duane Knoll spun the #44, Bob Seelman in #51, Dick Stemler in #14, Jerry Peloquin in #98, Wayne Root in Mark II, Buddy Stewart, and Gail Cobb all spun and avoided each other. Only Knoll was hauled away. On lap nine, Joe Chanz headed for the pits in a shower of sparks from something dragging. For the next five laps, Johnny Benson challenged leader Eddie VanderLaan wheel to wheel. The duel ended halfway through turn four when Benson's front tire and VanderLaan's back tire touched. VanderLaan swapped ends and slid into the wall nearly head on. VanderLaan—apparently

unconscious—coasted across to the inside of the track in front of the field of cars. Jim Eberstein couldn't miss him. Jackie Lindhout took a wild ride over someone's wheel and stopped halfway down the front shoot. Benson declined a checkup. Lindhout and VanderLaan did go in for checkups. Rich Senneker spent the remaining laps trying unsuccessfully to get around leader Mort Anderson. Bill McClure and Ken Crampton took third and fourth.

In the fourth semi-late heat, the leader (a newcomer whose long name we couldn't make out) was black flagged for running well over his qualifying time. This is a fair ruling, though seldom used. We overheard several remarks approving of this and wishing it was used more frequently in both divisions.

In the second heat of the semi-lates, Scott Presley spun broadside and was hit by Leo DeLavern and Bob DePauw who were out of the race. Andy Schutt also spun, but without mishap. Dale Bergakker copped the win. Palanquin's last second surge gave him second over Jerry Strotheide.

In the fast semi-late heat, Glen Tanis and Terry Senneker Sr. spun into the wall on turn three. Leader Bob Sensiba held off Jerry Spear and Bill Lake until the last lap, then had to settle for third.

The consolation race for the semi-lates was restarted after Strotheide threw a wheel on the first lap and Mike Janose lost it and headed straight for flagman Jimmy Meyer. Jim made the right decision on how to escape and suffered only a sore arm from a spill taken trying to stop short of the car. (Don't think flagman and car touched, but it was too close for comfort!) On the restart, newcomer Ora Rugg and Schutt got together and left the track on turn one. Bill Thurkettle in #31 and Ron Merkins—back in his stock #7 followed. Only Merkins restarted. Another final spurt gave Jim Davis the win over Lyle Earl. Norm Aspinall and Jim Dyke followed them.

The semi-late feature's thrilling

moment was when Peloquin threw a wheel and caught Ron Laban between himself and the wall. Laban's car was seriously damaged. Bob Senneker continued his winning ways followed by Jerry Spear, John Bliss, Terry Schmid and Jim Adema.

## VanderLaan Cops Fifth Berlin Feature Of Year

By Shirley Glass

**July 15, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan took another supermodified feature Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Eddie had to out-drive Mort Anderson, Johnny Benson, Art Bennett and Jack Nichols for the win.

Benson took fast time with a lap of 17.17 in the time trials. Heat race winners were Eldon Schrader, Bill Beard and Mort Anderson. VanderLaan also captured the consolation race.

In the semi-late model stock cars it was Bob Senneker taking the feature win, followed by Jerry Spear and Gail Cobb. Fast time went to Jerry Spear with a lap of 18.89. Andy Schutt, Bob Patrick, Gail Cobb and Fred Britton took the wins in the heat races. Jim Adema won the pursuit race.

## Rich Senneker Wins His First SM Victory

By Shirley Glass

**July 22, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – Even the warm-ups were spectacular: supermodified Len Guernsey hit Don VanderMolen causing both to lose their rear wheels and fuel tanks as they crashed into the wall. The whole fourth turn was engulfed in flames. The drivers escaped unhurt.

The dash for both the supermodifieds and semi-lates were run without change in position. Supermodifieds: Johnny Benson, Jackie Lindhout, Nick Rowe, and Mort

Anderson. Semi-lates: Bob Senneker setting a new track record of 18.68, Jerry Spear, Gail Cobb and Glen Tanis.

A driver of the first semi-late heat was disqualified by the 1/2 second rule (if a driver runs more than a 1/2 second over his qualifying time, he is disqualified). This rule should be appreciated by the drivers and fans alike. It prevents drivers from "sandbagging" (running slow in time trials getting a front position, then flying away with the race) and gives the fans a chance to see honest competition between equal cars. This is not really a new rule. I understand Hartford has been using it for some time. At Kalamazoo last Sunday, the first 3 cars in 2 different heats were disqualified. This should put an end of charges of sandbagging. The heat then went to "Dinky" Dalton, inches over Jim Rowley and then Roger Borst.

On lap four of supermodified heat one, Chuck Partello in a red #72 did a "wheelie" after touching the wheel of a car that had slowed in front of him. He slid off the backstretch with a tie rod apparently broken. On the white flag lap, Duane Wilson got broadside on the track. To miss him Dick Stemler slammed the wall, as did newcomer Jerry Watson in the red and white #44. Both cars were badly damaged. Jerry Peloquin spun, but missed everything. Johnny Logan won his heat. The second heat went to Bill Beard, Logan and Cy Fairchild in the #40 supermodified. The fast heat and the pursuit both went to Jim Eberstein, with Rich Senneker and Benson closely following.

The second heat for semi-lates was won by Bob Sensiba over Lyle Earl and Ron Laban. Ralph Baker showed the fans how he often looked in years past, carrying the checkered flag after the third semi-late heat. Bob Senneker and Bob Patrick were also in the money. Gail Cobb hit the wall, putting his car out for the evening. Jim Rowley won the consolation feature over Bob Carnes new gold #42, Paul Howell, and Al Lewis.

The feature was Rich Senneker's



first supermodified feature win. He had a long string of wins in lesser divisions with his last win on August 7, 1965, I believe. Rich had built a half-lap lead when Gene Bell and Jack Nichols tangled on lap 18. With the field closed up by the yellow flag, Benson was right behind Senneker and was still right there when the checkered flag came out for five white cars in a row. Rich Senneker—the deserving winner, Benson, Eberstein, Ken Crampton, and Logan.

The stock feature went three laps when five or more cars suddenly scattered all over the track. Bob Sensiba, Dale Talsma, John Bliss, and Fred Britton restarted. Jim Adema hit the wall. Jerry Spear worked thru the pack to the lead. Senneker followed and gave chase. Gaining the lead, Senneker spent several laps with Spear just off his rear bumper. On the last lap, Bob, and his brother, Terry Senneker Sr. tangled briefly, sending Terry off the track. Spear grabbed the lead and his first feature win of the year.

More than 80 cars were on hand again, enough for plenty of competition!

Ron Laban had his new machine painted much like the old #87. Tom Marks came in last with the USA-#1 back together but not yet painted. Bill Minch had a new #9 stock out, but got in a tangle and must repair it before painting. Other new stocks: Phil Elliott of Fruitport in #42, E.R. Bud in #38 and Bill Cobb in #254.

## Bob Senneker Takes MARC Times Invite

By Shirley Glass

**July 28, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – The MARC Times Invitational Race for super-stocks gave the fans an opportunity to see lots of new cars and drivers. One driver many looked forward to seeing—Joy Fair—had a breakdown halfway to the track and couldn't make it on time to qualify. Those we did get to see were: Ed Howe of Beaverton #100, Mike Ab-

biehl of South Bend, Indiana #100, Mickey Katlin of Clio #122, Moose Myers of Ft. Wayne, Indiana #0, Bob Kohlmeier of Ft. Wayne, Indiana #82, Bob Meyers of Flint #85, Dave Sorg of Ft. Wayne, Indiana #38, Gene Benn of Elkhart, Indiana #980, Dick Clark of Dowagiac #2211, Fred Robinson of Ft. Wayne, Indiana #5, Roger Edwards of Kalamazoo #30, Bill Jackson of Detroit #08, Tom Wible of Ft. Wayne, Indiana #82, and Dick Dunshee of Kalamazoo #66. A big field of 53 qualified before a capacity crowd.

The dash was inverted for this race. Sorg started on the pole followed by Tom Marks, Bob Senneker and Dunshee,—the last three separated by 1/100 of a second between them. Marks passed Sorg for the win.

The first heat ended with a bang as Andy Schutt tried to pass leader Ora Rugg on the outside going into turn four. Schutt hit the wall but came around to nose out Rugg for the money. Clark hit the wall on lap six of the second heat and was well bent up, but okay. The win went to Jerry Peloquin, Bob Sensiba, Wible, Gene Eding and Abbiehl. Jim Adema took the third heat over Gail Cobb, Terry Schmid and Dale Talsma. The fast heat checkered flag fell to Moose Myers, Howe, Katlin and Bill Rake.

The consolation event went to Adema, Schmid, Denny Nyari and Jim Dyke, putting these cars into the 100-lap feature. On the last lap third place Abbiehl hit the wall in turn three and fourth place Bob Sensiba blew a tire in turn four making for a surprise ending.

Bob Myers took the semi-feature win from Ron Merkins, "Dinky" Dalton and Edwards.

The feature started with 24 cars but hit a snag on the first lap when Howe got broadside on the backstretch and was hit by Bob Fellows who was immediately behind him. Moose Myers went over someone's wheel and flew off the backstretch just missing the end of the third turn wall. It was a wild ride and the car was beat up, driver treated and released. The race was completely re-

started (straight up—fast car on the pole—for this race). Dunshee led the first lap but Senneker took the lead and was the leader of every other lap but the 54th which Marks—running second most of the way—led. About 16 cars were running. Those who followed winner Bob Senneker past the checkered—for you fans who lost track during the long race (and who didn't?) were Dunshee, Don VanderMolen (after having the V5 demolished in warm-ups last week and working all week to get the new V6 ready), Bob Carnes, John Bliss, Glen Tanis, and Marks, who lost six laps in the pits for tires after about 90 laps.

After five MARC Times Invitational wins, Bob Senneker earned the right to keep the beautiful big MARC Times trophy! Congratulations!

## Berlin Feature Taken By Benson

By Shirley Glass

**July 29, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – The semi-late feature began with Dale Talsma dropping out on the first turn and Terry Schmid blowing a tire as he passed the green flag at the back of the pack. Bob Fellows led from the pole position for three laps and blew an engine on turn three scattering cars everywhere. Bill Rake and John Bliss were towed back to the pits. The green flag came out to 14 cars led by Terry Senneker Sr. On lap 18 Dale Bergakker blew a radiator hose and went into the front stretch infield. Glen Tanis spun but restarted. Terry drove to a smooth and steady feature win—his first Berlin win—followed by Jerry Van Dyke, Bob Sensiba, Jim Rowley and Andy Schutt. Gail Cobb's car was out with rear end troubles and Jerry Spear broke a traction bar.

The semi-late dash was started by Spear and Don VanderMolen with matching times, Bill Rake and Schmid. On the second lap, VanderMolen spun and Rake had no place to go but into him. The race then went to Spear over Schmid. Steve Bauer



took the first heat over newcomer Jim Boone, and Leo Havens. Bill Minch, running well up front in the second heat, slammed into the front wall and started a mad scramble for ways to get past. Lots of dents resulted, but no cars were lost except Minch's. Jim Davis also hit the front wall and went across the track to the infield taking Bob DePauw with him. DePauw restarted, but Davis, who had hit the infield tire a terrific rap, was really battered. Driver was okay. Fellows made off with the win ahead of Sensiba and Bliss. Cobb took the third heat followed by Terry Senneker Sr. and Talsma.

The consolation went to Paul Howell, Harvey St John, Boone and Bauer. John Bliss beat out Schmid and VanderMolen in the pursuit.

The supermodified dash was run by Eddie VanderLaan, Nick Rowe and Ken Crampton—all within 3/100 of a second, and Rich Senneker. It ended in the same order. The first heat went to Duane Knoll over Jerry Seelman. Joe Chanz won the pursuit followed by Johnny Benson, Jackie Lindhout, Rich Senneker and Eddie VanderLaan. Benson won the fast heat over Lindhout, Rich Senneker and Bill McClure.

The feature went six laps when Kline spun out passing a slow car. On Lap 17 Jack TenBrink spun into the infield and restarted. Benson had got past Mort Anderson on lap 13 and stayed out front. Eddie VanderLaan put on a last -minute surge to take third and then nearly overshot the track on turn one.

Lindhout took a close fourth then nudged a tire on the inside of turn one and spun out. Johnny Logan was fifth.

## Benson Takes Another Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**August 5, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – It is with great sadness that we learn of the death of Mort Anderson Saturday while practicing for the

World 300 in Mobile, Alabama. Mort had many fans at Berlin having raced here for many years—first in the old stocks and then as one of our top supermodified drivers. The colorful Mort will be missed by drivers and fans alike and we send sincere sympathy to the Anderson family.

Les Lemon, on furlough before a trip which appears to end in Vietnam, took the first supermodified heat from hard-driving Jerry Peloquin and Eldon Schrader. The fast heat for supermodifieds was stopped on the first lap when Jack TenBrink spun coming out of turn three, Johnny Benson and Jackie Lindhout spun, but were able to continue. Bill McClure, and Jim Eberstein,—as well as Ten Brink—were unable to continue. Eberstein hurt his wrist and some ribs in the shuffle. Eddie VanderLaan won the heat over Buddy Stewart in #56 and Jim Pierce in #2.

The fast-car dash was won by Benson—with a qualifying time of: 16.96—VanderLaan, Lindhout and McClure followed. There were no changes of position. Joe Chanz was the third fastest qualifier but did not run the dash due to mechanical troubles.

By the third lap of the feature, Johnny Logan had come from fifth into the lead, despite Pierce's constant challenging, until lap 18 when he dropped out with rear end trouble. Johnny Benson took over the lead to win. VanderLaan followed and Pierce was third.

Fastest qualifier of the more than 40 semi-lates was Jerry Spear with an: 18.80, winning the dash with Bob Senneker second and Don VanderMolen following. This was truly a fast dash—one lap was run 3/100 of a second faster than the one lap track record!

The pursuit also set a new record, with the win going to Bob Senneker, a hair's breadth over Dale Talsma and Spear. The semi-late feature was restarted on lap three after Jim Rowley and Scott Presley tangled and restarted. On lap seven, three cars tried to squeeze into the space of two, spinning out Bob Carnes. There

was a mad scramble and several cars spun, but all cars got going again. Seven laps later, leader Spear came out of the fourth turn and met two slower cars. As he tried to pass on the outside one car drifted high, forcing Spear into the front wall. Senneker was the leader when the green came with five laps to go. Bob Patrick made a valiant attempt to challenge the leader after an excellent job of driving that kept him out in front the first half of the race. He was second, Marks was third and Talsma fourth. Bob Carnes fifth.

New faces in the pits: Clair Lawicki in the #50 supermodified came up from the Detroit area (this guy has TWO "Little 500" wins to his credit) and Morris Holloway of Moline in supermodified #98. Joe Lemmon and Lee Johnson brought a new stock #67 in from the Lansing area. Joe's the driver. Bill Lauer in the #173, Ray Hall in the #08, and Larry Knowlton in the unpainted #80 were also new to the stock ranks.

Jerry Rose has rebuilt the red #12 supermodified that was demolished on the Fourth of July. It looks the same and will carry #2 from here on out.

## Benson Captures Eighth Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**August 12, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – The Michigan State Championship for semi-late model stocks went to Dick Dunshee. With the fastest qualifier on the pole, Dunshee with the fast time took the lead and was never headed. But he was not without competition. For the first 16 laps, Tom Marks, Ed Howe and Jim Adema followed him only inches apart. Ed Howe took over second and Tom Marks never quit trying to regain it. It was an exciting race to watch with Dunshee, Howe and Marks flying around that track for the last 30 laps very close together. Those boys really put on a show! Bob Hegner spun out on lap 18. On lap



30 Ron Laban spun out on turn one and coasted from the middle of the track toward the inside. Dale Fogle a newcomer to Berlin in the convertible #31 tried to go under Laban but the two hit as Laban coasted inward. Both were finished. When the green flag came out the order in which they were running was as follows: Dunshee, Howe, Marks and Jim Adema being challenged by Don VanderMolen and Dale Talsma. They ran the 11 laps to the checkered flag without anyone able to change position. Dunshee won the \$500 and the trophy. He said the race was "hard all the way."

Johnny Benson, Joe Chanz, Ed-die VanderLaan, and Johnny Logan were the fastest four qualifiers in the supermodifieds. In the dash while the others were fighting to hold or improve their positions, Benson built up quite a lead running a couple laps close to the track record. VanderLaan got around Chanz for second.

The feature had gone five laps when Jerry Peloquin (who has been doing a fine job in the supermodifieds) apparently broke a tie rod when he hit a tire and spun. Benson made it look simple as he worked his way through the pack and into the lead for the feature win. He was followed by Jim Gresley, Jackie Lindhout, VanderLaan and Art Bennett in the #2, Logan and Chanz.

In the second semi-late heat Harvey St. John spun on lap three and hit a tire, tossing it into the path of Bob DePauw who hit it and rolled over and into the wall, losing his front wheel. On the restart, Andy Schutt got crossed up and Rick Knotts, Jim Rowley and Dale Bergakker tangled trying to miss Schutt. Rowley, Bergakker and Knotts were out of the race. Coming out of turn four on the last lap, Dick Aspinal in fourth place spun. Steve Bauer hit Aspinal, but came on through to take second to Jerry Riddle, an old timer at Berlin who last drove on the dirt track here. Leo DeLavern was third. Four cars lost wheels in this race!

On lap two of the third semi-late heat, Fred Britton lost it at the end of

the backstretch and hit a tire. Terry Schmid hit the tire and lost one of his own. On the last lap Bob Patrick blew an engine and hit the wall. Several cars had troubles getting thru the oil and Paul Howell slid into Patrick. Gene Eding won over John Bliss and Glen Tanis.

Eight laps into the fourth heat Dale Talsma, Bill Rake, Howe, VanderMolen and Adema tangled on turn three. Rake hit the wall and was done for the night. Howe hit Rake and was done for this race. Gail Cobb built up a big lead and took the win over Fogle, Marks and Dunshee.

On the second lap of the semi-feature, Schutt bounced off the wall and hit St. John who took a wild ride along the front wall. Someone blew an engine at the same time and Danny Clelland, a newcomer, spun into the infield. Leader Aspinal blew an engine on lap eight. Knotts in second slowed down with Aspinal, giving the lead to Schutt. Knotts kept his second and Al Hagen was third.

## Supermodified State Championship Rained Out

By Shirley Glass

**August 26, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – For those of us who would rather race or watch races than eat or sleep, these last couple of weeks have been frustrating, to say the least! And with the racing season coming ever closer to the inevitable end, two weeks without a race at Berlin are hard to take.

August 19th the racing was rained out before a light rain fell—then a harder rain—then before we ever got out of the gate the skies opened and we knew that Chet Mysliwiec had made the right decision in calling the races off. It was too bad, nonetheless, since a big field of top cars was on hand. More than 20 had timed in and we saw nearly that many more in the pits. Baldy Baker was here from Ohio and we hope he will return next week for the postponed Michigan

State Championship for supermodifieds. Johnny Benson had turned in a 16:89 for the fastest qualifier.

A.J. Houser's "Strip Teaser" was on hand with Joe Chanz at the wheel. This must have represented a Herculean effort on the part of the crew after Art Bennett flipped the car over a wall, as pictured in last week's MARC Times, and nearly demolished it.

Bob Crowley made his 1967 Berlin debut with a red #55. Old Faithful #98 was sporting a pretty new red paint job.

Out of 24 race nights so far this season we have only lost these two and the second program of the year to rain. I guess that isn't too bad.

## Benson Has Clean Sweep At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**September 2, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – The Michigan State Championship for supermodifieds was won by Johnny Benson "The White Tornado" who led from pole position thru both 35-lap halves to the checkered flag. Shirley Carter presented him with the trophy.

The championship race went 13 laps when the #7-11 spun on turn two and restarted. On lap 24 Nolan Johncock driving the #6 "Strip Teaser" hit the wall on turn four and rolled onto the track. Rich Senneker had no place to go but nearly got stopped before bumping Johncock. Senneker spent the rest of the leg in the pits and Johncock restarted. At the end of the first half the leaders were: Benson, Eddie VanderLaan, Jackie Lindhout, Harold Smith of Dayton, Ohio in his first appearance this year, Duane Knoll, and Ken Crampton.

The second leg went quickly and smoothly for 25 laps, then Wayne Root, who had moved up well and was running sixth came out of turn four, seemed to have mechanical trouble and hit the inside guard rail hard. He wasn't hurt, but the car was. One lap after the restart, there



was a multi-car scramble on turn one involving Merle Mulder, Harry Chapman (a newcomer driving the #58), Don VanderMolen (his first supermodified ride?) in the yellow #7, and Lindhout who was challenging for second when the track became blocked and he left it to miss the other cars. Starting at the rear Lindhout went two laps and broke a radius rod, taking the front axle out from under his car inside turn three. The race was not halted. The checkered flag dropped to Benson, VanderLaan, Knoll, Smith, Nick Rowe, and Johncock.

The only other supermodified race was the consolation event, which went to Rowe, driving the roadster #20 (formerly #14). Bob Seelman was second and Buddy Steward was third.

At least 40 supermodifieds were in the pits but troubles plagued several of them.

We had a big field of semi-lates—over 40. Don VanderMolen had hot time—just .008 off the record. Jim Adema was second, also in the 18 second bracket, but broke a crankshaft after the dash. Gail Cobb and Randy Sweet competed in the fast-car dash which finished: Cobb, Adema, VanderMolen and Sweet. Tom Marks also qualified well then broke a piston and was unable to race.

Heat one was won by Ralph Lawrence ahead of George Neff—formerly of supermodifieds in the new #1, and Al Hagen. Jerry VanDyke took the second semi-late heat from Paul Howell and Bob DePauw. Midway thru the fast heat, Jim Dyke the leader, and Cobb, trying for the lead, tangled, spinning Dyke out. Cars scattered all over the track but all were able to continue. Cobb took the lead and went on to win over Bob Senneker and Glen Tanis in their heat race. Smoking Randy Sweet took the pursuit over Don VanderMolen. Dyke was third place finisher.

Andy Schutt won the consolation event in his new car. "Dinky" Dalton and Paul Howell also finished in the money.

Senneker solved whatever problem had slowed him down earlier and took the feature win. Gail Cobb was second and Jerry Spear third.

Other than those already mentioned the newcomers were: Norm Gardner in super #76 and Gary Rauser in stock #5.

## VanderLaan Wins Controversial Feature

By Shirley Glass

**September 4, 1967 — Berlin Raceway** — The big Labor Day show had lots of excitement: the racing, of course, Chet's famous fireworks, and Gordy Johncock and his Indy car on hand. Gordy's comment on being here was "Kind of makes me wish I was back here running with them."

The fast-car dash in both divisions ended with three cars running. Johnny Benson was first with by far the fastest time. Wayne Root was second fastest. Rich Senneker and Ken Crampton completed the dash lineup. Benson, Senneker and Crampton finished in that order. Root spun and retired to the pits.

Bob Senneker, Don VanderMolen, Randy Sweet and Dale Talsma were the fastest four semi-lates. VanderMolen spun and Sweet couldn't miss him. Sweet was towed back to the pits, leaving Senneker, Talsma and VanderMolen to finish the dash.

In the semi-lates the second heat began with a four car pileup on turn three. Jim Rowley, Bob DePauw and "Dinky" Dalton were retired. Bill Thurkettle was able to restart. Jim Dyke took the win over John Bliss and Thurkettle. The fast heat was nearly two seconds faster than usual, with Tom Marks setting a new record. He was trailed by several cars that were also making pretty good time. Gail Cobb was second, Bob Fellows third, then Jerry Van Dyke, Talsma, Jim Adema and Senneker.

Just after the green came out in the consolation race, Greg Ponchahar hit Roger Borst in the side and they

locked and left the track. Both were done for the night. A few laps later, Bill Lauer—a newcomer—slammed the front wall head on. Luckily, he was not hurt. The win went to Rick Knotts; Jerry Spear was second and Gary Russler third.

Tom Marks had the feature locked up when the caution flag came out on lap 22 for a spin out. With the field drawn up tight again, Marks had to hold off Senneker for three laps before the checkered flag dropped. Cobb and Adema were third and fourth. In the first supermodified heat, Merle Mulder, Leon Dunn and Ron Merkins tangled on the white flag lap. The win went to Arnie Mortimer, Duane Wilson and Jimmy Murphy.

The supermodified feature aroused some controversy concerning the rule covering the repair of cars during red flag delays. On the 13th lap, the race leaders were Benson, Eddie VanderLaan, and Jim Gresley. Jerry Peloquin spun in front of Buddy Stewart on turn four. Jack Nichols hit Stewart and then was hit hard by two other cars. Others in the nine car tangle were Cy Fairchild, Curly Moody, Don VanderMolen, Larry Gathman, Crampton and Bob Goorhouse. VanderMolen and Moody restarted as did Crampton after some repairs. Leader Benson and also Jackie Lindhout also did something on their cars. On the restart Crampton went to the rear of the field in accordance with the rule which penalizes drivers who work on their cars under red flags. Benson and Lindhout who had taken up their original positions were told to fall in at the rear, but elected to drop out of the race. Moody and VanderMolen later dropped out of the race which ended with VanderLaan the winner followed by Knoll, Johnny Logan, Nolan Johncock and Gresley. On the management's side of the controversy it must be said that the rule is the fair method of insuring each driver of equal opportunity. On the driver's side there seems to be no objection to the rule as long as it is applied to all drivers at all times. Perhaps a posted



set of ruled or distribution of printed rules to all drivers would help.

Newcomer Jerry Watson did a good job of handling the latest of Hub Becker's unique race cars. This #44 is an offset roadster with a 333 Chrysler power plant.

## Another Clean Sweep For Benson

By Shirley Glass

**September 9, 1967 — Berlin Raceway** — The Season Championship for semi-lates was about the most competitive racing we have seen all year. It was a real fight to the finish! The race was restarted when Gail Cobb and Jerry Spear tangled on the first lap putting Spear out of the race. On Lap 35 Denny Nyari, the Hoosier Hotshot, blew an engine and hit the wall. He had been running fourth. On lap 55 John Bliss hit the wall. Jerry VanDyke lost a wheel on the caution flag. At the restart, Tom Marks picked off the lapped cars between himself and leader Bob Senneker in short order and took up a position just off Senneker's bumper. On lap 71 Marks captured the lead and Senneker followed by inches. On lap 90 coming up on slower cars Senneker got a break and grabbed the lead again. The nose-to-tail battle continued. Marks and Senneker came out of turn four together and Marks won the drag for the checkered flag. These two put on a tremendous show!

The pursuit for semi-lates was also wild. On the third lap cars were coming out of turn four three abreast. Jim Dyke was high and touched the wall. In trying to hold his car off the wall, he moved over a hair and made contact with Spear, who in turn caught Randy Sweet. Randy slammed the wall and tore up the car. Tough luck for a guy that has been doing very well with the new car. He was the second fastest qualifier of the night. Spear's car was damaged but he hastened to repair and made the feature, where he

suffered more trouble. Speaking of tough luck, Jerry's had more than his share. His many fans are hoping this fine sportsman has greatly improved luck and fast. Dyke was also ready to run the feature, but by the end of it he had a transmission to replace. Marks beat out Senneker for the pursuit win.

Amazingly good luck, on the other hand, was riding with Johnny Benson In the supermodified feature on lap five things happened so fast coming out of turn three, that they are hard to describe. Apparently someone got crossed up to start the melee. Curly Moody slid into the wall and thru the fence and out into the field in back of the third turn in flames! When help got to Moody, he was out using his fire extinguisher! Incredible...The only unbent part of the car seemed to be the roll cage. A lot of credit is due the builders for making a car which can survive a terrific crash and keep the driver safe. Benson worked himself up to the lead and held on for the feature win.

Berlin Raceway is the home track for some excellent competitors. Some of our boys were in New Bremen, Ohio, qualifying for the big race Saturday afternoon and broke the track record a few times and got back to race here at night. Ambitious? Duane Knoll broke the record in the #92. Jackie Lindhout broke Knoll's. Knoll went out and did the same, as I hear it. Then Benson went out and really fractured it. Benson came back and took the feature followed by Knoll in the # 7-11.

## Lindhout Captures Supermodified Main

By Shirley Glass

**September 16, 1967 — Berlin Raceway** — The weather was great and the field of cars was excellent: 33 supermodifieds and 40 semi-lates. However, there were some sad faces at Berlin as the fans learned that the season has come to a close for the supermodified division. One pleas-

ant note: Eddie VanderLaan's car is back in running shape. Quite a feat! He put in a few practice laps, but came too late to qualify and couldn't race. One "really big show" remains for supers this season. Watch for the results of the Oswego International Classic, they should include several Berlin regulars, also October 1st, at Illiana Speedway.

The semi-lates will run a solo program next Saturday night. A Michigan State Invitational with a 75-lap feature.

During warm-ups five cars were involved in a tangle. Bob Goorhouse was treated for a fracture of a small bone in his right arm. Duane Knoll, Nick Rowe, and Bob Fellows came out of it okay, but Senneker's car was damaged in the rear. It was repaired in time to qualify.

The supermodifieds ran thru their races smoothly until the feature. On lap ten Johnny Benson spun and Ken Crampton spun to miss him hitting the wall. Benson restarted. Casey Jones blew an engine, caught fire and hit the wall on lap 17. Benson hit the wall to miss Jones and bent up the frame under the #21. Jack Smith spun and restarted. Eldon Schrader had the night's tough luck. After doing a terrific job out in front of our fastest machinery, a pickup truck pulled into his path on its way to aid Jones. Schrader slammed on his brakes and sheared off a spline in the in-out box and was done. Jackie Lindhout worked up into the lead and held off Jim Eberstein, Jim Gresley, Johnny Logan, Bob Seelman and Nolan Johncock (last two so close that either could be the fifth-place finisher.)

The first semi-late heat was halted on the third lap when Greg Ponchahar spun into the back infield. On the next lap Ed Senecal nudged Tom Carl, who spun out. One lap later Senecal spun on turn one, as did Fred Britton. On the restart, Senecal did a replay and retired. Someone had spilled oil all over the track and the safety crew applied "soak-up" to most of the track. Surviving the troubles were Terry Senneker Sr.,



Rick Knotts, Britton and Max Maxim, making his second appearance in the red convertible #48.

The real battle was waged in the third semi-late heat. The win went to Jerry VanDyke followed inches apart by Gail Cobb, Don VanderMolen, and Jerry Spear or Jim Adema for fourth (too close to call it). There was terrific competition all the way.

The semi-late feature went three laps when Gordy Bissett spun. Fellows hit Bissett and then Scott Presley spun, and slammed into Fellows. Drivers okay, cars not so. Bob Senneker dumped an engine and slid into the wall midway thru the race. Denny Nyari hit the wall to miss Bob and lost a wheel. (Nyari is a fine competitor, but his luck hasn't been too hot at Berlin. Hope he keeps trying.) On the restart, VanderMolen, Spear and Tom Marks were the leaders. The race ended in the same order. VanderMolen was pretty happy about his first feature win of the season.

Odds and ends: Bill Lauer had a new green #4 semi-late out, Dick Butler made his first Berlin appearance in the #427 stock, Buck Jones drove a stock #4 which we hadn't seen before and Dave Weiland drove the #11 stock which he and Russ Feringa have put together. Buck Havens drove the yellow #71 supermodified don't think either have been out earlier. Anyone looking for a good supermodified? Rich Senneker's Weller Auto Parts car #57 is for sale.

It's been a good year a fairly safe year for supermodifieds. Now for a little rest before they start rebuilding and improving for next year.

### Berlin Interesting Facts

By Shirley Glass

**September 23, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – One more week before the blues set in, fans. Berlin's stock program was postponed to next Saturday Night.

It was interesting to me, to look into the number of cars and drivers

Berlin has had this season. I'll share what I learned with you.

My record of the supermodifieds shows 100 different drivers of 82 different cars. Did you ever imagine there were so many? The most versatile driver was Cy Fairchild, who piloted six different supermodifieds, and one semi-late this season. Jim Pierce and Duane Knoll also were in six cars. The number two was on the most cars—the numbers under ten were the most popular. The drivers names started with every letter but Q, U, X, Y & Z with names starting with S being the most popular—13 of them. Can you name them?

My records may not be exact, but they are close. The only serious injury was Norm Rust's ten days in the hospital. Five other drivers received treatment and four went in for check-ups and were okay. There were 22 race programs for the supermodifieds.

Of the 23 programs run so far for semi-lates, there were 169 drivers of 163 cars! Nearly all drivers drove only one car, a few drove two. It seems incredible, but the only injury I recall was Moose Myers for treatment of his eye. Bob Senneker was checked over, but that was involving a supermodified flip. The most popular car number was #11 (Seven of them) followed by #1 (five of them). Multiples of the same number was used 20 times (like 11, 22 or 777). Driver's last names begin with every letter but I, U, X, Y & Z. Can you name 22 drivers with the last name starting with S? This should give you something to do during the snowy months!

In last week's "Down the Shoot" column, Lefty wrote a fine tribute to one of Berlin's stock pilots. We couldn't agree more that Don VanderMolen is truly a credit to this sport.

With only one more deadline to meet (and that column will be filled with stock action, hopefully), I would like to thank Dick Beebe for giving me this opportunity and a few others who helped keep the facts straight: Rose and Chet Mysliwiec, Don and Margie Sollenberger (the scorers)

and Mrs. Larry Fuller; Wally Knaap, Joe Lukso and Elton Phillips; Marv Gillette and, of course, all of you who apparently didn't complain to the boss too much, since the column wasn't scrapped! Thanx! And Most of all to the silent half of this pair, without Karl's help, we wouldn't have made the first deadline!

We both have enjoyed our weekly racing experiences and sharing them with you. If we don't see you over the winter, we wish you a good one. Try to take in a MARC Times get-together—in fact, why not join?? Hope to see you one more Saturday night from Berlin's Bleachers.

### Senneker Closes Out The Season With A Win

By Shirley Glass

**September 30, 1967 – Berlin Raceway** – The season closed with a 75-lap feature for semi-late model cars and convertibles. Jerry Spear smashed the track record, lowering it from 18:68 to 18:59! He led the feature for 20 laps. Bob Senneker took the lead from laps 21-29 when Spear grabbed it back. On lap 35, Senneker regained the lead and six laps later, Spear took it back followed by Tom Marks. On lap 50, Marks blew an engine. The race was taking its toll. Senneker was having tire trouble. Spear was driving a beautiful race—on his way to breaking another record—when a wheel broke. After 70 laps, he took the car off turn two and was done. Another frustrating experience—they've dogged him all year. Maybe next year...

Gail Cobb, also right up there, dropped out and the fans, as well as some drivers, were wondering who was leading the race. The checkered flag came out to a happy Bob Senneker. Bob Fellows put on a terrific show driving the #74 to 2nd place. Don VanderMolen, Jerry VanDyke and Bob Sensiba were scored next. 75-laps non-stop is a long race!

This may be Bob Senneker's last



semi-late race at Berlin. His #84 was put up for sale. In talking to him after the race, we learned that he has a stock car “in pieces on the garage floor” that will be put together this winter to take him into racing with U.S.A.C. (United States Auto Club) next season. Bob says it’s “a different type of racing”. It’s also a big step and we wish him well.

The dash was won by Vander-Molen over Spear, Bob Senneker and Marks. In the first heat, Ron Merkins tangled with Greg Ponchahar and hit the wall. Both were out of the race. Paul Howell was the winner, beating Rich Butler and Leo Havens. Bob Sensiba won the second heat over Jim Weller and Bob DePauw. Bill Thurkettle, really moving, took the fast heat win, followed by VanDyke, Bob Senneker, Marks and Jim Dyke. The fourth heat was an unusual

“dead heat” between Bob Young and Howell. Havens was third, blowing an engine after taking the checkered flag. Mechanical troubles hit Dyke coming down for the starting flag in the pursuit. Terry Senneker Sr. led from the pole to the win. Brother Bob almost got him at the flag. Marks and Spear followed him.

Thirty-seven cars braved the cold for the season finale. John Anderson brought a sharp red Chevelle #13 in from Detroit, but it developed troubles in warm-ups. Paul Yooker made his Berlin debut in his pretty yellow #411. LaCombe brought out a new #94. Rich Senneker drove the yellow #44.

The top 20 stock drivers in the point standings were honored and given cash and beautiful trophies. Tom Marks was named “Rookie-of-the-Year”—he certainly earned the

honor. Another rookie who did a fine job was Jim Dyke. The wildest ride of the evening was taken by Bill Minch. He was having handling troubles in qualifying. On the second lap he hit the wall and slid towards the cars headed for the cars in line to time in. Fortunately, he stopped short of them.

Berlin now has continued the outer wall past the new first turn bleachers about 65 feet along the outer edge of the turn. (And no one tried to find out how sturdy it was—surprise!)

Can’t put it off any longer, the final deadline is fast approaching and we must bid you farewell for this racing season. Goodbye and God Bless. We’ll see you in April, from Berlin’s Bleachers.

## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1967

### Supermodifieds – Semi-Lates

**April 15, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ken Crampton 17.31

Dash winner: Ken Crampton

Heat winners: Eddie VanderLaan, Mort Anderson

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Johnny Benson (3) Ken Crampton (4) Wayne Landon (5) Gordon Dukes (6) Bill Beard (7) Rich Senneker (8) Buddy Stewart (9) Mort Anderson (10) Nick Rowe

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates**

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 18.73

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Gail Cobb, Jerry VanDyke

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Gail Cobb (3) Bob Fellows (4) Denny Nyari

**April 29, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Heat winners: Johnny Benson, Eddie VanderLaan, Jim Gresley, Mort Anderson

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Jackie Lindhout (3) Norm Rust (4) Mort Anderson

**Eddie VanderLaan – Clean Sweep Award**



Bob Senneker

Dick Lee Collection

**20 laps .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates**

Heat winners: Bob Senneker, Glen Stevens, Fran Harden, Gary Fedewa, Butch Fedewa

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Gail Cobb (3) Don VanderMolen (4) Jerry Spear (5) Gordy Bissot

**Bob Senneker – Clean Sweep Award**

**May 6, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan 17.08

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Rocky Fisher, Rich Senneker, Mort Anderson, Eddie VanderLaan

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Jackie Lindhout (4) Johnny Logan (5) Nolan Johncock (6) Gordon Dukes (7) Norm Rust

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates**

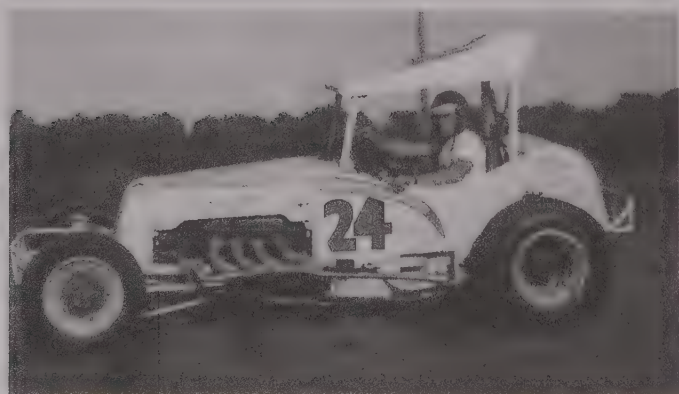
Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 18.79

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Denny Harris, Ralph Holcomb, Bob Sensiba, Bob Patrick

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Gail Cobb (3) Bob Patrick



Bill Denniger

Dick Lee Collection





Clare Lawicki

Dick Lee Collection

---

### May 13, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 paved

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winner: Jackie Lindhout

Pursuit winner: Rich Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Jackie Lindhout (2) Norm Rust (3) Buddy Stewart (4) Art Bennett (5) Jim Eberstein (6) Johnny Logan

### 20 laps, .438 paved – Semi-Lates

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Jim Weller, Jerry VanDyke, Don VanderMolen,

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker

---

### May 20, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 16.98

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Joe Chance, Eldon Schrader, Eddie VanderLaan, Mort Anderson

Pursuit winner: Jim Gresley

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Johnny Benson (3) Jackie Lindhout (4) Art Bennett (5) Mort Anderson (6) Nick Rowe

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker – no time given

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winner: Bob Sensiba, Bob Senneker

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker

**Bob Senneker – Clean Sleep Award**

---

### May 27, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan – no time given

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Dick Stemler, Duane Knoll, Jackie Lindhout, Gordy Bissot

Pursuit Winner: Eddie VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Johnny Benson (3) Nick Rowe (4) Johnny Logan (5) Jim Eberstein (6) Norm Rust

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 18.97

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Denny Harris, Bob Patrick, Jim Weller

Pursuit winner: Mel Gillette

**Feature:** (1) Gail Cobb (2) Ron Laban (3) Bob Fellows (4) Bob DePauw

---

### May 30, 1967 – Tuesday – Supermodifieds

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Jim Eberstein – no time given

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Nick Rowe, Joe Chance, Len Gernsey

Pursuit winners: Eddie VanderLaan, Jim Eberstein

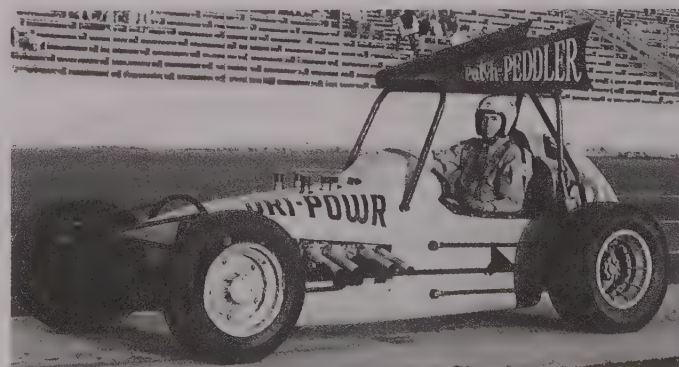
Consolation winner: Jim Murphy

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Jim Eberstein (4) Jackie Lindhout (5) Duane Knoll (6) Bill McClure

### 30 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

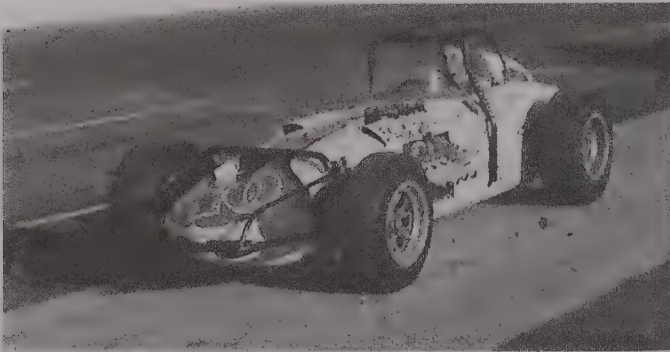
Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Bob Senneker, Bob Morgan, Jim Rowley, Jim Fulton



Curly Moody

Dick Lee Collection



Cy Fairchild

Dick Lee Collection

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) John Boerman (3) Bob Fellows (4) Jerry Spear

**Bob Senneker – Clean Sweep Award**

---

### June 3, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.17

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Rich Senneker, Eddie VanderLaan

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Logan (2) Jim Eberstein (3) Johnny Benson (4) Jackie Lindhout (5) Mort Anderson (6) Rich Senneker

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 19.00

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Mike Janose, Jim Rowley, Bob Morgan, Lyle Earl

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Bob Fellows (3) Ron Laban (4) Bob Sensiba (5) Bob Morgan (6) Jim Rowley

---

### June 9, 1967 – Friday – USAC (United States Auto Club) – New Stock Cars

100 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Jack Bowsher – no time furnished

Dash winner: Don White

Heat winners: Al Unser Sr., Don White

**1st 50 lap Feature:** (1) Jack Bowsher (2) Al Unser Sr. (3) Bay Darnell (4) J.C. Klotz

**2nd 50 lap Feature:** (1) Jack Bowsher (2) Don White (3) Al Unser Sr. (4) Norm Nelson

### June 10, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 16.81

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Curly Moody, Joe Chance, Johnny Benson

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Nolan Johncock (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Jim Eberstein (5) Johnny Logan (6) Duane Knoll

### Johnny Benson – Clean Sweep Award

### 50 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

#### Spring Championship

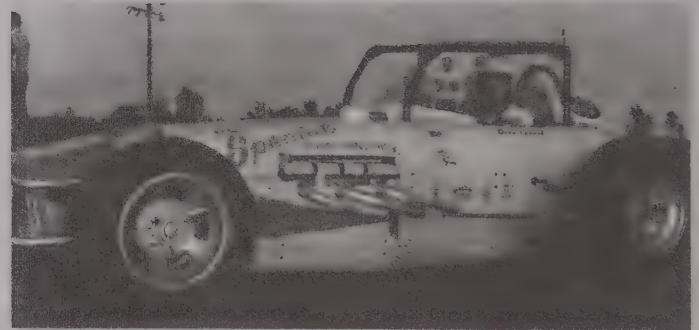
Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 19.02

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Leo Havens, Jim Rowley, Gail Cobb, Lyle Earl

**Feature\*:** (1) Gail Cobb (2) Bob Senneker (3) Don VanderMolen (4) Jerry Vandyke (5) Jim Dyke

\*Run June 17, 1967



Dick Good

Dick Lee Collection

---

### June 17, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.08

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Curly Moody, Mort Anderson, Nick Rowe

Pursuit winner: Ken Crampton

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Ken Crampton (4) Jackie Lindhout (5) Jim Eberstein (6) Johnny Logan



**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates**

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker – no time given

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Tom Marks, Bob Senneker, Jerry Peloquin, Denny Harris

**Feature:** (1) Gail Cobb (2) Bob Sensiba (3) Don VanderMolen (4) Bob Fellows

---

**June 22, 1967 – Thursday – USAC (United States Auto Club) – Midgets**

50 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Mel Kenyon 17.85

Dash winner: Bob Wentz

Heat winners: Mel Kenyon, Chuck Arnold, Don Meachum

Semi winner: Jack Skellenger

**Feature:** (1) Bob Wentz (2) Mel Kenyon (3) Mike McGreevy (4) Gary Bettenhausen (5) Chuck Arnold (6) Don Meechan (7) Norm Ficht (8) Tom Bigelow (9) Tommy Copp

---

**June 24, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Consi winner: Eldon Schrader

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Mort Anderson (3) Johnny Benson (4) Art Bennett (5) Jack Nichols

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates**

Fast qualifier: Jerry Spear – no time given

Pursuit winner: Jim Adema

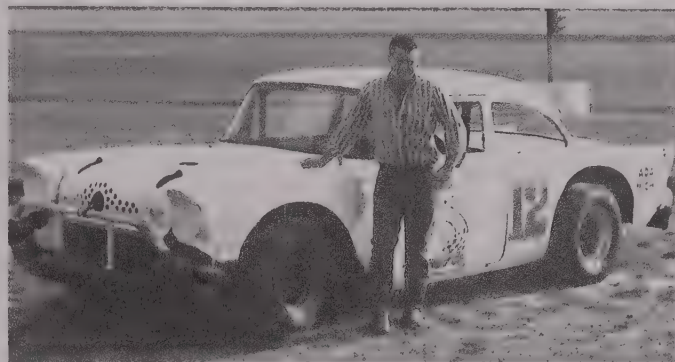
**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Jerry Spear (3) Gail Cobb

---



Don Champlin

Dick Lee Collection



Gail Cobb

Dick Lee Collection

**July 1, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

40 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Logan 17.36

Dash winner: Johnny Logan

Heat winners: Bob Seelman, Bill Beard, Jim Pierce

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Jim Eberstein

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates**

Fast qualifier: Bill Rake 19.05

Dash winner: Bill Rake

Heat winners: Dale Hill, Dale Bergakker, Jerry VanDyke, Bob Senneker

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker

---

**July 4, 1967 – Tuesday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.12

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Bill Heeney, Jack TenBrink, Jackie Lindhout

Pursuit winner: Rich Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Logan (2) Jim Eberstein (3) Bill Beard (4) Bill McClure (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Wayne Root

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates**

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 19.07

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Denny Harris, Bob Sensiba, Bob DePauw, Jerry Spear

Pursuit winner: Ron Laban

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Tom Marks (3) Jerry Spear (4) Ron Laban (5) Bill Rake

---

### July 8, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.24

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Jim Eberstein, Arnie Mortimore, Bill Lamont, Bill Heeney

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) **Mort Anderson** (2) Rich Senneker (3) Bill McClure (4) Ken Crampton

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 19.06

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Dale Bergakker, Jerry Spear

Pursuit winner: Ron Laban

Consolation winner: Jim Davis

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Senneker** (2) Jerry Spear (3) John Bliss (4) Terry Schmid (5) Jim Adema

### July 15, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.17

Heat winners: Eldon Schrader, Bill Beard, Mort Anderson

Consolation winner: Eddie VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) **Eddie VanderLaan** (2) Mort Anderson (3) Johnny Benson (4) Art Bennett (5) Jack Nichols

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Fast qualifier: Jerry Spear 18.89

Heat winners: Andy Schutt, Bob Patrick, Gail Cobb, Fred Britton

Pursuit winner: Jim Adema

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Senneker** (2) Jerry Spear (3) Gail Cobb



Harold Smith

Dick Lee Collection



Jack Smith

Dick Lee Collection

### July 22, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.21

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Johnny Logan, Bill Beard, Jim Eberstein

Pursuit winner: Jim Eberstein

**Feature:** (1) **Rich Senneker** (2) Johnny Benson (3) Jim Eberstein (4) Ken Crampton (5) Johnny Logan

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

**Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 18.68—New Track Record**

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Dinky Dalton, Bob Sensiba, Ralph Baker

Consolation winner: Jim Rowley

**Feature:** (1) **Jerry Spear** (2) Bob Senneker (3) Ralph Baker (4) Bill Rake

### July 28, 1967 – Friday – Semi-Lates

#### **MARC Times Invite**

100 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Dick Dunshee 18.74

Dash winner: Tom Marks

Heat winners: Andy Schutt, Jerry Peloquin, Jim Adema, Moose Myers

Consolation winner: Jim Adema

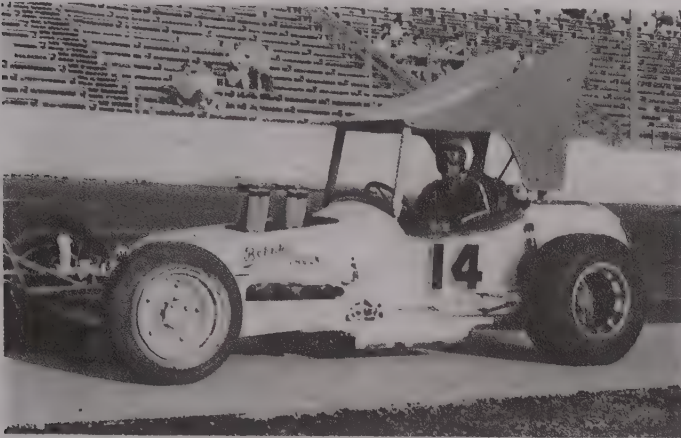
Semi winner: Bob Myers

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Senneker** (2) Dick Dunshee (3) Don VanderMolen (4) Bob Carnes (5) John Bliss (6) Glen Tanis (7) Tom Marks



## Berlin Raceway — Supermodifieds (Pavement), 1966–1968

---



Jackie Lindhout

Dick Lee Collection

---

### July 29, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Duane Knoll, Johnny Benson

Pursuit winner: Joe Chance

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Mort Anderson  
(3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Johnny Logan

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Dash winner: Jerry Spear

Heat winners: Steve Bauer, Bob Fellows, Gail Cobb

Pursuit winners: John Bliss, Paul Howell

**Feature:** (1) Terry Senneker Sr. (2) Jerry VanDyke  
(3) Bob Sensiba (4) Jim Rowley (5) Andy Schutt

---

### August 5, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson – no time given

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Les Lemon, Eddie VanderLaan, Johnny Logan

Pursuit winner: Jim Pierce

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Eddie VanderLaan  
(3) Jim Pierce (4) Nolan Johncock (5) Jackie Lindhout  
(6) Buddy Stewart

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Fast qualifier: Jerry Spear 18.80

Dash winner: Jerry Spear

Heat winners: Larry Knowlton, John Bliss, Bob Patrick

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

Consolation winner: Andy Schutt

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Bob Patrick (3) Tom Marks (4) Dale Talsma (5) Bob Carnes

---

### August 12, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Bill Heeney, Jackie Lindhout

Pursuit winner: Jackie Lindhout

Semi winner: Jerry Peloquin

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Jim Gresley  
(3) Jackie Lindhout (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Art Bennett (6) Johnny Logan (7) Nolan Johncock

### 50 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

#### *Michigan State Championship Race*

Fast qualifier: Dick Dunshee

Heat winners: Al Hagen, Riddle, Gene Eding, Gail Cobb

Semi winner: Andy Schutt

**Feature:** (1) Dick Dunshee (2) Ed Howe (3) Tom Marks (4) Jim Adema (5) Don VanderMolen (6) Jim Dyke (7) Dale Talsma

---

### August 19, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

#### *Dick Carter Memorial*

Rained Out

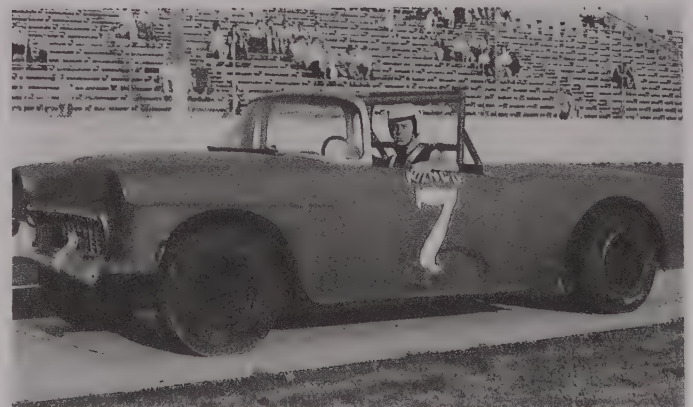
---

### August 26, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

#### *Michigan Supermodified Championship*

Rained Out

---



Jerry Spear

Dick Lee Collection

**September 2, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

70 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson – no time given

Consolation winner: Nick Rowe

**Feature:** (1) **Johnny Benson** (2) Don VanderMolen  
(3) Duane Knoll (4) Harold Smith (5) Nick Rowe  
(6) Nolan Johncock (7) Rich Senneker (8) Casey Jones  
(9) Leon Wieske

**Johnny Benson – Clean Sweep Award**

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates**

Fast qualifier: Don VanderMolen – no time given

Dash winner: Gail Cobb

Heat winners: Ralph Lawrence, Jerry Vandyke, Gail Cobb

Pursuit winner: Randy Sweet

Consolation winner: Andy Schutt

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Senneker** (2) Gail Cobb (3) Jerry  
Spear

---

**September 4, 1967 – Monday – Supermodifieds**

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 16.89

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Arnie Mortimer, Nolan Johncock, Jim  
Gresley, Cy Fairchild

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) **Eddie VanderLaan** (2) Duane Knoll  
(3) Johnny Logan (4) Nolan Johncock (5) Jim Gresley  
(6) Bob Seelman

**25 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates**

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 18.74

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Jim Dyke, Tom Marks, Bill Waller, Rick  
Knotts



Jim Murphy

Dick Lee Collection

Pursuit winner: Randy Sweet

**Feature:** (1) **Tom Marks** (2) Bob Senneker (3) Gail  
Cobb (4) Jim Adema (5) Bob Fellows

---

**September 9, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 16.83

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Nolan Johncock, Eldon Schrader, Gary  
Watson, Johnny Benson

**Feature:** (1) **Johnny Benson** (2) Duane Knoll  
(3) Eldon Schrader (4) Nick Rowe (5) Wayne Root

**Johnny Benson – Clean Sweep Award**

**100 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates**

**Season Championship**

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 18.65

Heat winners: Al Hagen, Bill Thurkettle, Denny Nyari

Pursuit winner: Tom Marks

Consolation Winner: John Bliss

**Feature:** (1) **Tom Marks** (2) Bob Senneker (3) Don  
VanderMolen (4) Jim Adema (5) Gordy Bissot (6) Dale  
Talsma

---

**September 16, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Heat winners: Eldon Schrader, Nick Rowe, Duane  
Knoll, Cy Fairchild

**Feature:** (1) **Jackie Lindhout** (2) Jim Eberstein  
(3) Johnny Logan (4) Bob Seelman (5) Nolan Johncock

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates**

Heat winners: Terry Senneker Sr., Jerry Vandyke

**Feature:** (1) **Don VanderMolen** (2) Jerry Spear  
(3) Tom Marks

---

**September 23, 1967 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

Rained Out

---

**September 30, 1967 – Saturday – Semi-Lates**

75 laps, .438 mile paved

Michigan State Invitational Race

Fast qualifier: Jerry Spear 18.59—New Track Record



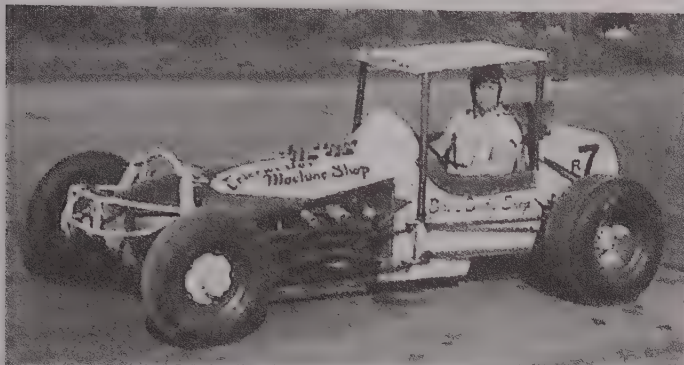
## Berlin Raceway — Supermodifieds (Pavement), 1966–1968

Dash winner: Don VanderMolen

Heat winners: Paul Howell, Bob Sensiba, Bill Therkettle, Bob Young, Paul Howell

Pursuit winner: Terry Senneker Sr.

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Bob Fellows (3) Don VanderMolen (4) Jerry Vandyke (5) Bob Sensiba (6) Rich Senneker (7) Gail Cobb (8) Jerry Spear



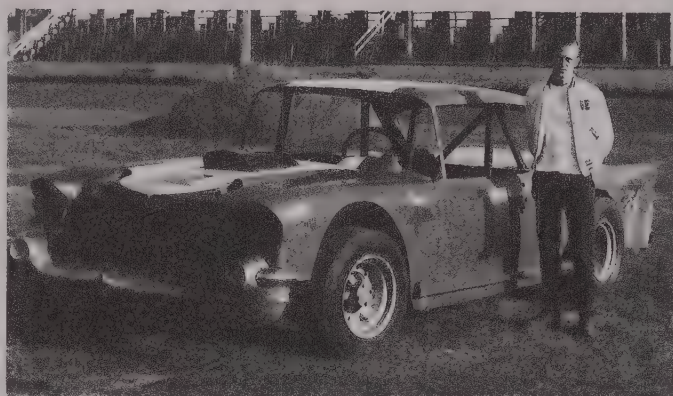
Nick Rowe

Dick Lee Collection



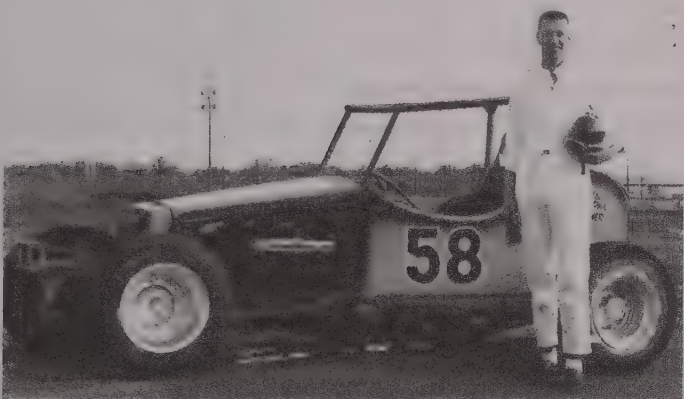
Norm Rust

Dick Lee Collection



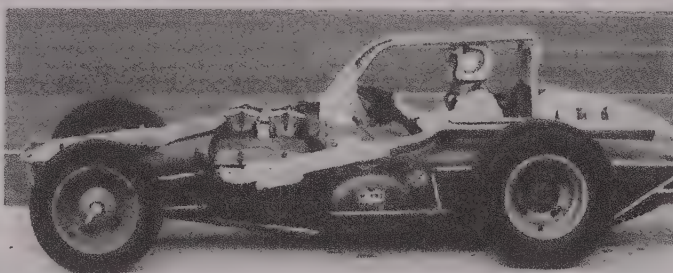
Tom Marks

Dick Lee Collection



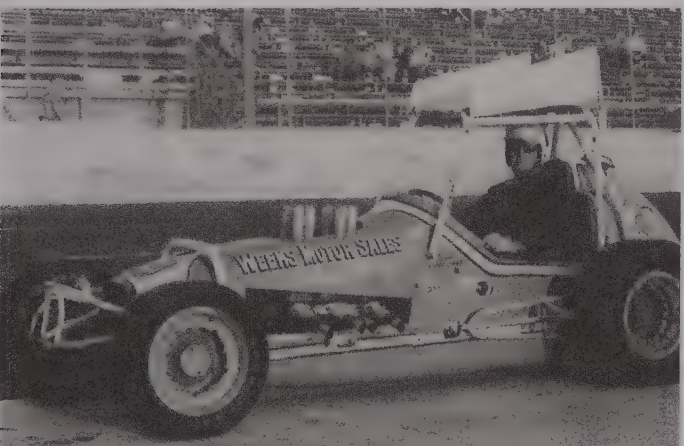
Bill McClure

Dick Lee Collection



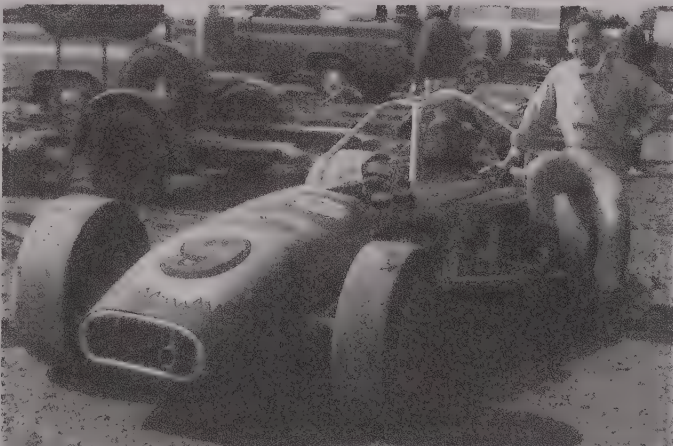
Tom York

Dick Lee Collection



Casey Jones

Dick Lee Collection



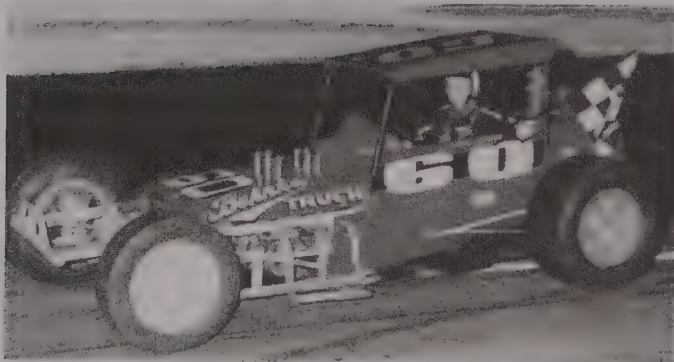
Wayne Landon

Dick Lee Collection



# Berlin Raceway Points 1967

1967 SUPERMODIFIED POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Johnny Benson	75	9	14	16		3
2	Eddie VanderLaan	60	8	2	2		1
3	Jackie Lindhout	30	2				
4	Jim Eberstein	27		1			
5	Mort Anderson	21	1				
6	Johnny Logan	19	2	1	1		
7	Duane Knoll	12					
8	Ken Crampton	10		1	1		
9	Nolan Johncock	10					
10	Rich Senneker	9	1				
11	Art Bennett	9					
12	Norm Rust	7					
13	Nick Rowe	6					
14	Jim Gresley	5					
	Bill McClure	5					
16	Don VanderMolen	4					
17	Eldon Schrader	3					
	Buddy Stewart	3					
	Bill Beard	3					
	Jim Pierce	3					
21	Bob Seelman	2					
	Wayne Landon	2					
	Jack Nichols	2					
	Harold Smith	2					
25	Wayne Root	1					
	Gordon Dukes	1					



Jackie Lindhout

Dick Lee Collection



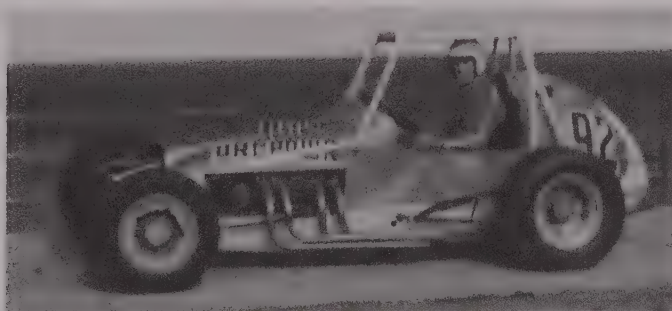
Art Bennett

Dick Lee Collection



# Berlin Raceway — Supermodifieds (Pavement), 1966–1968

1967 SEMI-LATE POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Bob Senneker	96	16	13	13	1	3
2	Gail Cobb	40	3		1		
3	Jerry Spear	31	1	4	2	1	
4	Don VanderMolen	24	1	1	1		
5	Tom Marks	23	2		1		
6	Bob Fellows	20					
7	Bob Sensiba	10					
8	Dick Dunshee	9	1	2			
9	Ron Laban	9					
10	Jerry VanDyke	8					
11	Jim Adema	7					
	Bob Patrick	7					
13	Terry Senneker Sr.	5	1				
14	John Bliss	4					
	John Boerman	4					
	Ed Howe	4					
17	Bill Rake	3		1	1		
18	Ralph Baker	3					
	Bob Fellows	3					
	Bob Carnes	3					
21	Bob DePauw	2					
	Terry Schmid	2					
	Gordy Bissot	2					
	Denny Nyari	2					
	Jim Rowley	2					
	Dale Talsma	2					
27	Jim Dyke	1					
	Andy Schutt	1					
	Bob Morgan	1					



Duane Knoll

Dick Lee Collection

## Berlin Raceway Media 1968

### That's Too Sweet!

By Shirley Glass

#### **May 30, 1968 – Berlin Raceway**

Randy Sweet of Grand Rapids, in a '65 Ford Fairlane, turned in a spectacular driving performance to win the action packed 40 lap feature race for semi-late model stock cars Thursday night at the Berlin Raceway.

The ever improving Sweet caught race leader Tom Marks of Kalamazoo, on the 26<sup>th</sup> lap and went on to win his first main event victory of the season at Marne, followed by Ron Laban, Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids, Bob Carnes of Kalamazoo, Gary Fedewa of Lansing, and Jerry Spear of Battle Creek.

The ever improving Sweet caught race leader Tom Marks of Kalamazoo, on the 26<sup>th</sup> lap and went on to win his first main event victory of the season at Marne, followed by Ron Laban, Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids, Bob Carnes of Kalamazoo, Gary Fedewa of Lansing and Jerry Spear of Battle Creek.

Heat race winners were Bob Hegner and Jim Gresley of Battle Creek, Nick Rowe of Alma, Eldon Schrader of Jackson, Laban, Marks and Rich Terpstra of Grand Rapids. Laban established a new track record for five laps in capturing the fast-car dash event. Semi feature honors went to Al Hagan of Grand Rapids.

### Fair Flies At Marne

By Shirley Glass

#### **June 8, 1968 – Berlin Raceway –**

Popular veteran, Joy Fair of Pontiac, turned in a spectacular driving performance to win the action packed 25-lap feature race for semi-late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Coming from deep in the 15 car lineup, Fair drove his 1965 Chevy past race leader Jerry Spear of Battle Creek on the 16<sup>th</sup> lap and went on to

ring up his first main event victory of the season at the .438 mile Marne oval. Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids chased Spear across the finish line, followed by Tom Marks of Kalamazoo, Gail Cobb of Grand Rapids, Dick Dunshee, and Bob Carnes of Kalamazoo.

Gene Eding of Grand Rapids escaped serious injury when his car slammed into the concrete retaining wall on the 18<sup>th</sup> lap of the hectic feature race.

Spear set a new track record in winning the pursuit race. Heat race winners were Bob Hulka of Muskegon, Cy Fairchild of Saginaw, Senneker, Cobb, and Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids. Bill Rake of Muskegon captured the semi-feature event. Fair outdrove Ron Laban, Randy Sweet, and Benson to win the fast car dash event.

### Bob Senneker Wins Second Feature At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

#### **June 15, 1968 – Berlin Raceway**

Popular Bob Senneker, of Grand Rapids, stamped himself as one of the contenders for the 100-lap Midwest Invitational Championship upcoming race by driving his 1965 Chevy to victory in the action-packed 25-lap feature race for semi-late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Senneker burst into the lead on the sixth lap and spent the rest of the event staving off hard rushing Randy Sweet of Grand Rapids in gaining his second feature win of the season at the .438 mile Marne oval.

Rich Senneker was second followed by Sweet, who was displaced from the runner-up position by a sideswiping move. Fourth was Bob Carnes of Kalamazoo, Leo Havens, Don VanderMolen and Rich Sen-

neker of Grand Rapids. Pursuit honors went to Gene Eding and Bob Senneker. Carnes took the fast-car dash event.

### The Fair One Wins The State's Biggest Purse

By Shirley Glass

#### **June 22, 1968 – Berlin Raceway**

Beaverton's Ed Howe got the capacity crowd excited when he broke the track record for super-lates when he set fast time of 18.14.

Joy Fair jumped into the lead and stayed there. The caution flag was out three times during the main event, and only 11 of the original 24 cars finished this exciting race. Joy Fair was the first man across the line, earning \$1,450 in feature monies. Ed Howe, glued to Joy's bumper the last 50 laps, earned \$855 for his second place finish. Running on the same lap a few feet back from the leaders were Bob Carnes and Jerry Spear, third and fourth, followed by Gail Cobb, Johnny Roberts, Gene Eding, Phil Davidson, Jerry Peloquin, Gary Fedewa, Rich Senneker, Bob Senneker, Ron Grana, Tom Marks, Stan Suski, Johnny Logan, Jerry VanDyke, Bill Rake, Jim Aldrich, Bob Hegner, John Anderson, Carl Smith, John Bliss, Larry Knowlton and Dave Richard.

The caution flag was out twice in the first heat as three cars spun, scattering the field and again when a blown engine caused another collision. Ralph Holcomb posted the win over Jim Lovett, Paul Howell and Everett Wickwire.

The second heat was a good clean race with no stops, and Cleveland Lou Pallotta surged through the pack for the win over Lansing's Bill Massuch. The third heat was under caution as Mel Gillett spun in the third turn, hit broadside by



Rick Knotts, and several other cars joined the melee, which forced Jim Bickerstaff and Knotts out of the running for the rest of the night. Leo Havens took the win followed by Suski and Logan.

Gary Fedewa and Bill Rake were knocked out of the competition due to wrecks in the fourth heat. Johnny Roberts took the win chased by Knowlton, Tom Marks and Jerry VanDyke.

The fast fifth heat was stopped when seven of the top contenders crashed in the fourth turn. Dick Dunshee, Johnny Benson, and Randy Sweet's cars were badly damaged and scratched for the night. Jim Aldrich, Joy Fair, Bob Senneker and Jerry Spear all received damages, forcing them out of the heat. Only four cars were able to finish as Bob Carnes took the win chased by Rich Senneker, Ed Howe and John Anderson.

Ray Lockwood took the win in the sixth heat over Wickwire, Hulka and Howell.

The consi was cautioned when Bill Minch hit the wall, and again when Pittsburgh's Dave Richard lost a wheel and careened into the wall. Two more cautions marred this event before Stan Suski took the win over Minch and Lou Pallotta in the second and third slots.

Although several cars were scratched due to mechanical ills and wrecks, no injuries were sustained by anyone, and it was a beautiful night of racing.

## Eldon Schrader Captures Supermodified Feature

By Shirley Glass

**June 29, 1968 – Berlin Raceway**  
— The supermodifieds returned to Berlin Raceway in force. Twenty-nine mods made the scene, including some really fine machinery; 36 stocks were on hand to complete the show.

The return of the supermodifieds was marred by a serious accident in their second heat. As the field neared completion of the first lap, Johnnie Davis spun his Dodge-powered side-winder mid-pack, leaving bedlam behind him. Bill McClure went over a wheel, hit the wall and did some sideways and end-for-end rolls, going over Jack Lindhout and Davis' car and ending in the venter of the track with only one wheel. Johnny Logan flipped, slid on his top and rolled onto his wheels. No one was hurt, but it was the meanest looking tangle we've seen in a long time. Eldon Schrader was the guy who showed the other supermodifieds the shortest way around the track. He took the win over Buddy Stewart and Art Bennett in heat two.

The fourth stock heat had plenty of action, on lap four. Lee Paauwe lost it coming out of turn two, going into the infield, then across the track taking Bill Rake off turn three and into the mud with him. Rake then got out, but Paauwe had to leave his car out there until intermission. Needless to say, there was a wee bit of moisture in the low areas. With an unnecessary rainstorm, and the winds accompanying it, it shouldn't be too far out to guess that the majority of the fans had spent some of their afternoon cleaning up debris from the storm. The track was unscathed but there was a lot of water standing in low places like off the backstretch.

Bill Minch had built up quite a lead on the restart; Minch continued to lead despite challenges from Bill Thurkettle. Ed Britton was third. Minch has a nice-looking car and the driver has been improving steadily this year.

The stock pursuit had the crowd on its feet. Gail Cobb's car was really running well and he pushed it hard. Starting on the pole Cobb led all the way to the flag where Bob Senneker beat him by inches. Cobb and Senneker thrilled the fans with a three-lap duel which ended when Bob found a little more horsepower for a final surge breaking the ten-lap record again. (The record has been

broken numerous times this season.)

During the supermodified feature, caution flags came out for Jim Eberstein on lap 13 when he hit the first turn wall, on the restart when Davis spun on the front shoot and on lap 17 when Ken Crampton lost a wheel on turn three. We never did find out if they were able to retrieve it—it went off the fairgrounds onto the private property where the property owner seemed to think the name of the game was “finders' keepers”! Eldon Schrader copped the loot again with Lindhout second despite challenges from Johnny Benson who had to settle for third. Jim Gresley piloted Eddie VanderLaan's new mount to fourth and Jim Murphy was fifth in a sleek new car.

Jerry Spear took the lead in the stock feature and held it through lap 14, on which Bill Thurkettle and Jim Leonard got into trouble on the front straight. On the next lap Rich Senneker got around Spear. On the 16<sup>th</sup> lap Dick Dunshee hit the front wall and crossed the track in a shower of sparks. Two laps later Cobb hit the tire opposite the starter, on the white flag lap. Minch spun into the back pit entrance. Meanwhile Bob Carnes had made his way to Rich's bumper. With the checkered flag coming closer, Carnes got around Rich to take the win. Spear was third followed by Tom Marks, John Bliss, Johnny Roberts (back with a new orange paint job this week) and Ron Laban.

The fans saw ten events with a lot of competition and action.

## Veteran Johnny Logan Wins Over Tough Competitors

By Shirley Glass

**July 4, 1968 – Berlin Raceway**  
— Berlin's holiday program complete with fabulous fireworks and three very accurate skydivers, moved along smoothly and quickly with lots of excitement furnished by 25 supermodifieds and 38 semi-lates.

The fastest four supermodifieds were Johnny Benson, Jackie Lindhout, Bill Beard and Eldon Schrader. Schrader got off to the lead, Beard got by him, when Eldon blew an engine and dropped out. Beard set a new record with his win over Lindhout and Benson. I noticed Schrader had a belly pan which kept the track clean and safe. We vote for incorporating this into the list of required equipment as some tracks now require.

The semi-late dash featured Bob Carnes with fast time, Bob Senneker, John Bliss and Dick Dunshee, in inverted order. Senneker worked himself into the lead and staved off Carnes in the drag for the flag by a couple of feet. Dunshee and Bliss followed.

The first supermodified heat got off to a poor start as Jim Murphy spun and scattered Jerry Peloquin, Oscar Faye and Jim Gresley. Only Faye failed to continue. On the second try, they completed the heat without incident; Larry Gathman took the green stuff with Murphy second and newcomer Preston Beck in the Ford-powered #20 third.

The first semi-late heat was a fans delight! Would you believe three stocks abreast in each of the four turns? Then newcomer Len Maxwell hit the wall and Steve Bauer hit the wall and burst into flames. Both were okay but Bauer's car really looked sick on the front corner. Al Hagen was leading with Jim Leonard making a bid for the lead when they tangled. Leonard retired, but Hagen stayed in to take third. Ron Busscher was the winner and Ron Keech runner-up.

The supermodified pursuit was hairy when four supers came into turn two parallel and all got thru! Benson bested Duane Knoll with Gresley third.

The stock pursuit set a new record for Rich Senneker who beat Carnes to the checker with Tom Marks third.

Duane Knoll took the second supermodified heat over Benson and

Lindhout while Nolan Johncock took the second semi-late heat over Thurekettle and Johnny Logan. Gail Cobb won the third stock heat followed by Rich Senneker and Marks.

The consi was a see-saw battle between Leonard and Dick Aspinall until Aspinall dropped out. Leonard got the win over Rick Knotts and Hagen who has been doing some rougher-than-necessary competing.

Nineteen cars started the supermodified feature with Knoll leading. On the ninth lap, Lindhout got past him and Johnny Logan followed him thru. These two battled for seven laps with Lindhout driving a beautifully smooth race until he had a flat tire. Rough luck! Logan took a well-deserved win, holding off Benson, Jim Eberstein, Knoll and Art Bennett. Ed Angle, a newcomer from South Bend, Indiana, crossed the finish line in flames, which were extinguished promptly.

Gail Cobb led the field for more than 10 laps in the feature until Rich Senneker got by him. Three laps later brother Bob Senneker caught up and passed Rich. One lap before the white flag Ed Britton spun on the front straight, trapping Carnes who slammed the wall. Rich also hit the wall. Rough break for both drivers who were coming on strong. Bob Senneker won going away; Cobb, Marks, Logan, and Bliss were next in line. New faces: Jerry Strotheide making his '68 debut in Dale Bergakker's usual ride; Rich Butler in a new maroon #47 and Denny Comai in #26.

## Lindhout Beats Stout Field For Feature Win

By Shirley Glass

**July 6, 1968 – Berlin Raceway** – The Mid-Season championship for semi-late models started with 23 cars in the order of point standings. Tom Marks was on the pole with Bob Carnes leading on the outside. The Senneker brothers with Rich on the inside formed the second row. Randy

Sweet and John Bliss the third row, Gene Eding and Ron Laban next, and Gail Cobb and Bill Rake were in row five.

Jerry Spear dropped out on the first lap with mechanical difficulties, he later returned, but was still having problems. On the second lap Eding dropped out in a shower of sparks with a broken idler arm. Carnes had grabbed the lead. Rake blew a tire and hit the turn one wall busting a frame. On lap 14 Harvey Sytsma broke a hub and hit the front wall, wiping out the front end. On the restart leader Carnes dropped out with a broken axle, leaving the leader Sweet followed by Marks, Rich and Bob Senneker. Sweet piled up a sizable lead. Rich spun on the backstretch on the 34<sup>th</sup> lap and rejoined the pack at the rear. Two laps later, Bob Senneker passed Marks to take over second spot. Sweet took the checker well ahead of Bob Senneker, Marks, Cobb and Bliss. A beautiful trophy was Sweet's reward – as well as more than \$500 for his evening's work.

Twenty-one cars ran the thrilling supermodified feature in practice for their Mid-Season Championship event next week. Jim Eberstein led the first six laps in Casey Jones' usual ride after his own was badly damaged in an earlier tangle. Nolan Johncock led for six laps until Jackie Lindhout managed to get by for the lead. Johnny Logan who had been running in a tight knot with Lindhout, Johncock and Benson, dropped out. Benson spent several laps trying to get by Johncock and succeeded on the last lap. Lindhout took the win well ahead of Benson and Johncock. Eberstein took fourth and Art Bennett fifth.

In the semi-late fast heat Johnny Roberts led three laps before dropping out. Jerry Spear held the lead for seven laps when Bob Senneker nailed him at the flag. In the pursuit Spear was leading, but Sweet nosed ahead at the flag. It just wasn't Jerry's night.

A new track record of 18.14 set by Ed Howe the night of the Midwest Invitational race was duplicated



by Randy Sweet in time trials. Bob Carnes later timed in at the record time also. Dick Dunshee and Gail Cobb also timed in the low 18's.

In the semi-late dash Sweet, Cobb and Carnes came out of the third turn three deep, Cobb and Carnes bumped and Carnes on the outside hit the wall reshaping the frame. Cobb continued with a shortened tail, taking third behind Dunshee and the winner Sweet.

The supermodified dash was similar in that two cars tangled, one badly damaged and the other able to continue. Eberstein hit the front wall hard avoiding Logan. On the restart Logan moved into second place ahead of Lindhout. Benson from the pole kept it out front for the win. New faces in the stocks were Keith Bussing in #13, Max Hiscock in #2, and Gene Page of Lansing in the #63, a tiger-striped '63 Comet.

## Crash Stops Berlin Races

By Shirley Glass

### July 13, 1968 — Berlin Raceway

— The tragedy of the past weekend at Berlin is past and yet will not soon be forgotten. Our hearts go out to those involved. The Berlin Raceway is extremely safe, as safe as any track can be made. The wall is high on the front straight and the fence above it is also high. Only a freak combination of circumstances could have brought about the incident.

On the 21st lap of the 30-lap Mid-Season Championship for supermodifieds a car careened into the wall as it neared the middle of the front stretch, climbing the wall and tearing down a long length of fencing. Some of the car's parts were thrown into the stands.

It was a horrible sight for those who actually saw the mishap; however a hard fought battle between the first three contenders up front had had most of the spectator's attention. The race was called complete at the time of the accident. John Benson Sr.

was the winner with Jackie Lindhout and Eldon Schrader next.

There is so much we ache to say and so little that will come out on paper. Please remember in your prayers all those who suffered from the mishap in so many ways.

Prior to the feature race many exciting races had been held and deserve mention. Rich Senneker set a new record for the stock dash at 1:33.05; Bob Senneker with fast time of the night was second, Bob Carnes third. There was no fast-car dash for the supermodifieds on their championship night.

During time trials Dale Larson lost it coming out of turn four and hit Steve Bauer's car, which was sitting in the make-ready shoot, in the rear, pushing Bauer into Len Maxwell's car, and Maxwell into Mel Gillett. Larson really spoiled his nice machine; Bauer's car received a terrific blow and had severe damage. This was the second time in two weeks that Bauer's car came out a loser through no fault of the driver! Gillett's car appeared unhurt and Maxwell later raced his machine also. No one was hurt in the four car accident.

Eddie VanderLaan was on hand and timed his car in, although he didn't drive it in the races. We are glad he is able to get behind the wheel again. Dale Talsma had a beautiful new red #99 on hand. Glen Andree drove the new yellow #7 and Gordy Lyons piloted the red #3. Tom Marks had his new USA #1 Chevy out trying to maintain his lead in the point standings. The stock feature was cancelled.

Johnny Benson was declared the winner for supermodifieds at Berlin Raceway Saturday night in a race cut short when a car driven by Duane Wilson fatally injured two spectators after hitting the high retaining wall and fence. (Within a few days a third person died from the crash).

The semi-late model feature was postponed until Saturday night July 20 when it will be run in conjunction with a regular race card of semi-late model stock cars closing out the Berlin Fair.

Heat race winners were Jim Eberstein of Kalamazoo, Duane Knoll of Muskegon, Bob Sensiba of Middleville, Jerry Spear of Battle Creek, Johnny Logan of Charlotte and Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids.

Pursuit honors went to Jackie Lindhout and Bob Senneker, both of Grand Rapids.

## Berlin Tragedy Facts

By Dick Beebe

### July 13, 1968 — Berlin Raceway

— This report is being written in an effort to straighten out the poor reporting of that tragic accident on July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Berlin Raceway, and in so doing, try to quell some false rumors that have cropped up from said reports.

First of all the management at the Berlin Raceway had asked me to thank the many nurses who were watching the races and really did their best in a time of need, also the many drivers and owners who helped with the injured. They would also like to thank the Bell Telephone system and the wonderful woman who assisted for 2-1/2 hours with emergency calls. The lady wouldn't give her name, just simply said "Thank you sir, we're only trying to do a service". Thanks to all of you wonderful people who helped and thanks to you fans who stayed back out of the way and kept your cool.

If any of the injured has lost articles, please call them at the track or the Mysliwiec home, as the police department has turned in many personal items. Those fans that were kind enough to loan blankets and haven't received them back please get in touch with the track also and you will be reimbursed.

The accident started in the supermodified feature on about the tenth lap when the supermodified running in next to last place lost control of his car coming out of the fourth turn. He was running approximately 75 m.p.h.

The car was driven by Duane Wilson of the Portland, Michigan



area. The car hit the wall flush with both right hand tires, causing a bouncing reaction, on the track, then up again into the fence, this time with a rolling motion, shearing off the steel fence supporting pipes at the cement wall. The car continued moving towards the grandstand until it hit the starter's stand where the car's body was knocked onto the track.

The rear end of the car sheared off and was hurtled along the front rows of the reserved section, sending 29 people to the hospital. Twenty-two persons were admitted to Buterworth Hospital and seven at St. Mary's. At this writing two persons have died and six remain hospitalized, five are in critical condition with lacerations and head injuries.

The accident was terrible enough, but then you get some weird reporters on the radio and in the papers with conflicting "eye witness" reports. These sensationalists on radio and in the newspapers have compounded an unlikely accident at a racetrack which is one of the safest, in a section of the grandstands where injury is very improbable.

These same inconsiderate asses that don't give you the time of day unless you cut off your right arm for some blood.

Well I don't belong to this big-deal type of reporting set. I don't believe in it. These reporters who exploit every drop of blood and gore they can think off to add to the horror of an unavoidable accident are probably the same flowers who have never been to a racetrack and their most hazardous sports coverage comes from ping-pong, chess and golf tournaments. Their biggest hazard being an ice cube too big to swallow or maybe get an olive caught in their nose. These same sensationalists are the ones who come on like gangbusters every day saying: "Howdy folks, well there was a helluva wreck out on the highway, killed a guy (that you think is yours), who was driving a car (that sounds like yours) and had three kids in the car (yours??), but we're sorry we

can't tell you who they are, but, just remember music lovers, we scared you first".

This scare method of reporting was highly in evidence Saturday night, with a few of the FALSE reports as follows:

"Race car knocks down judge's stand supports and spills people screaming to the ground and continues into the grandstand to injure 150 persons, 50 of them critically."

Quite sensational, but entirely and stupidly false. In the second place the race car never went into the stands, it was into the fence for approximately 30 feet, shearing the steel posts at the base. Most of the injuries were caused by the rear end rolling up in the strong cyclone fencing, and from other people falling or being thrown into each other. There was no fire, there was no panic, just disbelief. Other reports told of a race car of unbelievable speed using exotic fuels traveling at 140 miles per hour plummeting into the throngs of horrified spectators. Unfortunately for most of the injured people, they were unaware of the presence of the car until impact, as he was well behind the pack, and most eyes were watching the lead cars.

Let me tell you, I, for one, am sick and tired of this way-out, stupid reporting, and I think the entire country ought to complain to their congressmen until a change is put into effect controlling the drivel that some gore-loving, fact-ignoring reporters (so called) are scaring everyone with. It's up to you, John Q. Public. Are you getting tired of being terrified into listening to your radio? Well do something about it...NOW!

### Sweet Wins Two Late-Model Features

By Shirley Glass

**July 20, 1968 – Berlin Raceway** – The evening began with the feature postponed from last week.

Although there were no caution flags thrown, it was a wild race which was won by Randy Sweet over Jerry Spear, with Rich Senneker, Tom Marks, Bob Carnes, and John Bliss following. The evening took a heavy toll on machinery. Nearly all of the top contenders suffered mechanical difficulties during the evening. Bob Senneker's car went up in a cloud of smoke which eliminated him before he got a chance to race, rather an anti-climax after his win at Hartford's Michigan Dirt Championship Race the night before.

Although there was no dash, the fast time deserves mention since Sweet shaved 8/100's off the record! A record of: 18.06 is going to be tough to break!

The night was very Sweet, in fact. (That's a pun!) The second feature also went to Randy and that 289 Ford. The action-packed event had to be completely restarted after a multi-car tangle on the first lap. Don VanderMolen, Jim Leonard, Gene Eding and Dick Aspinall were eliminated. Sweet and Ed Britton continued. As the field spread out on the restart, Rich Senneker and Sweet chased leader Tom Marks for ten laps. On lap 12, Sweet took second from Senneker. Bliss and Carnes were moving up on the leaders. Four laps later, Sweet took over the lead from Marks. Marks was second for half-a-lap then retired the USA# 1 – heavenly paint job (lotsa stars) and all. Carnes took third from Bliss on the 20th lap. The next lap Carnes and Bliss bested Senneker and that's the way it went. Sweet drove a fine race, as did Carnes, but we want to call your attention to the excellent job John Bliss did in taking third. He has also been moving up this year and will be a driver to watch.

Miscellaneous thoughts: Would you believe that the advance forecast on Thursday for the following Saturday has been RAIN EVERY WEEK since mid-April until this week. Incredible, but true. We salute Larry Gathman for a fine effort in his first semi-late ride. Tom Bartlett



in the #8 made his Berlin debut. You have probably heard about the calm thinking of Johnny Benson which perhaps averted further tragedy last week. You may not have heard that A.J. Stehouwer, the pit steward, ran across the track and grabbed a red flag to stop oncoming cars after the accident. Hats off to Ade, too!

We thought you might like to know more about drivers who are always in there trying, but don't get publicity because they haven't carried the checker in a feature. For a start, we talked with Gene Eding: We learned that Gene, his wife, Ellen, and son Terry are Wyoming residents. His #64 car is owned by Rodger TerVeen and Doyle McKenny handles the wrenches. In his second year of racing late models, Gene's goal is "To win a couple of features." He races for the fun of it, and wishes some other drivers wouldn't take it quite so seriously. At the Mid-Season Championship, Gene and John Bliss were tied for sixth in the point standings at Berlin. Gene had steadily improved and we predict he will achieve his goal of winning a feature one of these nights. By the way, Gene is growing a beard again and on him it looks good! In the winter, Gene shoots skeet in two leagues as a hobby.

We hope to continue these little "interviews," if you readers approve. Let us know who you would like to "meet" in the future?

## Rich Senneker Ends Hot Dry Spell

By Shirley Glass

**July 26, 1968 – Berlin Raceway** – The MARC Times Invitational Friday night at Berlin Raceway brought out some of the finest super stocks in the Midwest, with Joy Fair taking the fast time at 18.07, one 100<sup>th</sup> off Randy Sweet's track record.

John Mangnus took the first heat over Bill McClure and Duane LaCombe. George Cooper bested Butch Fedewa and Jerry VanDyke

in the second heat, with Rick Knotts fourth.

John Anderson came from the rear to win the third heat over Bob Sensiba, Gene Benn and Ed Britton. In this heat Larry Knowlton blew a tire, hit the wall and burst into flames, which proved hard to extinguish, Larry's car was demolished, but he is okay.

The consi started innocently enough, then Lyle Earl sailed his "Woodshed Special" off the third turn on the eighth lap. Tom Bartlett blew a tire, just missing the wall. On the 12th lap the race was stopped when John Anderson lost a wheel, crashing into the third turn wall. John was taken to Butterworth Hospital with broken ribs and a punctured lung. This was a real heartbreaker as John had moved from the rear of the pack, passed 19 cars and was moving into third spot when the wheel went. George Cooper of Dearborn took the win followed by Gene Benn, Sensiba and Butch Fedewa.

Fair led the 100-lap feature from his pole start. The caution was out on lap 20 when Don VanderMolen spun into the infield, and two others tangled briefly in turn three. After setting a blistering pace for 32 laps, Joy dropped out with a broken axle. Randy Sweet led for one lap before Bob Carnes passed him, and one lap later Sweet and VanderMolen's engines blew simultaneously, the race was halted to clean up the oily track.

On the 42nd lap Rich Senneker took the lead from Carnes. Tom Marks, who had been moving up, dropped out smoking. By lap 60 John Bliss and Harold Smith of Dayton, Ohio had moved into contention, but Smith left on lap 76. The fast paced 100-lapper took its toll of engines as Joe Ruttman dropped out early, Mickey Katlin was in and out, and Ed Howe dropped out as did Tom Maier, Ray Barnard and Denny Nyari. The big names were on hand but didn't finish in the high pay bracket. For 58 laps Carnes dogged Rich Senneker in spite of a blistering front tire. Coming out of the fourth turn, Carnes made a last attempt to pass inside; Bob

skated, brushing Rich's bumper, Rich bobbled but kept charging for the win. Carnes spun, hitting the guard rail infield and finished second. Jerry Spear drove a fine race finishing third. Danny Byrd was fourth, followed by Johnny Benson, Bliss, Bob Senneker, Gene Eding, Dick Dunshee, Gail Cobb, VanderMolen and Harold Smith.

Rich Senneker won the \$1,500 first place money, driving a beautiful race as did all the many fine drivers who attended. A large hand goes to the mechanics who are the unsung heroes in these grueling fetes of man and machinery.

## Benson Nips Schrader For Win

By Shirley Glass

**July 27, 1968 – Berlin Raceway** – Supermodifieds and 30 semi-lates put on a good show with unusually few caution flags Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Jim Eberstein posted fast time for the supermodifieds and Rich Senneker was the fastest semi-late. Rich bested the other three cars in the dash setting a new four-lap record at 1:32.39, and breaking his own record.

When the yellow flag came out on lap nine of the supermodified feature for Larry Gathman who had spun on turn two, the leaders of the 15 remaining cars were Buddy Stewart, Johnny Benson, Eldon Schrader, Jerry Spear and Jim Gresley. On the 12th lap Schrader and Benson got by Stewart, three laps later, Jackie Lindhout took third. Benson tried to pass Schrader for several laps and succeeded at the finish line with no room to spare. The crowd was standing to watch the exciting laps as the event drew to a close. Lindhout was third and Eberstein fourth.

I would like to mention here that Jim Eberstein, nice guy that he is, contributed his evening's winnings to a fund for the family of Jack Nichols who was fatally injured last week at Illiana Speedway. Jack left a married



daughter, wife and three children at home, he was a good competitor and a credit to the sport, we'll miss him. Jim tells me that he will be happy to pass along any money you might wish to contribute to the Nichols family, so why not drop some money in the mail to the Jack Nichols Fund c/o Jim Eberstein, Rt. #2, Vicksburg, Michigan. Thanks again to Jim for handling this fund and to all of you who are always so willing to help in tragic situations like these.

Twenty-six cars started in the semi-late feature, the first 16 inverted. The yellow came out at the half way point when Bob Fellows blew an engine. Tom Marks was leading Jerry VanDyke, Bob Sensiba, Bob Senneker, Johnny Benson and Dale Talsma. After lots of shuffling, the checker flashed in front of Bob Senneker's 327 Chevy. Marks' new USA-#1 had staved off until the end was in sight but settled for second. Bob Sensiba turned in a fine performance taking third (this is another guy to keep an eye on in the future). Talsma and Benson were next in line. All the drivers were exhibiting top form, making the race a joy to watch. It was Senneker night, though, with Rich taking the dash and pursuit, as well as setting a new track record, and Bob winning the main event, not bad.

David Wiley, the lad that assisted flagman Jim Meyer is hospitalized in Bronson Hospital, Kalamazoo, with injuries received in the accident on July 13. His operations are over and he will be put into leg-hip casts soon, then eight more weeks will be spent in the hospital. Wouldn't you like to drop this guy a card? He will be 11 years old on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. I think, let's all remember him with cards.

Making their Berlin debut for this season were Terry Schmid in Russ Dodge's #69, Windy Harter in the red #2 and Hal Isbell in the yellow #26.

To continue our little "interviews," this week we talked with John Bliss. He and his wife Sue are from Grand Rapids, John is 25 and works in the office for General Motors and spends a couple nights

a week playing golf and plays on a baseball team. He also drives late model Chevy stocks by the way! His car #89 is owned and serviced by Bob Kars, Rog Rozema and John himself. He has raced for three years and has yet to win a feature, although he is coming steadily closer. John is currently 4<sup>th</sup> in the point standings for Berlin and Kalamazoo. With the tough competition this year that's no mean feat!

John is working toward his goal of a feature win; finishing 20<sup>th</sup> last year in points, his fourth place currently is an outstanding improvement. Good luck J.B.!

### Schrader Takes Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**July 29, 1968 – Berlin Raceway** – Eldon Schrader held off the charging Lindhout and Benson to capture the 25-lap supermodified feature race at Berlin Raceway on Monday. Following them were Jim Gresley and Jim Murphy. Jackie Lindhout picked up the win in the fast-car dash. Schrader and Duane Knoll were victorious in the heat races.

In the semi-late model stock cars, Bob Carnes picked up the checkered flag in the 25-lap feature. Carnes also was the fast-car dash winner. The pursuit race went to Bob Senneker. Heat race winners were Bill Minch, Jim Leonard, and Rich Senneker.

### USAC Midgets To Sessions

By Shirley Glass

**August 2, 1968 – Berlin Raceway** – Sentimental favorite Sam Sessions from Nashville, Michigan, made his first West Michigan appearance in national championship competition an auspicious one by roaring to victory in the 40 lap USAC—United States Auto Club—national championship feature race Friday

night at the Berlin Raceway.

Sessions, fourth place finisher at this year's Indianapolis 500 mile race, turned in a brilliant driving performance by winning the fast-car dash event, the first heat and the accident marred grueling main event. Mel Kenyon was second followed by Dave Strickland of Walnut Creek, California and Mike McGreevy of Haywood, California.

The main event was halted on the 13<sup>th</sup> lap when a blown engine in the car of Dick Pole of Harvey, Illinois, littered the track with oil, causing a three car melee that sent Rob Green-tree of Sidney, Australia, Chuck Arnold of Stanford, Connecticut, and Bob Richards of Lockport, Illinois, slamming into the concrete retaining wall and into each other's cars. All drivers escaped serious injury.

Heat race winners were Les Scott of Livonia, Strickland, Arnold, and Cy Fairchild of Saginaw.

### Big Night For Benson At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**August 3, 1968 – Berlin Raceway** – Saturday night was Johnny Benson night at Berlin! Johnny timed in his supermodified second fastest, placed in the money in his heat, won the pursuit, and won the main event. Johnny also was the fourth fastest semi-late, started on the pole of the dash and won that event while setting a new four lap track record. He won the fast heat for semi-lates and set another record as he won the feature for semi-lates! That's a pretty full evening of racing—success full! Thus, another driver joins the ranks of the "hot dogs" that must be contended with in order to grab a checkered flag. Now that the "bugs" have been ironed out, watch out!

If you see Terry Schmid or Russ Dodge, give them a pat on the back—they need some cheering up after the tough luck they've had with the #69. It appeared that another engine went



in warm-ups this week. We wish them much better luck next time!

The semi-late pursuit ended on a sour note when Rich Senneker hit the first turn wall with terrific force after tangling with brother Bob. Rich had set fast time and was at the tail of the pursuit. In trying to eliminate his brother, Rich went inside Bob and Bob's rear and Rich's front tires hit, sending Rich into the wall and Bob just past the end of the wall and off turn one. Rich was just shaken up, but it looked like the end of the road for #57.

The third semi-late heat was action packed: Ron Laban spun on the third lap in turn three. Trying to miss him, Bill Minch hit the wall and Bill Rake spun, but restarted. Then hard-charging Don VanderMolen had to drop out with his hood covering the windshield. In his debut at Berlin this year, Scott Presley dumped water all over the track as he spun at the top of the back stretch. Those surviving were Gail Cobb, Rake, Dale Talsma and newcomer Pat Wilson in the blue #24.

In the semi-late feature, Benson won by a huge margin. Behind him, Bob Carnes bested Bob Senneker in the duel for second and Rake bested John Bliss in the duel for fourth. Talsma had led several laps and run well most of the way settled for sixth in a shower of sparks from something dragging the last few laps.

The supermodified feature was halted on the second lap when Jerry Peloquin spun. On the restart, the cars were ready, but the green flag didn't come out and "some of dem cats was caught nappin'." The leaders slowed but some cars didn't causing a pileup in which Eldon Schrader, Bill McClure, Jackie Lindhout and Jerry Spear were unable to restart. The #T1 and #35 continued. As the green came out, Bill Beard, Art Bennett, Benson and Eddie VanderLaan were the leaders. After many laps of trying, Benson bested Jim Eberstein for the win. Bennett, Beard, VanderLaan and Randy Sweet were next.

If you haven't sent your donation to the Jack Nichols fund (for

the family he left behind), why not do that right now. Just send it to Jim Eberstein, R #2, Vicksburg, Michigan and he will see that Mrs. Nichols gets it.

We staged an impromptu "inter-view" with Bill Rake after the races this past week. Bill drives the white Aescapian Special #11. (If you want to know what that means, ask him—it will give you a chance to talk to the personable Muskegonite!) Bill and his wife Sandra have three children. He is 28 and has been racing for about ten years. Bill has raced sportsman modifieds and won the features with those, but he has yet to win a feature in his semi-late model. Richard Harris owns the Chevelle and Robert Sullivan is the chief mechanic.

Bill is a welder by trade. His hobbies include deer hunting and he enjoys hockey—as a spectator. We heard some rumors about a broken shoulder suffered riding a mini-bike, too! Versatile, eh? We hope the future holds many checkered flags for this fine competitor.

P.S. Ed Britton came from ninth to win the first semi-late heat. Nice going! Newcomer Buck Hinkle was runner up.

## Senneker Wins State Championship

By Shirley Glass

**August 10, 1968 — Berlin Raceway** — The Michigan State Champion Stock Car Driver is Bob Senneker again this year. With the fastest time of the night, Bob sat on the pole and held the first slot from green to checker. He drove well and withstood strong challenges by Tom Marks for more than 20 laps. Some of the drivers were unhappy due to an incident involving the use of the yellow light. There were no caution flags thrown when Don VanderMolen spun in the early laps and Johnny Benson spun on lap 22. Both were able to restart. The big problem for the drivers came about

when someone hit the switch for the yellow light briefly then returned the green. Those of who saw the yellow slowed — and some were passed by those who did not see the brief light change. Coming from fifth John Bliss held down third most of the race until Randy Sweet surged even with him at the finish line. Although called a dead heat, Sweet was later given third and Bliss fourth. Bob Carnes was right behind for fifth. Following this race, the point standings show Marks still leading Bob Senneker, Bliss, Sweet, Carnes, Gene Eding, Rich Senneker, Gail Cobb, Jim Leonard and Dick Dunshee.

The 17 supermodifieds on hand had driver changes in every other car. Benson was quickest. The #17 driven by Bill McClure was next, the #14 qualified by Jim Eberstein was third and Eldon Schrader was fourth. In the dash, Benson bested the others, leading Schrader, Eberstein and McClure past the flag.

The fastest four stocks were Bob Senneker, Benson, Sweet and Carnes. Carnes was on the pole for the dash and kept it out front to beat Benson, Senneker and Sweet.

Jackie Lindhout, his own car disabled, drove Sonny McHenry's new ride # 24 to a win in the first heat. In the second heat, Art Bennett, Schrader and Benson dueled for several laps for second until the #B17 spun and the caution flag closed up the field. Benson made a grab for the lead on the restart and he was persistent in his attempts, but Eberstein was ahead at the flag. Benson was right behind as were Bennett and Schrader. In the superommodified pursuit Benson eliminated the entire field. Ken Crampton was the last to go and drove a good race. Eberstein was third.

The thriller of the evening in the semi-lates was the pursuit race. After seven laps Carnes was leading Bob Senneker the only other car left. For three laps Carnes held Senneker back but only inches back. Don VanderMolen was third in the money.



In the supermodified feature, Bob Fellows hit the tire inside turn four on lap 13. The next lap Jerry Peloquin spun and Sweet spun trying to avoid him. Sweet restarted (in Larry Gateman's usual ride #85). Ken Crampton and Duane Knoll in second had built up a sizable lead before the caution flag. On the restart Benson and Eberstein moved up, with Benson copping the lead. Crampton kept second, Eberstein took third with Knoll, Lindhout and Bennett following.

Ron Melton of Lansing made his Berlin debut in a blue supermodified #35. Ron Laban and Gene Eding switched machines with Eding getting to pilot the new hemi in the former #87 when they got the bugs worked out. Laban was running in the old #64 when a wheel problem sidelined him. Jerry Strotheide brought out a new #21 and Bill Thurkettle a new #31. Jim Dyke drove the blue #11. Just keeping track of who's on first was a feat!

To change our routine a bit we'll fill you in on a driver this week that is at the top: Tom and Karen Marks and their son make Kalamazoo home base. Tom owns his own car and he handles the engine as well as the driving. Rog Edwards built the car and handles the chassis and running gear problems. At 26, Tom has nine years of racing behind him! Most in drag racing (in fact, all the way to the national champion, hence the number USA#1) and the last two years in racing in late models. He was "Rookie of the Year" last year and points leader this year. Racing is his living, his hobby & his goal. He is eying the NASCAR circuit. He has found checkered flags very hard to capture but runs consistently with the leaders and has the edge on the trip to Florida offered the Berlin and Kalamazoo point leader. Always a competitor to watch we wish Tom success in his pursuit of that elusive checker!

## Benson Wins Carter Memorial

By Shirley Glass

**August 17, 1968 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Benson again topped the best of an 18-car field of supermodifieds in the feature on Dick Carter Memorial trophy night, Saturday. The race was marred when in the first lap Jerry Peloquin spun into the wall, Bob Fellows and Jim Murphy spun to miss him and Ron Melton went straight off the backstretch, hitting the guard rail at the end of the south wall and was taken to the hospital for a check-up. Only Fellows returned for the restart. On the ninth lap, Buddy Stewart and Eldon Schrader bumped wheels shooting off the backstretch. Jackie Lindhout beat Eddie VanderLaan at the flag for second. Art Bennett and Eldon Schrader were fourth and fifth.

Twenty-one cars started the fast-paced semi-late feature. On the seventh lap Ed Britton lost it inside and shot across the back stretch without being touched by a single car. This was nothing short of miraculous since the cars were tightly bunched and really moving! Jerry VanDyke led the first half of the race. By the 15<sup>th</sup> lap Rich Senneker took the lead with Randy and brother Bob side by side right behind him. Rich maintained the lead to win the trophy. Bob was second. Tom Marks got by Sweet on the last lap for third. Bob Carnes was fifth.

The first heat race for semi-lates had a seven-car shuffle in the first turn leaving Bill Thurkettle and Leo Havens with lots of work to do on their new machines as both hit the wall. Thurkettle repaired his and later raced, but Havens' car went on the trailer. Dick Aspinall, Al Hagen and Lyle Earl survived in the money. In the fourth heat Bill Minch put on a drive to beat leader Bill McClure to the final flag, but his plan was faulty as he hit McClure and both hit the wall on turn four. Third place Aspinall spun then restarted to cross

the finish line third. Thurkettle and Earl had gotten past him for first and second.

We had a new face in the supermodifieds, Don Porter of Flint, in a white #8. Newcomer to the stocks were Burt Hampton in #31, Bruce Chase in #26, Lou Hastings in #25 and Dave Yeager in the #2.

Between autographs he was graciously signing, we learned a little about one of the most successful drivers around, Bob Carnes. He has 25 feature wins to his credit, this year, with four of them at Berlin. Bob's ride is a 427 cu. in. '57 Chevy owned by Bob Snyder. Owner and driver work on the car, along with Jack Rogers and Tom Bilko.

Bob is a glazier by trade. He and his wife, Jan, live in Kalamazoo. At 32, Bob is a 12-year veteran of sportsman, supermodified and semi-late model racing. At one time, he enjoyed roller hockey, but no longer finds the time. Bob is now fifth in points. Continued success is our wish, Bob.

## Berlin Supermodified Feature To Benson

By Shirley Glass

**August 24, 1968 – Berlin Raceway** – Buddy Stewart drove beautifully, withstanding strong challenges by Johnny Benson to take the checker in the fast supermodified heat. In the feature, the two again staged a duel for the lead. Stewart had led from the earliest laps but Benson succeeded in taking over the lead on the last lap.

More than once in that feature, drivers found themselves in trouble, but sharp reacting to the situation kept everyone running in the same direction. Jackie Lindhout put his years of experience to work in keeping his car under control and off the wall when it looked as though it could not be done. That's talent!

The second semi-late heat kept the fans on the edge of their seats. Johnny Roberts challenged leader Gail Cobb lap after lap until Cobb



developed mechanical problems midway thru the last lap and Roberts took the win over Paul Howell and Tom Marks.

In the third heat, Jerry Spear succeeded in leaving the field at a distance. Dick Dunshee took second by a wide margin; Randy Sweet and Jim Leonard were third and fourth.

The semi-late pursuit ended with five cars still running, which is uncommon. Marks led the closely grouped cars past the flag followed by Leonard, Benson, Bob and Rich Senneker.

On the 12th lap of the semi-late feature, Don VanderMolen spun then hit the front wall. Bob Sensiba was trapped with no place to go but head-on into Don's car. Both drivers were okay but the cars were towed away.

The caution flag ended Tom Marks' half-lap lead. Jerry Spear and Bob Senneker were now only inches back. Spear eventually dropped out with radiator problems. Marks settled for second, Jim Leonard was third, and John Bliss fourth.

We spent a few minutes with the evening's semi-late feature winner, well known, Bob Senneker. His name and face is familiar to most Midwest fans, perhaps nationwide after his great achievement as a rookie at Daytona this past spring. Bob finished 13th there (in a race which many of the experienced drivers were unable to finish).

Bob's present plans call for racing around this area, but he admits to an interest in moving on to the big time if the right opportunity were to present itself. Bob is a 23 year old bachelor and a veteran of six years of racing, both supermodifieds and late models. His biggest accomplishments have come from the late models. Doug Cutler owns the car and Curt Horton is chief mechanic. This combination has been very successful in the past few years.

This year Bob has only won six features at Berlin, and he attributes this to the ever increasing number of top-notch drivers here. Racing is his favorite sport; however he has a

motorcycle and an airplane which he also enjoys.

With the heights this driver has attained already, surely the future holds more great racing victories.

## Fair & Senneker Win 75-Lappers Howe Overall International Champ

By Shirley Glass

**August 31, 1968 — Berlin Raceway** — The racing Senneker brothers, Bob and Rich, crossed the finish line first and second in the 150-lap semi-late-model championship race Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Run in two seventy-five lap sections, Joy Fair led the sparkling field across the finish line in the first leg, with Ed Howe second, followed by Tom Marks, Jim Leonard and Dick Dunshee. Howe with an overall second and third place finish was declared the winner of the grueling event on the .438 mile Marne oval. He also proved to be the fastest of 63 qualifiers.

Howe led the first 44-laps of the race with Fair taking over until the 104th lap with Howe coming back to set the pace until lap 132. Senneker burst into the lead at that time and staved off brother Rich for the less than a car length win.

Heat race winners were Gene Benn, John Magnus and Scott Presley who also captured the consolation feature event.

## Benson Clean Sweep At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**September 2, 1968 — Berlin Raceway** — Johnny Benson had a night at Berlin Raceway on Monday night in which he could do nothing wrong. He won every event he was in and earned the coveted Clean

Sweep Award. Benson won the fast-car dash, his heat race, the pursuit race and the 20-lap supermodified feature.

Larry Gathman was the other heat race winner.

Following Benson in the feature were Buddy Stewart, Eddie VanderLaan, Jerry Spear, and Jim Gresley.

Bob Senneker copped the semi-late stock car 25-lap feature and the fast-car dash. Finishing in back of Senneker were Tom Marks, Rich Senneker, Jim Leonard, Jerry Van Dyke, and Ron Laban.

The pursuit winner was Tom Marks. Heat race winners were Bob Hulka, Jerry VanDyke, Dick Aspinall, and Jim Greenwood.

## Benson Flips Car; Comes Back And Wins

By Shirley Glass

**September 7, 1968 — Berlin Raceway** — Going into the second lap of the supermodified feature Saturday night at Berlin Raceway, Eddie VanderLaan and Jerry Peloquin touched wheels and hit the wall. Johnny Benson rolled over onto the track, bottom side up. This was his debut as an inverted mod chauffeur! He rolled the #21 upright, checked it out and returned to the race. Benson worked thru traffic, chasing leader Art Bennett and took over the lead on the 14th lap. Bennett retained second followed by Eldon Schrader, Jim Gresley, and Buddy Stewart.

Twenty-one cars started the semi-late feature, and by lap five Benson was leading another main coming from tenth he took the lead with the Senneker brothers Bob and Rich and Tom Marks right behind for two laps. Then bedlam broke loose as Bob bumped into Benson, Marks went high but was hit causing both Bob and Marks to spin in front of the 16 remaining cars. Bob was hit by Johnny Roberts with both cars badly damaged. Dale Talsma was hit and into the wall. Jerry VanDyke, Bob Hulka and John Bliss were all out.

Marks with his first good luck this year restarted although damaged as did Jerry Spear and Ron Laban.

Benson led for two laps after the restart when Rich Senneker took over and was never headed. Benson was second and Marks came from the rear for third sewing up the point championship for the 1968 season. Jim Leonard, Gene Eding and Bob Sensiba were next across the line.

Benson started third in the dash and won in his supermodified over Stewart and Schrader, setting a new four-lap record. Eddie VanderLaan looked good in his old #17 and set the fast time for supermodifieds at 16.74, just 4/100 off the record!

Rich Senneker had fast time in the semi-lates and won the dash over Marks and Benson. In the second stock heat, Bob Senneker who had experimented clutch troubles in time trials fixed it and set a new eight-lap heat record with Benson and John Bliss close behind.

Art Bennett took the supermodified pursuit with a long lead; Duane Knoll was an easy second. VanderLaan and Jim Eberstein tangled coming out of the fourth turn trying for third with Eberstein taking third sliding backwards across the finish!

Glen Bradley came out of turn four high, lost it, and took Bob Friend with him in the fourth semi-late heat. Johnny Roberts came from last into the lead. Bradley came out of turn four high again and slammed into the wall. Hulka took second and Friend third.

## Schrader Stops Win Streak Of Benson

By Shirley Glass

**September 14, 1968 – Berlin Raceway** – Hard driving Eldon Schrader of Jackson warmed up for next week's big season championship race by roaring to victory in the accident marred supermodified feature race Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids,

who saw his winning streak ended at seven victories was second followed by Art Bennett of Battle Creek, Ken Crampton of Kalamazoo, Eddie VanderLaan and Randy Sweet of Grand Rapids.

VanderLaan and Jack Lindhout tangled and spun early in the race with Lindhout out of competition. One lap before the white flag Buddy Stewart and Nolan Johncock cars touched wheels with both of them sliding into the wall. Stewart's car burst into flames, and Buddy was sent to Butterworth Hospital with burns on his legs, wrists and arm and shoulder. Quick thinking on the part of Jim Dyke (a stock car driver) who sprinted across the track to extinguish the flames engulfing Buddy with his own body and bare hands, along with the aid of Nolan Johncock and Duane Knoll (who left their race cars to assist) should be highly commended for their actions which probably spared Buddy further injury.

The season championship for semi-late models was lined up by points with Tom Marks on the pole. Marks slid into the wall on the 12th lap after sliding on the slick surface in the third turn several other cars slid and then the caution flag was out for unsafe track conditions.

On coming around for the restart Bob Sensiba hit the wall, Don VanderMolen plowed into Ron Laban and melee broke loose. Bob Senneker maintained his lead throughout the race as Bob Carnes tried lap after lap to get around him and finally settled for second. Rich Senneker was third followed by Spear, Bill Rake and John Bliss, all in a tight knot.

Another driver I'm sure you fans will be interested to knowing a little more about is Ron Laban. Ron and his wife Darla and their two little girls live in Grand Rapids where Ron is an assistant foreman. The 26-year old veteran of five years driving late models also enjoys swimming, water sports and hunting in his spare time. Ron's #87 is on Rodger TerVeen's green Chevy with Doyle McKinney, as mechanic. Ron has scored feature

wins at Hartford, Kalamazoo and Spartan Speedways, but is still trying for a win at Berlin. His goal is for more feature wins at area tracks, and we wish him lots of luck, he may very well make his goal! P.S. Buddy Stewart will be in the hospital for a while yet, as he needs skin grafts, drop him a card at Butterworth Hospital, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

## Schrader Supermodified Champion At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**September 21, 1968 – Berlin Raceway** – The season championship for supermodifieds was won Saturday night by Eldon Schrader, making his second feature win in a row at the Berlin Raceway. Starting third Schrader took the lead from Eddie VanderLaan on the 14th lap. Three laps later Johnny Benson got around Schrader only to drop out a couple laps later. On the 23rd lap the caution flag came out as Jerry Spear blew a tire and hit the wall. He was unhurt. Schrader kept out front for the win followed by Ken Crampton, Art Bennett, VanderLaan and Duane Knoll. This event closes the season for the supermodifieds. This coming Saturday night; Sept. 28th will be an all semi-late model show with trophies for the point leaders.

The stock feature was fast paced. Jim Leonard led for the first ten-laps until Tom Marks and Bob Senneker passed him on the inside and Marks led the next four laps when Bob got to him and the race was his. Marks was right on Senneker's bumper for second. Jerry Spear was third, followed by Rich Senneker, Bob Carnes and Leonard.

There comes a time in the life of each driver when he must make the decision to "Hang up his helmet". Well known and well liked Jim Murphy chose to make that decision at Berlin Saturday night. After many years, this fine sportsman will join those of us on the other side of the



track. Welcome Jim and we wish you much happiness in the future.

Another notable event happened during the last heat for stocks: Glen Bradley lost his brakes and ran head-on into pit steward A.J. Stehouwer's Buick Riviera in the infield. No one was hurt.

A brief note about another top competitor at Berlin, Gail Cobb. Gail has spent the last ten years racing late models, sportsman and supermodifieds. He and his wife Alice and daughter Robin live in Ada. Gail is a landscaping contractor who enjoys hunting in his spare time. Gail's ride, the familiar white #12 is owned and maintained by Toby Scott and Phil Anible.

Gail was second in points last year at Berlin, but had difficulties this year; however he stayed in the top ten and is always a driver to be reckoned with.

## Benson Captures Last Feature Of Season

By Shirley Glass

**September 28, 1968 — Berlin Raceway** — It took him all season to get there, but the fastest car to qualify for the last race of 1968 was Dick Dunshee! He joined the rather exclusive group who has broken the

18 second mark which is a new track record of 17.95.

Johnny Benson took another feature in the semi-late model stock cars. Benson was followed by Rich Senneker, Bob Senneker, Tom Marks, Jerry Spear, and John Bliss.

Heat race winners were Ron Keach, Jerry Spear, and Larry Knowlton. Pursuit winners were Jerry Spear and Don VanderMolen. Leo Havens took the consolation race.

Season point champion Tom Marks was presented with money, a trophy and that long-sought trip to Florida. The other top 20 drivers by points also received recognition and a trophy. "Most Improved Driver of the Year," a special award trophy was awarded to a surprised Jim Leonard. Jim was eighth in point standings, quite a feat when you read the list of drivers ahead of him! Congratulations to all, whose season-long accomplishments led them to fine trophies.

It has been good to see the semi-late models blossom, we had many hot cars, pointing up the need for a division for the little guy to run, and therefore 1969 will hold three divisions: supermodifieds, semi-late models and hobby stocks.

There was a scarcity of rookies this year. There were 161 semi-lates this year as compared to last year's

163. There were more drivers though, 174 to 169.

Last year's most popular initial was "S," this year we found 21 beginning with "B" in stocks alone. How many can you name? Another thought, can you name six stock drivers using #33? You have all winter to think about it!

One of our most promising young drivers is Randy Sweet. Only 21, he has six years of driving behind him! Randy and his mechanic Don VandenBos have teamed up to capture four features at Berlin this year. A veteran of supermodifieds, sprints and stocks, Randy enjoys hunting this time of year. He and his wife Carole and child live in Grand Rapids. We look forward to seeing Randy burning up the track in 1969!

Another fine competitor ended the season early. Bill Thurkettle broke his collarbone in a motorcycle incident. We hope for a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing Bill in the driver's seat in the spring.

Many thanks to the drivers who have graciously consented to questioning for this column, we wanted to tell you a little more about more drivers, but time ran short, so next year we'll continue.

From my side-kick and myself: Have a pleasant winter and may God Bless.

## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1968

### Supermodifieds – Semi-Lates

April 20, 1968 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

Rained Out

April 27, 1968 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

25 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier: Joy Fair 18.43—New Track Record**

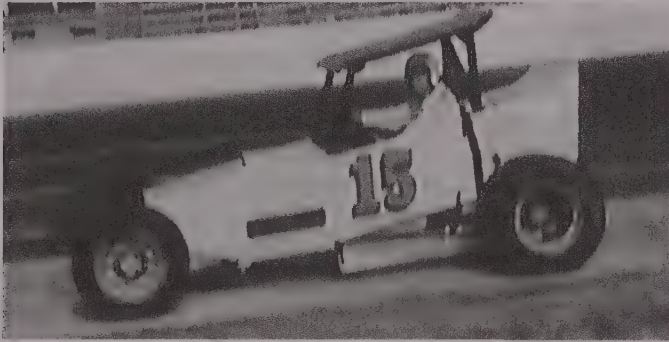
Dash winner: Joy Fair

Heat winners: Rick Knotts, Jim Roberts, Bob Senneker, Al Hagan

Pursuit winner: George Cooper

Consolation winner: Gene Fulcher

**Feature: (1) Bob Carnes (2) Bob Senneker (3) Randy Sweet (4) Tom Marks (5) George Cooper (6) Rich Senneker**



Wayne Klein Sr.

Dick Lee Collection

May 4, 1968 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

Rained Out

May 11, 1968 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

25 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker 18.33—New Track Record**

Dash winner: Ron Laban

Heat winners: George Ice, Larry Knowlton, Al Hagan, Bob Senneker

Pursuit winner: Gene Eding

**Feature: (1) Bob Carnes (2) Randy Sweet (3) Bob Senneker (4) Gene Eding (5) Tom Marks (6) Rich Senneker**

May 18, 1968 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

25 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker 18.20—New Track Record**

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Lyle Earl, Tom Marks, Al Hagan, Gene Locke

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

Consolation winner: John Bliss

**Feature: (1) Bob Senneker (2) Rich Senneker (3) Bill Rake (4) Gene Locke (5) Denny Nyari (6) Larry Knowlton (7) Gail Cobb**

May 25, 1968 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

25 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker 18.43**

Dash winner: Randy Sweet

Heat winners: Bill Thurkettle, Tom Marks, Larry Knowlton

Pursuit winners: Bob Senneker, Bill Thurkettle

Consolation winner: Bob Morgan

**Feature: (1) Bob Carnes (2) Bob Senneker (3) Mickey Katlin (4) Ron Laban (5) Tom Marks**

May 29, 1968 – Wednesday – ARCA (Automobile Racing Club of America) – New Cars

100 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier: Iggy Katona 18.94**

**Feature: (1) Andy Hampton**



Eldon Schrader

Dick Lee Collection



### May 30, 1968 – Thursday – Semi-Lates

40 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Ron Laban

Heat winners: Bob Hegner, Jim Gresley, Nick Rowe, Eldon Schrader, Tom Marks

Consolation winner: Al Hagan

**Feature:** (1) Randy Sweet (2) Ron Laban (3) Rich Senneker (4) Bob Carnes (5) Gary Fedewa (6) Jerry Spear

### June 1, 1968 – No information available

### June 8, 1968 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Joy Fair 18.39

Dash winner: Joy Fair

Heat winners: Bob Hulka, Tom Olsen, Rich Senneker, Johnny Benson

Pursuit winner: Jerry Spear, Gail Cobb

Consolation winner: Bill Rake

**Feature:** (1) Joy Fair (2) Jerry Spear (3) Rich Senneker (4) Tom Marks (5) Gail Cobb (6) Dick Dunshee (7) Bob Carnes

### June 15, 1968 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

25 laps, .438 mile paved

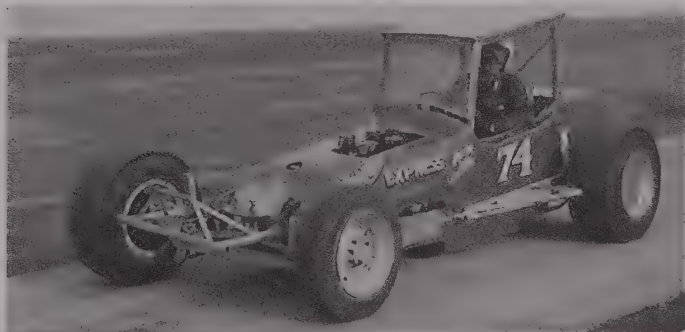
Fast qualifier: Randy Sweet – no time given

Dash winner: Bob Carnes

Heat winners: Leo Havens, Don VanderMolen, Rich Senneker

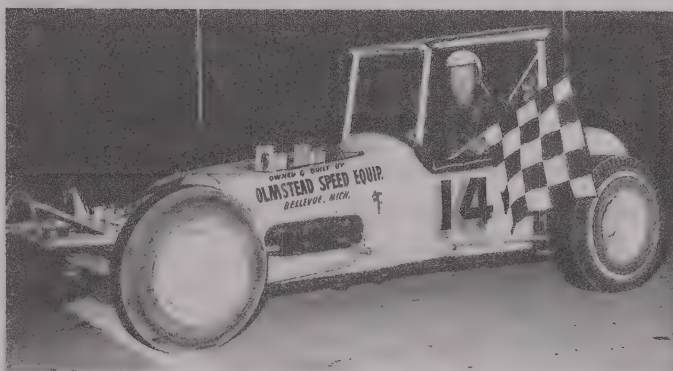
Pursuit winners: Gene Eding, Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Rich Senneker (3) Randy Sweet (4) Bob Carnes (5) Johnny Benson (6) Gail Cobb



Jackie Lindhout

Dick Lee Collection



Art Bennett

Dick Lee Collection

### June 22, 1968 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

100 laps, .438 mile paved

Midwest Invitational Race

**Fast qualifier:** Ed Howe 18.14—New Track Record

Heat winners: Ralph Holcomb, Lou Pallotta, Leo Havens, Johnny Roberts, Bob Carnes, Ray Lockwood

Consolation Winner: Stan Suski

**Feature:** (1) Joy Fair (2) Ed Howe (3) Bob Carnes (4) Jerry Spear (5) Gail Cobb (6) Johnny Roberts (7) Gene Eding (8) Phil Davidson (9) Jerry Peloquin (10) Gary Fedewa

### June 29, 1968 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Heat winners: Jackie Lindhout, Duane Knoll, Eldon Schrader, Johnny Benson

**Feature:** (1) Eldon Schrader (2) Jackie Lindhout (3) Johnny Benson (4) Jim Gresley

**Eldon Schrader – Clean Sweep Award**

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Heat winners: Bob Carnes, Jim Leonard, Rich Senneker, Bob Senneker

Pursuit winner: Rich Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Carnes (2) Rich Senneker (3) Jerry Spear (4) Tom Marks (5) John Bliss (6) Johnny Roberts

### July 4, 1968 – Thursday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.24

Dash winner: Bill Beard

Heat winners: Larry Gathman, Duane Knoll

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Logan (2) Johnny Benson  
(3) Jim Eberstein (4) Duane Knoll (5) Art Bennett

**25 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates**

**Fast qualifier:** Bob Carnes 18.21

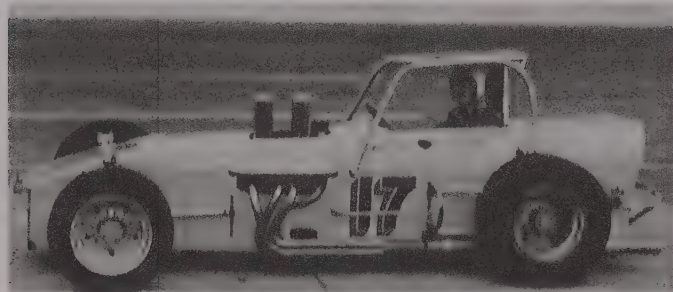
**Dash winner:** Bob Senneker

**Heat winners:** Rick Terpstra, Nolan Johncock, Gail Cobb

**Pursuit winner:** Rich Senneker

**Consolation winner:** Jim Leonard

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Gail Cobb (3) Tom Marks (4) Johnny Logan (5) John Bliss



Eddie VanderLaan

Dick Lee Collection

**July 6, 1968 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

20 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier:** Johnny Logan 16.89

**Dash winner:** Johnny Benson

**Heat winners:** Eldon Schrader, Nolan Johncock

**Pursuit winner:** Nolan Johncock

**Feature:** (1) Jackie Lindhout (2) Johnny Benson  
(3) Nolan Johncock (4) Jim Eberstein (5) Art Bennett

**40 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates**

**Midseason Championship**

**Fast qualifier:** Randy Sweet and Bob Carnes 18.14  
**Tied the Track Record**

**Heat winners:** Bob Senneker, Al Hagan, Bill Minch

**Pursuit winner:** Randy Sweet

**Consolation winner:** Gene Page

**Feature:** (1) Randy Sweet (2) Bob Senneker (3) Tom Marks (4) Gail Cobb (5) John Bliss (6) Johnny Logan (7) Rich Senneker

**July 13, 1968 – Saturday – Supermodifieds**

10 laps (of 30), .438 mile paved

**Midseason Championship Race**

**Heat winners:** Jim Eberstein, Duane Knoll

**Pursuit winner:** Jackie Lindhout

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Jackie Lindhout  
(3) Eldon Schrader (4) Jim Eberstein (5) Art Bennett

*Feature race was red flagged and stopped because of a crash by Duane Wilson into the grandstands with three resulting fatalities and numerous fan injuries.*

**25 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates**

**Fast qualifier:** Bob Senneker – no time given

**Dash winner:** Rich Senneker

**Heat winners:** Bob Sensiba, Jerry Spear, Johnny Logan

**Pursuit winner:** Bob Senneker

**Feature\*:** (1) Randy Sweet (2) Jerry Spear (3) Rich Senneker (4) Tom Marks (5) Bob Carnes (6) John Bliss

*\*Run July 20, 1968*

**July 20, 1968 – Saturday – Semi-Lates**

25 laps, .438 mile paved

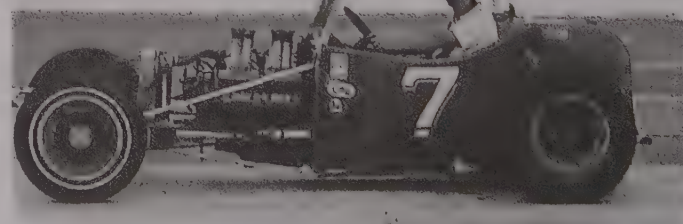
**Fast qualifier:** Randy Sweet 18.06—**New Track Record**

**Heat winners:** Larry Knowlton, Rich Senneker, Bob Sensiba

**Pursuit winner:** Rich Senneker

**Consolation winner:** Larry Gathman

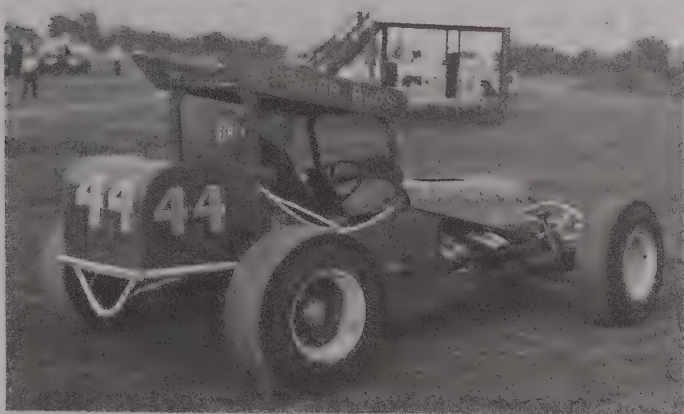
**Feature:** (1) Randy Sweet (2) Bob Carnes (3) John Bliss (4) Rich Senneker



Jim Gresley

Dick Lee Collection





Buddy Stewart

Dick Lee Collection

### July 26, 1968 – Friday – Semi-Lates

100 laps, .438 mile paved

#### *MARC Times Invite*

Fast qualifier: Joy Fair 18.07

Heat winners: John Mangus, George Cooper, John Anderson

Consolation winner: George Cooper

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Bob Carnes (3) Jerry Spear (4) Danny Byrd (5) Johnny Benson (6) John Bliss (7) Bob Senneker (8) Gene Eding (9) Dick Dunshee (10) Gail Cobb

### July 27, 1968 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Jim Eberstein – no time given

Dash winner: Jackie Lindhout

Heat winners: Ken Crampton, Johnny Benson

Pursuit winner: Jim Eberstein

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Eldon Schrader (3) Jackie Lindhout (4) Jim Eberstein (5) Jim Gresley

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Bob Fellows, Gene Eding, Bill Rake

Pursuit winner: Rich Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Tom Marks (3) Bob Sensiba (4) Dale Talsma (5) Johnny Benson (6) Jerry Spear

### July 29, 1968 – Monday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Jackie Lindhout

Heat winners: Duane Knoll, Eldon Schrader

**Feature:** (1) Eldon Schrader (2) Jackie Lindhout (3) Johnny Benson (4) Jim Gresley (5) Jim Murphy

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Dash winner: Bob Carnes

Heat winners: Bill Minch, Jim Leonard, Rich Senneker

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Carnes (2) Rich Senneker (3) Jerry Spear (4) Tom Marks (5) John Bliss (6) Johnny Roberts (7) Ron Laban

### August 2, 1968 – Friday – USAC (United States Auto Club) – Midgets

40 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Mike McGreavy – no time given

Dash winner: Sam Sessions

Heat winners: Sam Sessions, Les Scott, Dave Strickland, Cy Fairchild

Semi winner: Chuck Arnold

**Feature:** (1) Sam Sessions (2) Mel Kenyon (3) Dave Strickland (4) Mike McGreavy (5) Bob McLean (6) Merle Bettenhausen (7) Les Scott (8) Bill Renshaw (9) Rick Davidson (10) Larry Rice

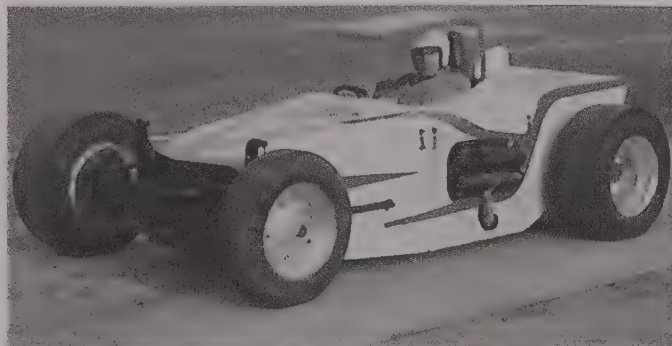
### August 3, 1968 – Friday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Eldon Schrader

Heat winners: Bill Beard, Art Bennett

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson



Duane Knoll

Dick Lee Collection



Nolan Johncock

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Jim Eberstein  
(3) Art Bennett (4) Bill Beard (5) Eddie VanderLaan  
(6) Randy Sweet

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker – no time given

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Ed Britton, Johnny Benson, Gail Cobb

Pursuit winners: Bill Rake, Paul Howell

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Bob Carnes  
(3) Bob Senneker (4) Bill Rake (5) John Bliss (6) Dale Talsma

(Johnny Benson won both the Supermodified and the Semi-Late feature)

### August 10, 1968 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson – no time given

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Jackie Lindhout, Jim Eberstein, Sonny McHenry

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Ken Crampton  
(3) Jim Eberstein (4) Duane Knoll (5) Art Bennett

### 50 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

#### Michigan State Championship Race

Fast qualifier: Tom Marks – no time given

Dash winner: Bob Carnes

Heat winners: Bob Hulka, John Bliss, Jim Leonard

Pursuit winner: Bob Carnes

Consolation winner: Bill McClure

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Tom Marks (3) Randy Sweet  
(4) John Bliss (5) Bob Carnes (6) Dale Talsma  
(7) Jerry Spear

### August 17, 1968 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.11

Dash winner: Eldon Schrader

Heat winners: Bill Beard, Larry Gathman

Pursuit winner: Eldon Schrader

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Jackie Lindhout  
(3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Art Bennett (5) Eldon Schrader

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Dick Carter Memorial

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 18.2

Dash winner: Bill Rake

Heat winners: Dick Aspenall, Johnny Benson, Rick Knotts, Bill Thurkettle

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

Consolation winner: Bill McClure

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Bob Senneker (3) Tom Marks  
(4) Randy Sweet (5) Bob Carnes (6) Dale Talsma

### August 24, 1968 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

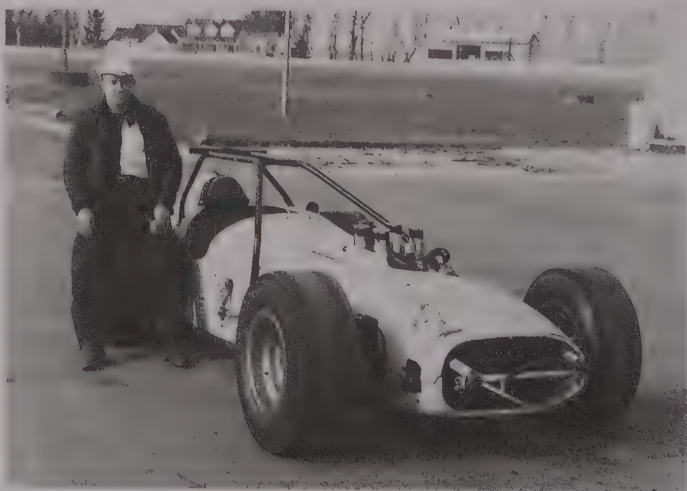
20 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Art Bennett

Heat winners: Buddy Stewart, Jerry Peloquin

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

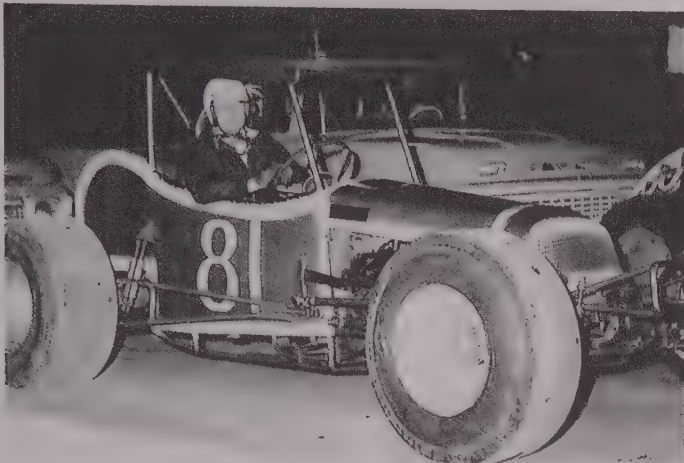
**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Buddy Stewart  
(3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Jackie Lindhout (5) Eldon Schrader



Jim Murphy

Dick Lee Collection





Bill Heeney

Dick Lee Collection

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Dash winner: Randy Sweet

Heat winners: Johnny Roberts, Jerry Spear, Bob Sensiba

Pursuit winner: Tom Marks

Consolation winner: Bob Sensiba

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Tom Marks (3) Jim Leonard (4) John Bliss

### August 31, 1968 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

Twin 75 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe – no time given

Heat winners: Gene Benn, John Mangus, Scott Presley

Consolation winner: Scott Presley

**Feature 1:** (1) Joy Fair (2) Ed Howe (3) Tom Marks (4) Jim Leonard (5) Dick Dunshee

**Feature 2:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Rich Senneker (3) Ed Howe

### September 2, 1968 – Monday – Supermodifieds

#### *Labor Day*

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Johnny Benson, Larry Gathman

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Buddy Stewart (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Jerry Spear (5) Jim Gresley

**Johnny Benson – Clean Sweep Award**

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Bob Hulka, Jerry VanDyke, Dick Aspinall, Jim Greenwood

Pursuit winner: Tom Marks

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Tom Marks (3) Rich Senneker (4) Jim Leonard (5) Jerry VanDyke (6) Ron Laban

### September 7, 1968 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan 16.74

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Johnny Roberts, Duane Knoll, Buddy Stewart,

Johnny Benson, Dick Wexler

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Art Bennett (3) Eldon Schrader (4) Jim Gresley (5) Buddy Stewart

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker 18.02

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Bob Senneker, Gene Eding, Dick Wexler, Johnny Roberts

Pursuit winner: Rich Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Johnny Benson (3) Tom Marks (4) Jim Leonard (5) Gene Eding (6) Bob Sensiba

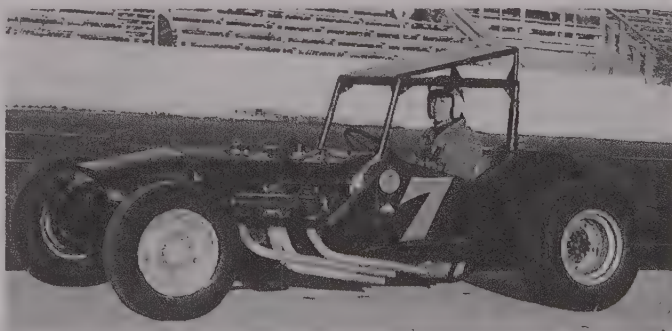
**Rich Senneker – Clean Sweep Award**

### September 14, 1968 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

20 laps, .438 mile paved

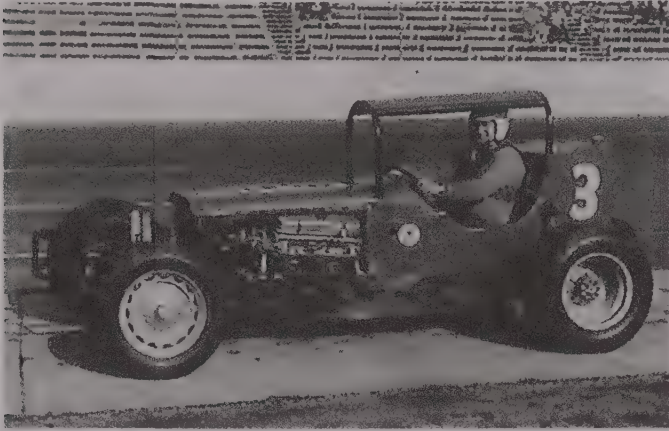
Dash winner: Buddy Stewart

Heat winners: Eldon Schrader, Nolan Johncock



Bill Sherman

Dick Lee Collection



Bob Clover

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature:** (1) Eldon Schrader (2) Johnny Benson (3) Art Bennett (4) Ken Crampton (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Randy Sweet

### 40 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

**Fast qualifier:** Bob Senneker 17.92

**Dash winner:** Bob Carnes

**Heat winners:** Dick Aspinall, Jim Leonard, Jerry VanDyke, Jim Greenwood

**Pursuit winner:** Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Bob Carnes (3) Rich Senneker (4) Jerry Spear (5) Bill Rake (6) John Bliss

### September 21, 1968 – Saturday – Supermodifieds

30 laps, .438 mile paved

#### Season Championship

**Dash winner:** Ken Crampton

**Heat winner:** Art Bennett

**Pursuit winner:** Bill Beard

**Feature:** (1) Eldon Schrader (2) Ken Crampton (3) Art Bennett (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Duane Knoll



Bud Wilson

Dick Lee Collection

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Semi-Lates

**Dash winner:** Bob Senneker

**Heat winners:** Glenn Bradley, Jerry Spear, Jim Leonard, Bob Sensiba

**Pursuit winner:** Tom Marks

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Tom Marks (3) Jerry Spear (4) Rich Senneker (5) Bob Carnes (6) Jim Leonard

### September 28, 1968 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

25 laps, .438 mile paved

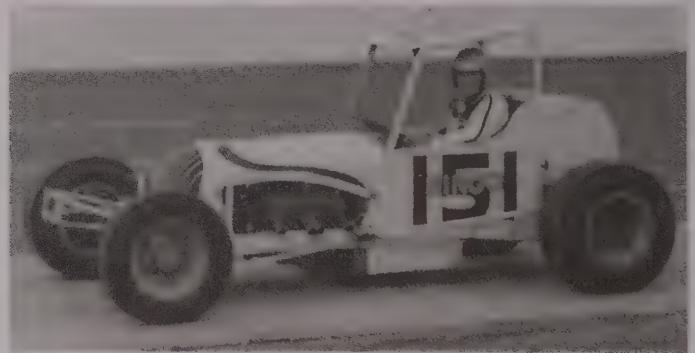
**Fast qualifier:** Dick Dunshee 17.95–New Track Record

**Heat winners:** Ron Keach, Jerry Spear, Larry Knowlton

**Pursuit winners:** Jerry Spear, Don VanderMolen

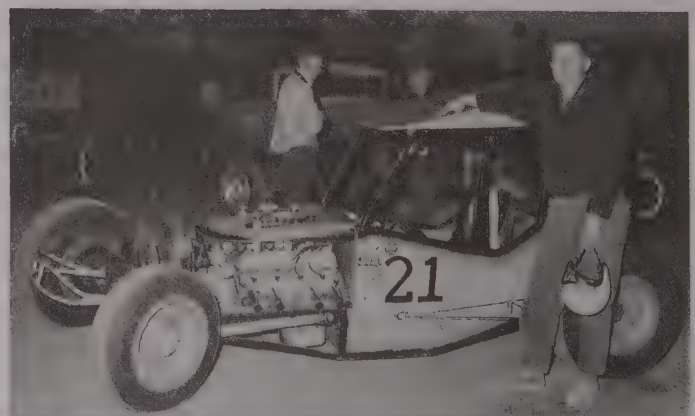
**Consolation winner:** Leo Havens

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Rich Senneker (3) Bob Senneker (4) Tom Marks (5) Jerry Spear (6) John Bliss



Johnny Logan

Dick Lee Collection



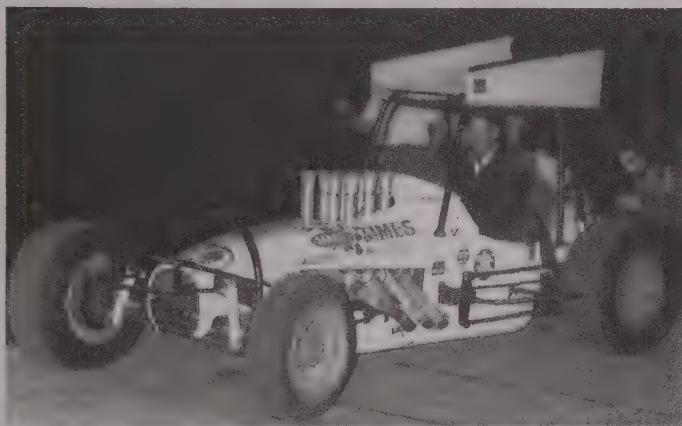
Dave Paul

Dick Lee Collection



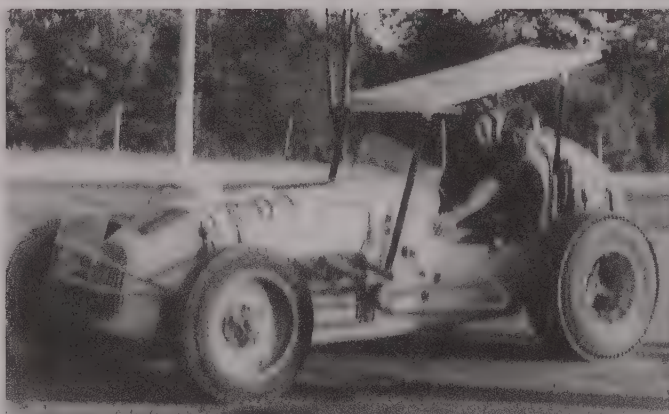
## Berlin Raceway Points 1968

1968 SUPERMODIFIED POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Johnny Benson	63	9	3	4		1
2	Eldon Schrader	35	4		2		1
3	Jackie Lindhout	30	1		2		
4	Art Bennett	20			1		
5	Jim Eberstein	18		1			
6	Eddie VanderLaan	13		1			
7	Ken Crampton	10			1		
8	Jim Gresley	10					
9	Buddy Stewart	9			1		
10	Johnny Logan	5	1	1			
11	Duane Knoll	5					
12	Nolan Johncock	3					
13	Bill Beard	2			1		
14	Jerry Spear	2					
15	Jim Murphy	1					



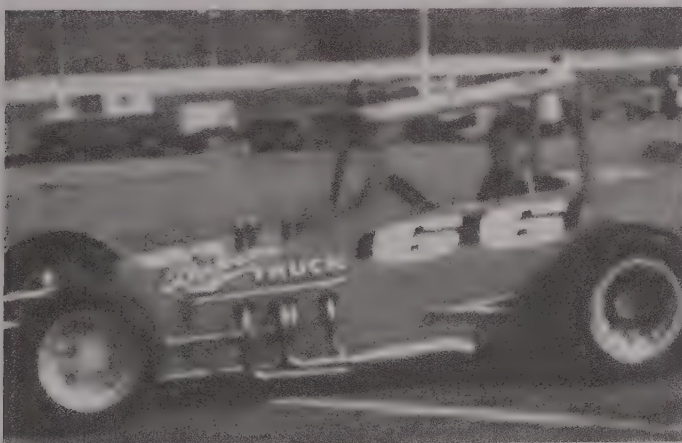
Gene Bell

Dick Lee Collection



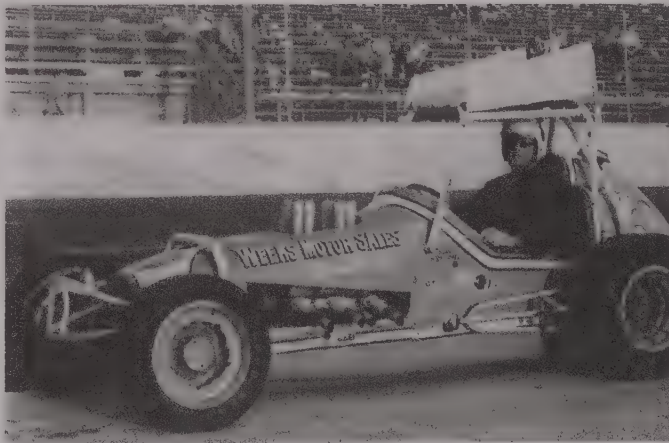
Bob Clover

Dick Lee Collection



Jackie Lindhout

Dick Lee Collection



Casey Jones

Dick Lee Collection

# Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present

## 1968 SEMI-LATE POINTS

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Bob Senneker	75	10	3	4		
2	Rich Senneker	58	3	5	3	2	1
3	Bob Carnes	52	5	2	4	1	
4	Tom Marks	49		1			
5	Randy Sweet	37	4	3	2	1	
6	Jerry Spear	25					
7	Johnny Benson	17	2		1		
8	Ed Howe	11		2		1	
9	John Bliss	11					
10	Joy Fair	10	2	3	2	1	
11	Jim Leonard	9					
12	Gail Cobb	8					
13	Ron Laban	6			2		
14	Bill Rake	6			1		
15	Gene Eding	3					
	Bob Sensiba	3					
	Mickey Katlin	3					
18	Johnny Logan	2					
	Danny Byrd	2					
	Dale Talsma	2					
	Gene Locke	2					
22	Dick Dunshee	1		1		1	
	Gary Fedewa	1					
	Jerry VanDyke	1					
	George Cooper	1					
	Denny Nyari	1					

## 1966-1968 SUPERMODIFIED POINTS

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Johnny Benson	163	21	21	24		4
2	Eddie VanderLaan	111	11	7	4	1	1
3	Jackie Lindhout	68	3		2		
4	Johnny Logan	60	4	2	1		
5	Duane Knoll	59	4	5	3	1	2
6	Art Bennett	58	5		1		
7	Jim Eberstein	57		2			
8	Eldon Schrader	38	4		2		1
9	Mort Anderson	32	2	3	2	2	
10	Nolan Johncock	29					
11	Wayne Root	27	2	4	2	1	

continued next page

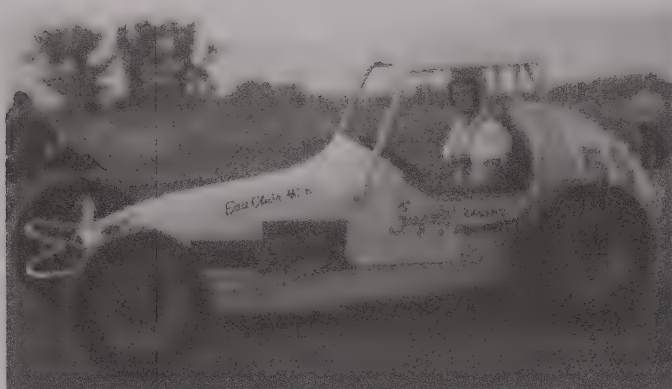


# Berlin Raceway — Supermodifieds (Pavement), 1966–1968

## 1966–1968 SUPERMODIFIED POINTS, CONT.

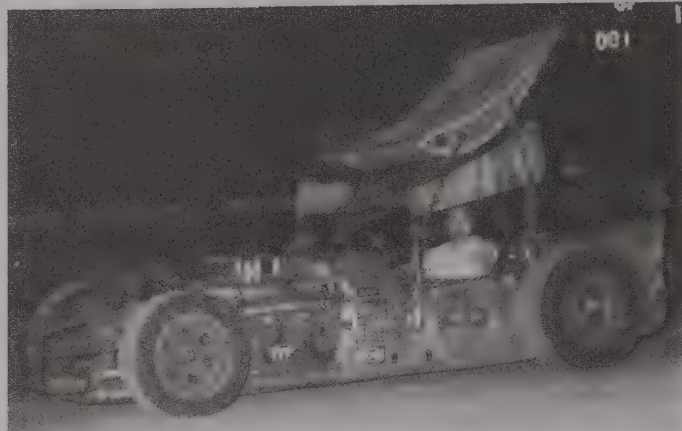
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
12	Jack Nichols	25	1				
13	Todd Gibson	22	2		1		
14	Ken Crampton	22		1	2		
15	Buddy Stewart	21			1		
16	Norm Rust	16	1	3	2	2	
17	Jim Gresley	15					
18	Rich Senneker	12	1				
19	Benny Rapp	11	1				
20	Leon Weiske	11					
21	Bob Smith	8	1	1	2	1	
22	Harold Smith	8	1				
23	Jack Smith	8					
24	Nick Rowe	9					
25	Jim Murphy	6					
26	Tom York	5	1				
27	Bill Beard	5			1		
28	Elver Harrington	5					
	Bill McClure	5					
30	Cy Fairchild	4		1			
	Tom Pruner	4		1			
32	Curly Moody	4					
	Wayne Landon	4					
	Don VanderMolen	4					
35	Darrell Harrison	3					
	Jim Pierce	3					
37	Bob Senneker	2		1		1	
38	Jack TenBrink	2					
	Jerry Spears	2					
	Wayne Harrington	2					
	Jack Ellsworth	2					
	Larry Gathman	2					
43	Bob Carnes	1					
	Bill Denniger	1					
	Gordon Dukes	1					
	Norm Wood	1					
	Bob Knight	1					
48	Claire Lawicki	0			1		

## Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present



Gene Bell

Dick Lee Collection



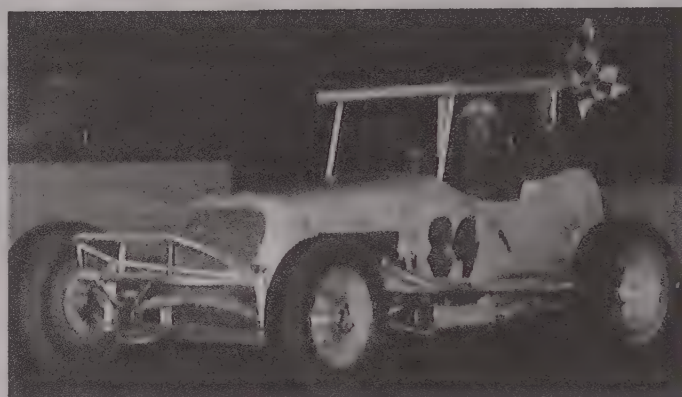
Jack Conley

Dick Lee Collection



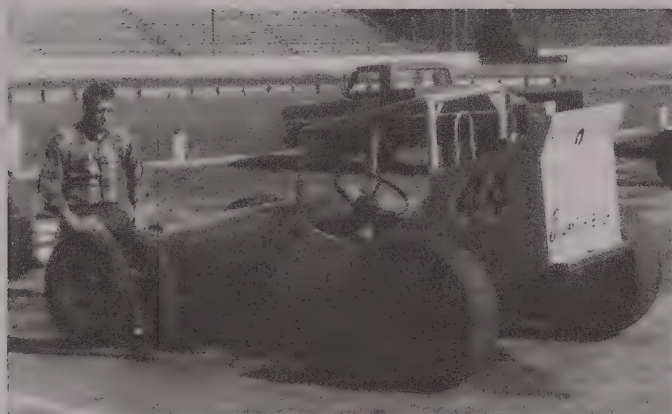
Red Parkhouse

Dick Lee Collection



Harry Jones

Dick Lee Collection



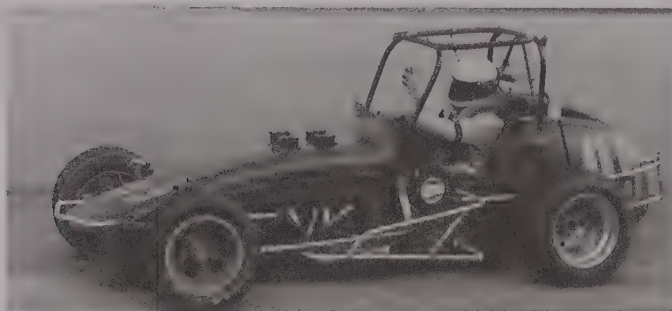
Jerry Peliquon

Dick Lee Collection



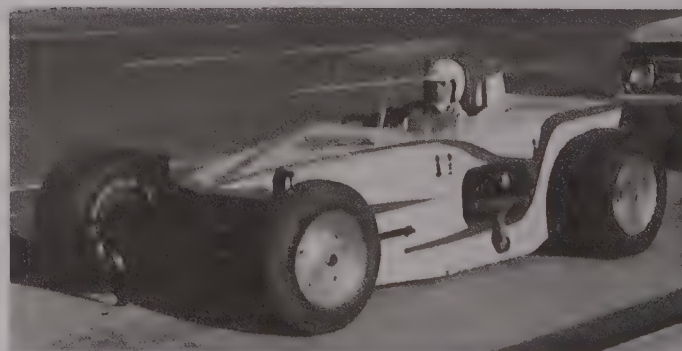
Duane Knoll

Dick Lee Collection



Johnny Logan

Dick Lee Collection



Dick Stemler

Dick Lee Collection



## *Berlin Raceway*

1969

### Era of Semi-Late Models

#### **Berlin Raceway Media 1969**

### **Senneker Bros— First & Second**

By Shirley Glass

**April 19, 1969 – Berlin Raceway** – The opening race of the 1969 season Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway was attended by the largest opening night crowd in memory. The pits were also well filled. We counted 36 semi-lates and eight hobby stocks. Looks like everyone's rarin' to go!

The semi-late dash set a new record at 1:30.84. Despite a strong challenge by brother Bob, Rich Senneker got the win. Bob settled for second, Denny Nyari and Johnny Benson followed.

From the pages of history flashed the winner of the hobby stock dash. A 1955 Hudson Hornet, battered but unbowed warming the hearts of us old-timers as Ray Lockwood, himself no newcomer, roared to victory. Second went to newcomer Dave Cutler. Dave is the son of well-known race car owner Doug Cutler. Dave went on to win the feature for hobby stocks, after setting fast time for the night. This feature was a preview of the action the hobby stocks will be providing as their ranks grow. One car hit the tires inside turn one, throwing them out onto the track. Race leader Lockwood hit one and was forced out of the race two laps later. Art Harvey in the new Superior Builders #56 was the next leader. Then he spun and lost valuable time. Cutler was right on Harvey's tail and had no trouble keeping ahead of the pack for the remaining laps. Harvey settled for second and newcomer

Bud Wright in the #6-pak was third.

The third semi-late heat was notable for the eagerness of the drivers to get racing. Bill VanPeenan (in Tom Marks' old car) hit the tires inside turn one and was eliminated. Former super mod chauffeur, Herb Kirts of Elkhart, Indiana, held off Danny Byrd of Detroit, newcomer Jerry Makara of Westland and Bob Fellows in the new U-Haul Special.

In the fourth semi-late heat, Ed Hage of Ypsilanti hit the third turn wall, finishing the car for the evening. Gary Fedewa and Ralph Baker staged a duel which ended when Baker came out of the final turn ahead and won the drag race for the checkered flag. The consi race was exciting: old timer Harvey Redder spun on the backstretch, then Howard Hud hit the front wall and the car was ready for extensive repairs. Another duel between Baker and Fedewa developed, but this one went to Fedewa, as did the checkered flag. Dave Mulder in a robin's egg blue #97 was third and Phil Shroad was fourth.

Joy Fair started out building himself a big lead as the field dwindled in the pursuit. Bob Senneker began eliminating cars right and left, but he couldn't catch Fair. A half-lap lead in a ten lap race is hard to beat! John Bliss took third in the beautiful Pfeiffer Lincoln-Mercury Special. The new red #89 is a '66 Comet complete with Gurney-Weslake heads and other exotic equipment.

After the cars spread out in the main event, two races were going on: Rich Senneker, Joy Fair and Bob Senneker were fighting for first, Herb

Kirts, Bob Carnes and Benson had their eye on fourth. Bob got around Fair for second and the other positions remained unchanged in this thriller.

It was good to see Wayne Root, Paul Weisner and John Anderson back with us. The Lansing ace, Jim Aldrich was on hand but suffered mechanical problems.

### **Crash Filled Feature To Bob Carnes**

By Shirley Glass

**April 26, 1969 – Berlin Raceway** – The first two racing nights are behind us at Berlin Raceway and it looks like a unique year.

Berlin appears to be breaking attendance records, surprising for this early in the season. New bleachers have been added on turn one, and the hobby stock division is coming into its own.

If you missed Saturday's racing program, you'll never believe that four hobby stocks thought that they could go into the third turn four abreast, and they made it! The outside car polished the wall while he was at it.

Deserving of special mention was the lack of yellow flag laps with the first one occurring in the feature. The automotive beauty contest was ably conducted by the editor of this here publication. The fans yelled themselves hoarse to show their appreciation of the beautiful paint jobs and the construction of the cars. The contest ended in a tie between Ralph

Baker's beautiful Dodge Charger and Dick Dunshee's blue Chevelle. Dunshee spends hours of work building his own car, his tender, loving care in making it beautiful as well as sturdy is obvious. John Bliss was second runner-up in his Pfeiffer Lincoln-Mercury sponsored beauty and Bob Carnes was third runner-up in his Lane Automotive Chevelle.

Back to the racing! The semi-late feature began with 20 cars thundering past the green flag. They got as far as turn three before John Bliss hit the wall joined by Gail Cobb and Bill VanPeenan. Bliss and Cobb retired their cars. On the restart, there was a wild scramble as one of the packs leaders got crossed up and cars spun every which way into the first turn. Ron Laban was unable to continue and Johnny Benson dropped out shortly after the restart.

A few laps later, Wayne Root spun bringing out the third yellow. When racing resumed, Bob Carnes charged to the front and began piling up an insurmountable lead. Four cars battled for second, Bob Senneker was successful, and Joy Fair was next, followed by Rich Senneker and Danny Byrd.

Eleven hobby stocks competed in their feature. The caution flag was thrown when Mike Smith shortened his #59 by backing into the infield guardrail. Cary Peoples gave Dave Cutler plenty of competition, but had to settle for second, Art Harvey was third.

New faces this week included Andy Schutt in the silver #9, Art Bennett in #31, Ed Howe, Jim Rydlewski in #25 hobby stock and other 6-cylinder drivers Ron Bursma, Dave Weronko, Harry Olberg, James Westfield, Craig Zisk and Glen Tanis.

### Benson Wins By Half A Lap At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**May 3, 1969 – Berlin Raceway** – Saturday night's program played to a packed house at Berlin Raceway.

New seating for 1,000 more fans was added this year, and it looks like more is needed.

Rich Senneker broke the track record for one lap qualifying with a sizzling: 17.78 as he shaved 4/100<sup>th</sup> off the old record.

The first semi-late heat started out like a wreck 'em derby. Ray Lockwood and Lyle Earl got crossways in turn four leading the race. Bob Schippers went over Lockwood's hood, into the wall and skidded out into the middle of the track minus one wheel. On the restart, Dick Dunshee came flying up thru the pack and owned the race. Troy Butler, Andy Schutt and Lyle Earl followed Dunshee past the flag.

In the first hobby stock heat, Fred Britton started last and ended up first. In the second hobby heat Dave Cutler went from last to first in one lap. Terry Schmid, a newcomer to hobby stocks, worked thru the pack and gave Cutler a run for his money, almost catching him at the flag, Cary Peoples was third. (Do some of you fans remember Cary's dad, Dick Peoples?)

In the hobby pursuit race, Schmid and Cutler showed how closely matched the cars were, Cutler chased Schmid for several laps but was unable to gain the lead. Britton was third.

In the hobby feature, Schmid again was breathing down leader Cutler's back when a tire disintegrated with 1/4 of a lap to go. Schmid saved second, Peoples was third, then Art Harvey and Ben Wright.

Those hobby stockers are the wildest! Three abreast is common for them and four isn't uncommon. Last week it turned out successfully, but this week the guy on the high side tried to move the wall out a bit, it didn't move, so Rusty Corwin will have some repairs to make.

Johnny Benson really blistered the track, setting a new track record in the pursuit race for the semi-lates which chopped 5.5 seconds off the old record at 3:02.06. Benson was the winner by more than half a lap, Ed Howe, Bob and Rich Senneker

followed, staging their own duel.

The semi-lates were rarin' to go in their fast feature. It was restarted twice as the eager pilots hurried after that green stuff. Benson started ninth, got the lead, and flew away from the competition. Bob Senneker was second, half a lap back. New pappy Bob Carnes was third and rapidly closing on Bob Senneker until a bad tire slowed him up. Howe, Bob Fellows and Jerry Spear were next across the finish line. Benson's blistering pace took him past every other car except the two behind him.

The ranks of the hobby stocks grew this week with the addition of Joe Niewiek and Glen Poel. New in the semi-lates were former super-modified ace Eddie VanderLaan, Bill Rake, Harry Sabo and Jim Daniels.

### Carnes Wins Berlin Thriller

By Shirley Glass

**May 10, 1969 – Berlin Raceway** – The crash-filled feature race for semi-late model stock cars at Berlin Raceway, Saturday night, was the scene of one accident which sent perennial favorite Bob Senneker to the hospital for a checkup. The problems began on the pace lap, as the drivers had been charging for the green flag too hard. In an attempt to force a slower start, the pace car pulled back onto the track: after the green did not come out, there was some concern up front about hitting the pace car, but the bulk of the field slowed down without incident.

At the rear, Jerry Peloquin, John Bliss and Bill Massuch spun to avoid the pack slowing in front of them. When they did get the green, the race was fast, but smooth. Rich Senneker was leading with brother Bob and Bob Carnes following bumper-to-bumper. After several laps of these three dueling for the lead they came upon slower cars on the 24<sup>th</sup> lap. Bob Fellows blew a transmission; Carnes went low and grabbed the lead while Rich and Bob went high



around Jerry Spear. Spear spun and hit the wall; Bob Senneker spun and slammed the third turn wall tail first violently. Bob's car was really wrecked and Bob was hospitalized for observation. Rich's car suffered a broken front wheel and was retired as was Spear. Two laps after the restart Bliss and Ed Howe spun in the same spot, Gene Eding hit Bliss, John Anderson then hit Eding. Howe continued with a rearranged front end, as did Anderson with little damage. Carnes held his lead the last four laps for the win. Benson was second, Dick Dunshee was third and Ralph Baker fourth. Howe and Anderson followed. About eight cars finished although 20 started!

In the hobby stock division, three-time winner Dave Cutler found some strong competition. Ken Sutton brought out a new car and bested Cutler in their heat race and the pursuit. In his second night out, Terry Schmid ran away with the feature. Fred Britton, Cary Peoples, and Cutler followed.

Those hobby stockers really put on a show, they seem to think nothing of running into the turns four abreast it's something to see!

We had a large field of cars, about 37 semi-lates and 15 hobby stocks. New hobby stocks this week were Jim Soba of Midland, Leo Havens, and Kenny Sutton the fastest qualifier of the night. New for this year in the semi-late stocks are Moose Myers of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Jim Leonard of Otsego, Ed Rood and Jim Fulton of Lansing, Gene Eding of Wyoming, Ron Chapman of Fruitport and Lavern Brunner, of Illinois.

After the races last week, we talked with newcomer Herb Kirtz of Elkhart, Indiana. In his 12 years of racing, Herb has run midgets, super-modifieds, and had a couple of rides last year in flying stocks. Herb owns the white #50 Chevelle with the patriotic red and blue, and seems to have made the transition from super-modifieds to semi-late stocks with ease. The smiling little fellow with the curly red hair may find himself closer and closer to the front of

the pack with a bit more experience as a super stock chauffer.

## Rich Senneker Does It At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**May 24, 1969 — Berlin Raceway** —The glory of Saturday evening's racing at Berlin Raceway began with Rich Senneker's fast time, the only driver to break into the 17 second bracket and a second feature win at Berlin.

The first heat for the semi-lates never made one lap before Ron Chapman hit the south wall. The first heat for the six's included Ron Bursma's car losing a wheel in turn two. Undaunted, he brought the car past the flag for fourth.

The semi-late feature took the highest toll in equipment in some time. The twenty cars got in four fast laps before Bob Senneker and Andy Schutt bumped, spinning Schutt in front of several cars. The cars of Herb Kirts, Schutt and Ron Laban suffered a good deal of damage. Ed Howe joined the rear of the pack on the restart with some badly crumpled sheet metal. The next few laps were smooth and fast with Johnny Benson flying up from 15th to a nice lead when he uncorked an engine and retired. Rich Senneker moved into the lead with Jim Leonard doggedly holding onto second after having led many early laps. Bob Carnes, Art Bennett and Gail Cobb were all attempting to be third. Bennett and Carnes tangled, sending Carnes into the wall, across the track in a shower of sparks, into the infield and to a stop by a light pole. The pretty #42 was extensively damaged. On the yellow flag, Bob Senneker blew a tire and stopped near Carnes in the infield. Twelve cars finished. Rich and Leonard were followed past the finish line by Bennett, Bill Rake, Cobb, Jerry Spear and Dick Dunshee. It was truly an action packed feature. Other notable action was Terry Schmid's feat of eliminating the entire field in the hobby

stock pursuit in 1-1/4 laps, that's one you don't see every night! The first semi-late heat was a hotly contested duel between Ed Damer and Dick Dunshee. Dunshee was on Damer's tail for several laps but Damer made no errors and Dunshee settled for, a very close second, Jerry Peloquin and Paul Weisner were third and fourth.

Several newcomers in the field of 57 cars included Ken Conklin's new hobby stock #32 and former super-modified chauffer George Rowe introduced his semi-late #20. Jim Dyke and Al Hagen made their season debut with new machinery. Kenny Sutton's new six-cylinder had fast time last week at Berlin, and fast time again this week, the bugs have yet to be worked out, so the feature was without him and the fans are still unsure of the strength of the threat Sutton will make to Dave Cutler who has four hobby stock features to his credit. Terry Schmid ended Cutler's winning streak at three, but Cutler was out to start another string with this feature win.

## Benson Picks Off Second Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**May 30, 1969 — Berlin Raceway** — Johnny Benson captured another Berlin Raceway feature Friday night. Herb Kirts, Bob Senneker, Gene Eding, and Rich Senneker followed Benson across the finish line.

Kirts started off the evening by setting fast qualifying time. Heat race winners were Jerry Spear, Bob Senneker, and Jimmy Roberts. The pursuit race went to Bob Senneker. Jimmy Roberts took the checkered flag in the consolation race.

Terry Schmid captured the hobby stock feature. He was followed by Dave Cutler, Cary Peoples, Joe Niewiek, and Ron Carlton.

Ken Sutton picked up the win in the fast-car dash and a heat race. Joe Niewiek took the other heat race. The pursuit race was taken by Dave Cutler.

## Third Berlin Feature To Benson

By Shirley Glass

**June 7, 1969 – Berlin Raceway**

— Rich Senneker started the night off with a new track record of 17.60 in time trials in the semi-lates. Dash winner was Bob Senneker; Jim Leonard took the pursuit race, with Gene Eding and Bob Fellows victorious in the heat races. The consolation race went to Bob Fellows.

The 30 lap semi-late model feature was taken by John Benson Sr. tailed by Gene Eding, Ed Howe, Rich Senneker, Bob Senneker, Herb Kirts, Jim Leonard, Bill Rake, and Dick Dunshee.

Terry Schmid finished first in the hobby stock 30-lap feature. Schmid was followed by Ken Sutton, Fred Britton, Cary Peoples, Art Harvey, Paul Howell, Jim Trolard, and Graydon Bodell.

Fast qualifier for the hobby stocks was Ken Sutton with a lap of 20.20. Bob Folmer and Cary Peoples took the wins in the heat races.

## Rich Senneker Takes 100-Lapper

By Shirley Glass

**June 14, 1969 – Berlin Raceway**

— Rich Senneker first tied the track record with a lap of 17.60 in the semi-late model division and then went on to win the 100-lap feature of the Midwest Invitational race. Rich was followed by Ed Howe, Jerry Spear, Denny Nyari, Bob Senneker, Randy Sweet, Herb Kirts, and John Bliss.

Heat race winners were Dale Larson and Glen Stevens while Scott Presley took the consolation race.

In the hobby stock division, Terry Schmid duplicated Senneker's deeds by breaking the track record for the hobby stocks with a qualifying lap of 19.91 and went on to win the pursuit race and the 15-lap feature. Following Schmid in the feature were Cary Peoples, Dave Cutler, Paul Howell,

Art Harvey and, Fred Britton.

Heat race winners were Jerry Boeve and Cary Peoples. The consolation race winner was Ed Northrup.

## Berlin Feature Rained Out

By Shirley Glass

**June 21, 1969 – Berlin Raceway**

— The first day of summer was Saturday but the heat sure didn't overwhelm anyone! Berlin Raceway's feature of the evening went to Cary Peoples in the hobby stocks and RAIN! Berlin had a record crowd at the 100-lapper last week and another big crowd despite forecasts of thundershowers this week.

The number of fast times lately have been notable, too. Last week nine cars out of 45 broke the 18-second mark in the semi-lates. This week, seven cars out of 37 were under. Johnny Benson with a 17.81 was far the fastest semi-late, but six others were in the 17.90's: Ed Howe, Rich Senneker, Art Bennett, Andy Schutt, Eddie VanderLaan, and Jim Leonard. And, speaking of dark horse candidates (weren't we??), the hobby stock qualifying record of 19.91 was lowered to 19.75 by—are you ready?—Fred Britton! Not that we sell Britton short, but it was surprising because Britton hasn't even been in a fast-car dash this year! He was in there trying and doing well—but that fast? WOW!

Rich Senneker broke a record in winning the semi-late dash at 1:30.41 for the four-lapper. Ken Sutton took the hobby dash. Randy Sweet also broke a record in winning the second semi-late heat with Herb Kirts and VanderLaan chasing him.

The consolation race got off to a terrible start which was corrected by a restart. On the second lap Clarence Cook broke a rear axle. Jerry Peloquin spun on turn one. Meanwhile, back on turn three, Duane Knoll was also spinning. On the restart Bob Fellows worked into the lead from eighth and held off a dozen charges

to take the win. On the last lap Scott Presley beat out Cluck Green for second.

The hobby feature was wedged in between a few drops of moisture. On the fourth lap a tangle on the first turn sent Jim Westfield and Bill Minch spinning. Terry Schmid was trapped between the two and went out with a badly bent front end. Fred Britton also retired to the pits. Dave Cutler was the leader on the restart with Sutton and Cary Peoples right behind. Sutton grabbed Cutler's lead and Peoples followed him through. On the last lap Peoples slipped under Sutton and copped his first feature win.

During intermission, as the cars were lining up for the semi-late feature, the weather forecast proved itself correct. The management called the semi-late feature and announced that it will be run in addition to the regular program next week. It has been quite some time since we have had part of a program rained out—although we have rained out whole programs and lived through several Saturday nights of threatening weather. The forecast for the next month is cold and wet. Even an optimist would find little to be cheerful in the way the weather is treating this sport this season!

Names from another era cropped up in the new drivers this week: Bob Clover and Harry Drolema. Bob has joined us periodically, but Harry's last trip at Berlin was on another size and type of track. Welcome back! Other new faces in the hobby stocks were Earl Jourden, Bob Ortiz and Kirk Norman. The old familiar names of Johnny Logan and John Boerman popped up in the semi-lates. We hope to see more of these two.

## Benson Wins Two Berlin Features In One Night

By Shirley Glass

**June 28, 1969 – Berlin Raceway** — To complete the racing



schedule from last week, the rained-out feature began the evening off. Jerry Spear got off to a lead which increased each lap until the halfway point when transmission troubles forced him to drop back. Ed Howe, Herb Kirts and Gene Eding got by Spear and ran that way until Johnny Benson sensed that the flagman was about to reach for the white flag. He charged around Howe and took the first win of the night. Kirts, Eding, Rich Senneker followed Howe, leaving Spear in sixth.

The semi-late fast-car dash never made a half lap when Howe broke something and bumped Art Bennett. Bennett was okay, but Howe pitted for some welding. Kirts was brought up as an alternate. He proceeded to lead the whole dash. Bennett kept his second place and Benson bested Rich Senneker for third.

Former super-modified pilot Buddy Stewart hopped in a semi-late and beat Harvey Redder, Troy Butler, and Bob Sensiba in the first heat. In the fast heat, Randy Sweet was chased across the finish line by Eding, Benson, and Bob Fellows. In the other heat Bill Thurkettle and John Bliss drove hard and grabbed the first two slots. Chuck Green was third.

Gail Cobb won the consolation over Thurkettle, Bob Senneker and Dick Dunshee. (Senneker had come in too late to qualify and had to run the consolation race to make the feature.)

The regular feature for semi-lates went fast with four smooth laps until Sweet spun and was hit by Jim Leonard. Leonard was out but Sweet restarted at the tail end. Jerry Spear led the first fourteen laps. Then Benson grabbed the lead. On the 25th lap, Howe took third from Kirts and there the lineup stayed: Benson, Eding, Howe, Kirts, Rich and Bob Senneker. Quite a night for the white convertible #21-as I hinted in last week's column. Benson seems to have a way with double features. Makes you wonder what will happen this coming weekend when Berlin runs two nights in a row....On the

Fourth of July, Berlin will have another holiday show with their famous fireworks (and earlier times-5:30, time trials and 7:30, racing). Saturday night, in addition to the usual show, Ken Carter's Leap for Life will thrill the crowd: the leap is in a car and goes over a bus!

In the hobby stock division, Fred Britton again had fastest time. In the dash, he tried too hard and spun out, and had to settle for fourth behind Terry Schmid, Ken Sutton and Kirk Norman. In their first heat, Bill Minch helped Les Lemmon do a circle in the middle of turn one. After the pack all miraculously missed Lemmon, he started at the rear. On the same lap Joe Niewiek gained the lead, coming from tenth. Minch and Paul Howell passed Niewiek in the later laps leaving him third.

The second heat was one of the races those six-cylinders put on that makes you reach for the tranquilizers! The ease with which they run four cars abreast is something to watch. Those guys are really learning how to handle fast driving in heavy traffic! After three lead changes on the last lap, Sutton copped Peoples lead-and the loot. Art Harvey and Schmid followed.

Les Lemmon probably feels the drivers are inhospitable here, since he was again spun out in the consolation race. But he showed 'em—he came from the rear to the lead with time to spare. Ken Conklin and Glen Bradley also finished in the money. Sutton gave Schmid a run for the pursuit money, but couldn't get by him. Cary Peoples won his second feature in as many weeks. Schmid, Dave Cutler, Sutton, Harvey and Britton shared the cash after clearing a trouble spot on turn four where Jim Westfield had hit the wall hard throwing a tire. Kirk Norman had the misfortune of hitting the runaway tire and broke the tie rod on the Hav-A-Bar Spl.

New faces including Harold Simmons driving Eding's old #64 converted to a hobby stocker, Larry Van Horn of Battle Creek in semi-late #9, Bill McClure in a new #666

which wasn't quite ready to race this program and a newcomer for this year, Norm Brown. Lots of old timers are coming back to race with us. We look forward to seeing McClure compete and of course fans will be watching Norm's comeback after his brush with death last year in an Indy championship car. We're glad he's back in the game. Good Luck, Norm! Might mention that Norm was honored in pre-race festivities when he was given Goodyear tires, racing boots from Neil Miera's Shoes and money from his sponsor WLAV and Berlin Management.

One face which will be missing from here on in will be that of our illustrious starter, Jimmy Myer. In addition to being a fine showman, Jim is a nice guy and will be missed by fans and crews. We wish Jim lots of luck, too!

## Bob Senneker Back To Winning Ways At Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**July 5, 1969 — Berlin Raceway** — The weather didn't cooperate on the Fourth, but Berlin Raceway ran on the fifth of July with Ken Carter's Long Bus Jump and Cycle feats. The fireworks are rescheduled for next week, along with the Mid-Season championship race for hobby stocks (and they will probably provide some extra fireworks!)

The pits were crowded with cars: Thirty-six in the hobby division and nearly forty semi-lates.

The first hobby heat and the consolation event were distinguished by the return of the "half second rule." Three race leaders in the six-cylinder class were disqualified for running more than one-half second over their qualifying speed.

In the hobby feature, young Dave Cutler, continuing his hard luck streak, spun and restarted on the tail end. Shortly after, Ken Sutton slowed up with troubles and headed



for the pits. Cary Peoples had the lead midway, but when the checker fell, Terry Schmid was there to stop Peoples win string at two. Peoples settled for second, Fred Britton, Paul Howell and Cutler followed.

The first semi-late heat was as wild as a typical hobby stock heat. Leo Havens spun and was hit by Gary Hecksel, both retired. There were other spins, but Jerry Spear survived for the win. Nick Rowe, newcomer Jack Trumble and Dick Dunshee were next. Their fast heat was exciting to watch as they went lap after lap with little spreading out or position changes. Bob Senneker had his foot deeper in the carburetor as he sailed past the finish line inches ahead of Randy Sweet, Gene Eding, Herb Kirts and Ed Howe.

The third semi-late heat was four laps old when Jim Dyke spun out. Two laps later Dick Wesler spun and John Bliss lit out for the boondocks. Ron Laban led thru the caution flags to finish first. Bob Fellows came from last, passing ten cars to take second. Bill Thurkettle and Bliss were next.

The semi-late consolation started with Jerry Peloquin spinning on the first lap, and Dyke duplicating the feat on the next lap. L.T. Leohr made his season debut at Berlin by kissing the wall. Dick Dunshee drove hard to take the win over Spear, Laban and Thurkettle.

The semi-late feature flew 12 fast and furious laps before the yellow fell when Bill Rake's hub got too hot and burned. Randy Sweet had piled up a nice fat lead which was wiped out. On the restart, Kirts, Bob Senneker, Ed Howe and Johnny Benson were right in back of Sweet. Benson immediately took Howe and set his sights on another win. Senneker and Benson passed Kirts and chased Sweet for seven laps until Senneker and Benson got around Sweet. Five laps later, Sweet took a spot back from Benson, but Benson regained it on the next lap. A blistered rear tire ended Benson's winning ways. Bob Senneker got his first feature win of the year at Berlin by setting a blistering pace, in this case, blistering to

Benson's tire. The big money went to Bob Senneker, Benson, Sweet, Rich Senneker, and Kirts. The winner showed the fans the way he chalked up so many wins at Berlin in the past years. It's good to see him back in contention.

New faces in the pits this week included Doug Spencer, Tony DeMull and Pete Champnoise in the hobby stocks and Jack Trumbla and L.T. Leohr in the fast ones.

## Herb Kirts Takes First Feature Of Season

By Shirley Glass

**July 12, 1969 – Berlin Raceway** – Saturday night was the Mid-Season championship for hobby stocks at Berlin Raceway. In the early laps Doug Spencer, Bill Minch and Paul Howell were spin victims. The race restarted with high point man Dave Cutler on the pole, Dave was passed by Terry Schmid who led until Cary Peoples took over on lap 18. Peoples and Schmid were running first and second until they spun in front of the pack on the fourth turn, the yellow was out and both cars were sent reluctantly to the rear of the field.

Cutler regained the lead at the restart with Fred Britton trying hard to get around him. Britton spun onto the pit road and hit a push truck and was out of contention. Peoples came from the rear of the pack to overtake Cutler on the last lap and win the championship. Cutler held on for second and Schmid came thru for third followed by Jerry VanDyke, Art Harvey, Jerry Boeve, Leo Havens, and Ron Carlton.

The first hobby stock heat was a preview of things to come with various spins by Mike Smith, Rusty Corwin and Ron Bursma, who hit the first turn wall. Jim Westfield was running a strong second when he blew a tire. Joe Niewiek finally got the win over Graydon Bodell and Toby DeMull. Bob Clover took the second hobby heat over Jim Leonard and Ron Carlton.

Dave Cutler won the third heat with Peoples and Schmid breathing down his tailpipe for second and third. Art Harvey was right there for fourth.

Jerry VanDyke took the checker in the fourth hobby heat winning over Dennis Holtzlander and Leon Chase.

Bob Senneker started outside pole and won the semi-late dash over Andy Schutt, Gene Eding and Rich Senneker.

There were several spins in the first semi-late heat before Art Bennett took the win over Herb Kirts and Eddie VanderLaan. Bob Fellows took the second semi-late heat chased by Ron Laban and Scott Presley.

The third semi-late heat hardly got started when Jim Dyke, John Boerman and Norm Brown tangled in turn three. Duane Knoll went off the backstretch to miss the accident. Jerry Spear was passing George Rowe on the high side when Rowe closed the door, Spear hit the brakes. Bill Thurkettle behind Spear spun and was hit broadside by Chuck Green, both ended in the infield. Thurkettle was momentarily stunned but okay, and able to race later. Two laps later Jerry Peloquin, running third, spun leaving the win to Dick Dunshee who was driving a fine race. Spear was second and Boerman third, with only three cars left running.

Eddie VanderLaan won the pursuit chased by Bennett, Rich Senneker, and Johnny Benson.

After the fireworks from the rained out July 4th program, the semi-late feature was a hairy one too. Bill Rake raced ¼ lap, broke a hub and hit the wall. Thurkettle spun and creased the first turn wall. Not much later, Boerman, Eding, Scott Presley and Ron Laban tangled in the first turn. Fast qualifier Gene Eding was through for the night with his encounter with the wall.

On the restart several more cars spun in the first ¼ lap with Spear hitting the wall. Art Bennett got the lead and was stretching it when Herb Kirts nudged Bennett who in turn put Randy Sweet high and into the



fourth turn wall. The umpteenth caution flag was out, Sweet was out and Bennett went to the rear of the pack. Andy Schutt was the next causality spinning into the fourth turn wall after blowing a tire.

Kirts maintained the lead for the win followed closely by Bob Senneker, Benson, Rich Senneker, Bennett, VanderLaan, Dunshee, and Thurkettle in that order.

## Rich Senneker Holds Off Tough Field For Win

By Shirley Glass

**July 19, 1969 — Berlin Raceway** — Whew! The drivers seemed to resent the fact that there was no wreck 'em derby scheduled for the Fair Week program Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. They sorta set out to turn the regular program into one!

In the first hobby stock heat, Art Harvey held the pack behind him with every trick he knew. Terry Schmid had tried his best to pass Harvey. Cary Peoples worked from eighth to third. At the flag, Schmid and Peoples put Harvey in a sandwich. Peoples, the top layer, beat Harvey. Schmid, on the inside, had to settle for third.

In the hobby stock pursuit, Joe Niewiek got the lead and Jerry Boeve was second. Both of these drivers have been gaining experience. Behind them, second-fastest Paul Weisner and Schmid the fastest qualifier, were trying to get by Harvey to chase the front-running duo. They tangled and all three retired. Weisner was credited with third, which helped pay the expenses, as he was done for the night. Niewiek got by Boeve to take the win on the re-start.

The hobby feature was fast and somehow they got it in without caution flags. Boeve lost a wheel, but got off the track. Peoples came from eighth to lead nearly every lap. Schmid chased Dave Cutler for several laps before Cutler bobbled and Schmid grabbed second. Cutler was third, Bob Clover really moved to take

fourth and Fred Britton was next.

In the semi-lates the second heat took the highest toll. Newcomer Dick Brent, on the pole, goofed and sent Buddy Stewart into the third turn wall with Stewart catching fire, crossed into the infield, leaped clear and was okay, but the car really suffered. After a complete restart, three cars went by Brent at once on the backstretch, four semi-lates across is unnerving! The race went along smoothly until Harvey Redder spun coming out of four. Ron Laban went high around him, was hit by another car and hit the front wall, Redder restarted. A charging trio of Jerry Spear, John Boerman and Mike Janose stormed past the checker as Gail Cobb, who had been having mechanical troubles, spun in the fourth turn and was hit by Jerry Peloquin. Jerry was done for the night and Cobb tried to race later but didn't finish the event.

Johnny Benson, Ed Howe, and Bob Senneker passed the checkered flag in the pursuit so close you couldn't have slipped a shoehorn between them. Mike Janose had the consolation lead and Spear was fighting for it. Coming up on a slower car, both went high to pass him. Spear, in the middle, nudged Janose and Janose busted up his steering on the wall. Spear had the lead on the restart followed by Art Bennett who soon grabbed the lead. Terry Senneker Sr., making his season's debut, and Scott Presley were behind Spear. Terry spun into the infield on the back, leaving Bennett, Spear and Presley in the money.

In the feature, Dick Wesler spun just past the starting flag in turn one, causing a restart. John Boerman led eight laps until passed by Rich Senneker, coming from seventh, and Herb Kirts, who started ninth. Benson moved from tenth taking second midway. On the twenty-third lap, Gene Eding's car developed trouble and he spun, hit a tire and was through. Eddie VanderLaan, the fastest semi-late qualifier, spun with him and restarted at the rear. Benson chased Rich Senneker lap after lap. With two laps

to go, Rich hit the brakes, to avoid a slower car, Benson hit Rich and backed off, Bob Senneker instantly took advantage of the opening to grab second and that was the way it ended with Rich and Bob Senneker, Benson, Kirts and Boerman.

In tribute to a real sportsman; you fans should get to know Buddy Stewart. Buddy drove super-modifieds until last year and still does when he can. He recently drove and then bought Lee Paauwe's stock and plans to run it at Berlin, unless the damage Saturday changes his plans. Last week, Buddy learned of a blind racing fan in the stands. He brought the boy into the pits after the races and showed him around, introducing him to drivers he wanted to meet. Johnny Benson let the youth sit in his car and spent some time showing the blind boy about his car. Later, Buddy went to work and installed a second seat in his now damaged #69 and gave the boy a ride. What a thrill for the boy—and what a kind deed on Stewart's part. We all welcome this kind of guy to our favorite sport!

## MARC Times Invitational To Bob Senneker

By Shirley Glass

**July 25, 1969 — Berlin Raceway** — Rains throughout the area kept the crowds and cars somewhat lower than anticipated at the MARC Times Invitational at Berlin Raceway Friday night, however a good field of cars and fans were on hand. Rich Senneker set fast time of the night at 17:60, tying his own track record. Seven cars were in the 17 second bracket, and only one second separated the top 20 cars!

Randy Sweet nipped Duane Knoll on the last lap to win the first heat as Knoll settled for second followed closely by Eddie VanderLaan and Bob Fellows. Westland's Jerry Makara snared the second heat chased by Art Bennett, Bob Senneker and Scott Presley.

Jerry Spear charged from the rear of the pack to win the third heat over Rick Knotts, Clarence Cook and Jack Trumbula. Gene Eding notched the fourth heat followed by Bill Rake, Herb Kirts and John Benson Sr.

Twenty-four cars started the 100-lap feature which was under the yellow on the tenth lap when John Logan spun in the first turn and leader Rich Senneker went to the outside and hit the wall, breaking a drive shaft. Johnny Benson took over the lead and held it for 18 laps, when the race was stopped as Scott Presley's engine blew going into the third turn. Benson hit the oil as did Terry Senneker, George Rowe, VanderLaan and Fellows, putting them all out of the race.

Herb Kirts led the next 27 laps until Randy Sweet took over on lap 55. On the 56th lap the caution was thrown when Jerry Spear hit the third turn wall. Kirts dropped from second to third as Bob Senneker moved in to challenge Sweet.

As Bob and Randy circled side by side, Art Bennett (about to be lapped by the pair) lunched his engine going into the first turn. Bob and Randy got into the wall, and spun off the track. The race was stopped.

With 25 laps to go, Bob Senneker stayed out front for the \$1,200 win of this his tenth MARC Times Invitational.

Rounding out the top ten were Herb Kirts, Duane Knoll, Gene Eding, Jerry Makara, Jack Trumbula, Ed Howe, Harvey Redder, Clarence Cook, and Mike Janose.

## Third Berlin Feature To Kirts

By Shirley Glass

**July 26, 1969 – Berlin Raceway** – Herb Kirts picked off his third semi-late feature of the season Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. He was chased to the checkered flag by Jerry Spears, Ron Laban, Bob Fellows, Bill Thurkettle, Randy Sweet, and Norm Brown.

Fast-car dash winner was John-

ny Benson, Andy Schutt and Bob Fellows were the heat race winners. Terry Senneker was the victor in the pursuit race.

In the hobby stock division it was Cary Peoples taking the 15 lap feature win. Peoples was followed by Dave Cutler, Fred Britton, and Art Harvey.

Dave Cutler won the fast-car dash while Terry Schmid took the pursuit race win. Heat race winners were Graydon Bodell, Terry Schmid, Dennis Holtzlander, and Jerry VanDyke.

## USAC Sprint Car Feature Goes To Todd Gibson

By Shirley Glass

**August 1, 1969 – Berlin Raceway** – Former super-modified driver Todd Gibson of Richwood, Ohio returned to the scene of many triumphs and crossed the finish line first in the 30-lap feature race for the United States Auto Club sprint cars Friday night at the Berlin Raceway.

The national championship event saw Gary Bettenhausen of Tinley Park, Illinois chase the winner across the finish line followed by Bill Puterbaugh of Roxana, Illinois, Rollie Beale of Toledo, Ohio, Dee Jones of Glendale, Arizona, Don Nordhorn of Evansville, Indiana, and Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids.

The accident scarred main event was halted on three occasions. The cars of Bob Pratt of Union City, Indiana, Ralph Liguori of Tampa, Florida, Herm Wise of Atlanta, Georgia, and Sam Sessions of Nashville, Michigan, who ultimately finished eleventh hit the wall.

Cy Fairchild of Saginaw finished sixteenth and Nolan Johncock of Hastings, driving the Duane Varney Special, missed the program with a blown engine in their race car. Jim Hines, the card's first qualifier, escaped serious injury when his car flipped end for end.

Heat race winners were Greg Weld of Kansas City, who was the

fastest of the 36 qualifiers with a 16.80 second qualifying lap, Beale, Nordhorn and Don Bigelow.

## Rich Senneker Wins Fifth Feature Of Season

By Shirley Glass

**August 2, 1969 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids drove his '67 Chev-elle WLAV Radio semi-late model stock car to the point leadership and victory in the hectic 30-lap feature race Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Coming from sixteenth starting position in the lineup, Senneker gained his fifth main event victory of the season by wading through a top-notch field and finishing ahead of Bob Fellows of Muskegon, Herb Kirts of Elkhart, Indiana, Gene Eding and Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids. Pre-race favorite and point leader Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids spun out on two occasions and finished 17th.

Paul Weisner of Muskegon turned in a brilliant driving performance to win the action packed 15 lap main event for hobby stock cars at the .438 mile Marne oval. Fellow townsmen Cary Peoples, Ken Sutton, Fred Britton, and Bob Clover chased the winner across the finish line.

Heat race winners were Bill Thurkettle of Muskegon, Leon Chase, Kirk Norman, Mark Knight, and Benson Sr. all of Grand Rapids. The dash events were captured by Kirts and Sutton with pursuit honors going to Weisner and Jerry Spear of Battle Creek.

## Berlin Feature To Benson

By Shirley Glass

**August 9, 1969 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Benson held off a tough field of semi-late model drivers to win another Berlin Raceway



feature. Benson was followed by Rich Senneker, Jerry Spear, Gene Eding, Bob Fellows, Bill Rake, Ron Laban, Eddie VanderLaan, Randy Sweet and Denny Nyari.

Herb Kirts captured the pursuit race and the heat races were taken by Clarence Cook and Randy Sweet.

Paul Weisner was victorious in the hobby stock class and was followed by Bob Fellows, Cary Peoples, Art Harvey, Paul Howell, and Jim Leonard.

Dave Cutler took the win in the pursuit race while Bob Fellows and Cary Peoples captured wins in the fast-car dash races.

## Benson's Convertible Takes Feature

By Shirley Glass

**August 16, 1969 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids behind the wheel of a 1967 Chevelle convertible turned in a brilliant driving performance to win the hectic 50-lap Mid-season Championship race for the semi-late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

The first caution flag fell on lap three when Mike Janose spun, Clarence Cooke shot off the back stretch and had to retire. Rich Senneker led the first 11 laps until Benson took over. On the 12th lap, Buddy Stewart lost a wheel, and Duane Knoll slammed the wall. The race was stopped. Stewart replaced the wheel but wasn't allowed to rejoin the race since he made repairs on the red flag.

Rich Senneker stayed on Benson's bumper and his brother Bob Senneker and Randy Sweet moved into third and fourth spots in the fast paced event.

Gail Cobb hit the third turn wall on the 39th lap and exited, leaving 11 of the original 21 cars still in the race. Bob Senneker caught brother Rich at the finish line for second in the thrilling finish. Randy Sweet was fourth followed by Herb Kirts,

Eddie VanderLaan, Ron Laban, Bill Rake, Gene Eding and John Bliss.

The action began in warm-ups for the hobby stocks when George Rowe lost his steering coming out of turn three and went into the fourth turn wall full bore. After hitting the wall he crossed to the inside in flames. George jumped clear but the car was totally wrecked.

Cary Peoples blasted the track record for hobby stocks lowering the mark to 19.28. Cary also won the dash and pursuit race after eliminating the entire field.

Dave Cutler was the early leader in the hobby stock feature but was passed by Terry Schmid on lap nine. Schmid held on to the lead until Paul Weisner took over four laps later and was never headed. This was Weisner's third consecutive feature win. Schmid was second, Cutler third followed by Ken Sutton, Peoples, Art Harvey, Fred Britton, and Paul Howell.

The Senneker brothers Terry, Bob, and Rich each won heat races. Toby DeMull, Dave Cutler, Jim Leonard and Leo Havens won the hobby heat races.

We send best wishes for a speedy recovery to Joe Niewiek who was injured at Ionia Friday night. Notable in this evening's races was Dick Wesler, who broke into the 17 second bracket, quite an accomplishment.

## Rich Senneker Wins With Wild Finish

By Shirley Glass

**August 23, 1969 – Berlin Raceway** – Both divisions ended their evening's racing with a surprise Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Cary Peoples had grabbed the lead and seemed to have the hobby stock feature all sewed up when Paul Weisner appeared at the checker to snare the win. Just after the flag fell, Paul Howell hit the wall. Peoples hung on for a close second chased by Terry Schmid, Bob Clover, Bill Minch and Jim Leonard.

The exciting finish was upstaged by the semi-late feature, however. After three complete restarts the race got underway minus Clarence Cook who spun and Mike Janose who hit him.

On the ninth lap Randy Sweet took over the lead and began moving away from the pack. Ron Laban worked into second on the 14th lap, driving a fine race. Four laps later, John Bliss spun on the front stretch, hailing the yellow and eliminating Sweet's long lead. Laban, Gene Eding, Rich Senneker, Herb Kirts and Bob Senneker joined the chase. On the 23rd lap the Senneker brothers moved into second and third. The trio ran closely the next two laps until coming out of the fourth turn for the checkered flag when Rich tapped Sweet who spun and Rich took the win with brother Bob second. Sweet was third going over the line backwards. Following them in order were Eding, Laban, Knotts (in the car just purchased from Johnny Benson), Kirts, and Jerry Spear.

Heat race winners were Jerry Spear, Jack Trumbla, Henry Potter, Fred Britton, Tom Finkbeiner and Terry Senneker Sr. Dash event honors went to Sweet and Terry Schmid. Britton and Kirts captured the pursuit honors. Other than spin outs the heats, pursuits and consolation race went along smoothly and fast.

The hobby stocks are becoming mighty rapid with the fastest hobby stockers running faster than the slow super stocks.

One of the top drivers in the hobby stocks is Cary Peoples. Cary's father is one of the great race drivers of a few years back, (and Cary is Ken Sutton's nephew!) The 25-year old Cary has been racing for 2-1/2 years, this is his first year on asphalt and he has five features to prove his ability.

The #71 is co-owned by Cary and Rex Dykman. During the week Cary services machinery for a living. He is married and lives with his family in Twin Lakes.

A promising hobby stock driver will be missing from the field. Joe



Niewiek, who was doing so well in the #75, is recovering from a broken knee and jaw and cuts. He was released from the hospital this past Friday.

## Michigan State Championship Honors To Senneker

By Shirley Glass

**August 30, 1969-Berlin Raceway** – Bob Senneker drove his beautiful blue #84 Chevelle to victory less than a car length ahead of Eddie VanderLaan in Berlin Raceway's 75 lap Michigan State Championship race for the semi-late model stocks Saturday night.

Randy Sweet looked like a possible winner until lady luck frowned on him again when Herman (the engine in his '67 Torino) let go in the third turn on the 49th lap. A beautiful driving display was shown by most of the drivers, making it thru the oil all the way from the middle of the backstretch thru the third corner, where Randy ended on the wall.

Trailing Bob across the finish line was Eddie VanderLaan, big brother Rich Senneker, Art Bennett, Herb Kirts, Gene Eding, Dick Dunshee, Dale Larson, Jerry Spear and Cookie Cook.

Paul Weisner racked up his fifth consecutive feature in the hobby stocks as he shot by Terry Schmid on the 14th lap to win the honors. Dave Cutler was third and Cary Peoples fourth.

Heat race winners in the semi-lates were Jerry Spear, who started in the 13th spot to take the lead on the last lap from Jerry Peloquin; Gene Eding who took the honors in the second heat over Bob Fellows, and Rich Senneker.

Heat winners in the hobby stocks were Red Runyon, Dave Cutler and Leo Havens.

Paul Weisner was victorious in the dash and pursuit and Red Runyon won the consolation race honors.

## Herb Kirts Captures South Bend And Berlin

By Shirley Glass

**September 1, 1969 – Berlin Raceway** – Wild was the word for Berlin Raceway's Labor Day program of races, right from the early dropping of the parachutists during the Nation Anthem right down to the last lap of the semi-late main event.

Herb Kirts rushed north after winning at South Bend Speedway to win the semi-late main event here and Terry Schmid scored the hobby stock feature.

The semi-late feature was under the caution first when Bill Thurkettle spun into the first turn wall and later when Terry Senneker Sr. blew a tire and broke a tie rod on the front stretch.

Kirts took over the lead and held it for the win with Eddie VanderLaan a close second. In the battle for third, Buddy Stewart spun in the fourth turn on the last lap, taking Jerry Spear with him into the wall. Rick Knotts streaked in for third chased by Gene Eding, Bob Sensiba, Ron Laban, Andy Schutt and Cookie Cook.

The hobby stock feature was action packed too. The yellow flew when Kirk Norman spun in the first turn and was tapped by Paul Howell after the yellow. Terry Schmid got through traffic for the win, stopping Paul Weisner's win streak at five. Paul tangled momentarily with Cary Peoples coming for the checker, Weisner was able to hold down second but Peoples couldn't get across the line. Dave Cutler romped in for third followed by Bob Clover, Fred Britton and Art Harvey.

Rich Senneker set a new dash win record at 1:28.91, chased over the finish by Bob Fellows, Bob Senneker and VanderLaan. Weisner won the hobby dash after starting last with his 18.89 qualifying record. Peoples was second over Schmid and Britton.

Weisner also won the pursuit and second heat. John Jutila took the first heat which had one restart

and two cautions. Harry Drolema won the third heat over Ron Carlton and Tony DeMull.

Eddie VanderLaan won the super pursuit by a nose over Buddy Stewart, after both spun in the first turn with three laps to go.

The first super heat was stopped when Kirts attempted to pass Gail Cobb, they tangled and Cobb spun into the third turn wall with the pack scattering. The red and checkered flew simultaneously as Fellows' car spun and caught fire on the last lap. Bob Sensiba took the win over VanderLaan and Knotts.

The red and checker flew again in the second heat when Stewart took the win over Cook and Thurkettle as Dale Talsma crashed the first turn wall.

A brilliant fireworks display during intermission capped an exciting evening of entertainment.

## VanderLaan Wins First Stock Car Feature

By Shirley Glass

**September 6, 1969 – Berlin Raceway** – Eddie VanderLaan who switched from super-modifieds to semi-late models this season finally came through first in the thirty-lap feature at Berlin Raceway Saturday night. Eddie has to be one of the hardest drivers this year; he is always in there driving his heart out, always a bridesmaid and never a bride until tonight!

Chasing Eddie across the finish line was Rich Senneker, Bob Senneker, Rick Knotts and Herb Kirts. Filling out the top ten were Randy Sweet, Johnny Benson, Jerry Spear, John Bliss and Dale Larson.

Paul Weisner of Muskegon stacked up his sixth win and the 25 lap season championship for hobby stocks by out dueling Cary Peoples of Muskegon and Dave Cutler of Grand Rapids. Paul is in seventh place in the point standings, not bad for starting half way thru the season.

In qualifying Bob Senneker set



fast time with a blistering 17.69, Weisner had fast time in the hobbies at 19.31. Bob Blouw came thru the winner in the hobby heat as Buzzy Lee was black flagged for running a second and a half over his qualifying time.

Other heat race winners were Ken Sutton and Henry Potter in the hobbies and Ken also won the pursuit. Red Runyon notched the consolation race win.

In the semi-lates Eddie VanderLaan won the fast-car dash and Terry Senneker Sr. won the slow dash. Heat winners were Johnny Benson and John Bliss. Dale Larson took the pursuit win.

## Senneker Takes Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**September 13, 1969 — Berlin Raceway** — Saturday night at Berlin Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids drove to victory in the 30-lap feature for the semi-late model stock cars. On the first lap of the feature Gale Cobb and Clarence Cooke tangled which made for a complete restart; Gene Eding jumped into the lead and held on until the 15th lap when Dale Larson, running second lost his radiator on the front chute which brought out the yellow flag. Gene Eding held on for a few more laps with Randy Sweet and Bob Senneker right on his tail, Senneker finally got around him to take the win with Rick Knotts driving a beautiful race coming in for second. Rounding out the top five were Randy Sweet, Herbie Kirts, and Eddie VanderLaan.

Rick Knotts, the fast qualifier of the evening meant business when he went out and broke the track record with a 17.58 time. Rich Senneker, holder of the old record with a 17.60 went out and duplicated the identical time.

Herbie Kirts and Buddy Stewart were the winners of the heats in the semi-late model division. Bob Senneker won the fast-car dash and the

pursuit. Leo Havens was the winner of the slow-dash.

In the hobby stock division Paul Weisner came thru for his seventh win despite being eliminated in the fast heat when Ken Sutton, Dennis Holtzlander and Paul spun out and hit the wall. Following Paul across the finish line was Cary Peoples, Terry Schmid and Dave Cutler.

The first heat for the hobby stocks was a little hairy, Roger Wellman spun on the first lap, Dan Meara and Dave Rand tangled in the first turn. Jerry VanDyke caught on fire driving right up to a tech fire extinguisher with quick thinking. R.G. (Ron Gilbert) came thru the winner for the first win of his career I believe.

Other heat winners were Fred Britton and Joe Pease. Fred Britton also won the pursuit. Non qualifier Jim Westfield took the hobby consolation.

## Rich Senneker Takes Berlin Championship Race

By Shirley Glass

**September 20, 1969 — Berlin Raceway** — Taking over the lead for the second time on the 23rd lap from pace setter Herb Kirts of Elkhart, Indiana, Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids drove a 1964 Chevelle to victory in the 50-lap season championship race for the semi-late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

The win gave Senneker the track championship for the .438 mile Marne oval and he will receive a week for two in Florida and an assortment of other awards. Rick Knotts of Kalamazoo started 11th and finished second in the hard fought main event, followed by Randy Sweet and Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids, Kirts and Dale Larsen, who had started at the rear of the 20 car main event.

Although the race had a few spin outs, the major accident involved cars driven by Johnny Benson and

Gene Eding, eliminating Benson from further competition on the 17th lap.

Terry Schmid of Grand Rapids out dueled Cary Peoples of Muskegon to win the hobby stock car main event. Paul Weisner of Muskegon, winner of the last seven main events was third followed by Jim Leonard of Otsego and Dave Cutler of Cutterville.

This event was stopped twice, first when Red Runyon, Weisner, Joe Pease and Mike Sherrington tangled coming out of the second turn. None of the drivers were injured.

Heat race winners were Ron Gilbert of Muskegon, Weisner, Bob Blouw, Kirts, Larsen and Bill Minch of Grand Rapids. The event that Larsen won was the most hectic, with the race under caution five times on the white flag lap, as first Minch, then Larsen, then Bill Thurkettle spun, finally the cars driven by Leo Havens and Bill VanPeenan tangled on the third turn, demolishing them.

Dash event honors went to Rich Senneker and Terry Schmid with Schmid coming back to win the pursuit race.

## Rick Knotts Takes Berlin Feature

By Shirley Glass

**September 27, 1969 — Berlin Raceway** — Rick Knotts showed up as a new winner at Berlin Raceway Saturday night in the 50-lap feature. Rich Senneker was chasing Knotts to the checkered flag. They were followed by Buddy Stewart, Eddie VanderLaan, and Bob Fellows.

Fast-car dash winner was Eddie VanderLaan with Jack Trumbla and Rich Senneker taking the heat race victories.

Paul Weisner was the victor in the 15-lap hobby stock feature and in addition took the win in the fast-dash and heat race.

Bob Clover and Jerry Longnecker captured the heat race wins.

## Rich Senneker Takes Berlin Closer

By Shirley Glass

**October 4, 1969 – Berlin Raceway** – Closing out the racing season in brilliant fashion, track record holder (17.57) Rich Senneker of Grand Rapids took over the lead on the 18th lap and went on to win the 30-lap feature race for the late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Brother Bob Senneker was second by less than a car length,

Rick Knotts was third right on Bob's bumper, John Bliss was fourth and Bob Fellows fifth.

In the other twin 30-lap main event, Rick Knotts, voted the most improved driver of the year, scored his first win of the season, finishing ahead of Rich Senneker, Buddy Stewart, Eddie VanderLaan and Bob Fellows. This hectic main event saw the cars of Randy Sweet and Herb Kirts of Elkhart, Indiana slam into the concrete retaining wall. Kirts was hospitalized at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids with multiple fractures, bruises and lacerations.

Bob Clover and Paul Weisner captured the two hobby stock car main events. Both events were dominated by Muskegon drivers who with Cary Peoples captured the first three positions.

In the final event of the 1969 season at the .438 mile Marne oval, point money and trophies were distributed to the leading drivers. Rich Senneker, driving the WLAV 1965 Chevelle was crowned the track champion in late models and Cary Peoples was awarded the hobby stock crown.



## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1969

### Semi-Lates – Hobby Stocks

#### April 19, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 17.96

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Ralph Baker, Herb Kirts, Howard Hub, Joy Fair

Pursuit winner: Joy Fair

Consolation winner: Gary Fedewa

**Feature:** (1) **Rich Senneker** (2) Bob Senneker (3) Joy Fair (4) Herb Kirts (5) Bob Carnes (6) Johnny Benson

#### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Dave Cutler 21.43

Dash winner: Ray Lockwood

Heat winner: Dave Cutler

**Feature:** (1) **Dave Cutler** (2) Art Harvey (3) Bud Wright

#### April 26, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker 17.89

Dash winner: Joy Fair

Heat winners: Joy Fair, Gail Cobb, Jim Aldrich

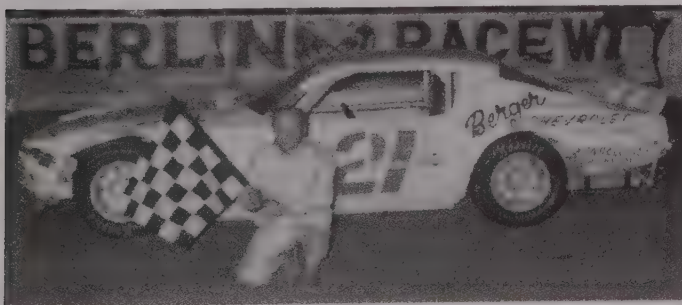
Pursuit winner: Bob Carnes

Consolation winner: Danny Byrd

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Carnes** (2) Bob Senneker (3) Joy Fair (4) Rich Senneker (5) Danny Byrd (6) Jerry Spear (7) Dick Dunshee (8) Herb Kirts

#### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Dave Cutler 21.24



Johnny Benson

Dick Lee Collection

Dash winner: Dave Cutler

Heat winners: Dave Cutler, Jim Rydlewski

**Feature:** (1) **Dave Cutler** (2) Cary Peoples (3) Art Harvey (4) Neville (5) Dave Weronko (6) Graydon Bodell

**Dave Cutler – Clean Sweep Award**

#### May 3, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

30 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker 17.78—New Track Record**

Dash winner: Bob Carnes

Heat winners: Dick Dunshee, Bob Fellows, Bob Carnes

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

Consolation winner: Ralph Baker

**Feature:** (1) **Johnny Benson** (2) Bob Senneker (3) Bob Carnes (4) Bob Fellows (5) Jerry Spear

#### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Dave Cutler 20.70

Dash winner: Cary Peoples

Heat winners: Fred Britton, Dave Cutler

Pursuit winner: Terry Schmid

**Feature:** (1) **Dave Cutler** (2) Terry Schmid (3) Cary Peoples (4) Art Harvey (5) Bud Wright

#### May 10, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.90

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Ed Damer, Jerry Spear, Art Bennett

Pursuit winner: Rich Senneker

Consolation winner: Bob Fellows

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Carnes** (2) Johnny Benson (3) Dick Dunshee (4) Ed Howe (5) John Anderson

#### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

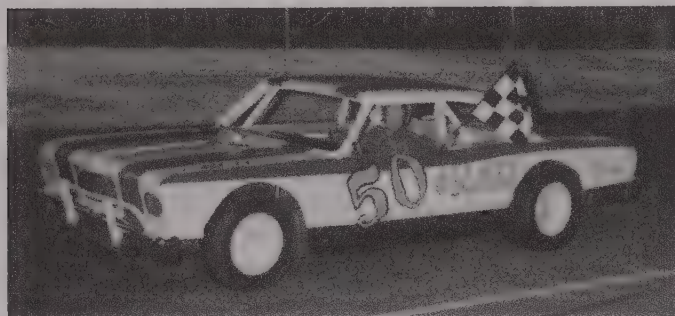
Fast qualifier: Ken Sutton – no time given

Dash winner: Ken Sutton

Heat winners: Ken Sutton, Glen Tanis

Pursuit winner: Ken Sutton

**Feature:** (1) **Terry Schmid** (2) ? (3) Dave Cutler



Herb Kirts

Dick Lee Collection

### May 17, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

Rained Out

### May 24, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker 17.97

Dash winner: Herb Kirts

Heat winners: Ed Damer, Ed Howe, Jim Leonard

Pursuit winner: Ed Howe

Consolation winner: Dick Dunshee

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Jim Leonard (3) Art Bennett (4) Bill Rake (5) Gail Cobb (6) Jerry Spear (7) Dick Dunshee (8) Gene Eding (9) John Bliss (10) Paul Weisner

### 15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Ken Sutton – no time given

Dash winner: Ken Sutton

Heat winners: Leo Havens, Dave Cutler

Pursuit winner: Terry Schmid

**Feature:** (1) Dave Cutler (2) Cary Peoples (3) Terry Schmid (4) Fred Britton (5) Paul Howell (6) Smith (7) Art Harvey

### May 30, 1969 – Friday – Semi-Lates

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson, Sr. 17.76

Dash winner: Herb Kirts

Heat winners: Jerry Spear, Bob Senneker, Jimmy Roberts

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

Consolation winner: Jimmy Roberts

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Herb Kirts (3) Bob Senneker (4) Gene Eding (5) Rich Senneker

### 15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Ken Sutton

Heat winners: Ken Sutton, Joe Niewiek

Pursuit winner: Dave Cutler

**Feature:** (1) Terry Schmid (2) Dave Cutler (3) Cary Peoples (4) Joe Niewiek (5) Ron Carlton

### May 31, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

Rained Out

### June 7, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker 17.62—New Track Record

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Gene Eding, Bob Fellows

Pursuit winner: Jim Leonard

Consolation winner: Bob Fellows

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Gene Eding (3) Ed Howe (4) Rich Senneker (5) Bob Senneker (6) Herb Kirts (7) Jim Leonard (8) Bill Rake (9) Dick Dunshee

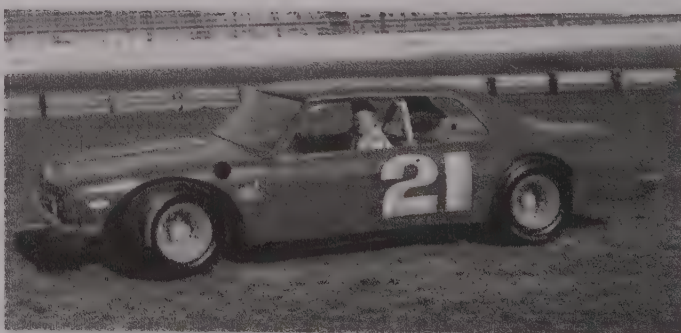
### 30 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

*Spring Championship*

Fast qualifier: Ken Sutton 20.20

Heat winners: Bob Folmer, Cary Peoples

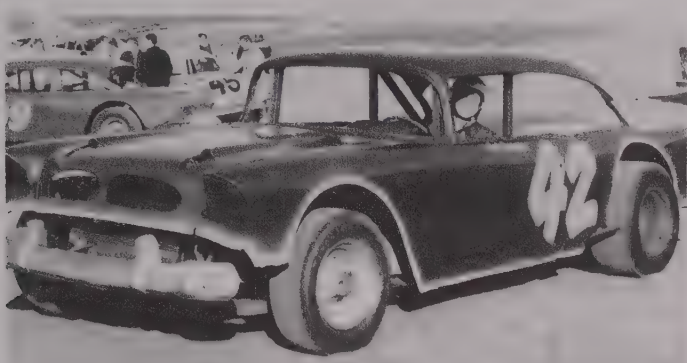
**Feature:** (1) Terry Schmid (2) Ken Sutton (3) Fred Britton (4) Cary Peoples (5) Art Harvey (6) Paul Howell (7) Jim Trolard (8) Graydon Bodell (9) Mike Smith



Rick Knotts

Dick Lee Collection





Bob Carnes

Dick Lee Collection

### June 14, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

#### Midwest Invitational

100 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker 17.60—New Track Record**

Heat winners: Dale Larson, Glen Stevens

Consolation winner: Scott Presley

**Feature: (1) Rich Senneker (2) Ed Howe (3) Jerry Spear (4) Denny Nyari (5) Bob Senneker (6) Randy Sweet (7) Herb Kirts (8) John Bliss**

### 15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

**Fast qualifier: Terry Schmid 19.91—New Track Record**

Dash winner: Cary Peoples

Heat winners: Jerry Boeve, Cary Peoples

Pursuit winner: Terry Schmid

Consolation winner: Ed Northrup

**Feature: (1) Terry Schmid (2) Cary Peoples (3) Dave Cutler (4) Paul Howell (5) Art Harvey (6) Fred Britton**

### June 21, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson, Sr. 17.81

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Randy Sweet, Bob Fellows, Clarence Cook

Pursuit winner: Bill Rake

Consolation winner: Bob Fellows

**Feature\*: (1) Johnny Benson (2) Ed Howe (3) Herb Kirts (4) Gene Eding (5) Rich Senneker (6) Jerry Spear**

\*Rained out—run on 6/28

### 15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Fred Britton 19.75

Dash winner: Ken Sutton

Heat winners: Bill Minch, Terry Schmid

Pursuit winner: Cary Peoples

**Feature: (1) Cary Peoples (2) Ken Sutton**

### June 28, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.75

Dash winner: Herb Kirts

Heat winners: Buddy Stewart, Randy Sweet, Bill Thurkettle

Pursuit winner: Gene Eding

Consolation winner: Gail Cobb

**Feature: (1) Johnny Benson (2) Gene Eding (3) Ed Howe (4) Herb Kirts (5) Rich Senneker (6) Bob Senneker**

### 15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Fred Britton 20.15

Dash winner: Terry Schmid

Heat winners: Bill Minch, Ken Sutton, Les Lemon

Pursuit winner: Terry Schmid

**Feature: (1) Cary Peoples (2) Dave Cutler (3) Ken Sutton (4) Art Harvey (5) Fred Britton**

### July 4, 1969 – Friday – Semi-Lates

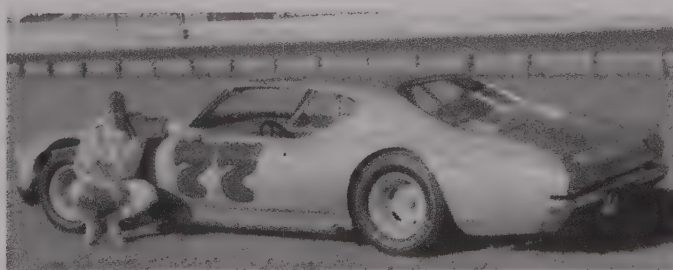
Rained Out

### July 5, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson, Sr. 17.74

Dash winner: Rich Senneker



Randy Sweet

Dick Lee Collection

Heat winners: Jerry Spear, Bob Senneker, Ron Laban

Pursuit winner: Gene Eding

Consolation winner: Dick Dunshee

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Johnny Benson  
(3) Randy Sweet (4) Rich Senneker (5) Herb Kirts

**15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Kirk Norman 20.26

Dash winner: Ken Sutton

Heat winners: Red Runyon, Ken Conklin, Terry Schmid, Les Lemon

Pursuit winner: Ken Sutton

**Feature:** (1) Terry Schmid (2) Cary Peoples (3) Fred Britton (4) Paul Howell (5) Dave Cutler

---

**July 12, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Gene Eding 17.81

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Art Bennett, Dick Dunshee, Bob Fellows

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Semi winner: Bob Fellows

**Feature:** (1) Herb Kirts (2) Bob Senneker (3) Johnny Benson (4) Rich Senneker (5) Art Bennett (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Dick Dunshee (8) Bill Thurkettle

**30 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Midseason Championship Race

Heat winners: Joe Niewiek, Bob Clover, Dave Cutler, Jerry VanDyke

**Feature:** (1) Cary Peoples (2) Dave Cutler (3) Terry Schmid (4) Jerry Vandyke (5) Art Harvey (6) Jerry Boeve (7) Leo Havens (8) Ron Carlton



Bob Fellows

Dick Lee Collection



Art Bennett

Dick Lee Collection

---

**July 19, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan 17.94

Heat winners: Rich Senneker, Jerry Spear

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

Consolation winner: Art Bennett

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Bob Senneker (3) Johnny Benson (4) Herb Kirts (5) John Boerman

**15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Terry Schmid—no time given

Heat winners: Cary Peoples, Joe Niewiek, Leon Chase

Pursuit winner: Cary Peoples

**Feature:** (1) Cary Peoples (2) Terry Schmid (3) Dave Cutler (4) Bob Clover (5) Fred Britton

---

**July 25, 1969 – Friday – Semi-Lates**

100 laps, .438 mile paved

**MARC Times Invitational**

Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker 17.60

Heat winners: Randy Sweet, Jerry Makara, Jerry Spear, Gene Eding

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Herb Kirts (3) Duane Knoll (4) Gene Eding (5) Jerry Makara (6) Jack Trumble (7) Ed Howe (8) Harvey Redder (9) Clarence Cook (10) Mike Janose

---

**July 26, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Andy Schutt, Bob Fellows

Pursuit winner: Terry Senneker Sr.

**Feature:** (1) Herb Kirts (2) Jerry Spear (3) Ron Laban (4) Bob Fellows (5) Bill Thurkettle (6) Randy Sweet (7) Norm Brown



### 15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Dave Cutler

Heat winners: Graydon Bodell, Terry Schmid, Dennis Holtzlander, Jerry VanDyke

Pursuit winner: Terry Schmid

**Feature:** (1) Cary Peoples (2) Dave Cutler (3) Fred Britton (4) Art Harvey



Ron Laban

Dick Lee Collection

### August 1, 1969 – Friday – USAC (United States Auto Club) – Sprint Cars

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Greg Weld 16.86

Heat winners: Greg Weld, Rollie Beale, Don Nordhorn, Tom Bigelow

**Feature:** (1) Todd Gibson (2) Gary Bettenhausen (3) Bill Puterbaugh (4) Rollie Beale (5) Dee Jones (6) Don Nordhorn (7) Johnny Benson (8) Greg Weld (9) Tom Bigelow (10) Johnny Parsons, Jr.

Pursuit winner: Paul Weisner

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Cary Peoples (3) Ken Sutton (4) Fred Britton (5) Bob Clover (6) Art Harvey (7) Terry Schmid (8) Dick Sarber (9) Kirk Norman (10) Dave Cutler

### August 2, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker 17.79

Dash winner: Herb Kirts

Heat winners: Bill Thurkettle, Johnny Benson

Pursuit winner: Jerry Spear

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Bob Fellows (3) Herb Kirts (4) Gene Eding (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Jerry Spear (7) Andy Schutt (8) Ron Laban (9) Norm Brown (10) Bill Rake

### August 9, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Heat winners: Clarence Cook, Randy Sweet

Pursuit winner: Herb Kirts

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Rich Senneker (3) Jerry Spear (4) Gene Eding (5) Bob Fellows (6) Bill Rake (7) Ron Laban (8) Eddie VanderLaan (9) Randy Sweet (10) Denny Nyari

### 15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Paul Weisner 19.39—New Track Record

Dash winner: Ken Sutton

Heat winners: Leon Chase, Kirk Norman, Mark Knight, Leon Chase

### 15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Bob Fellows

Pursuit winner: Dave Cutler

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Bob Fellows (3) Cary Peoples (4) Art Harvey (5) Paul Howell (6) Jim Leonard

### August 16, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

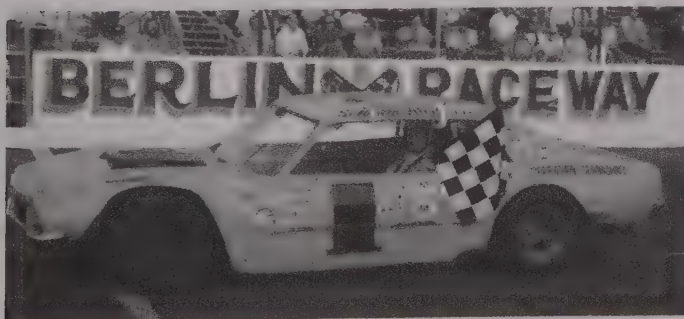
*Dick Carter Memorial/Midseason Championship Race*

50 laps, .438 mile paved

Heat winners: Rich Senneker, Bob Senneker, Terry Senneker

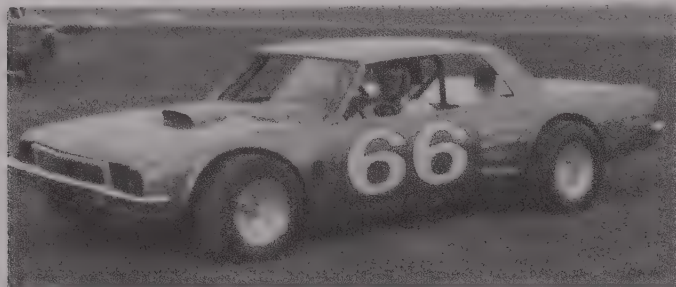
Pursuit winner: Rich Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Bob Senneker (3) Rich Senneker (4) Randy Sweet (5) Herb Kirts (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Ron Laban (8) Bill Rake (9) Gene Eding (10) John Bliss



Joy Fair

Dick Lee Collection



Dick Dunshee

Dick Lee Collection

### 15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

#### *Midseason Championship*

**Fast qualifier:** Cary Peoples 19.28—**New Track Record**

**Dash winner:** Cary Peoples

**Heat winners:** Toby DeMull, Dave Cutler, Jim Leonard, Leo Havens

**Pursuit winner:** Cary Peoples

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Terry Schmid (3) Dave Cutler (4) Ken Sutton (5) Cary Peoples (6) Art Harvey (7) Fred Britton (8) Paul Howell

### August 23, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

30 laps, .438 mile paved

**Dash winner:** Randy Sweet

**Heat winners:** Jerry Spear, Terry Senneker, Jack Trumbla, Henry Potter

**Pursuit winner:** Herb Kirts

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Bob Senneker (3) Randy Sweet (4) Gene Eding (5) Ron Laban (6) Rick Knotts (7) Herb Kirts (8) Jerry Spear

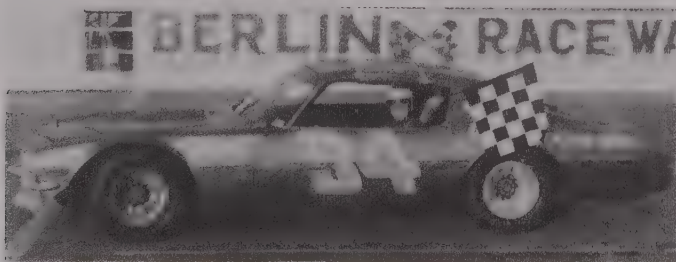
### 15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

**Dash winner:** Terry Schmid

**Heat winners:** Fred Britton, Tom Finkbeiner, Henry Potter

**Pursuit winner:** Fred Britton

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Cary Peoples (3) Terry Schmid (4) Bob Clover (5) Bill Minch (6) Jim Leonard



Bob Senneker

Dick Lee Collection

### August 30, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates *Michigan State Championship*

75 laps, .438 mile paved

**Heat winners:** Jerry Spear, Gene Eding

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Rich Senneker (4) Art Bennett (5) Herb Kirts (6) Gene Eding (7) Dick Dunshee (8) Dale Larson (9) Jerry Spear (10) Cookie Cook

### 15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

**Dash winner:** Paul Weisner

**Heat winners:** Red Runyon, Dave Cutler, Leo Havens

**Consolation winners:** Paul Weisner, Red Runyon

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Terry Schmid (3) Dave Cutler (4) Cary Peoples

### September 1, 1969 – Monday – Semi-Lates

#### *Labor Day*

30 laps, .438 mile paved

**Dash winner:** Rich Senneker

**Heat winner:** Buddy Stewart

**Pursuit winner:** Eddie VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) Herb Kirts (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Rick Knotts (4) Gene Eding (5) Bob Sensiba (6) Ron Laban (7) Andy Schutt (8) Cookie Cook

### 15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

**Fast qualifier:** Paul Weisner 18.89

**Dash winner:** Paul Weisner

**Heat winners:** John Jutila, Paul Weisner, Harry Drolema

**Pursuit winner:** Paul Weisner

**Feature:** (1) Terry Schmid (2) Paul Weisner (3) Dave Cutler (4) Bob Clover (5) Fred Britton (6) Art Harvey

### September 6, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates

30 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier:** Bob Senneker 17.69

**Dash winner:** Eddie VanderLaan

**Heat winners:** Johnny Benson, John Bliss

**Pursuit winners:** Dale Larson, Terry Senneker Sr.

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Rich Senneker (3) Bob Senneker (4) Rick Knotts (5) Herb Kirts (6) Randy Sweet (7) Johnny Benson (8) Jerry Spear (9) John Bliss (10) Dale Larson



**25 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

**Midseason Championship Race**

Fast qualifier: Paul Weisner 19.31

Heat winners: Bob Blouw, Ken Sutton, Henry Potter

Pursuit winner: Ken Sutton

Consolation winner: Red Runyon

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Cary Peoples (3) Dave Cutler (4) Fred Britton (5) Ken Sutton (6) Bob Clover

**September 13, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier:** Rich Senneker/Rick Knotts 17.58—  
**New Track Record**

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Buddy Stewart, Herb Kirts

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Rick Knotts (3) Randy Sweet (4) Herb Kirts (5) Eddie VanderLaan

**15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Dash winner: Terry Schmid

Heat winners: Ron Gilbert, Fred Britton, Joe Pease

Pursuit winner: Fred Britton

Consolation winner: Jim Westfield

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Cary Peoples (3) Terry Schmid (4) Dave Cutler

**September 20, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates**

**Season Championship**

50 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Herb Kirts, Dale Larson, Bill Minch

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Rick Knotts (3) Randy Sweet (4) Bob Senneker (5) Herb Kirts (6) Dale Larson

**15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Dash Winner: Terry Schmid

Heat Winners: Paul Weisner, Ron Gilbert, Bob Blouw

Pursuit Winner: Terry Schmid

**Feature:** (1) Terry Schmid (2) Cary Peoples (3) Paul Weisner (4) Jim Leonard (5) Dave Cutler



Danny Byrd

Dick Lee Collection

**September 27, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Jack Trumbula, Rich Senneker

**Feature\*:** (1) Rick Knotts (2) Rich Senneker (3) Buddy Stewart (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Bob Fellows

\*Rained out—run on 10/4

**15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Dash winner: Paul Weisner

Heat winners: Bob Clover, Jerry Longnecker, Paul Weisner

**Feature\*:** (1) Paul Weisner

\*Rained out—run on 10/4

**Paul Weisner – Clean Sweep Award**

**October 4, 1969 – Saturday – Semi-Lates**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker 17.57

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Bob Senneker (3) Rick Knotts (4) John Bliss (5) Bob Fellows

**Rich Senneker – Clean Sweep Award**

**15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

**Feature:** (1) Bob Clover



Rich Senneker

Dick Lee Collection

## Berlin Raceway Points 1969

1969 SEMI-LATE POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Rich Senneker	69	8	9	5	4	1
2	Bob Senneker	62	4	2	3		
3	Johnny Benson	49	7	4	2		
4	Herb Kirts	42	3		4		
5	Gene Eding	22		1			
6	Rick Knotts	21	1	1		1	
7	Eddie VanderLaan	17	1	1	2		
8	Ed Howe	16		1			
9	Bob Carnes	14	2		1		
10	Randy Sweet	14			1		
11	Jerry Spear	11					
	Bob Fellows	11					
13	Joy Fair	6			1		
14	Art Bennett	6					
15	Ron Laban	4					
	Jim Leonard	4					
17	Duane Knoll	3					
	Buddy Stewart	3					
	Dick Dunshee	3					
20	John Bliss	2					
	Bill Rake	2					
	Denny Nyari	2					
23	Bill Thurkettle	1					
	John Boerman	1					
	Jerry Makara	1					
	Gail Cobb	1					
	Bob Sensiba	1					
	John Anderson	1					
	Danny Byrd	1					



# Berlin Raceway — Semi-Late Models, 1969

## 1969 HOBBY STOCK POINTS

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Cary Peoples	75	5	1	3	1	
2	Terry Schmid	63	7	2	4	1	
3	Dave Cutler	62	4	3	2		1
4	Paul Weisner	47	8	3	3	1	1
5	Fred Britton	18		2			
6	Art Harvey	18					
7	Ken Sutton	17		4	6		
8	Bob Clover	12	1				
9	Paul Howell	6					
10	Bob Fellows	4			1		
11	Bud Wright	4					
12	Joe Niewiek	2					
	Neville	2					
	Jerry VanDyke	2					
	Jim Leonard	2					
16	Dave Weronko	1					
	Bill Minch	1					
	Ron Carlton	1					
19	Kirk Norman	0		1			
20	Ray Lockwood	0			1		

## 1969 SIX-CYLINDER POINTS

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Paul Weisner	15	3	1		1	
2	Cary Peoples	8		1	1	1	
3	Ken Sutton	5			1		
4	Bob Fellows	4			1		
5	Terry Schmid	4					
6	Dave Cutler	3					
7	Art Harvey	2					
	Fred Britton	2					
9	Bob Clover	1					
	Paul Howell	1					

# Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present

## 1966-1969 SEMI-LATE POINTS

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Bob Senneker	272	33	23	24	3	4
2	Rich Senneker	127	11	13	8	6	2
3	Gail Cobb	87	6	2	2		
4	Jerry Spear	74	1	5	3	2	
5	Tom Marks	72	2	1	1		
6	Johnny Benson Sr.	66	9	4	3		
7	Bob Carnes	56	7	2	5	1	
8	Randy Sweet	51	4	3	3	1	
9	Herb Kirts	42	3		4		
10	Don Vandermolen	34	1	1	1		
11	Ed Howe	33		3		1	
12	Bob Fellows	31					
13	Gene Eding	25		1			
14	Ron Laban	23			2		
15	Ken Sutton	22	3		1		
16	Rick Knotts	21	1	1		1	
17	Dick Dunshee	19	1	3		1	
18	John Boerman	18	1	1			1
19	Jim Adema	18	1				
20	John Bliss	18					
21	Eddie VanderLaan	17	1	1	2		
22	Bill Rake	15		1	1		
23	Glen Tanis	15					
24	Bob Sensiba	14					
25	Jim Leonard	13					
26	Joy Fair	10	2	3	2	1	
27	Jerry VanDyke	9					
28	Bob Patrick	7					
29	Art Bennett	6					
	Terry Schmid	6					
	Terry Senneker Sr.	5	1				
32	Denny Nyari	4					
	Dale Talsma	4					
	Bob Hagner	4					
	Moose Meyers	4					
36	Duane Knoll	3					
	Ralph Baker	3					
	Buddy Stewart	3					
	Jerry Peloquin	3					
	Jack Goodwin	3					
	Mickey Katlin	3					
	Danny Byrd	3					

continued next page



# Berlin Raceway — Semi-Late Models, 1969

## 1966-1969 SEMI-LATE POINTS—CONT.

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
43	Bob DePauw	2					
	Johnny Logan	2					
	Gordy Bisot	2					
	Jim Rowley	2					
	Glen Locke	2					
48	Jim Dyke	1					
	Gary Fedewa	1					
	Bill Thurkettle	1					
	John Anderson	1					
	Jerry Makara	1					
	Andy Schutt	1					
	George Cooper	1					
	Dick Hurdlebrink	1					

## *Berlin Raceway*

*1970 to Present*

### Era of Late Models

#### **Berlin Raceway Media 1970**

#### **Bob Senneker Wins Berlin Opener**

**April 26, 1970 – Berlin Raceway**

– A full house was on hand Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway for the opening night of racing. The weatherman treated us real nice and there were 73 cars to compete in the twin bill for the late model stocks and the hobby stocks.

Bob Senneker roared across the finish line first in the late model stock main event. Despite the many caution flags (or because of them) it was a very exciting race which saw Jerry Spear and Rick Knotts spin in front of the pack and thanks to the fine field of experienced drivers there were no injuries and damage was slight to equipment.

Bob came from the middle of the lineup of the 20 fastest qualifiers, and forged past pace-setter Ed Howe of Beaverton on the 23<sup>rd</sup> lap and went on to win the first feature race for late model stocks of the 1970 season on the .438 mile asphalt oval.

Gene Eding of Grand Rapids chased Howe's '68 Olds across the finish line for third followed by fellow townsman Ron Laban, Dick Dunshee, Rick Knotts, Jerry Spear, Andy Schutt, Scott Presley and Jim Roberts.

Terry Senneker Sr. held the honors for the fastest out of 73 qualifiers to start the events, but finished third in the dash behind winning Ed Howe and brother Bob who was second. Rick Knotts chased the trio across the finish.

Buddy Stewart, Bob Fellows and Jerry Spear took late model heat

race wins and Gene Eding notched the win in the pursuit. Spear also claimed the win in the semi-feature event.

Terry Schmid of Grand Rapids won the 20-lap main event for hobby stock cars after regaining the lead from Muskegon's Paul Weisner just three laps from the finish.

Paul Weisner took the fast-car dash with Dave Cutler eliminating the field in the pursuit. Heat race winners were Don Ross, Graydon Bodell and Terry Schmid. John Jutila won the semi feature for the hobby stocks.

Jerry Makara of Detroit was wrecked when he became involved in a four car melee that knocked out the cars of Bob Morgan of Lansing, Scott Presley of Grand Haven and Bob Sensiba of Middleville.

#### **Gene Eding Picks Off Berlin Win**

**May 2, 1970 – Berlin Raceway**

– A fine field of cars was on hand at Berlin Raceway Saturday night and an awful lot of brave fans withstood the cold weather in the low thirties.

Gene Eding, driving a 1964 Chevelle, turned in a very fine driving performance, taking over the lead about one-third of the way thru the late model main event and came over the finish line first. Eding had built up quite a lead until the cars of Bob Fellows and Rick Knotts tangled together in turn four which brought out the yellow flag.

On the drop of the green flag, Bob Senneker and Ed Howe were right

on Eding's bumper, but failed to get around Eding's flying blue #64. Senneker took second and Howe a very close third. Rick Knotts took fourth despite the spin in the fourth turn and Jim Aldrich came home fifth. Filling out the top ten were Terry Senneker Sr. (minus a right front fender), Ron Laban, Tom Marks, Eddie VanderLaan and Buddy Stewart. Donnie Roberts blew an engine while running second with his pretty red #6.

During practice Jerry Spear blew an engine and Dick Dunshee blew a right rear tire and hit the wall, sidelining their cars for the night. Eddie VanderLaan spun in time trials and hit the wall but they managed to fix the car and run the remaining events.

Ed Howe had fast time for the late model stocks at 17.72 but Bob Fellows took the honors in the fast-car dash over Bob Senneker and Rick Knotts.

Bob Fellows is really getting that Ford around the track in fine shape. Very smooth and level headed. The cause of the tangle with Rick Knotts was Bob's steering box was binding up and he retired to the pits shortly after in the main event. Seems like somebody would like to sponsor either that pretty #51 of Fellows or Knotts' sharp #21 Chevelle.

Tom Marks won the fast late model heat with his brand new car not even painted yet, over Gene Eding and Terry Senneker Sr.

Bob Sensiba won the second late model stock heat over Donnie Roberts and Gary Fedewa. Clarence Cook hit the wall on the front shoot and sustained front end damage.

The pursuit honors also went to Eding of Grand Rapids with Bob



Fellows and Rick Knotts chasing him across the finish line.

The hobby stocks put on a wild and wooly show with Paul Weisner of Muskegon taking the honors in the main event. Jim Westfield, Kirk Norman, Art Harvey and Tom Finkbeiner chased Weisner across the finish line. On the first lap of the main, Dick Nichols of Muskegon hit the wall coming out of turn four and did several side snap rolls down the front shoot. He got out of the car all by himself a little shook but not injured. Terry Schmid dropped out of the main while running third. Paul Weisner passed pacesetter Jim Westfield halfway thru and held on for the win.

Terry Schmid had fast time with an 18.87 in the hobby stocks but Paul Weisner took the fast-car dash with Schmidt and Fred Britton finishing in a dead heat for second.

Scott Francisco beat out Butch Potter and John Jutila to win the first hobby heat. (I believe this was Francisco's first race.)

The second hobby stock heat was hectic, Dave Cutler came thru for the win over Weisner and Westfield. On the first lap, Bill Minch spun with Graydon Bodell hitting him. On the complete restart, Minch spun again, taking out cars of Britton, Duane Cottrell and Schmidt, who slid into John Holloran.

John Jutila won the third hobby heat over Mike Smith and Bob Blouw.

Schmidt won the pursuit with Tom Finkbeiner and Paul Weisner chasing him across the line.

## Bob Senneker Wins Berlin Feature

**May 9, 1970 – Berlin Raceway** – The weather was beautiful and despite the tornado watch at Berlin Raceway, it was a fantastic show Saturday night. Another full house was on hand to watch the twin bill of late model stocks and hobby stocks.

Bob Senneker driving a 1969 Chevelle roared past Bob Fellows

on the twentieth lap to win his second feature win of the season. On the eighth lap of the feature Tom Marks, holding down a strong third, spun in the first turn and the cars of Ron Laban and Terry Senneker Sr. hit him. Randy Sweet also spun to avoid them. Tom Marks' brand new, freshly painted USA#1 was eliminated with considerable damage as also was the car of Ron Laban. At this point the race was red flagged for clearing of the track, which took away Bob Fellow's tremendous lead. On the restart the field was pretty well bunched up again. On the tenth lap, Duane Knoll, making his first appearance at the track this year, spun in turn two down to the inside of the track. Thereafter, the race ran as smooth as glass, with the exception of Dick Dunshee, who spun off the track in turn three doing some damage to the right side of his car, but continuing in the race. At the finish line, right on Bob's bumper was Bob Fellows and Ed Howe. Donnie Roberts and Rick Knotts rounded out the top five. Sixth place went to Eddie VanderLaan with Gene Eding, Terry Senneker Sr., Jerry Spear, and Andy Schutt filling out the top ten finishers.

Ed Howe posted fast time of the evening with a 17.63, but lost out to Dick Dunshee in the late model dash. Bob Senneker finished second over Howe and Gene Eding.

Bob Fellows took the checkered flag first in the fast late model heat over Rick Knotts and Eddie VanderLaan.

The winner of the second late model heat was Buddy Stewart, beating out Gail Cobb and Jerry Spear.

Gail Cobb, making his first appearance of the year, took the third late model heat over Harvey Redder and Al Leversee. The cars of Jack Trumbula and Buddy Stewart got chummy coming out of the fourth turn eliminating both cars for the remainder of the evening.

The pursuit was a very good race. The competition was so close that there were still six cars running at

the finish out of ten starters with Bob Senneker doing the eliminations. Donnie Roberts took the win over Tommy Marks and Ron Laban.

Terry Schmid took the honors in the hobby stock feature to nail down his second win of the year. The 15-lap crash-marred feature saw the cars of Paul Weisner, Dave Cutler, Jim Westfield, Duane Cottrell and many others eliminated on the start. Due to a mix-up of a car coming out of the pits late and then being told to get off the track caused the melee. Then on the complete restart, somebody got sideways in turn two and everyone decided to race through the field. The car of Kirk Norman was so dusty; one could hardly read the number. A field of 11 cars restarted out of the original 20. Kirk Norman, Art Harvey and Bill Minch chased Schmidt across the finish line. Kenny Sutton, making his first appearance of the 1970 season, finished fifth, after being involved in the first lap mix-up.

Paul Weisner took fast time for the evening in the hobby stock division with a 19.06, and also won the hobby dash over Jack Drolema, Terry Schmid, and Jim Westfield.

Tom Pennington, non-qualifier, took the first and the fourth hobby heats. He arrived too late at the track to qualify. Following Tom across the line in the first heat was Sid Hill and Hassen Seid. In the fourth heat, Herb Mann and Dan Ross got second and third.

Duane Cottrell, making his first appearance of the year, took the second hobby heat over Scott Francisco and Terry Schmid.

Butch Potter took the third heat by beating the cars of Jack Gritter and Bob Billings.

Terry Schmid won the pursuit race for the hobby stocks over Paul Weisner and Dave Cutler.

Glad to see all the new cars and veteran drivers appear at the track. Randy Sweet made his debut with his pretty #77, yellow this year. Harvey Redder in his red #1 made his first show of the 1970 season.



## Bob Senneker Nails Third Berlin Feature

**May 16, 1970 – Berlin Raceway** – Hard-charging Bob Senneker drove his pretty blue '69 Chevelle to his third late model stock feature win of the season Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Paul Weisner won his second hobby stock feature of the season in the rough and tumble hobby stock main.

Dick Dunshee set the fast time of the evening for late models with a 17.72 clocking and Dave Cutler was the fastest hobby stock, with a time of 18.97.

The late model stock dash was won by Gene Eding over Dunshee, Terry Senneker Sr. and Eddie VanderLaan. Weisner won the hobby stock dash over Dick Nichols, Cutler and Terry Schmid.

The first two hobby heats were won by Sid Hill and Jim Leonard. Bob Billings drove an impressive race to win the third hobby heat in only his second week of racing. The late model heat winners were Jerry Spear and Gail Cobb.

The pursuit for the hobby stocks was won by Weisner with second taken by Cutler, followed by Leonard and Ken Sutton. Johnny Benson was the winner of the late model pursuit over Tom Marks, Ed Howe, Terry Senneker, and VanderLaan.

The hobby stock consolation was won by Butch Potter in a good race over Tom Pennington and Mike Smith.

Dave Cutler won the hobby stock beauty contest in his pretty blue J & D Motors sponsored '66 Chevelle.

The hobby stock feature was a honey. The first caution of the event was put out to check on Gordon Bodell, who went off the backstretch on the first lap. A second caution was dropped when Jim Westfield, Cutler and Schmid tangled in the first turn a bit later in the race. Paul Weisner charged through for the win over Schmidt, Art Harvey, Cutler and Nichols.

There was only one caution in

the late model stock feature, when Dunshee hit the wall in the third turn. Bob Senneker got the lead on the 18<sup>th</sup> lap of the 30-lap feature and held it for less than a car-length victory over Howe. Following them across the line were Spear, Ron Laban, Donnie Roberts, Benson, Marks, VanderLaan, Rick Knotts, and Eding.

## John Anderson Wins First Berlin Feature

**May 23, 1970 – Berlin Raceway** – John Anderson, the 1968 MARC Times Rookie of the Year, did a beautiful job of driving his blue '68 Chevelle to victory in the 30-lap late model feature Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Cary Peoples, in his first appearance at the .438 mile track this season, turned in an equally sensational driving performance to win the hobby stock main event.

Ed Howe was the fastest qualifier in the super stock division at 17.75 and Paul Weisner set fast time for the hobby stocks at 19.04.

The excitement started early in the evening when Rick Knotts and Gail Cobb tangled during warm-ups, bending sheet metal, but both were able to race. 1969 track champ Rich Senneker was out for the night when the engine blew on his new Ford ride.

Terry Senneker Sr. was home first in the late model dash with Bob Senneker and Gene Eding hot on his heels for second and third. Ed Howe was a distant fourth. Cary Peoples led all the way to win the hobby stock dash over Terry Schmid, Weisner and Dave Cutler.

Bob DeVries, Jack Drolema and Jerry VanDyke were the hobby stock heat winners, and John Anderson and Clarence "Cookie" Cook won the late model heats.

The rerun hobby stock pursuit was won by Weisner, chased over the finish by Cutler. This week's hobby stock pursuit was won by Drolema with Cutler second again as Art Harvey came in third.

The late model stock pursuit got

a bit sticky when Knotts' hood flew up and he hit the large tire in the infield, eliminating himself and Ron Laban from the race when the rest of the pack passed them. Jerry Makara, the 1969 Rookie of the Year, took the win over Tom Pennington, Don Ross and Tom Finkbeiner.

Mike McKenna hit the wall on the first lap of the hobby stock feature, calling for a complete restart. The yellow was out later in the race when Mike Johnson and Bill Minch went off the backstretch. Cary Peoples charged through for the win followed by Jim Leonard, Bob Clover, Art Harvey, Jack Drolema and Dick Nichols.

The late model main event had two cautions also. First when Randy Sweet spun in the frontstretch and again when Bill Thurstle and Bob Sensiba spun. John Anderson took his first feature win at Berlin followed by Howe, Jerry Spear, Terry Senneker, Ron Laban, Eddie VanderLaan, Donnie Roberts, Gene Eding, Dick Dunshee and Tom Marks.

## VanderLaan Picks Off Berlin Win

**May 30, 1970 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids, taking advantage of a two-car crash that sent race leaders Terry Senneker Sr. and Randy Sweet of Grand Rapids into the concrete retaining wall in the first turn on the 19<sup>th</sup> lap, drove his 1968 Chevelle to victory in the accident-marred 30-lap feature race for late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Following VanderLaan across the finish line were Ron Laban, Gene Eding, Johnny Benson, Denny Nyari, Tom Marks, Jack Trumbula and Andy Schutt.

Art Harvey of Grand Rapids successfully evaded a mass pile-up of 13 cars and went on to win the 20-lap main event for hobby stock cars. Terry Schmid of Grand Rapids was second by two feet and Dick Nichols



was third by less than a car length as they roared over the finish line in a tight bunch. Bob Clover was fourth.

Heat race winners were Hassen Sied of Kalamazoo, Schmid, John Halloran of Otsego, Terry Senneker, Johnny Benson, and Jack Drolema of Grand Rapids.

Paul Weisner took the hobby stock dash win over Jim Leonard, Dave Cutler and Bob Billings.

The late model dash was a beautiful race, as the cars ran in formation almost the entire distance they were so evenly matched. Gene Eding took the win over Bob Fellows, Eddie VanderLaan and Ed Howe.

Dave Cutler won the hobby stock pursuit in eight laps, from his tail of the pack start. Randy Sweet took the late model pursuit win over VanderLaan, Terry Senneker, and Dick Wesler.

A spectacular crash in which the cars of Jerry Spear, Ron Laban, Ed Howe and Gail Cobb were involved saw Cobb do a breathtaking flip and catch fire. All of the drivers escaped serious injury.

## Ed Howe Wins Midwest Invitational

By Shirley Glass

**June 6, 1970 — Berlin Raceway** — Ed Howe of Beaverton, Michigan forged past Bob Senneker on the 70<sup>th</sup> lap of the 100-lap main event to win the Midwest Invitational late model stock car race at Berlin Raceway in Marne Saturday night.

The 100-lap event was started straight up with pole sitter Bob Senneker leading every lap up to the 70<sup>th</sup> when Ed Howe, who was right on his tail all the way, took over the lead and was never headed. The race was stopped on the 30<sup>th</sup> lap when Andy Schutt spun, with Buddy Stewart hitting one of the big tires on the inside of the track, which sent the tire all the way to the finish line from the third corner, thus eliminating the cars of Johnny Benson, Bob Sensiba, Harvey Redder, Jack Trumbula, and

Buddy Stewart.

Finishing second was Bill VanPeenan, making his second appearance at the track this season. Gene Eding took third followed by Bob Senneker, Terry Senneker Sr., Jerry Spear, Ron Laban, Jerry Makara, Randy Sweet and Rick Knotts.

Bob Senneker broke the track record held by his brother Rich Senneker, touring the track at a blistering 17:56. The old record was 17:57. Ed Howe was also knocking at the door with a 17:59.

Ed Howe took the honors in the fast late model dash, beating out Bob Senneker, Bill VanPeenan and Eddie VanderLaan.

Bob Sensiba won the first late model heat over VanderLaan and Bob Senneker. Gene Eding won the second late model heat over Rick Knotts and Ron Laban. Jack Trumbula won the honors in the third late model heat over Buddy Stewart and Cookie Cook. Gene Farmer, a new face at Berlin, hit the wall in turn four.

Paul Weisner won the hobby stock feature over Terry Schmid and Jim Leonard. This race was marred by the cars of Leonard and Dave Cutler tangling in turn three, sending Dave into the wall. Cutler was taken in to Butterworth Hospital for a checkup and was treated and released before the races were over. Also involved in the accident was Art Harvey, the current point leader, which eliminated him from the event. Rounding out the top ten were Dick Nichols, Dick Sarber, Kirk Norman, Tom Pennington, Don Round, Jack Drolema and Glen Bradley.

Cary Peoples clicked off fast time in the hobby stock division and took the honors in the fast-car dash over Kirk Norman, Dave Cutler and Paul Weisner.

Hassen Seid won the first hobby stock heat over Mac Knight and Bob Blouw. Art Harvey took the honors in the second heat over Drolema and Nichols.

The crash-marred third heat saw Joe Pease win over Herb Mann and Earl Jordan. Don Young hit

the outside retaining wall and was shaken up quite a bit, but was okay. Jerry VanDyke took the fourth heat over Pennington. Bob Clover won the pursuit.

Dan Ross was the winner in the consolation event over Mike Johnson and Bill May.

## Fourth Berlin Feature To Bob Senneker

**June 13, 1970 — Berlin Raceway** — A full house was on hand again Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Terry Schmid won the Berlin Spring Championship 40-lap main event for the hobby stocks and Bob Senneker won his fourth main event in the late models.

Bob Senneker pulled his fourth late model feature win out of the hat by starting way back in the field and forging by pacesetter Bob Fellows on the last lap. The race was red flagged on the seventh lap when Bill Thurkettle spun in the third turn while running in the rear of the pack, then Randy Sweet hit him and Scott Presley went into the wall. Randy escaped serious injury but the car sustained considerable damage. The race was restarted and the cars of Ron Laban and Gene Eding tangled in turn one sending both cars into the wall. Several drivers spun to avoid them, thus eliminating the cars of Rick Knotts, Terry Senneker Sr., Eding and Laban. Filling out the top ten finishers behind Senneker and Fellows were Ed Howe, Eddie VanderLaan, Jerry Spear, Dick Dunshee, Johnny Benson, Donnie Roberts and Dick Wesler.

Ed Howe won the late model dash over Sweet, Bob Senneker and Benson.

Bob Fellows won the fast late model heat over Gene Eding and also captured the pursuit over Ed Howe.

Donnie Roberts beat out Harvey Redder and Bob Sensiba to win the second late model heat.

Paul Weisner broke the hobby stock track record with an 18.76 sec-



ond circuit on the .438 mile asphalt oval. The record was formerly held by Dave Cutler with an 18.77.

Bob Clover won the dash in the hobby stocks over Jim Leonard, Weisner and Schmid.

Joe Niewiek beat out Earl Jordan and Herb Mann to win the first hobby heat. Cary Peoples won the second hobby stock heat over Kirk Norman and Weisner. Denny Hillard won the third heat by beating out Don Ross and Joe Pease. Tom Pennington outdrove Jack Drolema and Jerry VanDyke in the fourth heat to get the win.

The hobby stock pursuit was won by Peoples with Bob Clover second and Leonard third.

The hobby stock consolation race was wild and wooly and Jim Buck came across the finish line first over Earl Jordan and Joe Pease.

Terry Schmid outdrove Cary Peoples and Dave Cutler to win the Spring Championship for the hobby stocks. Paul Weisner, the early race leader, retired to the pits with a flat tire. Following Cutler across the finish line were Art Harvey, Jim Leonard, Bill Minch, Jim Westfield, Bob Clover, Tom Pennington and Scott Francisco.

The Michigan Auto Racing Fan Club was on hand this evening and President Vito Lopicolo gave an award to Terry Schmid and also to track promoters Chet and Rose Mysliwiec.

## Berlin's Spring Championship Goes To Howe

**June 20, 1970 – Berlin Raceway** – Saturday evening at Berlin Raceway saw Ed Howe of Beaverton in his '69 Chevelle, win the Spring Championship for the late models by a car length over Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids.

Howe started in pole position by virtue of the point standings and led all the way in the 40-lap event. Bob Senneker tried every way possible

to pass Howe but failed to do so and settled for second. Gene Eding and Ron Laban spun off the track on the third lap. Also involved in the melee were Johnny Benson and Harvey Redder, who were able to restart. Top contenders Bob Fellows and Bill VanPeenan dropped out early in the race. Filling out the top ten finishers were Jerry Spear, Rick Knotts, Terry Senneker Sr., Bob Sensiba, Don Roberts, Johnny Benson, Jack Trumbla and Al Leversee.

The late model dash was won by Gene Eding over Bob Senneker, Howe, and Rick Knotts.

Dick Wesler was victorious in the first late model heat, beating out Terry Senneker and Gail Cobb. Bill VanPeenan beat out Eddie VanderLaan and Eding to take the second late model heat.

Cary Peoples won his second feature of the season in his '64 Chevelle in the hobby stock division. Paul Weisner gave Peoples a good fast chase and several times got under him but had to back off to keep from hitting Cary. Very fine driving for both of these drivers.

The feature event saw several cars eliminated. Dick Nichols and Don Ward went for a ride off the backstretch. Several cars were involved in an accident between the third and fourth turns. The #6-pack driven by Bud Wright caught on fire and Don Ward hit the wall, sidelining both for the remainder of the event. Following Peoples and Weisner across the finish line were Jim Leonard, Terry Schmid, Dave Cutler, Bob Billings, Bill Minch, Larry Johnson, Don Rand and Mike Johnson.

The hobby stock track record was broken twice, first Kirk Norman toured the .438 oval with a time of 18.73 and then Dave Cutler got an 18.70. Norman was sidelined for the evening with mechanical problems.

Jim Leonard won the hobby stock dash, beating out Weisner, Peoples and Cutler.

The first hobby stock heat was won by Bill Allen over Mike Smith and Herb Mann. Don Young was

black flagged leading the event for running four seconds over his qualifying time.

Bob Clover took the second hobby stock heat by beating out Leonard and Billings. The third heat was won by Jerry VanDyke over Hassen Seid and Joe Pease. Tom Pennington took the fourth hobby stock heat from Mike Johnson and Jim Westfield.

The pursuit race which normally starts the top ten qualifiers had 11 cars take the green with Weisner picking up the loot over Cutler and Bob Clover who spun on the last lap in the fourth turn.

The hobby consolation race was won by Jerry VanDyke over Seid, Pease, Joe Niewiek and Wayne Moseler.

Bill Cox made his first appearance of the season in his pretty purple #96. Welcome to Berlin Raceway, Bill. He finished 12<sup>th</sup> in the late model feature, that's pretty good.

Cheers went up to welcome Jim Meyer back out of retirement to handle the flags.

## Howe Breaks Track Record And Wins Feature

**June 27, 1970 – Berlin Raceway** – Well, another beautiful night of racing at Berlin Raceway Saturday evening in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Track records were broken and the races were wild and wooly.

Mr. Ed Howe did it again, winning the main event in the late model division and smashing the track record.

Howe won the 30 lap main event over Jerry Spear and Bob Senneker. Jack Trumbla jumped into the lead from the start with Terry Senneker Sr. taking over on the fifth lap. Terry hung on until Eddie VanderLaan took the lead on the 12<sup>th</sup> lap. Bob Senneker then took the lead on the 22<sup>nd</sup> lap with Howe in hot pursuit. A couple of laps later, Howe passed Senneker and was never headed. Filling out the top ten were Howe, Jerry



Spear, Bob Senneker, Rick Knotts, Bob Fellows, Johnny Benson, Eddie VanderLaan, Terry Senneker, Bill VanPeenan and Tom Marks.

Ed Howe toured the oval on his first lap of qualifications with a 17.42 second lap. This broke the old record of 17.56 seconds held by Bob Senneker. On his second trip around, he came back with a 17.37, a smashing new record.

The late model dash was also taken by Howe over Bob Senneker, Rick Knotts, and Gail Cobb, making his first appearance in the dash this year. During the race, Howe stopped the clocks in traffic running at 17.48 seconds.

Johnny Benson beat out Bob Fellows and Tom Marks to capture the first heat event in the late models.

Dick Wessler won the second heat event for the late models over Donnie Roberts and Eddie VanderLaan. Harvey Redder spun off the track with no damage.

Jerry Spear, starting in the middle of the pack, held off Bob Senneker and Howe to win the pursuit for the late models.

In the hobby stock division, I believe we had almost 50 cars entered. Paul Weisner outlasted them all to capture the main event over Bob Clover, Jack Drolema, Jerry VanDyke, and Mike Johnson. In the early stages of the race, Tom Pennington spun coming out of the second corner and the cars of Terry Schmid and Larry Johnson left the track for a few minutes with Terry Schmid being unable to restart. Jim Leonard jumped into the lead at this time and was never headed until the accident in the fourth turn in which several cars were eliminated. Cary Peoples spun and the cars of Dave Cutler, Art Harvey, Dick Nichols and Jim Westfield all came together. It looked real bad for a few moments, but all drivers were okay, but their cars were badly bent. On the last lap with Leonard leading, Weisner and Jim came together, putting Leonard into the wall close to the finish line and Weisner got across the line first. Rounding out

the top ten were Larry Johnson, Butch Potter, Jim Leonard, Don Rand and Pennington.

Dave Cutler broke his own one lap track record of 18.70 seconds with one lap around the oval at 18.55 seconds. Cutler won the dash over Bob Clover, Weisner and Schmid.

Joe Pease captured the first heat event over Leo Havens and Don Helmick. The cars of Herb Mann and Mike Smith came together and spun.

The second heat saw Larry Johnson black flagged while leading the event because he was going a second faster than he qualified. This gave Joe Niewiek the win over Denny Hilliard and Bill Allen.

Weisner was victorious in the third heat over Bob Clover and Art Harvey.

Jim Leonard won the fourth heat over Dick Nichols and Harry Drolema. Terry Schmid spun with the cars of Dave Cutler, Bill Minch, Mike Johnson, and Denny Sarbon getting involved. Minch was sidelined for the evening.

The fifth heat saw Jerry Longnecker making his first appearance of the season coming in third. Bill Allen took the win over McKnight. Jim Leonard won the pursuit race when Cary Peoples spun while leading the event. Bob Clover was second over Weisner.

The 12-lap consolation race was won by Wayne Moseler over Joe Pease and Denny Hilliard.

## ARCA 200 To Ramo Stott

**July 3, 1970 — Berlin Raceway** — Current leader in the season's point standings, Ramo Stott of Keokuk, Iowa drove a 1970 Plymouth to victory in the 200 lap ARCA (Automobile Racing Club of America) national championship stock car race Friday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Iggy Katona of Willis, Michigan was second in his 1970 Dodge followed by early leader Andy Hampton of Louisville, Kentucky in a '70

Dodge, Paul Wensink, John Sellers, Larry Ashley, John Early, Norman Martin, Tony Trinkle, and Bob Thomas.

The yellow caution light was brought out on four occasions by cars spinning out of control with Wayne Trinkle of Jefferson, Indiana and John West of Louisville, Kentucky escaping serious injury after being wrecked on the very first lap of the 200-lap speed chase.

Ramo had the lead from lap one through eight with Hampton setting the pace until lap 86 when Ramo again took over. A lengthy pit stop for fuel on the 130<sup>th</sup> lap cost Hampton any chance of winning and relegated him to third.

## Fourth Berlin Feature To Ed Howe

**July 4, 1970 — Berlin Raceway** — It was a cold and hectic night at Berlin Raceway Saturday night with 79 cars qualifying for the holiday show.

Eddie VanderLaan took the fast-car dash win in the late models followed by Bob Senneker, Bob Fellows and Terry Senneker Sr. The hobby stock dash was halted when Dave Cutler spun in the fourth turn. The next lap, the other three leaders spun between turns three and four bringing Cutler back in the lead and taking the win over Terry Schmid, the only other finisher as Bob Clover and Paul Weisner retired from the race.

The first hobby stock heat was halted twice for spins and tangles involving first six cars, then three. Leo Havens took the win over Frank Swarten and Jerry Longnecker. The second hobby heat needed no yellows but there were spins again between turns three and four. Bob Clover kept out of trouble to win over Jim Leonard who was right on his bumper. Cary Peoples and Art Harvey followed.

The first late model heat was a fast one with no yellow flags. Jerry



Spear took the win followed by Bob Fellows, Eddie VanderLaan and Bob Sensiba.

The third hobby stock heat was exciting with spins in the second and fourth turns bringing out the yellow. Jerry VanDyke took the win over Bud Wright, Joe Niewiek and Herb Mann. The fourth hobby stock heat was restarted when Dan Ross and Bill Minch spun. Four cars piled up in turn one and Jack Gritter spun at the checkered flag. Duane Cottrell (driving Wayne Moseler's car), Larry Johnson, Bill Minch and Don Rand.

The late model second heat was halted when Harvey Sytsma spun in turn two and a complete restart was called. Bob Hegner lost it coming into turn three, taking Rich Senneker and Jim Rogel with him into the fourth turn wall, stopping the race. Clarence Cook and Jack Trumbula tangled, spinning into the infield. Donnie Roberts took the win, followed by Johnny Benson, Scott Presley and Jim Rogel.

Mike McKenna took the fifth hobby stock heat in a real close finish over Leo Havens, Bob Blouw and Carl Looman.

Ed Howe took the late model pursuit win over Spear, VanderLaan and Sensiba. Jim Leonard won the hobby pursuit over Terry Schmid, Weisner, and Cutler.

The hobby stock consolation race was hectic. Les Norman was leading the race and spun in front of oncoming traffic. Butch Potter, with nowhere to go, missed Norman but ran head-on into the wall. Butch was taken to the hospital for a checkup. Dan Cleland took the win followed by VanDyke, Bud Wright, Mac Knight, and Herb Mann.

The hobby stock feature was stopped with only a few laps run when Dave Cutler hit the fourth turn wall. Dave was taken to the hospital for a checkup. A few more laps and the red was out again when Don Rand hit the wall after spinning to avoid two others who had spun in turn four. Don was also taken to the hospital. Jim Leonard took the win followed closely by Paul Weisner,

Art Harvey, Cary Peoples and Larry Johnson.

The late model feature started with a bang when ten of the 22 cars piled up in the third turn after Scott Presley spun in turn four. Gail Cobb was sidelined with the yellow flag flying. Just five laps after the restart, Terry Senneker Sr. lost it in turn four and the whole pack scattered, with another yellow. A few laps later, VanderLaan spun and hit the wall with Bob Fellows on his tail also spinning. Fellows hit the wall, bounced off and down into the infield where he was hit in the driver's door by Jack Trumbula. Fellows was taken to the hospital. The yellow was out again with water on the track. After all the mess, Ed Howe added feature number four to his collection. Bob Senneker was second, followed by Donnie Roberts, Bill VanPeenan, Terry Senneker, Scott Presley, Bob Sensiba, Gail Cobb, Clarence Cook, and Bob Hegner.

## Two In A Row For Ed Howe

**July 11, 1970 – Berlin Raceway** – Ed Howe of Beaverton piloted his 1969 Chevelle to victory in the 30-lap main event for late models Saturday night at Berlin Raceway and Paul Weisner won the 40-lap mid-season championship for the hobby stocks.

Howe, starting at the rear of the pack of twenty-two cars zoomed by pace-setter Jerry Spear on the 27<sup>th</sup> lap to capture his fifth feature of the 1970 season. At the start, Bob Sensiba jumped into the lead and held on until Spear got by on the 12<sup>th</sup> lap. On the 19<sup>th</sup> lap, Jack Trumbula and Harvey Redder spun in turn four, bringing out the yellow flag. With just four laps to go, Tom Marks lost it in turn three, bringing out the yellow again.

Spear chased Howe across the finish for second, Donnie Roberts was third and Rick Knotts beat out Bob Senneker by a fender at the wire for fourth. Terry Senneker Sr. was sixth followed by Tom Maier, Randy

Sweet, Sensiba and Eddie VanderLaan.

Paul Weisner won the 40-lap mid-season championship for the hobby stocks after leading most of the laps of the event. The caution came out on the 13<sup>th</sup> lap for Cary Peoples when the suspension broke on his car and he had to be hauled into the pits. Several spins took place, including Scott Francisco, Bill Minch and Larry Johnson, but none of any consequence.

Following Weisner across the finish line were Dave Cutler, Jim Leonard, Jack Drolema, Terry Schmid, Jim Westfield, Bob Clover, Bob Billings and Dick Sarber.

In the first hobby stock heat Ron Klein hit the front inside guard rail and Joe Niewiek was black flagged while leading, for running over 1/2 second faster than qualifying. Leo Havens took the win over Mike McKenna and Bob Blouw. Weisner won the fast heat over Art Harvey, Leonard and Minch.

The third hobby heat was red flagged when Don Ward and Herb Mann came together in the first turn and climbed the wall. Both cars received considerable damage but neither driver was injured. Jerry VanDyke took the win over Mike Smith and Graydon Bodell. In the fourth hobby heat, Don Cleland spun and hit the wall in turn four. Harry Drolema spun and also Jack Drolema came in contact with the wall on the last lap. Duane Cottrell took the win, followed by Jack Gritter and Scott Francisco.

Leonard won the dash over Weisner, Schmid and Cutler. Bob Billings won the pursuit, chased by Peoples, Weisner and Schmid.

Don Young won the consolation race over VanDyke, Blouw, Havens and Don Helmick.

Ed Howe took the win in the late model dash, chased by Bob Senneker, Tom Marks and Terry Senneker.

Donnie Roberts won the first heat over Randy Sweet, VanderLaan and Spear. Jack Trumbula took the second heat win over Gene Eding, Sensiba and Redder.



Donnie Roberts managed to stay ahead of Randy Sweet and Ed Howe to win the late model pursuit as they finished in that order.

## Berlin Late Model Feature Rained Out

**July 18, 1970 – Berlin Raceway** – Despite the rain, Berlin Raceway managed to run their Saturday night show with the exception of the 40-lap Mid-Season Championship for the late models.

Bob Clover held on to win the feature for the hobby stocks over Paul Weisner. Out of a field of 20-cars, nine managed to finish the accident-marred event. On the start, Clover spun in turn three on the damp track and Graydon Bodell went off the backstretch.

On the restart, Don Young spun down on the grass in turn three. The next lap, Art Harvey lost it in turn four in some oil with several cars getting involved. Sidelined for the remainder of the event were Jim Leonard, Jim Westfield and Harvey.

After the restart, Jack Gritter slid into the third turn wall and Bob Billings and Paul Weisner also got involved with only Weisner able to restart. Bodell hit the front chute wall later in the event.

Rounding out the top ten were Clover, Weisner, Jack Drolema, Harry Drolema, Kirk Norman, Larry Johnson, Mike Johnson, Dick Sarber, Don Young and Bodell.

Weisner took the fast-car dash win over Clover, Cary Peoples and Jim Leonard.

Don Helmick won the honors in the first heat for the hobby stocks, starting in the rear of the field and beating out Larry Conley and Bill Allen. Bob Billings beat out Jack Drolema and Jack's father Harry Drolema to win the second hobby stock heat.

The action-packed third heat was won by Larry Johnson over Jim Buck and Bud Wright. Graydon Bodell lost

it on the front chute, slid in the wet grass and came to rest between the first and second turns. Jerry VanDyke, running second, spun coming out of the fourth turn.

The 12-lap consolation race saw much action with Dan Ross picking up the win over Don Ward and Don Helmick. Helmick spun on the start with Mike Smith and Buzzy Lee getting involved. Jerry Strotbeie spun leading with Jim Buck spinning to avoid him, losing second place.

In the late models, Donnie Roberts beat out Eddie VanderLaan and Randy Sweet to capture the first heat.

Jack Trumbula won the second late model heat by an eyelash over Bob Sensiba and Ron Laban.

Sensiba held on to win the pursuit, edging out Rick Knotts and Gene Eding.

With the supers lined up for the 40-lap main event, the rains came.

## Bob Senneker Nails Another Berlin Feature

**August 8, 1970 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Senneker won the 30-lap main event for the late models Saturday night at Berlin Raceway after taking the lead on the 17<sup>th</sup> lap. He was never headed. Eddie VanderLaan came in for a close second.

Pacesetter Bill VanPeenan spun on the sixth lap. On the ninth lap, Gail Cobb spun in turn four and the cars of Tom Marks and Ricky Knotts tangled, eliminating both for the evening. At this time, Jerry Spear caught the wall to keep from hitting Marks and Knotts. Jerry was taken to the hospital for a checkup. He's a little stiff and sore but okay.

Rich Senneker, leading, spun in turn three on the 15<sup>th</sup> lap. Bill Brown clipped the wall to avoid Senneker. Chasing VanderLaan across the line were Randy Sweet, Johnny Benson, Bob Fellows, Don Roberts, VanPeenan, Gene Eding, Terry Senneker Sr. and Ed Damer.

Bob Senneker also won the late model dash with Gail Cobb taking the first heat over Bob Fellows and Bob Sensiba. Donnie Roberts beat out Ed Damer and Bill VanPeenan in the second late model heat. Jerry Peloquin and Jerry Spear got a piece of the wall in this event.

Randy Sweet won the pursuit over Bob Senneker and VanderLaan. The third heat was won by Bob Clover beating out Buddy Stewart and Harvey Sytsma.

The accident-marred hobby stock feature saw Paul Weisner win his seventh main of the season over Dave Cutler and Cary Peoples. Jack Drolema spun into the wall in turn one. Art Harvey, Bob Billings, Duane Cottrell, Terry Schmid and Cutler, all running up front came together on the front chute. All cars were done for the remainder of the feature except Cutler. Filling out the top ten were Bob Clover, Dick Sarber, Bob Blouw, Mike Johnson, Bill Minch, Don Ward and Jerry VanDyke.

Bob Clover won the dash over Schmid, Cutler and Weisner.

Joe Niewiek beat out Mike Smith and Sid Hill to win the first heat. Peoples held off Weisner and Jack Drolema to take the second heat.

Jim Buck captured the third heat, out-dueling Blouw and VanDyke. Peoples also won the pursuit over Jim Leonard and Clover.

The consolation was won by Buzzy Lee as he beat out Herb Mann, Frank Sawitzky, Joe Niewiek and Tom Finkbeiner.

## Michigan State Championship To Howe

**August 15, 1970 – Berlin Raceway** – A beautiful field of cars were on hand for the S.R.O. crowd at Berlin Raceway Saturday night. Ed Howe went home \$2,000 richer by winning the Michigan State Late Model Championship Race. Howe, winning his ninth feature of the season, held off a last minute bid from Bob Senneker. Senneker drove



a solid second, out-driving Joy Fair, Joe Ruttman, and John Anderson.

The 100-lap race ran very smoothly with just a couple mishaps. Tom Marks dropped oil on the track, which called for the red flag on the 38<sup>th</sup> lap. On the 42<sup>nd</sup> lap, Johnny Benson and Ron Laban slid into the wall between the third and fourth turn. Eddie VanderLaan spun in turn three while running a strong third and had to go to the rear of the field on the 56<sup>th</sup> lap. He managed to finish seventh. Ed Damer lost it on the front chute and did a reverse spin in turn one. Very fine driving by all the drivers who missed him.

Joy Fair, running fourth, dropped out on the 93<sup>rd</sup> lap with mechanical problems. Following Howe and Senneker across the finish line were John Anderson, Joe Ruttman, Jerry Spear (who started 14<sup>th</sup>), Terry Senneker Sr., Eddie VanderLaan, Rich Senneker, Moose Myers and John Mangus.

The late model consolation race was rather exciting with Jerry Peloquin having a few malfunctions. Scott Presley managed to hold off Gene Eding for the win. Bill Thurekettle did considerable damage to his car when he got a piece of the wall.

Paul Weisner won the hobby stock feature over Terry Schmid and Bob Clover. Tom Finkbeiner blew an engine in turn one, which brought out the red flag. Chasing Clover across the line were Jim Leonard, Dick Sarber, Dave Cutler, Kirk Norman, Bob Billings, Mike Johnson and Dan Ross. By the way, Weisner's #20 is for sale.

Weisner established a new track record in the fast-car dash, beating out Cary Peoples, Cutler, and Billings.

Larry DePos took the first heat over Jack Gritter and Sid Hill. The second heat was full of action, with Norman winning over Schmid and Weisner. This race saw several cars eliminated in the first turn as Art Harvey, Bill Minch and Jim Westfield were out for the evening. Billings, Clover and Mike Johnson were able to repair their cars for the feature.

Don Ward won the third heat over Harry Drolema and Larry Norman and Jerry Strotheid won the fourth heat over Greg Ponchahar and Joe Niewiek.

Ward also won the consolation race over Bob Blouw, Gritter, Leo Havens, and Mike Smith. Herb Mann and Larry Conley crashed in turn one and Jim Buck slid into them.

## Another Howe Night At Berlin Raceway

**August 22, 1970 – Berlin Raceway** – Beaverton's Ed Howe picked up another late model feature win and Muskegon's Paul Weisner took the hobby stock feature Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

The caution was out in the late model feature on lap 11 when Clarence Cook and Dick Wesler tangled between turns three and four. Race leader Rick Knotts spun to avoid hitting the spinning cars and was hit himself by second place Randy Sweet who was only a few feet behind Rick. Cook, Wesler and Knotts all received extensive damage to their cars and were unable to continue, but Sweet regained the pole position at the restart.

Sweet hung onto the lead until lap 28 when the Green Hornet of Howe's took over after the caution came out for Scott Presley when he hit the first turn wall. Sweet hung onto his second place at the finish, followed by Johnny Benson, Bob Senneker, Jerry Spear, Eddie VanderLaan, Denny Nyari, Tom Marks, Gene Eding and Jim Aldrich.

Howe took the fast car dash win over Eding, Benson and Marks.

Randy Sweet picked up the first late model heat win over Jerry Spear and Jim Aldrich. Rich Senneker spun in this event and was out for the rest of the night. Bob Fellows notched the second heat over Scott Presley and John Mangus.

The late model pursuit was a quickie and Rick Knotts established a new track record for the 10-lap

event, winning over Ed Howe and Denny Nyari.

Paul Weisner picked up another win in the 50-lap hobby stock feature which only had one caution when Graydon Bodell and Fred Britton tangled on the backstretch. Dave Cutler led the first 15-laps when Weisner took over and was never headed. Terry Schmid driving a pretty new Mustang got around Cutler for second place at the finish. Cutler took third, followed by Cary Peoples, Jim Leonard, Art Harvey, Jerry Strotheide, Jack Drolema, Bob Billings and Dick Sarber.

Jack Gritter took his first-ever checker flag in the first hobby stock heat as he bested Jack Conley and Herb Mann. Leo Havens won the second hobby stock heat over Dave Husted and Larry Depas. Lansing's Dave Dunlap took the third heat win over Havens and Larry Ortez.

Bob Blouw notched the semi feature which saw Steve Brown hit the light pole in the second turn. There were no injuries in the entire racing program, but lots of bent machinery.

## Howe Posts Eleventh Berlin Feature

**September 5, 1970 – Berlin Raceway** – Ed Howe started the big weekend in style by posting his 11<sup>th</sup> main event win for the late models at Berlin Raceway Saturday night.

John Mangus hit the front chute wall on the 14<sup>th</sup> lap. Howe took over leader Johnny Benson on the 18<sup>th</sup> lap. On the 25<sup>th</sup> lap Jerry Spear spun in turn two.

Rounding out the top ten feature finishers behind Howe were Benson, Eddie VanderLaan, Terry Senneker Sr., Gene Eding, Tom Marks, Bob Fellows, Spear, Bob Sensiba and Jack Trumbla.

Howe posted fast time with a 17.51 circuit on the .438 mile asphalt and Bob Senneker was right behind him at 17.54. Bob was sidelined for the night with heating problems.

Flywheel the clown waved the



green flag for the fast-car dash, with Tom Marks taking the win over VanderLaan, Howe and Spear.

The first heat got off to a fine start with Bob Sensiba spinning and Bill VanPeenan kissing the wall. Terry Senneker picked up the win over Spear and VanderLaan. In the second heat, Dick Southworth hit the wall on the front chute. John Mangus started 11<sup>th</sup> and took the win over Jerry Peloquin and Scott Presley.

Ed Howe eliminated the field in the pursuit. Bob Clover won the third heat out driving Roger Borst and Joe Elenbaas.

Paul Weisner wrapped up his tenth feature win in the hobby stocks. Cary Peoples spun and was clipped by Jim Leonard, putting both cars out of the event. Weisner was followed across the finish line by Jack Drolema, Terry Schmid, Bob Clover, Bob Billings, Harry Drolema, Dick Sarber, Art Harvey, Jim Westfield and Mike Johnson.

Bob Clover won the dash over Schmid, Dave Cutler and Harvey.

Dave Crocker won the first heat, beating out Steve Brown and Jerry Longnecker. In the fast heat, Bill Minch hit the wall in his new Camaro, crunching it up badly but Bill wasn't injured. Weisner took the win over Leonard and Sarber.

Bob Blouw won the third heat when Don Ward was disqualified for running a full second faster than he qualified. Mike Smith spun in turn four and was hit by Leo Havens. Joe Pease came in second over Frank Sawitzky. Harry Drolema won the fourth heat over son Jack and Tom Finkbeiner. Jim Leonard won the pursuit over Weisner and Peoples.

Bob Blouw took the consolation race win over Larry Johnson, Finkbeiner, Larry Conley and Pease.

## VanderLaan Takes Holiday Race

**September 7, 1970 — Berlin Raceway** — Eddie VanderLaan picked up the late model feature win

Monday evening in Berlin Raceway's action-packed Labor Day show.

The feature was stopped when Harvey Sysma slowed in the third and fourth turns and was hit by Rick Knotts, who bounced over Harv's wheel and hit fast qualifier Tom Marks, sending Marks into the wall. All three cars were out of the running with extensive damage to the Chevilles driven by Marks and Knotts.

Scott Presley held the early lead but gave way after a few laps to Bob Sensiba, who in turn relinquished the lead to Eddie VanderLaan who went on to win by a small margin over Jerry Spear. Terry Senneker Sr. was third, followed by Sensiba, Johnny Benson, Presley, Ron Laban, Bob Clover, Bob Fellows and Roger Borst.

Bob Fellows took the late model dash, outrunning VanderLaan, Marks and Spear.

Gene Eding started near the front of the first heat and outran Benson and VanderLaan for the win. The yellow came out in the second late model heat when Gail Cobb, Bob Clover and Roger Borst tangled in the first turn. Bob Sensiba won by a fender over Knotts and Presley came in third.

Rick Knotts won the exciting pursuit race, chased bumper to bumper by Sensiba, Spear and Marks. The yellow flew when Eding's trunk lid flew off on the frontstretch, floating just ahead of the racing pack.

Paul Weisner wrapped up his 11<sup>th</sup> feature win in the hobby stock division which was marred by four caution flags for minor spins and crashes. Cary Peoples finished second followed by Bob Clover, Jack Drolema, Duane Cottrell, Rich Senneker, Bob Billings, Mike Johnson, Bob Bliss and Bob Blouw.

Congressman Jerry Ford presented the trophy to a smiling Weisner and Mrs. Shirley Carter awarded the winning trophy to Eddie VanderLaan in this, the Dick Carter Memorial race.

Eighteen cars started the hectic hobby consolation race which saw only ten finishers after spins and tangles. Larry Johnson was black

flagged and chewed out by starter Jimmy Myer after jumping the start on the yellow flag.

Jack Gritter worked his way up from the tail of the pack, avoiding the three yellow flag melees and one red to win handily over Mike Sherrington, Dick Moore, Phil Stomphler and B. Sterkenberg.

The first heat ended under a blanket as Bob Sterkenberg won over Steve Brown and Don Finkbeiner. The yellow waved in the fast second heat as Weisner spun on the front chute and Cary Peoples took the win over Terry Schmid and Jerry VanDyke.

Lots of action in the third heat saw Mike Johnson hit the big tire and Don Ward cream the wall. Larry Johnson took the win over Gritter and Joe Pease. A restart and a caution didn't slow Harry Drolema as he picked up the fourth heat win over Bob Blouw and John Jutila.

Paul Weisner won the pursuit over Schmid and Cutler, and Cary Peoples took the fast-car dash win over Weisner and Schmid. Cutler, who set a new track record during qualifying at 18.52.

Fireworks and a thrill show during intermission rounded out a full evening's entertainment.

## Twelfth Berlin Feature To Howe

**September 19, 1970 — Berlin Raceway** — Ed Howe stung them again in his "Green Hornet" to rack up his 12<sup>th</sup> feature of the season at Berlin Raceway Saturday night. Howe also broke the existing track record of his own from 17.37 to 17.19 for one lap around the .438 mile paved oval.

Howe took over the lead from Gene Eding on the 16<sup>th</sup> lap of the late model feature. With just eight laps to go, several cars spun in turns three and four, bringing out the red flag. On the restart, Eding, running second, headed for the pits with a flat tire. Chasing Howe across the line were Eddie VanderLaan, Tom Marks, Don



Biederman, Jerry Spear, Bob Fellows, Jim Aldrich, Bob Carnes, Jerry Makara and Bob Sensiba.

Howe also took the fast-car dash over Bob Senneker, VanderLaan and Bobby Carnes. Carnes made his first appearance of the season in Randy Sweet's old car.

Several different drivers were on hand Saturday evening that don't usually run here. They were Don Biederman, Dave Mulder, Tony Bolick, Bill Ivan, Jerry Makara and Al Blanchard.

The first late model heat saw Dave Mulder win over Bill Ivan and Tony Bolick.

Bob Sensiba did a fantastic job winning the fast heat over Gene Eding and Tom Marks.

Johnny Benson won the third late model heat over Jerry Makara and Scott Presley. This heat saw Jerry Peloquin blow a tire coming out of the fourth turn. Terry Senneker Sr., with no place to go, hit Peloquin. Biederman, Roger Borst and Ron Laban were also involved. Senneker and Peloquin were out for the night.

Clarence "Cookie" Cook won the fourth heat, outdriving Dave Mulder and Tony Bolick.

The pursuit race was won by Bob Senneker over Howe and Eding. This race saw everyone eliminated except Senneker and Howe. Going into the third turn, Howe got under Senneker and the cars came together with Senneker hitting the wall with considerable damage. Several people had comments on this, but as I see it, this was just good hard racing and things like this are bound to happen.

Terry Schmid won the 40-lap season championship for the hobbies stocks over Paul Weisner, but Weisner won the "Point Championship" over Schmid by 21 points. Terry got by Weisner on the 31<sup>st</sup> lap and hung on for the win. Chasing them across the line were Dave Cutler, Bob Clover, Rich Senneker, Dick Sarber, Jack Drolema, Jerry VanDyke, Kirk Norman and Jerry Strothie.

Dick Moore won the first heat over Joe Pease and Herb Mann.

Bob Clover took the second heat over Sarber and Weisner.

Jack Gritter won the third heat, outdriving Tom Finkbeiner and Bob Blouw.

Jack Drolema took the fourth heat over Larry Johnson and Jim Westfield. Dave Cutler brought the one-lap track record for the hobby stocks down to 18.41.

Schmid also won the pursuit over Weisner and Cutler.

The checkered flag finally fell on the hobby stock consolation race for Tom Finkbeiner over Dick Moore, Joe Pease, Jack Gritter and Phil Stamphler. Bob Blouw hit the wall in turn three. On the restart, Don Finkbeiner flipped in turn four. At the finish line, Joe Pease managed to finish third with Gritter following him.

### Senneker Wins Last Berlin Feature Of Year

**September 26, 1970 - Berlin Raceway** - The final race of the 1970 season at Berlin Raceway was won by Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids Saturday night as he broke Ed Howe's winning streak in the late models and led the 40-lap season championship race all the way.

Ed Howe was a close second in the main event, followed by Jerry Spear, Eddie VanderLaan, Gene Eding, Rick Knotts, Bob Carnes, Rich Senneker, Johnny Benson and Jim Aldrich. On lap 12 Dave Cutler, driving a late model for the first time, spun and hit the third turn wall. Bob Sensiba lost a wheel in turn one and spun down in the grass on the back chute, bringing the only two cautions of the race.

Johnny Benson won the first late model heat in a good close finish over Howe, Carnes and Eding. In the second late model heat, Cutler spun and Gary Fedewa, Ron Laban, Jack Trumbla and Sensiba all became involved. Bill Ivens spun in turn one on the restart. Rick Knotts took the win over Jim Aldrich, Clarence Cook and Scott Presley. The third super heat had an exciting finish as Al

Blanchard took the win and Buddy Stewart, Randy Sweet and Harvey Sytsma all crossed the finish three abreast, in that order.

Paul Weisner racked up another win in the hobby stock feature. It was rather hectic getting this race underway. First Jack Drolema spun on the backstretch, with Jim Westfield hitting one of the big tires. On the complete restart, Bill Minch hit the third turn wall. Chasing Weisner across the finish line were Terry Schmid, Cary Peoples, Jack Drolema, Dave Cutler, Bob Billings, Art Harvey, Jack Gritter, Harry Drolema and Tom Finkbeiner.

Terry Schmid won the fast-car dash over Cutler, Weisner and Peoples.

The first hobby stock heat was restarted when five cars spun in the third turn on the first lap. Bob Bliss took the win over Steve Brown and Frank Sawitzky.

The fast hobby stock heat was restarted when Billings spun on the backstretch and four others spun. Weisner took the win over Peoples and Jerry VanDyke. Bob Fellows tapped the wall and spun on the last lap.

Jim Westfield won the third heat over Mike Johnson and Dick Sarber.

The caution came out in the hobby stock pursuit when Bill Minch spun in the fourth turn. Terry Schmid took the win by half a car length over Weisner.

The hobby stock consolation race had its share of the action as Sawitzky hit the front chute wall and Mike Johnson plowed into the front-stretch guard rail. Bob Bliss picked up the win over Herb Mann, Steve Brown and B. Sterkenberg.

Trophies were awarded in each division for the point leaders. In the late models, Ed Howe was first over Bob Senneker, Eddie VanderLaan. Paul Weisner topped Terry Schmid and Art Harvey in the hobby stocks.

The racing season is over in this area and I feel that it's been a real good season. Every night we've had over 75 cars on hand and a full house. See y'all next year.



## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1970

### Late Models – Hobby Stocks

**April 18, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

Rained Out

**April 25, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Terry Senneker Sr. – no time given

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Buddy Stewart, Bob Fellows, Jerry Spear

Pursuit winner: Gene Eding

Semi winner: Jerry Spear

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Senneker** (2) Ed Howe (3) Gene Eding (4) Ron Laban (5) Dick Dunshee (6) Rick Knotts (7) Jerry Spear (8) Andy Schutt (9) Scott Presley (10) Jimmy Roberts

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Paul Weisner – no time given

Dash winner: Paul Weisner

Heat winners: Don Ross, Graydon Bodell, Terry Schmid

Pursuit winner: Dave Cutler

Semi winner: John Jutila

**Feature:** (1) **Terry Schmid** (2) Paul Weisner

**May 2, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.72

Dash winners: Bob Fellows, Tom Marks

Heat winner: Bob Sensiba

Pursuit winner: Gene Eding

**Feature:** (1) **Gene Eding** (2) Bob Senneker (3) Ed



Bob Senneker

Dick Lee Collection

Howe (4) Rick Knotts (5) Jim Aldrich (6) Terry Senneker Sr. (7) Ron Laban (8) Tom Marks (9) Eddie VanderLaan (10) Buddy Stewart

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Terry Schmid 18.87

Dash winner: Paul Weisner

Heat winners: Scott Francisco, Dave Cutler, John Jutila

Pursuit winner: Terry Schmid

**Feature:** (1) **Paul Weisner** (2) Jim Westfield (3) Kirk Norman (4) Art Harvey (5) Tom Finkbeiner

**May 9, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.63

Dash winner: Dick Dunshee

Heat winners: Buddy Stewart, Gail Cobb, Bob Fellows

Pursuit winner: Donnie Roberts

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Senneker** (2) Bob Fellows (3) Ed Howe (4) Donnie Roberts (5) Rick Knotts (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Gene Eding (8) Terry Senneker Sr. (9) Jerry Spear (10) Andy Schutt

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Paul Weisner 19.06

Dash winner: Paul Weisner

Heat winners: Tom Pennington, Duane Cottrell, Butch Potter, Tom Pennington

Pursuit winner: Terry Schmid

**Feature:** (1) **Terry Schmid** (2) Kirk Norman (3) Art Harvey (4) Bill Minch (5) Ken Sutton

**May 16, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Dick Dunshee 17.72

Dash winner: Gene Eding

Heat winners: Jerry Spear, Gail Cobb

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

Consolation winner: Gary Fedewa

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Senneker** (2) Ed Howe (3) Jerry

Spear (4) Ron Laban (5) Donnie Roberts (6) Johnny Benson (7) Tom Marks (8) Eddie VanderLaan (9) Rick Knotts (10) Gene Eding

### **20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Dave Cutler 18.97

Dash winner: Paul Weisner

Heat winners: Sid Hill, Jim Leonard, Bob Billings

Pursuit winner: Paul Weisner

Consolation winner: Butch Potter

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Terry Schmid (3) Art Harvey (4) Dave Cutler (5) Dick Nichols

---



Donnie Roberts

Dick Lee Collection

### **May 23, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.75

Dash winner: Terry Senneker Sr.

Heat winners: John Anderson, Clarence Cook

Pursuit winner: Jerry Makara

**Feature:** (1) John Anderson (2) Ed Howe (3) Jerry Spear (4) Terry Senneker Sr. (5) Ron Laban (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Donnie Roberts (8) Gene Eding (9) Dick Dunshee (10) Tom Marks

### **20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Paul Weisner 19.04

Dash winner: Cary Peoples

Heat winners: Bob DeVries, Jack Drolema, Jerry VanDyke

**Feature:** (1) Cary Peoples (2) Jim Leonard (3) Bob Clover (4) Art Harvey (5) Jack Drolema (6) Dick Nichols

---

### **May 30, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Gene Eding

Heat winners: Terry Senneker, Johnny Benson, Jack Drolema

Pursuit winner: Randy Sweet

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Ron Laban (3) Gene Eding (4) Johnny Benson (5) Denny Nyari (6) Tom Marks (7) Jack Trumbula (8) Andy Schutt

### **20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Dash winner: Paul Weisner

Heat winners: Hasan Seid, Terry Schmid, John Halloran

Pursuit winner: Dave Cutler

**Feature:** (1) Art Harvey (2) Terry Schmid (3) Dick Nichols (4) Bob Clover

---

### **June 6, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

#### **Midwest Late Model Invite**

100 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 17.56

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Bob Sensiba, Gene Eding, Jack Trumbula

**Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Bill VanPeenan (3) Gene Eding (4) Bob Senneker (5) Terry Senneker Sr. (6) Jerry Spear (7) Ron Laban (8) Jerry Makara (9) Randy Sweet (10) Rick Knotts

### **20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Cary Peoples – no time given

Dash winner: Cary Peoples

Heat winners: Hasan Seid, Art Harvey, Joe Pease, Jerry VanDyke

Consolation winner: Dan Ross

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Terry Schmid (3) Jim Leonard (4) Dick Nichols (5) Dick Sarber (6) Kirk Norman (7) Tom Pennington (8) Don Round (9) Jack Drolema (10) Glen Bradley

---



## June 13, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Bob Fellows, Donnie Roberts

Pursuit winner: Bob Fellows

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Senneker** (2) Bob Fellows (3) Ed Howe (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Jerry Spear (6) Dick Dunshee (7) Johnny Benson (8) Donnie Roberts (9) Dick Wesler

## 40 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

### Spring Championship

**Fast qualifier:** Paul Weisner 18.76—**New Track Record**

Dash winner: Bob Clover

Heat winners: Joe Niewiek, Cary Peoples, Denny Hillard, Tom Pennington

Pursuit winner: Cary Peoples

Consolation winner: Jim Buck

**Feature:** (1) **Terry Schmid** (2) Cary Peoples (3) Dave Cutler (4) Art Harvey (5) Jim Leonard (6) Bill Minch (7) Jim Westfield (8) Bob Clover (9) Tom Pennington (10) Scott Francisco

---

## June 20, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models

### Spring Championship

40 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Gene Eding

Heat winners: Dick Wesler, Bill VanPeenan

**Feature:** (1) **Ed Howe** (2) Bob Senneker (3) Jerry Spear (4) Rick Knotts (5) Terry Senneker Sr. (6) Bob Sensiba (7) Donnie Roberts (8) Johnny Benson (9) Jack Trumbla (10) Al Leversee

## 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

**Fast qualifier:** Dave Cutler 18.7

Dash winner: Jim Leonard

Heat winners: Bill Allen, Bob Clover, Jerry VanDyke, Tom Pennington

Pursuit winner: Paul Weisner

Consolation winner: Jerry VanDyke

**Feature:** (1) **Cary Peoples** (2) Paul Weisner (3) Jim Leonard (4) Terry Schmid (5) Dave Cutler (6) Bob Billings (7) Bill Minch (8) Larry Johnson (9) Don Rand (10) Mike Johnson

---



Ron Laban

Dick Lee Collection

## June 26, 1970 – Friday – USAC (United States Auto Club) – Sprint Cars

40 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier:** Larry Dickson 16.56

**Feature:** (1) **Larry Dickson** (2) Gary Bettenhausen (3) Sam Sessions (4) Greg Weld (5) Bill Puterbaugh (6) Bob Pratt (7) Karl Busson (8) Johnny Parsons Jr. (9) Tom Bigelow (10) Jim Hines

**Larry Dickson – Clean Sweep Award**

---

## June 27, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier:** Ed Howe 17.37—**New Track Record**

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Johnny Benson, Dick Wesler

Pursuit winner: Jerry Spear

**Feature:** (1) **Ed Howe** (2) Jerry Spear (3) Bob Senneker (4) Rick Knotts (5) Bob Fellows (6) Johnny Benson (7) Eddie VanderLaan (8) Terry Senneker Sr. (9) Bill VanPeenan (10) Tom Marks

## 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

**Fast qualifier:** Dave Cutler 18.55

Dash winner: Dave Cutler

Heat winners: Joe Pease, Joe Niewiek, Paul Weisner, Jim Leonard, Jerry Longnecker

Pursuit winner: Jim Leonard

Consolation winner: Wayne Moseler

**Feature:** (1) **Paul Weisner** (2) Bob Clover (3) Jack Drolema (4) Jerry VanDyke (5) Mike Johnson (6) Larry Johnson (7) Butch Potter (8) Jim Leonard (9) Don Rand (10) Tom Pennington

---

**July 3, 1970 – Friday – ARCA (Automobile Racing Club of America)**

200 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ramo Stott 19.02

**Feature:** (1) **Ramo Stott** (2) Iggy Katona (3) Andy Hampton (4) Paul Wensink (5) John Sellers (6) Larry Ashley (7) John Early (8) Norman Martin (9) Tony Trinkle (10) Bob Thomas

**Ramo Stott – Clean Sweep Award**

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Dave Cutler 21.43

Dash winner: Ray Lockwood

Heat winner: Dave Cutler

**Feature:** (1) **Dave Cutler** (2) Art Harvey (3) Bud Wright

---

**July 4, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Jerry Spear, Donnie Roberts, Wayne Moseler

Pursuit winner: Ed Howe

**Feature:** (1) **Ed Howe** (2) Bob Senneker (3) Donnie Roberts (4) Bill VanPeenan (5) Terry Senneker Sr. (6) Scott Pressley (7) Bob Sensiba (8) Gail Cobb (9) Cookie Cook (10) Bob Hegner

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Dash winner: Dave Cutler

Heat winners: Leo Havens, Bob Clover, Jerry VanDyke, Mike McKenna, Duane Cottrell

Pursuit winner: Jim Leonard

Consolation winner: Dan Cleland

**Feature:** (1) **Jim Leonard** (2) Paul Weisner (3) Art Harvey (4) Cary Peoples (5) Larry Johnson

---

**July 11, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Donnie Roberts, Jack Trumbla

Pursuit winner: Donnie Roberts

**Feature:** (1) **Ed Howe** (2) Jerry Spear (3) Donnie Roberts (4) Rick Knotts (5) Bob Senneker (6) Terry Senneker Sr. (7) Tom Maier (8) Randy Sweet (9) Bob Sensiba (10) Eddie VanderLaan

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

**Midseason Championship**

Dash winner: Jim Leonard

Heat winners: Leo Havens, Paul Weisner, Jerry VanDyke, Duane Cottrell

Consolation winner: Bob Billings

Semi winner: Don Young

**Feature:** (1) **Paul Weisner** (2) Dave Cutler (3) Jim Leonard (4) Jack Drolema (5) Terry Schmid (6) Jim Westfield (7) Bob Clover (8) Bob Billings (9) Dick Sarber

---

**July 18, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

**Midseason Championship**

40 laps, .438 mile paved

Heat winners: Donnie Roberts, Jack Trumbla

Pursuit winner: Bob Sensiba

**Feature\*:** (1) **Ed Howe** (2) Bob Senneker (3) Johnny Benson (4) Randy Sweet (5) Rick Knotts (6) Gene Eding (7) Bob Sensiba (8) Eddie VanderLaan (9) Gail Cobb (10) Jerry Spear

\*Run August 1

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Dash winner: Paul Weisner

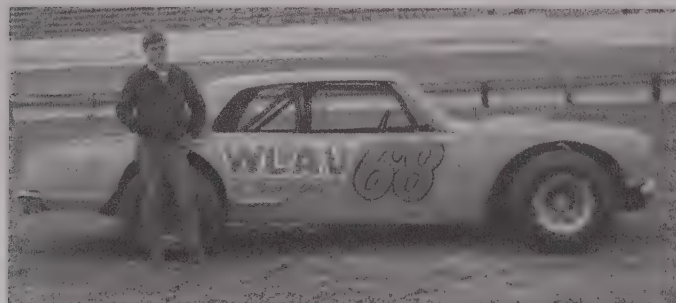
Heat winners: Don Helmick, Bob Billings, Larry Johnson

Pursuit winner: Bob Billings

Consolation winner: Dan Ross

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Clover** (2) Paul Weisner (3) Jack Drolema (4) Harry Drolema (5) Kirk Norman (6) Larry Johnson (7) Mike Johnson (8) Dick Sarber (9) Don Young (10) Graydon Bodell

---



Terry Senneker

Dick Lee Collection



## July 21, 1970 – Tuesday – Hobby Stocks

### *Berlin Fair Race*

20 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Dave Cutler 18.55

Dash winner: Cary Peoples

Heat winners: Don Ward, Art Harvey, Bill Minch, Bob Billings

Pursuit winner: Don Ward

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Bob Billings (3) Dave Cutler (4) Kirk Norman (5) Art Harvey

---

## July 25, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models

### *Berlin Fair*

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Randy Sweet, Gail Cobb

Pursuit winner: Terry Senneker Sr.

**Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Randy Sweet (3) Tom Marks (4) Johnny Benson (5) Gene Eding (6) Terry Senneker Sr. (7) Scott Presley (8) Cookie Cook (9) Bill VanPeenan (10) Bob Fellows

---

## 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Paul Weisner

Heat winners: Don Ward, Terry Schmid, Joe Niewiek

Pursuit winner: Paul Weisner

Consolation winner: Don Ward

**Feature:** (1) Terry Schmid (2) Jack Drolema (3) Harry Drolema (4) Kirk Norman (5) Bill Minch (6) Don Ross (7) Dick Sarber (8) Mike Johnson (9) Graydon Bodell (10) Paul Weisner

---

## August 1, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Heat winners: Gail Cobb, Dick Wesler, Andy Schutt

Pursuit winner: Gail Cobb

**Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Bob Senneker (3) Gail Cobb (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Johnny Benson (6) Gene Eding (7) Randy Sweet (8) Jerry Spear (9) Bill VanPeenan (10) Bob Sensiba

---

## 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Heat winners: Don Ward, Bob Billings, Harry Drolema

Pursuit winner: Bob Billings

Consolation winner: Art Harvey

**Feature:** (1) Terry Schmid (2) Dave Cutler (3) Jack Drolema (4) Bob Clover (5) Jim Westfield (6) Dick Sarber (7) Cary Peoples (8) Don Rand (9) Bob Blouw (10) Mike Johnson

---

## August 8, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan 17.56

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Gail Cobb, Donnie Roberts, Bob Clover

Pursuit winner: Randy Sweet

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Randy Sweet (4) Johnny Benson (5) Bob Fellows (6) Donnie Roberts (7) Bill VanPeenan (8) Gene Eding (9) Terry Senneker Sr. (10) Ed Damer

---

## 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Bob Clover

Heat winners: Joe Niewiek, Cary Peoples, Jim Buck

Pursuit winner: Cary Peoples

Consolation winner: Buzzy Lee

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Dave Cutler (3) Bob Clover (4) Dick Sarber (5) Bob Blouw (6) Mike Johnson (7) Bill Minch (8) Don Ward (9) Jerry VanDyke

---

## August 15, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models

### *Michigan State Late Model Championships*

100 laps, .438 mile paved

Consolation winner: Scott Presley

**Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Bob Senneker (3) John Anderson (4) Joe Ruttman (5) Jerry Spear (6) Terry Senneker Sr. (7) Eddie VanderLaan (8) Rich Senneker (9) Moose Myers (10) John Mangus

---

## 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Paul Weisner

Heat winners: Kirk Norman, Larry Depos, Don Ward, Jerry Strotheid

Consolation winner: Don Ward

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Terry Schmid (3) Bob Clover (4) Jim Leonard (5) Dick Sarber (6) Dave Cutler (7) Kirk Norman (8) Bob Billings (9) Mike Johnson (10) Dan Ross

---

**August 21, 1970 – Friday – USAC (United States Auto Club) – Sprint Cars**

40 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Gary Bettenhausen 16.85

Heat winners: Gary Bettenhausen, Larry Dickson, Lenny Waldo

Semi winner: Johnny Benson

**Feature:** (1) **Greg Weld** (2) Larry Dickson (3) Don Nordhorn (4) Gary Bettenhausen (5) Sam Sessions (6) Karl Busson (7) Johnny Benson (8) Sonny Ates (9) Merle Bettenhausen (10) Eldon Rasmussen

---

**August 22, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe – no time given

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Randy Sweet, Bob Fellows

Pursuit winner: Rick Knotts

**Feature:** (1) **Ed Howe** (2) Randy Sweet (3) Johnny Benson (4) Bob Senneker (5) Jerry Spear (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Denny Nyari (8) Tom Marks (9) Gene Eding (10) Jim Aldrich

**50 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Heat winners: Jack Gritter, Leo Havens, Dave Dunlap

Semi winner: Bob Blouw

**Feature:** (1) **Paul Weisner** (2) Terry Schmid (3) Dave Cutler (4) Cary Peoples (5) Jim Leonard (6) Art Harvey (7) Jerry Strotheide (8) Jack Drolema (9) Bob Billings (10) Dick Sarber

---

**August 29, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

Rained Out

---

**September 5, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.51

Dash winner: Tom Marks

Heat winners: Terry Senneker Sr., John Mangus, Bob Clover

Pursuit winner: Ed Howe

**Feature:** (1) **Ed Howe** (2) Johnny Benson (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Terry Senneker Sr. (5) Gene Eding (6) Tom Marks (7) Bob Fellows (8) Jerry Spear (9) Bob Sensiba (10) Jack Trumbla

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Dash winner: Bob Clover

Heat winners: Dave Crocker, Paul Weisner, Bob Blouw, Harry Drolema

Pursuit winner: Jim Leonard

Consolation winner: Bob Blouw

**Feature:** (1) **Paul Weisner** (2) Jack Drolema (3) Terry Schmid (4) Bob Clover (5) Bob Billings (6) Harry Drolema (7) Dick Sarber (8) Art Harvey (9) Jim Westfield (10) Mike Johnson

---

**September 7, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

**Dick Carter Memorial**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Tom Marks no time given

Dash winners: Bob Fellows, Gene Eding

Heat winner: Bob Sensiba

Pursuit winner: Rick Knotts

**Feature:** (1) **Eddie VanderLaan** (2) Jerry Spear (3) Terry Senneker Sr. (4) Bob Sensiba (5) Johnny Benson (6) Scott Presley (7) Ron Laban (8) Bob Clover (9) Bob Fellows (10) Roger Borst

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Cary Peoples 18.52

Dash winner: Cary Peoples

Heat winners: Bob Sterkenberg, Cary Peoples, Larry Johnson, Harry Drolema

Pursuit winner: Paul Weisner

Consolation winner: Jack Gritter

**Feature:** (1) **Paul Weisner** (2) Cary Peoples (3) Bob Clover (4) Jack Drolema (5) Duane Cottrell (6) Rich Senneker (7) Bob Billings (8) Mike Johnson (9) Bob Bliss (10) Bob Blouw

---

**September 12, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

Rained Out

---



**September 19, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.19 New Track Record**

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Dave Mulder, Bob Sensiba, Johnny Benson, Cookie Cook

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

**Feature: (1) Ed Howe (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Tom Marks (4) Don Biederman (5) Jerry Spear (6) Bob Fellows (7) Jim Aldrich (8) Bob Carnes (9) Jerry Makara (10) Bob Sensiba**

**40 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

*Season Championship*

**Fast qualifier: Dave Cutler 18.41—New Track Record**

Heat Winners: Dick Moore, Bob Clover, Jack Gritter, Jack Drolema

Consolation Winner: Tom Finkbeiner

**Feature: (1) Terry Schmid (2) Paul Weisner (3) Dave Cutler (4) Bob Clover (5) Rich Senneker (6) Dick Sarber (7) Jack Drolema (8) Jerry VanDyke (9) Kirk Norman (10) Jerry Strotheide**

---

**September 26, 1970 – Saturday – Late Models**

40 laps, .438 mile paved

Heat winners: Johnny Benson, Rick Knotts, Al Blanchard

**Feature: (1) Bob Senneker (2) Ed Howe (3) Jerry Spear (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Gene Eding (6) Rick Knotts (7) Bob Carnes (8) Rich Senneker (9) Johnny Benson (10) Jim Aldrich**

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Dash winner: Terry Schmid

Heat winners: Bob Bliss, Paul Weisner, Jim Westfield

Pursuit winner: Terry Schmid

Consolation winner: Bob Bliss

**Feature: (1) Paul Weisner (2) Terry Schmid (3) Cary Peoples (4) Jack Drolema (5) Dave Cutler (6) Bob Billings (7) Art Harvey (8) Jack Gritter (9) Harry Drolema (10) Tom Finkbeiner**

---

## Berlin Raceway Points 1970

1970 LATE MODEL POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Ed Howe	85	12	7	8	2	
2	Bob Senneker	62	6	1	1		
3	Jerry Spear	28					
4	Eddie VanderLaan	27	2	1	1		
5	Johnny Benson	18					
6	Gene Eding	17	1		4		
7	Randy Sweet	13					
8	Terry Senneker Sr.	10		1	1		
9	Bob Fellows	10			2		
10	Rick Knotts	10					
11	Donnie Roberts	9					
	Ron Laban	9					
13	John Anderson	8	1				
14	Tom Marks	6		1	2		
15	Bill VanPeenan	6					
16	Gail Cobb	3					
17	Joe Ruttman	2					
	Bob Sensiba	2					
	Don Biederman	2					
20	Dick Dunshee	1		1	1		
21	Jim Aldrich	1					
	Denny Nyari	1					



# Berlin Raceway — Late Models, 1970 to Present

## 1970 HOBBY STOCK POINTS

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Paul Weisner	80	12	3	8	1	
2	Terry Schmid	60	6	1	1		
3	Dave Cutler	55	1	6	2	1	
4	Bob Clover	29	1		3		
5	Cary Peoples	25	2	2	4		
6	Art Harvey	25	1				
7	Jack Drolema	24					
8	Jim Leonard	22	1		2		
9	Kirk Norman	12					
10	Dick Nichols	6					
11	Harry Drolema	5					
	Bob Billings	5					
	Jim Westfield	5					
14	Dick Sarber	4					
15	Bill Minch	3					
	Bud Wright	3					
17	Jerry VanDyke	2					
18	Tom Finkbeiner	1					
	Ken Sutton	1					
	Mike Johnson	1					
	Larry Johnson	1					
	Bob Blouw	1					
	Duane Cottrell	1					
	Rich Senneker	1					
25	Ray Lockwood	0			1		

## Berlin Raceway Media 1971

### Fair Captures Berlin Opener

**April 17, 1971 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Joy Fair drove a '69 Chevelle to victory in the accident-marred 30-lap feature race for late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Rich Senneker the '69 point champion was second followed by Bob Fellows, Jerry Spear, Jim Aldrich and Eddie VanderLaan. The race was halted on the 26<sup>th</sup> lap when race leader and winner apparent, Bob Senneker, became involved with the spinning car of Donnie Roberts and was rammed by Bob Voelker. Senneker was knocked out of the race and Voelker was hospitalized. Tom Colella running a close second to Senneker cut a tire in the melee and finished seventh.

Terry Schmid outdrove Jack Drolema and Larry Johnson to win the 20-lap main event for six hobby stock cars.

Heat race winners were Schmid, Herb Mann, Colella and Fellows.

Pursuit honors went to Fellows, Bob Senneker, Jack Drolema, and his father, Harry Drolema. Fast car dash honors went to Jerry VanDyke and Fair.

Bob Senneker was the fastest of 55 qualifiers with a 17.95 second dash around the .438 mile Marne oval. Schmid was fast qualifier in the hobby division with a time of 18.93.

### Bob Senneker Berlin Winner

**April 24, 1971 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids kept his sensational winning streak going by roaring to victory in the keenly contested 30-lap feature race for late models Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Senneker made it by driving his 1969 Chevelle past race leader

Eddie VanderLaan and was never headed.

The race was stopped when Bob Fellows' engine blew on the front stretch early in the race and he spun into the first turn wall, taking Bill Massuch with him. With the cars behind trying to avoid the crash, several other top drivers were eliminated from the main event including Rick Knotts, Don Biederman and Rich Senneker.

The caution flag waved twice more in the hectic race, first when Mike Eddy spun off the backstretch and again when Ron Laban hit the third turn wall.

Earl Ross, of London, Ontario, Canada, escaped injury as his car sheared the right front wheel and caught fire on the last lap of the hectic main event.

Last week's feature winner Joy Fair chased Senneker across the finish line for second place followed by fast qualifier Ed Howe, Johnny Benson, Jerry Spear, Eddie VanderLaan, Don Roberts, Kirk Norman, Earl Ross and Butch Miller.

The hobby stocks put on their share of the action as Tom Drolema spun sideways down the front stretch at the drop of the green in the 20-lap main event. A great amount of driving skill prevented any damage to the hard chargers. The only caution flag came when Phil Stempfler spun off the backstretch.

Terry Schmid chauffeured his #69 Mustang to his second consecutive victory chased by Paul Weisner, Harry Drolema, Larry Johnson, Bob Billings, Jim Westfield, Dick Sarber, Jack Drolema, John Jutila and Tom Vanderlind.

The late model fast-car dash was a thriller with Bob Senneker just acing out Fair by inches at the finish with Ed Howe under the same blanket. Spear was fourth. In the hobby stock dash Schmid took the win over Weisner, Billings and fast qualifier Jim Westfield.

Eddie VanderLaan copped the first heat over Donnie Roberts and

Bob Fellows. Eldon Byler topped Earl Ross and Johnny Benson in the second heat.

The pursuit went the full ten-laps as VanderLaan snared the win chased by Roberts and Howe.

The multitude of hobby stocks racers on hand made up four exciting heat races. In the first heat Bob Bliss bested Jack Gritter and Jerry Longnecker; Larry Johnson outdrove Weisner and Jack Drolema for the second heat victory and Harry Drolema bested Dick Sarber and Jutila in the third heat. Gritter took the fourth heat triumph chased by Joe Pease and Longnecker.

Jerry VanDyke used the entire ten laps to win the pursuit over Billings, Schmid and Westfield.

Track champ Ed Howe was the fastest of 65 qualifiers with a 17.95 second dash around the .438 mile Marne oval.

### Donnie Roberts New Winner

**May 8, 1971 – Berlin Raceway** – There was another new winner in the late model feature Saturday night at Berlin Raceway as Donnie Roberts drove his '68 Chevelle to victory. Terry Schmid kept his win streak going in the hobby stock division as he won his fourth consecutive main event.

The late model dash was a fast one as Jerry Spear took the win over Ed Howe, Bob Fellows and fast qualifier Rich Senneker. The hobby stock dash was equally fast as Bob Clover set a new track record for winning the event in 1:33.50, chased over the finish line by Bob Billings, Paul Weisner and Harry Drolema.

Jim Buck charged from the rear of the pack to win the first hobby stock heat by a fender over Glen Bradley and Joe Pease. Schmid jumped into an early lead in the second heat to win handily over Bob Sensiba and Cary Peoples. Bob Fellows led the



way to the checker in the third hobby stock heat which was under the caution twice, first when Dick Sarber and Jack Gritter tangled on the front stretch sending them both airborne into the guardrail, and again when Mike Sherrington crashed into the front stretch wall. Don Ward took second in this hectic event ahead of Sarber.

The fourth hobby stock heat was also under the yellow when Dan Ross spun into the fourth turn wall, ripping up the rear of his car. 11 cars started the event but only five finished as Dave Cutler took the win over Bob Blouw and Jerry VanDyke.

The first late model heat was a good fast race and Jim Aldrich took the win over Donnie Roberts and Ed VanderLaan.

The caution was out twice in the second late model heat, first for a one car tangle on the backstretch and again when the Fedewa brothers, Gary and Butch, spun in turn three. Mike Eddy took the win over Eldon Byler and Bill Massuch.

Bob Clover came from the rear of the pack to win the hobby stock pursuit, eliminating the entire field, while five cars finished the late model pursuit as Johnny Benson won over Rick Knotts, Ed Howe, Bob Fellows and Rich Senneker.

The hobby stock semi was under the caution three times, first when Sarber spun in front of the pack, again when Jim Buck got into Fellows, sending him sideways into Mike McKenna. McKenna's car climbed onto the first turn wall, but all drivers escaped injury. The final caution came when Buck tangled with Glen Bradley on the front stretch. Don Ward took the win followed by Larry DePas, John Jutila and Larry Conley.

The hobby stock feature wasn't without its thrills as Terry Schmid and Jack Drolema tangled going into the first turn, scattering the pack with Bob Bliss and Weisner hitting the wall. Blouw and Harry Drolema tangled in turn four, bringing the second yellow. Schmid came from the rear to win over

Peoples, Cutler, Larry Johnson, Bliss and VanDyke.

The late model feature had its first caution flag on lap 17 when Howe and Knotts touched briefly and Knotts spun on the backstretch. Two laps after the restart Jack Trumbula spun going into the first turn bringing the second yellow. Donnie Roberts drove a fantastic race, coming from 12<sup>th</sup> starting spot to win over Howe, Eddie VanderLaan, John Benson, Aldrich, Jerry Spear, Rich Senneker and Eldon Byler.

## Howe Scores First Win Of Year

**May 15, 1971 — Berlin Raceway** — Defending track champion Ed Howe of Beaverton scored his first main event victory of the season by driving his 1969 Chevelle to victory in the hectic 30-lap feature for late models Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway, earning \$705 for the win.

Five caution flags marred the fast-paced event. The first yellow was thrown when Harvey Sytsma spun on turn two early in the race, a few laps later the yellow came out again when Bill Ivens spun in one. Eddie VanderLaan and Ron Laban were running side by side, leading the pack when they touched, VanderLaan spinning low and Laban going high and into the first turn wall.

The fourth caution flew when Mike Eddy spun in the first turn as several others spun to miss him. The final caution period in the hectic event came when Eddy and Kirk Norman were battling neck and neck for eighth spot with the leader Howe about to lap them. Howe ducked under the duo in the third turn, Norman and Eddy spun high and into the retaining wall. No injuries resulted from any of the accidents.

Johnny Benson picked up second place followed by Donnie Roberts, VanderLaan, Rick Knotts, Rich Senneker, Bob Fellows, Jim Aldrich, Norman and Ivens.

Bob Clover ended Terry Schmid's winning streak of four straight by forging past Schmid two laps before the finish to win the 20-lap main event for hobby stock cars. Schmid held on to second place followed by Cary Peoples, Larry Johnson, Paul Weisner, Tom Vanderlind, Larry Conley, Dan Ross, Dave Cutler and Bob Matthews.

This event had its share of thrills too as Frank Sawitzky spun in turn two and was joined by Art Harvey and Matthews, bringing out the first yellow flag. Bob Sensiba was running wheel to wheel beside Clover, leading the pack but lost a wheel and spun wildly into the fourth turn wall in a shower of sparks and out of the race.

Schmid took over the lead at this point and held it until the next to last lap when Clover passed him.

Cary Peoples set a new track record for winning the hobby stock dash as he toured the .438 mile asphalt in a time of 1:32.89 for the five laps. Clover was second ahead of Paul Weisner and Harry Drolema.

The record breaking continued in the pursuit as Schmid took the win over Clover and Harry Drolema in a time of 3:12.72.

Hobby stock heats went to Glen Bradley over Herb Mann; Terry Schmid over Weisner; Jerry VanDyke over Don Ward and Larry Johnson ahead of Art Harvey.

VanDyke stayed just ahead of Bob Fellows for the consy win as Mike Johnson and John Jutila filled out the top four finishers.

In the late model action Donny Roberts beat Howe, Benson and Jack Trumbula in the dash with Eldon Byler winning the first heat over Benson, Roberts and Knotts.

Eddie VanderLaan scored the second heat victory ahead of Bill Massuch, Eddy and Laban. Bob Fellows beat out fast qualifier (17.76) Ed Howe to win the pursuit as Byler and Knotts picked up the third and fourth spots.

## Benson Breaks Berlin Drought

**May 22, 1971 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Johnny Benson brought two years of frustration to an end by driving his 1969 Chevelle across the finish line first in the 30-lap feature race for late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Benson's first trip to the winner's circle in two seasons was worth \$650. Donnie Roberts was second by four lengths, followed by defending track champion Ed Howe, Bob Fellows, Eddie VanderLaan and Eldon Byler.

Cary Peoples forged past race leader and fellow townsman Larry Johnson on the 19<sup>th</sup> lap and went on to win the 20-lap main event for hobby stock cars. Bob Bliss was third, followed by Terry Schmid and Paul Weisner.

Heat race winners were Terry Senneker Sr. over Butch Fedewa and Bill Massuch; Gene Eding, followed by Herb Mann and Don Ward; Bob Sensiba, followed by Paul Weisner and Schmid; Glen Bradley, in front of Joe Pease and Don Hilliard; Benson, over Eddie VanderLaan and Jim Aldrich; and Johnson over Jerry Strotheib and Jim VanDyke.

The semi-feature was won by Tom Drolema, beating out Ward, Eding, Bradley and Strotheib. Fast-car dash honors went to Rich Senneker over Howe and Donnie Roberts, and Harry Drolema over Dave Cutler and Cary Peoples.

Roberts captured one pursuit over Howe and Byler, while Sensiba took the other one, in front of Peoples and Weisner. Ed Howe was the fastest of the 71 qualifiers with a 17.83 seconds dash around the .438 mile Marne oval.

## Berlin Main To Benson

**May 31, 1971 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids warmed up for next Saturday's rich 100-lap Invitational race by driving his 1969 Chevelle to victory in the hectic 30-lap feature race for late model stock cars Monday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Benson captured \$880 in prize money by forging past race leader Kirk Norman of Kalamazoo on the 11<sup>th</sup> lap and staved off Donnie Roberts and Ed Howe for his second main event victory of the season. Eddie VanderLaan was fourth followed by Bob Fellows, Norman, Eldon Byler, John Anderson, and Harvey Redder. Bill Ivans required hospital attention after being involved in a four car melee on the 21<sup>st</sup> lap involving the cars of Terry Senneker Sr., Eldon Byler, and Anderson.

Bob Clover outdrove Bob Sensiba, Paul Weisner, and Cary Peoples to win the 30-lap main event for hobby stock cars.

Heat race winners were Dave Husted, Don Ward, George Keen, Clover, Frank Sawitzky, Byler, and Benson who also won the fast-car dash event. Ward took the semi-feature event with pursuit race honors going to Clover and Norman.

## Mike Eddy New Berlin Winner

**June 19, 1971 – Berlin Raceway** – Young Mike Eddy, behind the wheel of a 1968 Chevelle, survived a first lap six-car pileup and went on to win the accident scarred 30-lap feature race for late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

The first lap crash casualties were Rick Knotts, Larry Witt and Bob Morgan being knocked out of the race; John Mangus, Johnny Benson, and Eddie VanderLaan were able to continue.

Eddy gained his first main event victory of the season after inheriting the lead on the 21<sup>st</sup> lap on a restart and staved off Rich Senneker, Bob Fellows, VanderLaan, Jerry Spear, Kirk Norman and Ron Laban for the win. The race was halted on the 21<sup>st</sup> lap after pacesetter Bill Massuch and point leader Benson, running side by side tangled, with both cars veering head on into the concrete retaining wall. Both drivers escaped injury.

Gene Eding warmed up for next week's rich 75 lap invitational race for hobby stock cars by winning the 20-lap main event by inches over point leader Terry Schmid, with Jack Drolema, Jim Westfield, Paul Weisner and Cary Peoples in a tight pack finishing in that order.

Fast qualifier (17.82) Ed Howe won the late model fast-car dash over Roberts, Knotts and VanderLaan in a good close race. Bob Fellows topped Harvey Redder, Senneker and Eddy in the first late model heat and Massuch won the second heat over Laban, Gary Fedewa and Norman.

The late model pursuit was stopped when VanderLaan went high sending Howe crashing into the third turn wall and out of contention for the balance of the evening. Benson took the win over VanderLaan and Roberts.

The hobby stock preliminaries were action packed and spin filled. Paul Weisner set a new track record in qualifying at 18.33 and won the dash by inches over Jim Westfield, Dave Cutler and Jerry Strotheide. Tom Finkbeiner won the first heat over Herb Mann and Steve Brown. Mike Johnson topped Schmid and Eding in the second heat.

Sid Hill topped Denny Hilliard and Glen Bradley in the third heat while Frank Sawitzky won the fourth heat over Jim Buck and Jack Drolema.

26-cars started the crash filled consolation but only 13 cars were able to finish. John Bliss took his first win of the year followed by Hilliard, Sawitzky, Phil Stampfler and Don Rand.



Harry Drolema beat out Schmid, Weisner and Westfield as they crossed the finish in a group in that order in the pursuit.

## Howe Spring Champ At Berlin

**July 3, 1971 — Berlin Raceway** — Defending track champion Ed Howe of Beaverton drove his 1971 Chevelle to victory in the 50-lap spring championship race for late model stock cars Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Bob Sensiba crossed the finish line first in the hobby stock main event but was disqualified for running illegal equipment, giving the win to Gene Eding.

Howe broke up a racing duel between Johnny Benson and Donnie Roberts by forging past them both on the 33<sup>rd</sup> lap and went on to ring up his second main event victory of the season and \$840. Benson finished second, followed by Joe Ruttman, Rich Senneker, Ed VanderLaan, Rick Knotts, Terry Senneker Sr., Clarence Cook, Mike Stumpfig and Jim Dyke.

Three caution flags for crashes saw the cars of Smokey Florence, Bob Fellows, Harvey Redder and Kirk Norman eliminated from competition. On the last lap Randy Sweet spun going into turn three with Ron Laban and Harvey Sytsma also spinning.

The hobby stock feature ran without mishap and Eding was awarded the win over Jim Westfield, Paul Weisner, Tom Drolema and Larry Johnson.

Ed Howe won the late model dash over Benson, Ruttman and VanderLaan. Weisner won the hobby stock dash over Westfield, Mike Johnson and Harry Drolema.

In the hobby stock prelims Joe Pease topped Bruce DeVree in the first heat; Bob Sensiba won the second heat over Eding; Herb Mann bested Denny Hilliard in the third heat and John Bliss beat out his brother, Bob Bliss in the fourth heat. Hilliard won the hectic consolation

race over Pease, Jerry Longnecker and Herb Mann.

Bob Sensiba topped Paul Weisner, Eding and Harry Drolema in the hobby stock pursuit.

Joe Ruttman scored the win in the first late model heat over Howe, Benson and Laban in an event that was stopped when Mike Eddy crashed into the third turn wall. Harvey Redder won the second late model heat over Terry Senneker Sr., Harvey Sytsma and Randy Sweet.

Ed Howe stayed ahead of fast qualifier Joe Ruttman to win the pursuit in an exciting race.

## Howe Takes Berlin Holiday Show

**July 5, 1971 — Berlin Raceway** — Ed Howe and Bob Sensiba were the big winners Monday night at Berlin Raceway in their special Independence Day racing program which included stunt man Jim Wagner's "Leap of Death" act and a T-bone dynamite crash.

Herb Kirts led the first five laps of the late model feature before Howe took command. The caution flag was out when Mike Eddy spun on lap ten and again on lap 13 when Jim Dyke spun in turn four. Bob Senneker, driving with a broken wrist, was the fastest qualifier with a 17.87 second dash around the .438 mile oval and finished on Howe's bumper for second place in the feature. Johnny Benson was right behind Bob for third with Joy Fair fourth, as they finished the 40-lapper looking like a fast-car dash. Eddie VanderLaan was fifth followed by Bob Fellows, Rich Senneker, Rick Knotts, Herb Kirts and Terry Senneker Sr.

It was Howe's second consecutive win in his '70 Chevelle, and he became the first driver to ring up three feature wins in 1971.

The only yellow flag in the hobby stock feature came when Tom Drolema crashed backwards into the third turn wall. Bob Sensiba outdrove Harry Drolema,

Terry Schmid, Jim Westfield, Paul Weisner, Gene Eding, Dave Cutler and Cary Peoples to win the 30-lap hobby stock main.

Harry Drolema led from wire to wire to win the hobby stock dash over Eding, Weisner and Jim Westfield. Bob Senneker won the late model stock dash over Benson, Knotts and VanderLaan.

Joy Fair led Howe, Bob Senneker and Fellows across the finish in the first late model heat. Randy Sweet topped Mike Eddy, John Mangus and Kirk Norman in the second heat.

Joy Fair out-maneuvered Bob Senneker to win the pursuit by inches after the duo eliminated the field. Norman was third and Terry Senneker fourth.

In the hobby stock heats Rick Kowalczyk topped Herb Mann; Bob Bliss won over Bob Sensiba; Don Ward topped Jerry Longnecker. Tom VanderLind won over John Bliss.

Tom Drolema set a new track record in winning the hobby stock dash in 3.07.46 over a distant Paul Weisner after they eliminated the other eight cars in four laps.

Ivan Richardson won the consolation race ahead of Longnecker, Don Ward and Graydon Bodell.

## Berlin Holiday Show To Benson

**July 8, 1971 — Berlin Raceway** — Johnny Benson outdueled Bob Senneker for the 50-lap late model stock feature win at Berlin Raceway. Rick Knotts was third ahead of Eddie VanderLaan, Bill Massuch and Rich Senneker. It was a close, great race with no cautions.

Tom Drolema won his second straight hobby stock feature, followed by Paul Weisner, Gene Eding, Jack Gritter and Dave Cutler. Four caution flags were out in this event, first as Phil Stampfler spun in turn three; again when Don Ward, Harry Drolema, Art Harvey and Bob Shirk tangled on the back stretch; Dick Sarber hit the wall bringing out the

third caution, and Don Ward hit the fourth turn wall for the final caution of the race. He was taken to the hospital, treated and released, with a few bruised ribs.

Bob Senneker won the late model dash over Knotts, VanderLaan and Benson. Terry Schmid won the hobby stock dash over Art Harvey, Bob Bliss and Paul Weisner.

John Houart, Donnie Roberts, Ray Barnard and Jim Dyke won late models heats while Knotts topped fast qualifier Bob Senneker in the pursuit.

Mike Becker, Gene Eding and Dan Ross won hobby heats while Tom Drolema topped fast qualifier Terry Schmid in the pursuit and Bob Minch topped Denny Holtzlander and Gary Barnes in the consolation.

## Benson Tops Berlin Field

**July 10, 1971 – Berlin Raceway** – The late model feature Saturday night at Berlin Raceway was a three-way battle as Johnny Benson, Ed Howe and Donnie Roberts fought through two caution flags for the lead. The first caution came when Mike Eddy hit the wall between turns three and four and again when Herb Kirts, who had led 11 laps, spun on the backstretch. Benson got thru traffic first for the win followed by Howe, Roberts, Rich Senneker, Terry Senneker Sr., Bob Fellows, Ron Laban, Rick Knotts, Kirk Norman and Harvey Redder.

The hobby stock feature was another hard fought battle as Harry Drolema found his way thru the cautions for the win. The first yellow came when Joe Pease spun in turn three, the second was for a melee as Paul Weisner, Jim Westfield, Larry Johnson and Bob Bliss mixed it up, and the last yellow came when Tom Drolema went high in turn two and spun. Following Harry Drolema across the finish line were Gene Eding, Bob Sensiba, Weisner, Terry Schmid, John Bliss, Westfield, Jack

Drolema, Cary Peoples and Dave Cutler.

Ed Howe won the late model dash over fast qualifier Johnny Benson, Donnie Roberts and Bob Fellows. Harry Drolema won the hobby stock dash race by a bumper over Weisner, Westfield and fast qualifier Dave Cutler.

Joe Ellenbaas won the first hobby stock heat over Tom Finkbeiner and Ron Bursma after Larry Conley was disqualified for running over his time. The caution was out in this event when Rick Kowalczyk, Bruce DeVries and Larry DePas tangled while running three abreast in turn three. Bob Sensiba won the second hobby stock heat over Jack Drolema and Roger Wellman.

Ivan Richardson won the third heat by a fender over Phil Stampfler and Don Ward. The caution was out in the fourth heat when Jim Buck, Pease and John Bliss went off the second turn. Eding came in for the win over Jerry Van Dyke and Peoples.

Phil Stampfler won the hobby stock semi which ran non-stop, over Ward, Longnecker and Van Dyke.

Randy Sweet spun on the first lap of the first super heat, causing a three-car spin and a restart. Benson came from the tail to win over Roberts, Terry Senneker and Howe. Larry Witt spun into the fourth turn wall bringing out the yellow in the second late model heat. The crowd was on its feet at the finish as Rich Senneker caught Jerry Spear by inches at the finish. They were followed by Kirts and Al Blanchard.

It was Benson winning again in the pursuit as he edged out Terry Senneker by inches at the finish. Redder and Howe were third and fourth. Harry Drolema won the hobby stock pursuit over Weisner, Westfield and Cutler.

## Benson Overtakes Howe For Win

**July 17, 1971 – Berlin Raceway** – The late model feature Saturday

night at Berlin Raceway was a real driving battle as Johnny Benson chased Ed Howe for several laps, bumper to bumper and finally overtook him on lap 27 as they came upon slower cars. Benson held on for the remaining three laps to win over Howe. Early leader Don Biederman, Eddie VanderLaan, Rich Senneker, Bob Fellows, Donnie Roberts, Harvey Redder, Kirk Norman and Herb Kirts.

Paul Weisner, fast qualifier and new track record holder at 18.27, took an immediate lead in the hobby stock 75-lap mid-season championship feature and was never headed for an impressive win. The first caution of the race came when Joe Pease spun in the second turn. The second was when Mike Johnson went into the wall coming out of turn four, rupturing his gas tank. The third caution came when Harry Drolema spun off the backstretch and Bob Bliss and Tom Drolema spun into the infield. Weisner was followed at the finish by Bob Sensiba, Larry Johnson, Jack Drolema, John Bliss, Dave Cutler, Gene Eding, Jim Westfield, Bob Clover and Bob Blouw.

Fast qualifier Ed Howe won the late model dash over Donnie Roberts, Benson and Ed Damer.

In hobby stock prelims Tom Finkbeiner won the first heat over Jim Arnsk, Larry DePas and Bruce DeVries. John Bliss won the second heat over Mike Johnson, Eding and Tom Drolema. The yellow waved in the third heat when Ivan Richardson and Herb Mann tangled with Mann hitting the third turn wall. Sid Hill came in for the win over Jerry Van Dyke, Dick Sarber and Frank Sawitzky. Bob Bliss took the fourth heat win after Larry Johnson was disqualified for running over his time. Roger Wellman was second, Bob Clover third and Cary Peoples fourth.

Sid Hill came in for his second win of the evening as he copped the hectic semi ahead of Larry Conley, Van Dyke, Duane Cottrell and Finkbeiner. The first yellow in this race was for Phil Stampfler when he hit the fourth turn wall hard, Sawitzky



lost a wheel for the second yellow and Richardson, Sarber and Doug Bishop, running three abreast, tangled, going into the fourth turn.

Ed Howe eliminated the entire super field to win the pursuit over Harvey Redder, VanderLaan and Terry Senneker Sr. The yellow was out when Terry crashed into the third turn wall as the cars of VanderLaan and Howe went three deep with him into the turn.

The hobby stock pursuit was a tight race as half of the field was still in the running at the checkered. Tom Drolema took the win over his brother Jack, Gene Eding, Bob Sensiba and Paul Weisner.

Terry Senneker Sr. won the first late model heat over Jim Roberts, Rich Senneker and Donnie Roberts. Don Biederman roared from the rear of the pack to win the second late model heat over Kirk Norman, Harvey Redder and Herb Kirts.

## Third Win In A Row For Benson

### July 24, 1971 – Berlin Raceway

— The late model feature Saturday night at Berlin Raceway started out with a real melee coming out of the second turn on the first lap, as Terry Senneker Sr., Kirk Norman, Steve Sobralski, Duane Knoll, Jimmy Roberts and Bob Fellows went every direction, causing a restart. Johnny Benson found his way to the front with Ed Howe on his tail. The yellow was out for Randy Sweet and Rich Senneker as they tangled in the second turn and Rich flipped off the track. Benson and Howe were followed across the finish line by Donnie Roberts, Eddie VanderLaan, Jimmy Roberts, Ron Laban, Harvey Redder, Duane Knoll, Bill Van Peenan and Randy Sweet.

The hobby stock feature saw Gene Eding come through a bang-up, metal-crunching event for the win by a fender over Dave Cutler. The first caution was when Dick Sarber, Bob

Blouw and Art Harvey tangled going into the fourth turn and it was out again when Terry Schmid and Jim Westfield tangled in the fourth turn. The third caution was thrown when Larry Johnson and Paul Weisner were battling hard for the lead and tangled coming out of the fourth turn onto the front stretch as Paul rolled off the wall onto his top and slid upside down the length of the front stretch into the first turn wall. Both drivers were okay. Eding and Cutler were followed at the finish by Bob Sensiba, Bob Clover, John Bliss, Harry Drolema, Tom Drolema, Terry Schmid, Jack Drolema and Mike Johnson.

Benson won the late model dash over fast qualifier Ed Howe, Don Biederman and Bill Van Peenan. The hobby stock dash saw Dave Cutler win in record time over fast qualifier Eding, Harry Drolema and Weisner.

Ron Bursma won the first hobby stock heat over Herb Mann, Steve Brown and Rick Kowalczyk. Bob Sensiba won the second heat over Terry Schmid, John Bliss and Larry Johnson. The third heat saw the yellow fall twice, first when Mike Becker and Doug Bishop locked together and Frank Sawitzky spun in the first turn and again when Larry DePas spun in the fourth turn and Sid Hill and Glen Bradley locked together in the front stretch. Roger Wellman caught Tom Finkbeiner at the checker to take the win by inches. Frank Sawitzky was third and Jim Greenwood fourth. Joe Pease won the fourth heat after the yellow flew as Jack Drolema and Bob Blouw tangled in turn two and Bob Clover spun in the same turn. Tom Drolema was second, Jack Gritter third and Art Harvey fourth.

Roger Wellman and Frank Sawitzky fought hard for the first spot in the semi as they came in for the checkered. They tangled coming out of turn four and Joe Pease shot by for the win, leaving Wellman spinning into second ahead of Jim Buck, Jim Greenwood and Frank Sawitzky.

The first late model heat saw Benson take the win over Eddie VanderLaan, Donnie Roberts and Ron Laban. In the second heat the caution appeared twice, first for Harvey Sytsma who spun in the second turn, and again when Jerry Peloquin and Bill Massuch both brushed the wall in the front stretch. Rich Senneker came in for the win over Al Blanchard, Jerry Peloquin and Duane Knoll.

It was Benson again in the late model pursuit, followed by Ed Howe, as third and fourth spots went to Eddie VanderLaan and Ron Laban. The hobby stock pursuit was won in record time by Terry Schmid, followed by Bob Bliss, Harry Drolema and Gene Eding.

## Benson Four Wins In A Row

### July 31, 1971 – Berlin Raceway

— The late model stock mid-season championship 50-lap feature at Berlin was a two car duel for the lead all the way as Ed Howe took an immediate lead with Johnny Benson right on his tail as they walked away from the rest of the pack. Benson found his way under Howe to take the lead on the 33<sup>rd</sup> lap and was never headed as he took the \$830 win by a mere car length Saturday night.

The only caution flag of the race came when Al Blanchard spun on the backstretch. Rich Senneker was third followed by Ricky Knotts, Donny Roberts, Terry Senneker Sr., Bob Fellows, Harvey Redder, Scott Presley and Ron Laban. This was Benson's sixth win at Berlin this season in his white Chevelle #21.

The hobby stock feature was stopped on the second lap as Jack Gritter, running third, spun into the front stretch wall, triggering a nine-car pileup which saw Tom Drolema go airborne over Paul Weisner's car eliminating cars of Gritter, Weisner, Drolema, Art Harvey, Terry Schmid, John Bliss and John Jutila.



Fortunately no one was injured in the melee which saw only eight starters. Harry Drolema survived the initial crunch plus two other yellow flags for spins to take the win. Dave Cutler was second followed by Jim Westfield, Bob Bliss, Joe Pease, Don Ward, Mike Johnson and Gene Eding.

Fast qualifier Ed Howe won the late model dash over Benson, Rich Senneker and Randy Sweet. Paul Weisner took the hobby stock dash win over Schmid, new track record holder at 18.20 Dave Cutler and Harry Drolema.

Jerry Longnecker won the first hobby stock heat race over Larry Johnson and Kevin Holze. John Bliss took the second heat over Bob Sensiba and Jim Westfield. Denny Holtzlander took the third heat win over Doug Bishop and Tom Finkbeiner and Joe Pease won the fourth heat ahead of Jutila and Cary Peoples.

The hobby stock semi ran non-stop with Jerry Van Dyke taking the win over Larry Johnson, Denny Holtzlander, Rick Kowalczyk and Tom Finkbeiner.

Seven cars finished the hobby stock pursuit as John Bliss led the train across the finish followed by Sensiba, Bob Bliss, Westfield, Tom and Harry Drolema and Cutler.

Johnny Benson shot into the lead on the last lap to win the first late model heat over Donnie and Jim Roberts and Bill Massuch. The yellow was out once when Jim Roberts, Massuch, Presley and Sweet tangled briefly in turn two. The second late model heat had one caution for a seven car spin in turn one with no damage as Terry Senneker took the win by inches over Laban, Fellows and Mike Eddy.

In the pursuit Benson and Howe eliminated the rest of the pack to battle wheel to wheel for two laps before Howe went underneath Benson for the win. The caution was out once in this event when Massuch and VanderLaan tangled and Eddie hit the fourth turn wall.

## Five In A Row For Benson

**August 7, 1971 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Benson found the outside groove to his liking and drove from his 16<sup>th</sup> starting slot to win the 30-lap late model feature Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. It was Benson's fifth consecutive win and seventh main event victory of the season.

Johnny pushed his '69 Chevelle past early leader Bill Massuch on the 20<sup>th</sup> lap and was never headed. Ed Howe was second, followed by Massuch, Gary Fedewa, John Mangus, Eddie VanderLaan, Ron Laban, Rich Senneker, Bob Fellows and Harvey Redder. Only one caution marred the race when Scott Presley spun into the first turn guard rail.

Bob Sensiba won the hobby stock 25-lap feature in record time, driving the distance non-stop in 7:56.90. Gene Eding was second followed by Jack Drolema, Bob Clover, Paul Weisner, point leader Terry Schmid, Tom Drolema, fast qualifier Dave Cutler and Dick Sarber.

Ed Howe won the late model dash over VanderLaan, fast qualifier Benson and Rich Senneker. Harry Drolema won the hobby stock dash over Weisner, Cutler and Jim Westfield.

Steve Brown found his way through two cautions to win the first hobby stock heat over Mike McKenna and Rick Kowalczyk. The first caution was for Mike Becker's front stretch spin and the second came when Ron Bursma spun on the front chute. Herb Mann went into Tony Madura's trunk, and then Tony was hit broadside by Bursma. The second hobby stock heat was a thriller as Bob Sensiba and Terry Schmid had a tie for first. Larry Johnson came from last to win the third heat over Tom Finkbeiner, Jerry Longnecker and Bruce DeVries. Bob Clover took the fourth heat in his new Camaro, winning over Jim Buck, Jack Gritter and Eding.

There were five caution flags in the hobby stock semi for spins and

tangles before Finkbeiner came in for the win over Buck, DeVries, Doug Bishop and Brown.

The hobby stock pursuit was yellow flagged when Bob Bliss and Terry Schmid tangled in turn four with Bliss hitting the wall. Paul Weisner took the win over Jack Drolema, Harry Drolema and Dave Cutler.

Johnny Benson came from the tail to win the first late model heat on the last lap over Donnie Roberts, Bob Fellows and Ed Howe. Herb Kirts took the second heat win over Bob Morgan, Jerry Peloquin and Kirk Norman. The yellow flew once in this race when Harvey Sytsema spun between the third and fourth turns. Scott Presley stayed in front to win the pursuit over Fellows, Howe, Rich Senneker and Benson.

## Michigan State Invitational To Benson

**August 14, 1971 – Berlin Raceway** – Race veteran Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids behind the wheel of a 1969 Chevelle forged past race leader defending track champion Ed Howe of Beaverton, on the 51<sup>st</sup> lap and went on to win the second 75-lap segment in the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Michigan State Invitational race for late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Bob Senneker was second followed by Howe, Joe Ruttman, Bobby Allison, Jim and Donny Roberts.

Ed Howe set the early pace in the first 75-lap segment with Benson coming from sixth starting position in the 24-car line-up into the lead on the 52<sup>nd</sup> lap of the .438 mile Marne oval and was never headed. Howe was second followed by Joe Ruttman, Bob Senneker, NASCAR ace Bobby Allison, Rich Senneker, Ricky Knotts and Duane Knoll. NASCAR driver Friday Hassler from Chattanooga, Tennessee finished 12<sup>th</sup>.

Benson's win was worth \$3,309, Howe \$2,448 and Bob Senneker, \$1,500 in the \$15,000 posted prize money.



Bob Bliss scored his first major win of the season by out-driving Bob Sensiba, Tom Drolema, Paul Weisner and Bob Blouw. Heat race winners were Bob Clover, Jim Buck, Frank Sawitzky and Jack Gritter who also won the hobby stock semi-feature. Dave Cutler won the pursuit race. Howe was the fastest of 90 qualifiers with a 17.88 second qualifying dash.

## Benson Takes Seventh In A Row

**August 21, 1971 — Berlin Raceway** — Grand Rapids racing star Johnny Benson kept his sensational winning streak intact by driving a 1970 Chevelle to victory in the 30-lap feature race for late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Benson rang up his seventh consecutive main event victory of the season by coming from deep in the line-up and forging past race leader Jimmy Roberts of Coleman on the 16<sup>th</sup> lap and went on to score his tenth win of the season. Defending track champion Ed Howe of Beaverton, was second followed by Roberts, Bill Massuch of Lansing and Donnie Roberts of Saginaw.

Gene Eding of Grand Rapids flashed across the finish line less than a half a car length ahead of Bob Clover of Muskegon to win the hectic 25 lap main event for hobby stocks cars. It was Eding's fourth win of the year.

Heat race winners were Ricky Knotts and Kirk Norman of Kalamazoo, Larry DePas and Bob Fellows, of Grand Rapids, Cary Peoples, of Muskegon, Bob Sensiba, of Midleville, and Jerry Spear of Battle Creek. Jim Westfield of Zeeland and Duane Knoll of Muskegon took the pursuit race honors. Fast-car dash victories were scored by Howe and Clover. Fellows won the hobby stock semi-feature race. Massuch was the fastest of 74 qualifiers with a 17.86 seconds dash around the .438 mile Marne oval.

## Joe Ruttman New Winner

**August 28, 1971 — Berlin Raceway** — Veteran driver Joe Ruttman, of Dearborn Heights, found a new asphalt racing surface very much to his liking as he drove his '70 Chevelle to victory in the 50-lap feature race for late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Ruttman's win, snapping Johnny Benson's winning streak at eight, and worth \$800 was his first of the season here. Ruttman shot past race leader Duane Knoll of Muskegon on the second lap and was never headed. Danny Byrd of Detroit was second, followed by Ed Howe of Beaverton, Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids, Donnie Roberts of Saginaw and Herb Kirts of Elkhart, Indiana. Benson dropped out of the race at the midway point when his race car suffered a mechanical malfunction. The caution flag was out in this event when Bill Massuch hit the wall in the third turn.

Jack Drolema of Grand Rapids flashed across the finish line ahead of Paul Weisner and Cary Peoples of Muskegon to win the 25-lap main event for hobby stock cars.

Heat race winners were Jim Greenwood, Joe Elenbaas and Cary Peoples, all of Muskegon, Terry Schmid of Sparta, VanderLaan and Bob Fellows of Grand Rapids. Jim Westfield of Zeeland won the dash event with Gene Eding of Grand Rapids and Roberts taking victories in the pursuit races. Semi-feature

honors went to Bill Minch of Nashville. Byrd was the fastest of 72 qualifiers with a 17.70 seconds dash around the .438 mile Marne oval and Dave Cutler set a new track record for the hobby stocks at 17.90.

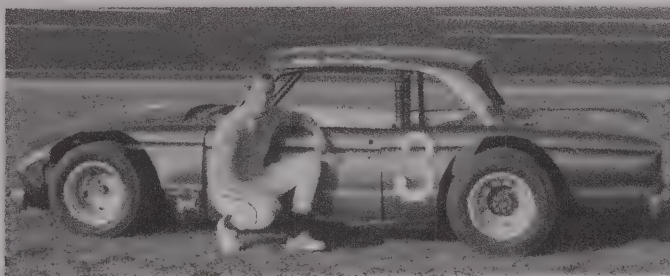
## Benson Takes Berlin Win

**September 4, 1971 — Berlin Raceway** — Veteran driver Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids warmed up for the big Labor Day race program by driving his '70 Chevelle to victory in the 30-lap feature race for late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Benson scored another main event victory of the season by forging past race leader Eddie VanderLaan on the 13<sup>th</sup> lap and was never headed. Ed Howe chased VanderLaan across the finish line for third followed by Donnie Roberts, Terry Senneker Sr. and Bob Senneker.

Paul Weisner ran away from the field to win the 100-lap Invitational race for hobby stock cars. Terry Schmid was second, followed by Tom Drolema and Cary Peoples.

Heat race winners were Herb Kirts, Weisner, Jim Arnst, Tom Finkbeiner, Gene Eding and Bob Miller. The dash event was won by VanderLaan with Duane Knoll capturing the pursuit race. Bob Senneker was the fastest of 73 qualifiers with a 17.39 second time around the .438 mile oval.



Donnie Roberts

Dick Lee Collection

## Howe Tops Berlin Field

**September 11, 1971 – Berlin Raceway** – Defending track champion Ed Howe of Beaverton drove his 1971 Chevelle to a two car-length victory in the 30 lap feature race for late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids chased the winner to his fourth win of the year, followed by fellow townsmen Bob Senneker and Ron Laban, Harvey Redder of Holland and Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids. Scott Presley of Grand Haven escaped serious injury when his car slammed into the concrete retaining wall.

Paul Weisner of Muskegon drove a 1967 Camaro across the finish line ahead of Harry Drolema of Grand Rapids, his son Tom Drolema and Terry Schmid of Sparta, in the 40-lap Season Championship race for hobby stock cars. Schmid's fourth

place finish wrapped up the season's point championship with Weisner taking the runner-up position.

Heat race winners were Howe, Ron Laban, Steve Brown, Tom Drolema and Jack Gritter and Cary Peoples of Muskegon. Howe took the pursuit honors. Don Ward of Muskegon won the semi-feature event. Benson won the fast-car dash around the .438 mile Marne oval.

## Howe Takes Berlin Feature

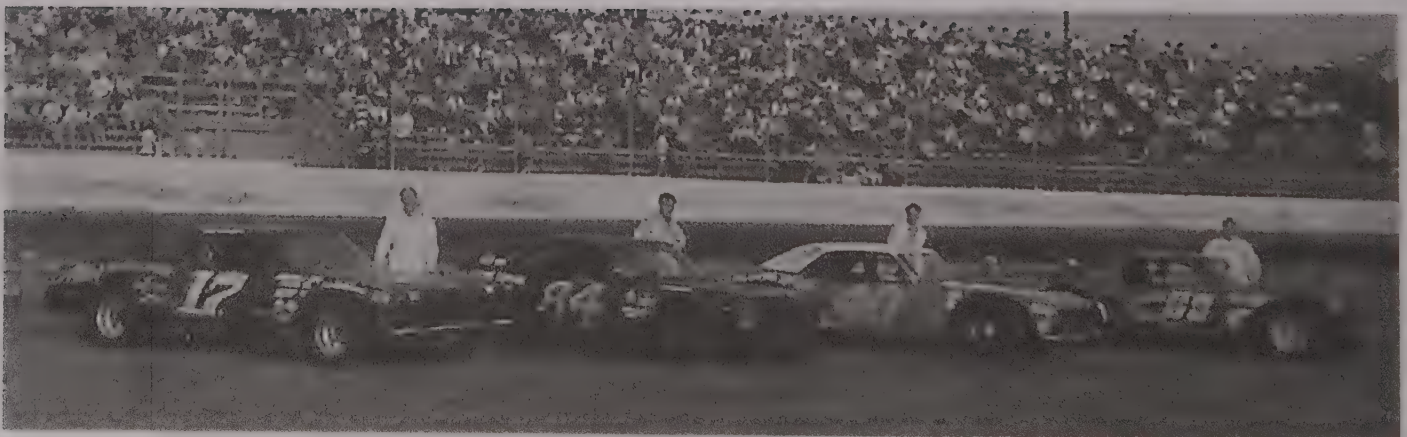
**September 18, 1971 – Berlin Raceway** – Defending track champion Ed Howe of Beaverton driving a feverishly repaired '71 Chevelle wrecked earlier in a heat race accident won the 40-lap season championship race for late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Point champion Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids was second,

followed by Eddie VanderLaan of Grand Rapids, Donnie Roberts of Saginaw and Terry Senneker Sr. of Grand Rapids. The race was halted on the second lap when the cars of Canadian drivers Don Biederman of Port Credit, Ontario and Ken Reimer of Oakville collided and slammed into the retaining wall. Both drivers escaped serious injury.

Camaro driving Paul Weisner of Muskegon crossed the finish line ahead of the Drolema brothers of Grand Rapids, Jack and Tom, Cary Peoples of Muskegon, Bob Sensiba of Middleville and Harry Drolema to win the 20-lap main event for hobby stock cars.

Heat race winners were Duane Cottrell, Jim Westfield, Herb Kirts, Jim Roberts, Jack Gritter and Jerry Van Dyke. Pursuit honors went to Jack Drolema with Tom Finkbeiner victorious in the semi-feature. Bob Bliss of Grand Rapids won the fast-car dash event. Benson was the fastest of 66 qualifiers with a 17.36 second dash around the .438 mile Marne oval.



Eddie VanderLaan, Bob Senneker, Dave Cutler, Terry Schmid

Dick Lee Collection



## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1971

### Late Models – Hobby Stocks

#### April 17, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 17.95

Dash winner: Joy Fair

Heat winners: Tom Colella, Bob Fellows

Pursuit winners: Bob Senneker, Bob Fellows

**Feature:** (1) Joy Fair (2) Rich Senneker (3) Bob Fellows (4) Jerry Spear (5) Jim Aldrich (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Tom Collela

#### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Terry Schmid 18.93

Dash winner: Jerry VanDyke

Heat winners: Terry Schmid, Herb Mann

Pursuit winner: Jack Drolema, Harry Drolema

**Feature:** (1) Terry Schmid (2) Jack Drolema (3) Larry Johnson

#### April 24, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.95

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Eddie VanderLaan, Eldon Byler

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Joy Fair (3) Ed Howe (4) Johnny Benson (5) Jerry Spear (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Donnie Roberts (8) Kirk Norman (9) Earl Ross (10) Butch Miller

#### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Jim Westfield – no time given

Dash winner: Terry Schmid

Heat winners: Bob Bliss, Larry Johnson, Harry Drolema, Jack Gritter

Pursuit winner: Jerry VanDyke

**Feature:** (1) Terry Schmid (2) Paul Weisner (3) Harry Drolema (4) Larry Johnson (5) Bob Billings (6) Jim Westfield (7) Dick Sarber (8) Jack Drolema (9) John Jutila (10) Tom VanderLind

### May 1, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 18.06

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Rick Knotts, Earl Ross

Pursuit winner: Bob Fellows

**Feature:** (1) Earl Ross (2) Bob Carnes (3) Jerry Spear (4) Ed Howe (5) Johnny Benson (6) Donnie Roberts (7) Bob Fellows (8) Rich Senneker (9) Eldon Byler (10) Bill Massuch

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Bob Billings

Heat winners: Bob Fellows, Bob Clover, Bob Bliss, Jerry VanDyke

Pursuit winner: Bob Clover

Semi winner: Bob Fellows

**Feature:** (1) Terry Schmid (2) Harry Drolema (3) Paul Weisner (4) Bob Sensiba (5) Jerry VanDyke (6) Larry Johnson (7) Jack Drolema (8) Art Harvey (9) Cary People (10) Dave Cutler

### May 8, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Jerry Spear

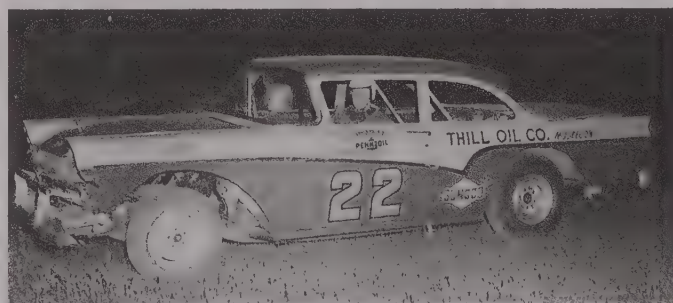
Heat winners: Jim Aldrich, Mike Eddy

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

**Feature:** (1) Donnie Roberts (2) Ed Howe (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Johnny Benson (5) Jim Aldrich (6) Jerry Spear (7) Rich Senneker (8) Eldon Byler

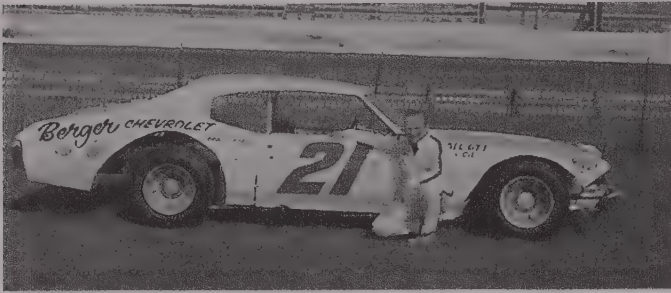
### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Bob Clover



Paul Weisner

Dick Lee Collection



Johnny Benson

Dick Lee Collection

Heat winners: Jim Buck, Terry Schmid, Bob Fellows, Dave Cutler

Pursuit winner: Bob Clover

Semi winner: Don Ward

**Feature:** (1) Terry Schmid (2) Cary Peoples (3) Dave Cutler (4) Larry Johnson (5) Bob Bliss (6) Jerry VanDyke

---

### May 15, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.76

Dash winner: Donnie Roberts

Heat winners: Eldon Byler, Eddie VanderLaan

Pursuit winner: Bob Fellows

**Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Johnny Benson (3) Donnie Roberts (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Rick Knotts (6) Rich Senneker (7) Bob Fellows (8) Jim Aldrich (9) Kirk Norman (10) Bill Ivens

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Harry Drolema 18.39

Dash winner: Cary Peoples

Heat winners: Glen Bradley, Terry Schmid, Jerry VanDyke, Larry Johnson

Pursuit winner: Terry Schmid

Consolation winner: Jerry VanDyke

**Feature:** (1) Bob Clover (2) Terry Schmid (3) Cary Peoples (4) Larry Johnson (5) Paul Weisner (6) Tom VanderLind (7) Larry Conley (8) Dan Ross (9) Dave Cutler (10) Bob Mathews

---

### May 22, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.83

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Terry Senneker, Gene Eding, Johnny Benson

Pursuit winner: Donnie Roberts

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Donnie Roberts (3) Ed Howe (4) Bob Fellows (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Eldon Byler

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Harry Drolema

Heat winners: Bob Sensiba, Glen Bradley, Larry Johnson

Pursuit winner: Bob Sensiba

Semi winner: Tom Drolema

**Feature:** (1) Cary Peoples (2) Larry Johnson (3) Bob Bliss (4) Terry Schmid (5) Paul Weisner

---

### May 29, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Donnie Roberts

Heat winners: Terry Senneker Sr., Eldon Byler

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

**Feature:** (1) Bob Fellows (2) Johnny Benson (3) Donnie Roberts (4) Ed Howe (5) Jerry Spear (6) Rich Senneker (7) Ron Laban (8) Bob Carnes (9) Gary Fedewa (10) Bill Massuch

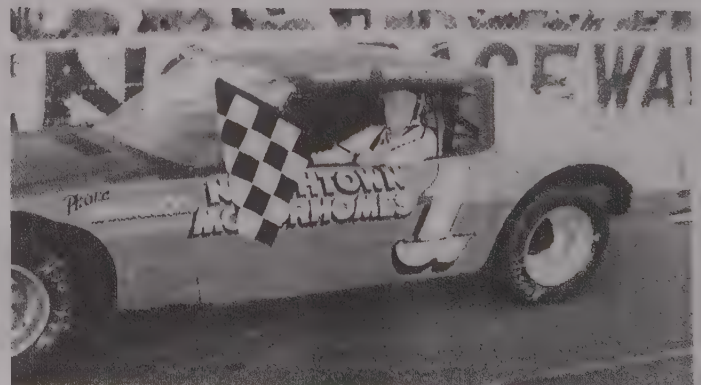
### 50 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

#### Spring Championship

Heat winners: Mike Sherrington, Tom Drolema, Jerry Strotheid, John Jutila

Consolation winner: Tom Drolema

**Feature:** (1) Harry Drolema (2) Terry Schmid (3) Paul Weisner (4) Cary Peoples (5) Bob Bliss (6) Jim Westfield (7) Art Harvey (8) Larry Johnson (9) Jack Drolema (10) Bob Blouw



Harry Drolema

Dick Lee Collection



## May 31, 1971 – Monday – Late Models

### Memorial Day

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Frank Sawitsky, Eldon Byler, Johnny Benson, Kirk Norman

Pursuit winner: Kirk Norman

**Feature:** (1) **Johnny Benson** (2) Donnie Roberts (3) Ed Howe (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Bob Fellows (6) Kirk Norman (7) Eldon Byler (8) John Anderson (9) Harvey Redder

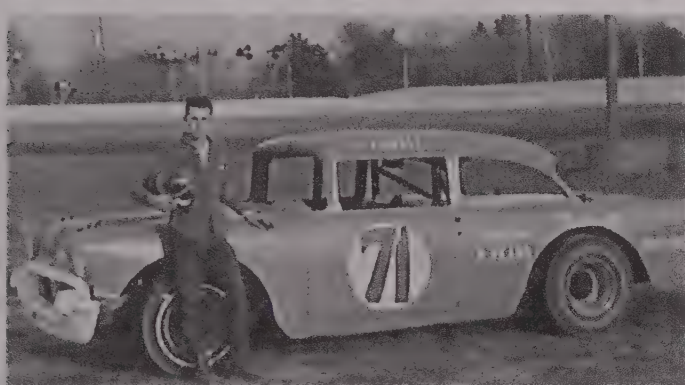
### 30 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Heat winners: Dave Husted, Don Ward, George Keen, Bob Clover

Consolation winner: Bob Clover

Semi winner: Don Ward

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Clover** (2) Bob Sensiba (3) Paul Weisner (4) Cary Peoples



Cary Peoples

Dick Lee Collection

## June 5, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

### Midwest Late Model Invite

100 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

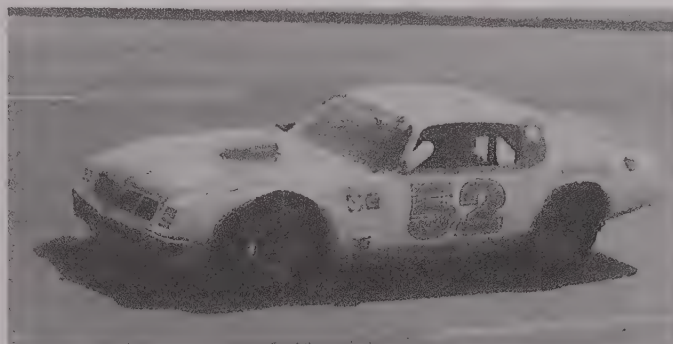
Heat winners: Bob Fellows, Bill Massuch

Pursuit winner: Bob Fellows

**Feature:** (1) **Bob Senneker** (2) Johnny Benson (3) Ed Howe (4) Rich Senneker (5) Donnie Roberts (6) Bob Fellows (7) Jim Aldrich (8) Jim Bickerstaff (9) Terry Senneker Sr. (10) Don Gregory

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Terry Schmid



Earl Ross

Dick Lee Collection

Heat winner: Mike McKenna, Gene Eding, Bob Blouw, Larry Johnson

Pursuit winner: Tom Drolema

Semi winner: Bob Blouw

**Feature:** (1) **Tom Drolema** (2) Cary Peoples (3) Gene Eding (4) Terry Schmid (5) Paul Weisner (6) Harry Drolema (7) Bob Bliss (8) Dave Cutler

## June 11, 1971 – Friday – USAC (United States Auto Club) – Sprint Cars

40 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Sam Sessions 16.37

Heat winners: Sam Sessions, Tom Bigelow, Don Nordhorn

Semi winner: Larry Rice

**Feature:** (1) **Sam Sessions** (2) Darryl Harrison (3) Larry Dickson (4) Don Nordhorn (5) Sonny Ates (6) Cy Fairchild

**Sammy Sessions – Clean Sweep Award**

## June 12, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.67

Dash winner: Bob Fellows

Heat winners: Ed Howe, Rich Senneker

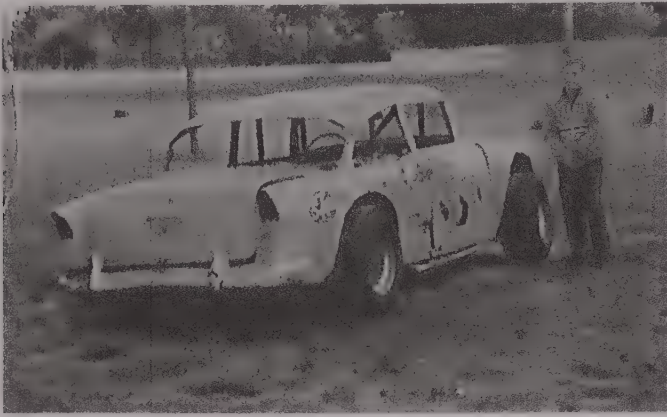
Pursuit winner: Rich Senneker

**Feature:** (1) **Rich Senneker** (2) Ed Howe (3) Donnie Roberts (4) Bob Carnes (5) Harvey Redder (6) Jerry Spear (7) Johnny Benson

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Paul Weisner—no time given

Dash winner: Terry Schmid



Bob Fellows

Dick Lee Collection

Heat winners: Herb Mann, Tom Drolema, Denny Willard, Don Ward

Pursuit winner: Art Harvey

Consolation winner: Gene Eding

Semi winner: Herb Mann

**Feature:** (1) Dave Cutler (2) Paul Weisner (3) Cary Peoples (4) Bob Clover (5) Terry Schmid

---

### June 19, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.82

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Bob Fellows, Bill Massuch

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

**Feature:** (1) Mike Eddy (2) Rich Senneker (3) Bob Fellows (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Jerry Spear (6) Kirk Norman (7) Ron Laban

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Paul Weisner 18.33—New Track Record

Heat Winners: Paul Weisner, Tom Finkbeiner, Mike Johnson, Sid Hill, Frank Sawitsky

Pursuit winner: Harry Drolema

Consolation winner: John Bliss

**Feature:** (1) Gene Eding (2) Terry Schmid (3) Jack Drolema (4) Jim Westfield (5) Paul Weisner

---

### June 26, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.9

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Randy Sweet, Bill VanPeenan

Pursuit winner: Randy Sweet

**Feature:** (1) Donnie Roberts (2) Mike Eddy (3) Bob Fellows (4) Ed Howe (5) Rich Senneker (6) Johnny Benson (7) ? (8) ? (9) Bill VanPeenan

### 75 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

*Invitational*

Heat winners: Steve Brown, Larry Johnson, Mike Johnson, Terry Schmid

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) ? (3) Jim Westfield

---

### July 3, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

*Spring Championship*

50 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Joe Ruttman, Harvey Redder

Pursuit winner: Ed Howe

**Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Johnny Benson (3) Joe Ruttman (4) Rich Senneker (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Rick Knotts (7) Terry Senneker Sr. (8) Cookie Cook (9) Mike Stumpfig (10) Jim Dyke

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Paul Weisner

Heat winners: Joe Pease, Bob Sensiba, Herb Mann, John Bliss

Consolation winner: Bob Sensiba, Denny Hilliard

**Feature:** (1) Gene Eding (2) Jim Westfield (3) Paul Weisner (4) Tom Drolema (5) Larry Johnson

---

### July 5, 1971 – Monday – Late Models

40 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 17.87

Dash winner: Bob Senneker



Bob Sensiba

Dick Lee Collection



Heat winners: Joy Fair, Randy Sweet

Pursuit winner: Joy Fair

**Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Bob Senneker (3) Johnny Benson (4) Joy Fair (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Bob Fellows (7) Rich Senneker (8) Rick Knotts (9) Herb Kirts (10) Terry Senneker Sr.

### 30 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Harry Drolema

Heat winners: Rick Kowalczyk, Bob Bliss, Tom VanderLind, Don Ward

Pursuit winner: Tom Drolema

Consolation winner: Ivan Richardson

**Feature:** (1) Bob Sensiba (2) Harry Drolema (3) Terry Schmid (4) Jim Westfield (5) Paul Weisner (6) Gene Eding (7) Dave Cutler (8) Cary Peoples

### July 10, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson – no time given

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Johnny Benson, Rich Senneker

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Ed Howe (3) Donnie Roberts (4) Rich Senneker (5) Terry Senneker Sr. (6) Bob Fellows (7) Ron Laban (8) Rick Knotts (9) Kirk Norman (10) Harvey Redder

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Dave Cutler – no time given

Dash winner: Harry Drolema

Heat winners: Joe Ellenbaas, Bob Sensiba, Ivan Richardson, Gene Eding

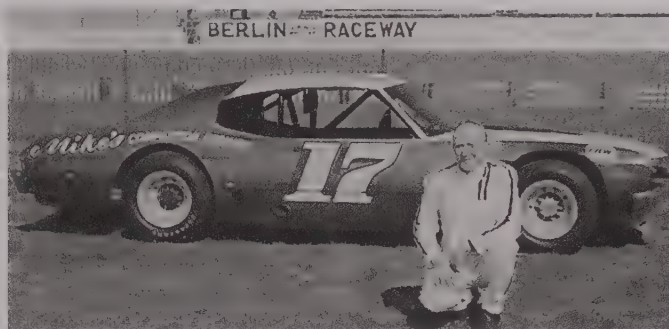
Pursuit winner: Harry Drolema

Semi winner: Phil Stampfler



Tom Drolema

Dick Lee Collection



Eddie VanderLaan

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature:** (1) Harry Drolema (2) Gene Eding (3) Bob Sensiba (4) Paul Weisner (5) Terry Schmid (6) John Bliss (7) Jim Westfield (8) Jack Drolema (9) Cary Peoples (10) Dave Cutler

### July 17, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe – no time given

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Terry Senneker Sr., Don Biederman

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Ed Howe (3) Don Biederman (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Rich Senneker (6) Bob Fellows (7) Donnie Roberts (8) Harvey Redder (9) Kirk Norman (10) Herb Kirts

### 75 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

*Mid-Season Championship*

Fast qualifier: Paul Weisner 18.27—New Track Record

Heat winners: Tom Finkbeiner, John Bliss, Sid Hill, Bob Bliss

Pursuit winner: Tom Drolema

Semi winner: Sid Hill

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Bob Sensiba (3) Larry Johnson (4) Jack Drolema (5) John Bliss (6) Dave Cutler (7) Gene Eding (8) Jim Westfield (9) Bob Clover (10) Bob Blouw

### July 24, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe – no time given

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Johnny Benson, Rich Senneker

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Ed Howe (3) Donnie Roberts (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Jimmy Roberts (6) Ron Laban (7) Harvey Redder (8) Duane Knoll (9) Bill VanPeenan (10) Randy Sweet

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Gene Eding – no time given

Dash winner: Dave Cutler

Heat winners: Ron Bursma, Bob Sensiba, Roger Wellman, Joe Pease

Pursuit winner: Terry Schmid

Semi winner: Joe Pease

**Feature:** (1) Gene Eding (2) Dave Cutler (3) Bob Sensiba (4) Bob Clover (5) John Bliss (6) Harry Drolema (7) Tom Drolema (8) Terry Schmid (9) Jack Drolema (10) Mike Johnson

### July 31, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

#### Mid-Season Championship

50 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.8

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Johnny Benson, Terry Senneker Sr.

Pursuit winner: Ed Howe

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Ed Howe (3) Rich Senneker (4) Rick Knotts (5) Donnie Roberts (6) Terry Senneker Sr. (7) Bob Fellows (8) Harvey Redder (9) Scott Presley (10) Ron Laban

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

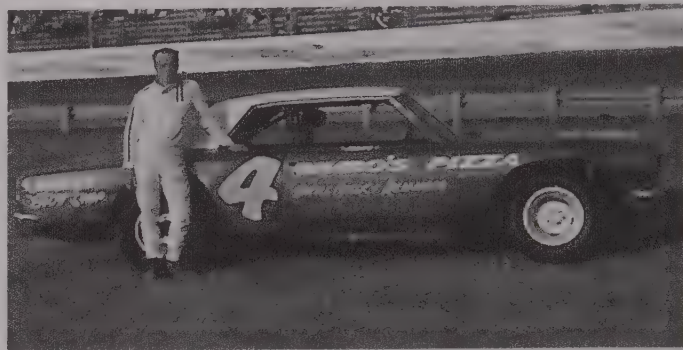
Fast qualifier: Dave Cutler 18.20—New Track Record

Dash winner: Paul Weisner

Heat winners: Jerry Longnecker, John Bliss, Denny Holtzlander, Joe Pease

Pursuit winner: John Bliss

Semi winner: Jerry VanDyke



Jerry Spear

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature:** (1) Harry Drolema (2) Dave Cutler (3) Jim Westfield (4) Bob Bliss (5) Joe Pease (6) Don Ward (7) Mike Johnson (8) Gene Eding

### August 7, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson – no time given

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Johnny Benson, Herb Kirts

Pursuit winner: Scott Presley

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Ed Howe (3) Bill Massuch (4) Gary Fedewa (5) John Mangus (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Ron Laban (8) Rich Senneker (9) Bob Fellows (10) Harvey Redder

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Dave Cutler – no time given

Dash winner: Harry Drolema

Heat winners: Steve Brown, Bob Sensiba, Terry Schmid, Larry Johnson, Bob Clover

Pursuit winner: Paul Weisner

Semi winner: Tom Finkbeiner

**Feature:** (1) Bob Sensiba (2) Gene Eding (3) Jack Drolema (4) Bob Clover (5) Paul Weisner (6) Terry Schmid (7) Tom Drolema (8) Dave Cutler (9) Dick Sarber

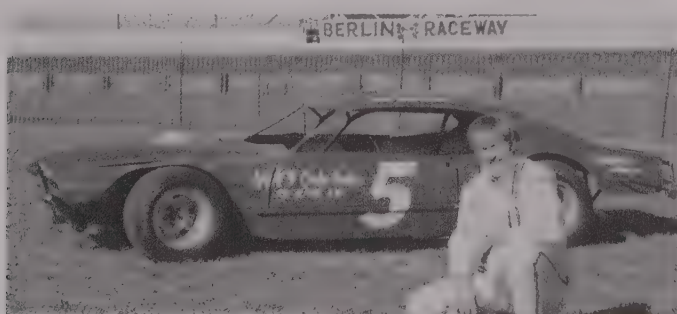
### August 14, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

#### Michigan State Late Model Invite

75 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.88

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Ed Howe (3) Joe Ruttman (4) Bob Senneker (5) Bobby Allison (6) Rich Senneker (7) Rick Knotts (8) Duane Knoll (9) Bob Fellows (10) Harvey Redder



Jack Drolema

Dick Lee Collection



## 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Heat winners: Bob Clover, Jim Buck, Frank Sawitsky, Jack Gritter

Pursuit winner: Dave Cutler

Semi winner: Jack Gritter

**Feature:** (1) Bob Bliss (2) Bob Sensiba (3) Tom Drolema (4) Paul Weisner (5) Bob Blouw

## August 21, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bob Fellows 17.86

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Rick Knotts, Kirk Norman, Larry DePas, Bob Fellows, Jerry Spear

Pursuit winner: Duane Knoll

Semi winner: Bob Fellows

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Ed Howe (3) Jimmy Roberts (4) Bill Massuch (5) Donnie Roberts

## 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Bob Clover

Heat winners: Cary Peoples, Bob Sensiba

**Feature:** (1) Gene Eding (2) Bob Clover

## August 28, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

50 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Danny Byrd 17.7

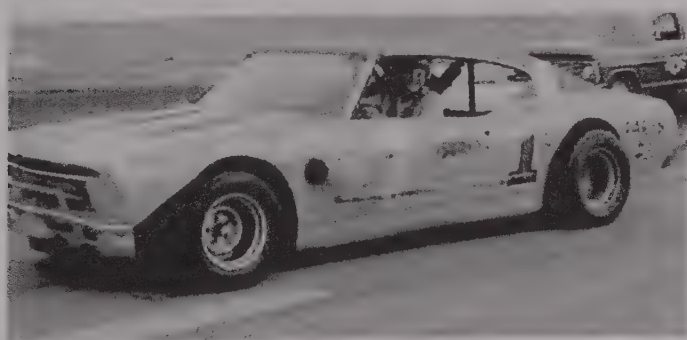
Dash winner: Jim Westfield

Heat winners: Bob Fellows, Eddie VanderLaan

Pursuit winner: Donnie Roberts

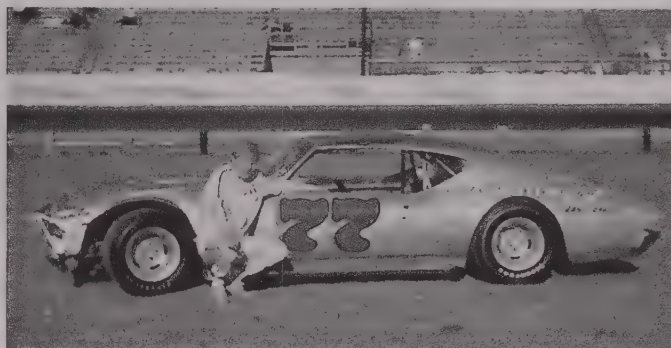
Semi winner: Bill Minch

**Feature:** (1) Joe Ruttman (2) Danny Byrd (3) Ed Howe (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Donnie Roberts (6) Herb Kirts



Joy Fair

Dick Lee Collection



Randy Sweet

Dick Lee Collection

## 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Dave Cutler 17.9

Heat winners: Terry Schimid, Jim Greenwood, Joe Ellenbaas, Cary Peoples

**Feature:** (1) Jack Drolema (2) Paul Weisner (3) Cary Peoples

## September 4, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 17.39

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Herb Kirts

Pursuit winner: Duane Knoll

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Ed Howe (4) Donnie Roberts (5) Terry Senneker Sr. (6) Bob Senneker

## 100 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Heat winners: Paul Weisner, Jim Arnst, Tom Finkbeiner, Gene Eding, Bob Miller

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Terry Schmid (3) Tom Drolema (4) Cary Peoples

**Paul Weisner – Clean Sweep Award**

## September 6, 1971 – Monday – Late Models

40 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Joe Ruttman – no time given

Dash winner: Joe Ruttman

Heat winner: Scott Presley

Pursuit winner: Ron Keech

Semi winner: Bill Minch

**Feature:** (1) Donnie Roberts (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Terry Senneker Sr. (4) Bob Fellows (5) Randy Sweet (6) Jimmy Roberts

### 40 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Harry Drolema

Heat winners: Roger Wellman, Ron Bursma, Jack Drolema, Don Ward

Pursuit winner: Gene Eding

Feature: (1) Bob Bliss (2) Gene Eding (3) Cary Peoples

### 40 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Season Championship

Heat winners: Tom Drolema, Jack Gritter, Cary Peoples, Steve Brown

Consolation winner: Don Ward

Feature: (1) Paul Weisner (2) Harry Drolema (3) Tom Drolema (4) Terry Schmid

### September 11, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Ed Howe, Ron Laban

Pursuit winner: Ed Howe

Feature: (1) Ed Howe (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Bob Senneker (4) Ron Laban (5) Harvey Redder (6) Johnny Benson

### September 18, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

Season Championship

40 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.36

Dash winners: Duane Cottrell, Jim Westfield

Heat winners: Herb Kirts, Jimmy Roberts

Feature: (1) Ed Howe (2) Johnny Benson (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Donnie Roberts (5) Terry Senneker Sr.

### 5 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Bob Bliss

Heat winners: Jack Gritter, Jerry VanDyke

Pursuit winner: Jack Drolema

Semi winner: Tom Finkbeiner

Feature: (1) Paul Weisner (2) Jack Drolema (3) Tom Drolema (4) Cary Peoples (5) Bob Sensiba (6) Harry Drolema

### September 25, 1971 – Saturday – Late Models

Rained Out



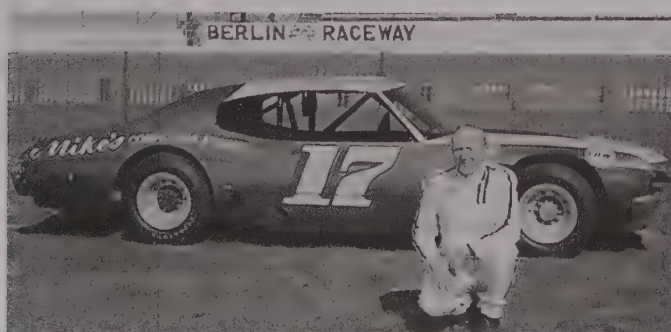
Bob Sensiba

Dick Lee Collection



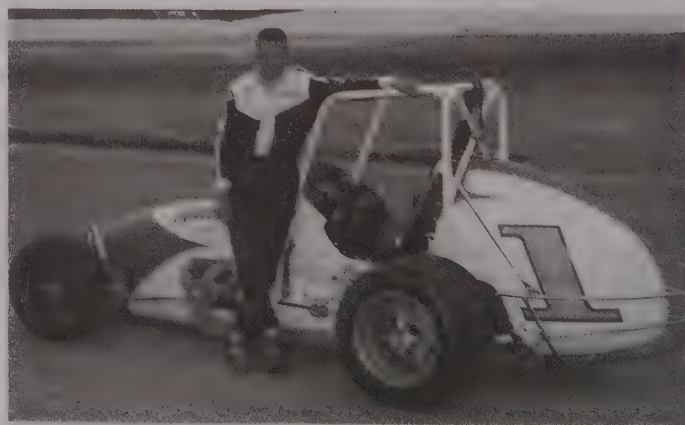
Randy Sweet

Dick Lee Collection



Eddie VanderLaan

Dick Lee Collection



Sam Sessions

Dick Lee Collection



# Berlin Raceway Race Results 1971

## 1971 LATE MODEL POINTS

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Ed Howe	85	5	10	7		
2	Johnny Benson Sr.	78	10	4	4		
3	Donnie Roberts	46	3		2		
4	Eddie VanderLaan	33			1		
5	Rich Senneker	24	1		3		
6	Bob Senneker	19	2	3	2		
7	Bob Fellows	19	1	1	1		
8	Joe Ruttman	11	1	1	1		
9	Joy Fair	11	1		1		
10	Mike Eddy	9	1				
11	Jerry Spear	8			1		
12	Terry Senneker Sr.	6					
	Bob Carnes	6					
14	Earl Ross	5	1				
15	Bill Massuch	5					
16	Danny Byrd	4		1			
17	Jimmy Roberts	4					
18	Rick Knotts	3					
	Don Biederman	3					
20	Harvey Redder	2					
	Gary Fedewa	2					
	Jim Aldrich	2					
	Ron Laban	2					
24	Randy Sweet	1					
	John Mangus	1					
	Bobby Allison	1					
27	Jim Westfield	0			2		
28	Duane Cottrell	0			1		

# Berlin Raceway 1951 to the Present

1971 HOBBY STOCK POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Paul Weisner	59	5	3	2	2	1
2	Terry Schmid	47	4	1	3		
3	Gene Eding	35	4	1			
4	Bob Sensiba	31	2				
5	Cary Peoples	31	1		1		
6	Harry Drolema	30	3	1	5		
7	Jack Drolema	21	3				
8	Tom Drolema	19	1				
9	Bob Bliss	17	2		1		
10	Larry Johnson	17					
11	Bob Clover	15	2		2		
12	Dave Cutler	15	1	4	1	1	
13	Jim Westfield	14		1			
14	John Bliss	2					
15	Bob Billings	1			1		
	Jerry VanDyke	1			1		
	Bob Blouw	1					
	Joe Pease	1					



## Berlin Raceway Media 1972

### Howe Takes Berlin Opener

**April 15, 1972 – Berlin Raceway** — Ed Howe and Gene Eding were the big winners in Saturday night's opener at Berlin Raceway, with Howe taking the 25 lap late model feature, and Eding victorious in the hobby stock fast-heat, pursuit and 20-lap feature.

The hobby feature had to be restarted when Tom Drolema went off the backstretch on the first lap. After several spins and tangles, Eding took the win over Paul Weisner, Bob Bliss, Bob Minch, Mike Johnson, Jack Gritter, Phil Stampfler, Art Harvey, Gary Barnes and Dick Sarber.

Eighteen cars started the late model feature, but only nine finished. On the sixth lap Kirk Norman spun out in turn three and Harvey Redder hit him, flying off the backstretch. Jim Roberts spun out on the ninth lap but kept going. On the 21<sup>st</sup> lap Jim Aldrich and Eddie VanderLaan tangled going into the first turn wall, with Rick Knotts and Bob Senneker spinning low and hitting each other. All four of the cars were eliminated, giving the lead and the win to Howe. Rich Senneker was a close second chased by Bill Massuch and Mike Eddy. Jimmy Roberts was fifth followed by Butch Fedewa, Kirk Norman, Bob Schippers, Herb Mann and VanderLaan.

The late model dash was a quickie as Rick Knotts took the win over Rich Senneker, Johnny Benson and Bob Senneker in one minute, 32:15 seconds. Bob Bliss won the hobby stock dash over Sarber, Eding and Dave Cutler.

In the first hobby stock heat Ike VerHoeven crossed the line ahead of Jim Terrill and Phil Poortinga. After two restarts Gene Eding took the second hobby stock heat ahead of Weisner, Mike Johnson and Sarber.

VanderLaan won the third late model heat over Knotts, Bob Senneker and Redder. The fourth heat for

hobby stocks was action packed. Ron Bursma stuffed his car into the first turn wall on the green and was taken to the hospital for a checkup. Several cars were eliminated before Bob Fellows took the win over Stampfler, Gary Barnes and Jerry Longnecker.

The fifth heat late model victory went to Jimmy Roberts as he topped Fedewa, Ron Laban and Terry Senneker Sr. Eding eliminated the field in the hobby stock pursuit with Gritter, Johnson and Bob Bliss taking second thru fourth honors. The late model pursuit had the crowd on its feet as VanderLaan and Bob Senneker eliminated the field and continued their duel for four speedy laps before Bob took the win in a slingshot move at the checker. Bill Massuch and Rich Senneker were runners-up.

The hobby stock consolation win went to Denny Holtzlander ahead of Frank Sawitzsky, Longnecker, Phil Gress, and Terrill.

### Bob Senneker Tops Berlin Feature

**May 20, 1972 – Berlin Raceway** — Bob Senneker of Dorr behind the wheel of a '72 Chevelle turned in a sparkling driving performance to win the 30 lap feature race for late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Senneker coming from his 16<sup>th</sup> starting position in the 20-car lineup, forged past race leader Bill Massuch of Lansing on the 18<sup>th</sup> lap after Massuch had led all of the initial laps.

Senneker, once in the lead was never seriously challenged and finished almost half a lap in front of the pack.

But it was not an easy win, however, as Bob had to avoid the tangle caused when Jim Aldrich spun on lap six and was hit by Jerry Spear for the first caution of the race. The second yellow flag was an advantage to the charging Senneker however when Scott Presley hit the fourth turn wall.

Senneker was able to put slower traffic between himself and the faster cars after the restart.

Jim Roberts and Eddie VanderLaan crossed the finish at the same time for a dead heat for second place followed by Rich Senneker, Ed Howe, Bob Carnes, Massuch, Johnny Benson, Danny Byrd and Ron Laban.

The hobby stock feature had its share of excitement also starting with a complete restart when Jack Drolema spun on the first lap and was joined by Dick Sarber and Jim Westfield. Only one caution marred the rest of the event when Bob Bliss slammed into the fourth turn wall, almost catapulting it.

Bob Sensiba came in for the win followed closely by Dick Nichols, Cary Peoples, Terry Schmid, Dave Cutler, Jack Drolema, Tom Drolema, Bob Minch, Paul Weisner (who had been challenging for the lead and spun at the checker, crossing the line in reverse...finally...after he found the gear) and Jack Gritter.

Bob Senneker had the fastest time of 84 qualifiers with a 17.59 second dash around the .438 mile oval, but finished third in the dash as brother Rich Senneker took the win ahead of Benson, Bob and Eddie VanderLaan. Bob Sensiba won the late model dash ahead of fast qualifier Weisner, Schmid and Cutler.

Paul Weisner got around Jack Drolema on the backstretch to win the hobby stock pursuit on the last lap. Bob Carnes got into the lead early in the late model pursuit and held off Jim Roberts, Howe, Byrd and Bob Senneker for the win.

In the late model heats Don Dane topped Don Lutz; Jim Roberts bested Jerry Spear; Terry Senneker topped Rick Knotts and Roger Herp scored over John Mangus.

Jim Arnst won the first hobby stock heat over Denny Holtzlander; Dick Nichols beat Jack Drolema; Jerry Longnecker won over Phil Poortinga and Phil Stampfler bested Tom Finkbeiner in their ten-lappers.

The consolation race started 25-

cars, but after two restarts and four caution flags for various spins and tangles, only 12 finished, with Jim Greenwood taking the win over Don Ward, Duane Cottrell, Mike Bird and Stempfeler.

## Berlin Feature To Benson

### June 3, 1972 – Berlin Raceway

– The late model feature saw Johnny Benson take the checkered flag over Eddie VanderLaan, early leader Ed Howe, Bill Massuch, Rich Senneker, Donnie Roberts, Bob Senneker, Jerry Spear, Ron Laban and Rick Knotts Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

In the hobby stock feature fast qualifier Dave Cutler came in for his first feature win of the year in a hard-fought battle over hard-driving Paul Weisner and Terry Schmid. They were followed by early leader Gene Eding, Cary Peoples, Bob Sensiba, Bob Bliss, Tom Drolema, Mike Johnson and Don Ward. Bob Billings finished with a bang as he crossed the finish line and crashed into the front stretch tires. He was shook up but okay.

Johnny Benson won the late model dash over fast qualifier Bob Senneker, VanderLaan and Spear. Paul Weisner took the hobby stock dash over Cutler, Schmid and Johnson.

Sid Hill won the first hobby stock heat over Joe Pease, Larry DePas and Tom VanderLind. Gene Eding won the second heat over Peoples, Weisner and Cutler. John Jutila took the win in the third heat over Tom Finkbeiner, Don Ward and Dick Nichols. One caution appeared when Phil Poortinga hit the front stretch guard rail.

Don Rand came in for his first win of the season in the hobby stocks as he copped the hectic semi ahead of Dan Ross, Gary Barnes, Bob Shirk and Tom VanderLind. The first yellow flew when Jerry Longnecker spun into the infield on the backstretch, hitting a light pole. Then Jim Greenwood dumped his engine on

the front stretch. It flew again when Jutila tangled with a slower car, Wayne Carson, going into the fourth turn. The third yellow came out when Joe Pease lost it going into the second turn and was hit hard on all sides by Larry DePas, Bob Sterkenberg and Tom Finkbeiner. Joe came out okay after a hard-spinning ride. The fourth yellow came out when Mike Becker spun in the fourth turn. Mike Bird finished sixth then went into the second turn wall.

Ed Howe won the late model pursuit over Benson, Massuch and Bob Senneker. Terry Schmid and Dave Cutler cleared the field in the hobby pursuit, with Gene Eding and Bob Billings third and fourth.

The first late model heat saw Terry Senneker Sr. come from the back to take the win over Ron Laban, Buddy Stewart and Jim Dyke. The only caution was when Bob Fellows, Al Blanchard and Jerry Bellagraph tangled in the second turn. Ed Howe won the second heat over Harvey Redder, Donnie Roberts and Bill Massuch. The third heat saw Leo Havens in for the win over Al Blanchard and Buddy Stewart.

## Byrd Takes 100-Lap Feature

### June 10, 1972 – Berlin Raceway

– Danny Byrd of Dearborn Heights behind the wheel of a 1972 Chevelle turned in a sparkling driving performance to win the 100-lap Coca Cola Invitational race for late models Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

The race, run in two 50-lap sections saw Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids lead for the first 50-laps, Byrd for the next eight, Benson again until the 88<sup>th</sup> lap when Byrd forged into the lead and the win. Benson was second, followed by Bob Senneker, Ed Howe, Eddie VanderLaan, Tommy Maier, Bill Massuch, Jim Dyke, Denny Miles and Gary Fedewa.

Southern racing star LeeRoy Yarbrough was the 30<sup>th</sup> fastest qualifier and did not run the main event that was limited to the 20 fastest quali-

fiers. He did finish second in a heat race behind John Mangus however.

Bob Fellows won the first heat over Denny Harris and Phil Spencer while Mangus topped Fellows, Terry Senneker Sr., Harris and Clarence Cook in the semi-feature event.

Terry Schmid of Sparta outdrove Gene Eding, Paul Weisner, Dave Cutler and Jack Gritter to win the hobby stock main event. Heat race winners in the pony car hobby stock division were John Jutila, Weisner and Ivan Richardson while Cutler won the fast-car dash and Schmid took the pursuit.

Larry Johnson won the hobby stock consolation ahead of Bill Cox, Tom Finkbeiner and Bob Minch.

Benson was the fastest of 80 qualifiers with a 17.53 second dash around the .438 mile Marne oval.

## Benson Wins Another Berlin Feature

### June 24, 1972 – Berlin Raceway

– Paul Weisner of Muskegon had his 1969 Camaro in top working condition as he won the 75-lap Spring Championship race for hobby stocks Saturday night at Berlin Raceway and Johnny Benson drove his 1971 Chevelle to another feature victory in the hobby stock 30-lap feature.

Harry Drolema the fastest qualifier in the hobby stocks took the early lead in the hobby stock feature from his pole position start, but Weisner took over on lap 13 and was never headed.

The first caution of the race came on lap four when Dick Nichols spun off the backstretch, the second yellow came on lap 35 after Don Ward and John Jutila tangled in the second turn. Dave Cutler had worked his way up from 20<sup>th</sup> starting position and was passing Cary Peoples for third position when Cutler spun and dropped to the tail of the pack again as the yellow flag waved for the final time in that event on lap 53.

This final caution closed the pack on Weisner but he held on for a well-deserved win followed by Bob Sensiba,



Peoples, Bob Bliss, Harry Drolema, Art Harvey, Ward, Gene Eding, Tom Drolema and Dick Sarber. Weisner was presented with a special cake by the George Hall family of Hartford in addition to his winnings.

The late model feature started with a bang and a restart after Bob Fellows' car broke at the start of the 30-lapper and he spun wildly in front of the pack. Ron Laban was the only victim and retired with a damaged front end. Only one caution flag marred the fast paced event when Eddie VanderLaan tapped Bill Massuch going into turn two putting Bill out of the race. Benson took the lead on lap 18 from pacesetter Gary Fedewa and was never headed. Fedewa chased Johnny across the finish line for second followed by Jimmy Roberts, Rich Senneker, Rick Knotts, VanderLaan, Bob Carnes, Harvey Redder, Fellows and Jim Aldrich.

John Benson Sr. was the fastest of 75 qualifiers with a 17.57 second dash around the .438 oval, but finished behind VanderLaan in the dash as Knotts and Bob Schippers chased them across the finish. In late model preliminaries Bob Carnes topped Roberts in the first heat. Jim Dyke took the second heat over Jim Aldrich. Leo Havens won the third heat ahead of Hank Wise. Bill Massuch headed up the five finishers in the pursuit followed by VanderLaan, Rich Senneker, Knotts, and Benson in a tight race to the flag.

Terry Schmid took the first hobby stock heat ahead of Eding. Tom Drolema won the second heat over Dave Cutler. Bob Sterkenberg won the third heat ahead of Bob Clover. Pete Senneker took his first ever checker in the fourth hobby stock heat after shooting into the lead on the first lap from mid-pack and staying there to win over Mike Becker.

It was Sternberg's first win ever as well, in the hobby stocks.

The hobby stock consolation had two caution flags, first when Larry Johnson spun in the first turn and again when Pete Senneker hit the front stretch wall while leading. Bob Clover took over the lead on lap

three, leading right up 'til the last lap when he exited in a cloud of smoke. Mike Bird took the win followed by Doug Bishop, Jim Greenwood, Frank Sawitzky and Bob Sterkenberg.

## Knotts In Victory Lane

**July 1, 1972 — Berlin Raceway** — Exciting features highlighted the twin bill of races Saturday night at Berlin Raceway as Rick Knotts won the late model feature and Tom Drolema bested the hobby stock main event.

Ron Keech took the early lead in the late model 30-lap feature but Jim Westfield took over three laps later. The caution flag came out on lap five as Bill Massuch spun between the third and fourth turns. Westfield resumed the lead on the restart holding it until lap 12 when Bob Schippers took command. Knotts got around Schippers on lap 18 and was never headed. Johnny Benson and Bob Senneker both got by Schippers to finish second and third while Schippers finished fourth followed by Eddie VanderLaan, Rich Senneker, Westfield, Massuch, Harvey Redder and Ron Laban.

The hobby stock feature was a thriller as Harry Drolema got the lead early in the 25-lap event leading most of the way with his son, Tom, challenging him the final ten laps, racing side-by-side and bumper to bumper. Tom got around Harry for the win on the final circuit on the .438 asphalt and won by only inches. Harry Drolema was second followed by Bob Sensiba, fast qualifier Paul Weisner, who had spun out early in the race, Cary Peoples, Jack Gritter, Gene Eding, Terry Schmid, Don Ward and Bob Bliss.

Bob Senneker had the fastest qualifying time of the 74 cars on hand at 17.687 and finished behind winner VanderLaan, and Benson in the fast-car dash as that trio crossed the finish line three abreast while Knotts was fourth. Terry Schmid won the fast-dash over Weisner, Rand and Bliss.

Donnie Roberts, Bill Massuch and Butch Miller won late model heats while Massuch bested Bob Senneker, Laban and Schippers in the pursuit.

Steve Durham, Harry Drolema, Ivan Richardson and Al Blanchard won hobby stock heats while Dan Ross topped Durham and Art Harvey in the semi-feature. Bob Sensiba stayed ahead of Weisner to win the pursuit in that division.

## Benson Wins Holiday Race

**July 4, 1972 - Berlin Raceway** - Johnny Benson outdueled Bob Senneker for the 50-lap late model feature win at Berlin Raceway July 4th. Rick Knotts was third ahead of Eddie VanderLaan, Bill Massuch and Rich Senneker. It was a close, great race with no cautions.

Tom Drolema won his second straight hobby stock feature, followed by Paul Weisner, Gene Eding, Jack Gritter and Dave Cutler. Four caution flags were out in this event, first as Phil Stampfler spun in turn three, again when Don Ward, Harry Drolema, Art Harvey and Bob Shirk tangled on the back stretch. Dick Sarber hit the wall bringing out the third caution and Don Ward hit the fourth turn wall for the final caution of the race. He was taken to the hospital, treated and released, with a few bruised ribs.

Bob Senneker won the late model dash over Knotts, VanderLaan and Benson. Terry Schmid won the hobby stock dash over Art Harvey, Bob Bliss and Paul Weisner.

John Houart, Donnie Roberts, Ray Barnard and Jim Dyke won late model heats while Knotts topped fast qualifier Bob Senneker in the pursuit.

Mike Becker, Gene Eding and Dan Ross won hobby stock heats while Tom Drolema topped fast qualifier Terry Schmid in the pursuit and Bob Minch topped Denny Holtzlander and Gary Barnes in the consolation.



## Senneker Mid-Season Champion

### July 8, 1972 – Berlin Raceway

– Bob Senneker became the late model mid-season champ at Berlin Raceway Saturday night. Senneker took the win by a car length over Eddie VanderLaan, Johnny Benson, Rick Knotts, Rich Senneker, Donnie Roberts, Jim Dyke, Terry Senneker Sr., Roger Herp and Scott Presley. The caution flew only once when Jim Westfield spun between turns three and four and Jim Dyke spun in the third turn.

Tom Drolema took his third straight win in the hobby stock feature as he beat out Paul Weisner, Gary Barnes, Bob Billings, Dave Cutler, Bob Bliss, Art Harvey, Don Rand, Jack Gritter and Dick Nichols.

Tom Drolema won the hobby stock dash over fast qualifier Terry Schmid, Dave Cutler and Bliss.

The hectic first hobby stock heat saw Sid Hill take the win over Bill Poortinga, Tom Vanderlind and Joe Pease. The first caution was thrown in this event when Doug Bishop, Mike Becker and Denny Holtzlander tangled in the third turn; the second was thrown for Ken Smith, when he spun in the third turn. Bob Billings won the second heat over Gene Eding, Bliss and Weisner. The yellow came out first for Phil Gress's spin and again when Gritter and Dick Sarber got together. Nichols came in for the checkered in the third heat over Bob Clover, Ivan Richardson and John Jutilla. The yellow came out just once when Gary Barnes and Tom Finkbeiner went off the backstretch.

Bob Clover won the hobby stock semi, after Sid Hill was black flagged for running more than a second over his time. Denny Holtzlander was second followed by Mike Dixon, Doug Bishop, Joe Pease and Jerry Strotheide. The caution was thrown once when Frank Sawitzky spun on the backstretch.

Bob Schippers won the late model pursuit by inches over Bob Senneker, Eddie VanderLaan and

Donnie Roberts. Gene Eding came in for the win in the hobby stock pursuit over Weisner, Cutler and Gritter.

John Houart came in for the first late model heat win over Leo Havens, Roger Herp and Bob Fellows. The caution was out once when Mike Malone lost it going into turn two. Eddie VanderLaan took the second heat win over Schippers, Donnie Roberts and Jim Dyke.

## Benson Captures Berlin Feature

### July 15, 1972 – Berlin Raceway

– Tom Drolema won his fourth hobby stock feature in a row, this one the mid-season championship race for hobby stocks Saturday night at Berlin Raceway and Johnny Benson won the feature race for late models.

The late model main event had only one caution flag when a spinout caused a melee of spinning cars between the third and fourth turns that saw Harvey Redder nose dive off the wall and five others spin in all directions.

Early leader and fast qualifier Bob Senneker dropped out with mechanical problems giving the lead to Benson who never relinquished it. Rick Knotts was a close second followed by Rich Senneker, Bob Carnes, Randy Sweet, Terry Senneker Sr., Jim Westfield, Scott Presley, Bill Massuch and Dale Talsma.

The hobby stock championship main event was marred by several accidents that saw the yellow flag wave four times before Tom Drolema came in for the checkered flag. Paul Weisner was second followed by fast qualifier Dave Cutler, Don Rand, Gene Eding, Bob Bliss, Dick Nichols, Harry Drolema, Phil Gress and Cary Peoples.

The first caution waved when Art Harvey spun between turns one and two and Tom Finkbeiner spun into the infield to miss him. The second yellow came out when Bob Minch, Harvey and Peoples tangled on the backstretch. Dick Sarber was

hit from behind and flew onto Phil Stempfler's hood with Phil hitting the infield guardrail. There were no injuries. The next yellow waved when Jack Gritter spun on the backstretch and the fourth and final yellow flag was out when Eding spun in turn four while Minch, Finkbeiner and Gritter tangled and went into the wall as Bob Billings and Dan Ross also spun.

Bob Senneker won the late model dash over Benson, Knotts and Rich Senneker.

John Jutilla won the first hobby stock heat over Ivan Richardson, Jerry Strotheide and Tom Vanderlind. Harry Drolema won the second heat over Gritter, Weisner and Eding. Dick Nichols took the third heat over Mike Dixon, Peoples and Bob Sensiba.

Bob Sensiba won the accident marred consolation over Gary Barnes, Bob Blouw, Bob Clover and Sid Hill. The race was restarted after Denny Holtzlander and John Jutilla hit the fourth turn wall hard after a ten car melee on the first lap. Doug Bishop, Don Ward and Pete Senneker were also spin victims, bringing out the yellow twice during the event.

Jimmy Roberts won the first late model heat over Leo Havens, Terry Senneker Sr. and Ron Keech. Bob Carnes came in for the second heat victory ahead of Massuch, Jim Dyke and Sweet. This event was halted after Jim Westfield and Eddie VanderLaan locked bumpers between the third and fourth turns and VanderLaan shot into the wall bringing Bob Schippers with him, and starting a series of spins to avoid the wreck. Schippers was taken to the hospital, treated for leg injuries and a slight concussion, and released.

## Benson Wins Again At Berlin

### July 22, 1972 – Berlin Raceway

– It was a very warm night for racing Saturday night, closing out the Berlin Fair. The night started with



a bang in the hobby stock warm ups as Bill Kaye had something break on his car and did a flip in midair and several rolls in the first turn, coming out okay.

Johnny Benson came in for his tenth win of the year in the late model feature followed across the line by Bob Carnes, early leader Jim Aldrich, Eddie VanderLaan, Rich Senneker, Terry Senneker Sr., Donnie Roberts, Harvey Redder, Ralph Baker and Dave Boomstra. The caution came out twice, first when Rick Knotts spun in the fourth turn and again when Jim Westfield spun in the second turn.

Bob Clover came in for his first hobby stock feature win of the year by a fender over Paul Weisner followed by Dick Nichols, a spinning Harry Drolema, Bob Minch, Art Harvey, Bob Bliss, Don Rand, Dick Sarber, Gene Eding and a bouncing and spinning Jack Gritter came in 11<sup>th</sup> as he hit the tires on the front stretch. The caution came out once when Bob Bliss spun off the back stretch.

Johnny Benson came in for the win in the late model dash over fast qualifier Eddie VanderLaan, Jim Dyke and Scott Presley. Paul Weisner took the checkered in the hobby stock dash over Harry Drolema, Terry Schmid and Art Harvey.

Dick Nichols won the first hobby stock heat race over Gary Barnes, Bob Sensiba and Ivan Richardson. Bob Clover took the second heat win over Eding, Dave Cutler and Gritter. The first caution came out when Mike Dixon lost it in the back stretch and flew into the pits, hitting Gary Barnes' car, and sending two of Gary's mechanics to the hospital, where they were treated and released. The second caution came out when Tom Drolema lost it in the second turn and hit the guard rail. Tom VanHolstyn came in for the checkered in the third heat over Bill Portinga, Bruce DeVries and Sid Hill. The heat was finished with a four car melee on the front stretch.

The hobby stock pursuit saw Bob Clover, Don Rand and Harry Drolema battling bumper to bumper

and finishing in that order ahead of Paul Weisner. The caution was out when Bob Billings went up into the wall in the second turn. In the late model pursuit Rich Senneker and Eddie VanderLaan battled wheel to wheel for a few laps, with Eddie having to settle for a close second ahead of Terry Senneker Sr. and Johnny Benson. The caution flew once when Dale Talsma spun in the third turn.

Bob Fellows won the first late model heat ahead of Ron Keech, Jim Aldrich and Bob Schippers. Johnny Benson took the late model heat win over Donnie Roberts, Bob Carnes and Dale Talsma. Dave Boomstra spun between turns three and four, causing a six car melee, bringing out the caution, as Jim Dyke, Ricky Knotts and Scott Presley went into the wall, also involved was Jim Westfield and Rich Senneker, all retired to the pits.

Ron Woller won the demolition derby at the Berlin Fair on Tuesday night.

## Berlin Win To Senneker

**August 12, 1972 — Berlin Raceway** — Bob Senneker, one of the Midwest's leading drivers, warmed up for next week's big \$15,000 purse by driving his 1971 Chevelle to victory in the 30-lap feature race for late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Senneker gained his third main event victory of the season by coming from deep in the starting lineup of the 20-fastest qualifiers and took over the lead on the 16<sup>th</sup> lap from Bill Massuch of Lansing and staved off defending track champion Johnny Benson for the win. Rich Senneker and Massuch were tied for third followed by Eddie VanderLaan, Ron Laban, Dave Boomstra, Jim Leonard, Dale Talsma, Al Blanchard and Jim Westfield.

The caution was out first when Dave Boomstra spun between the third and fourth turns and again as Butch Miller spun in the backstretch,

starting a spinning 12 car melee. The three Senneker brothers were the three fastest qualifiers, while the eldest, Rich, had fast time with a 17.51, middle brother Bob had a 17.69, and the youngest of the late model racing brothers, Terry had a 17.81. Eddie VanderLaan topped Bob, Rich and Terry in the dash.

Tom Drolema, the youngest member of the Drolema racers, won the 25-lap main event for hobby stock cars by less than a car length, his fifth this season. Gene Eding was second, followed by Cary Peoples, Bob Clover, Jack Gritter, Paul Weisner, Bob Bliss, Dick Sarber, Mike Johnson and Bob Billings. The yellow came out once when Bob Minch spun coming out of the first turn.

Terry Schmid won the hobby stock dash over Clover, Weisner and Art Harvey.

Bob Sensiba came in for the first hobby stock heat win over Dick Nichols, Gail Cobb and Bob Blouw. Cary Peoples beat Gene Eding over the finish line in the hobby stock second heat, followed by Bob Minch and Dave Cutler. Gary Barnes took the third heat win over Sid Hill, Bruce DeVries and Bob Shirk.

Dick Nichols won the hobby stock consolation race over Barnes, Blouw, Jerry Longnecker, Shirk and Tom Finkbeiner.

Johnny Benson came in for the late model pursuit win over Bob Senneker, brother Rich and VanderLaan, while Dave Cutler won the hobby pursuit over Eding, Don Rand and Schmid.

Rick Knotts won the first late model heat over Massuch, Laban and VanderLaan. The caution came out first when Jim Westfield, Johnny Benson and Terry Senneker running three abreast, tangled on the backstretch. The second caution came out when Bob Schippers lost it coming out of turn one and ended up against the guard rail. Dave Boomstra won the second heat over Harvey Sytsma, Butch Miller and Herb Mann. The caution came out once again when Roger Herp and Mark Beard spun in the fourth turn.

## Howe Michigan State Invitational Champ

**August 19, 1972 – Berlin Raceway** – Ed Howe of Beaverton drove his famed Green Hornet '72 Chevelle to victory in the rich \$15,000 150-lap Michigan State Invitational race for late models Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

There was a terrific crowd with lots of top-notch drivers including Bobby Allison of NASCAR Fame driving his own Chevelle.

The feature event was run in two 75-lap segments with over-all winner Ed Howe starting on the pole position by virtue of his fastest qualifying time of 17.36. Johnny Benson won the first 75-lapper followed by Howe, Joe Ruttman, Bob Senneker, Rick Knotts, Eddie VanderLaan, Rich Senneker, Bill McCracken, Randy Sweet and Allison. The yellow flag was out three times, first when Bud Middaugh hit the front stretch wall, next when Danny Byrd spun on the front stretch and again when Jim Roberts spun in turn two.

In the second 75-lapper Ed Howe came in for the win with Benson right on his bumper for second followed by Knotts, VanderLaan, Rich Senneker, Allison, Roberts, Tom Maier, Ralph Baker and John Anderson. This 75-lapper was marred by four yellows, first when Bill McCracken hit the third turn rail, next when Anderson, Sweet, Jim Westfield and Gary Fedewa tangled and again when Terry Senneker spun. The final caution came when Roberts and Westfield tangled on the front stretch.

The hobby stock feature was great with Terry Schmid winning a close one over Gene Eding. Tom Drolema was third followed by Paul Weisner, Bob Sensiba and Gary Barnes. There were also four yellow flags in this fast paced event without serious incident.

Don Rand came across for the hobby stock dash win chased by Schmid, Weisner and Bob Billings.

The first hobby stock heat was really neat as Pete Senneker won after a battle with Tom VanHolstyn and Cary Peoples as they came across three abreast for the checker. The second hobby stock heat was another close race as Dave Cutler took the win over Tom Drolema, Dick Nichols and Bob Clover.

The third hobby stock heat saw Dan Ross cross the finish line first chased by Rick Kowalczyk and Jerry Strotheide.

The pursuit was a humdinger with seven cars left running as Harry Drolema came in for the win over Eding, Nichols and Clover.

The late models didn't run any heats but their consolation race was exciting. Ralph Baker came in for the win followed by Mike Eddy, Bob Schippers, Harvey Sytsma, Roger Herp and John Houart. Bob Fellows spun in the second turn for the first yellow and Herp spun in turn three for the second yellow and Fellows was black flagged for excessive roughness.

Jack Drolema won the hobby stock consolation race over a close running Pete Senneker, Don Ward and Bob Blouw.

## Benson Grabs Berlin Closer

**September 16, 1972 – Berlin Raceway** – Johnny Benson took another late model feature win of the year Saturday night at Berlin Raceway. Rick Knotts was second followed by Donnie Roberts, Terry Senneker Sr., early leader Eddie VanderLaan, Herb Kirts, Ron Keech, Dale Talsma, Butch Miller and Jim Leonard. Benson and Knotts were in a two car duel for several laps. Ed Howe blew his engine, spilling oil on the track, causing a six car melee involving Bob Fellows, Harvey Redder, Roger Herp, Jim Leonard and Jim Westfield, with Redder and Herp hitting the number one and two walls hard.

Gene Eding won the hobby stock feature followed by Jack Gritter, Bob Clover, Bob Sensiba, Harry Drolema, Terry Schmid, Tom Drolema, Bill Minch, Mike Johnson and Dave Cutler. Gary Barnes blew his engine, resulting in a four car spin involving Tom Drolema, Bob Bliss, Don Rand and Barnes. The second accident took place when Cutler and Sensiba tangled slightly between turns three and four. Mike Dixon broke loose in the front stretch.

The late model dash was taken by Benson followed by Knotts, VanderLaan and fast qualifier (17.62) Ed Howe. In the hobby stock dash Sensiba won over fast qualifier Bob Clover (18.47), Don Rand and Terry Schmid.

In hobby stock prelims, Gary Barnes took the first heat by a bumper over Gene Eding, Mike Johnson and Jack Gritter. The second heat was taken by Gail Cobb over Cutler, Don Rand and Bob Bliss. Bob Blouw was the victor in the third heat followed by Jerry Longnecker, Phil Poortinga and Jerry Strotheide.

Blouw was again the victor in the slow pursuit, held instead of a consolation race, ahead of Longnecker, Bob Hopkins (in his first year of racing) and Strotheide. The regular hobby stock pursuit was won by Gail Cobb over Cutler, Tom Drolema and Clover.

Late model heats were taken by Benson over Westfield, Terry Senneker Sr. and Fellows. Butch Miller ahead of Buddy Stewart, Al Blanchard and Ron Keech.

The late model pursuit was narrowed down to a three car duel with Ralph Baker, Donnie Roberts and Howe finishing just inches apart. Rick Knotts was fourth.

Benson, in the red #31, won the super stock slow dash, which replaced the consolation race, ahead of Stewart, Blanchard and Hank Wise.

Trophy presentations were made for the top 20 point leaders in each division closing out the 1972 season.



## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1972

### Late Models – Hobby Stocks

#### April 15, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

25 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 17.65

Dash winner: Rick Knotts

Heat winners: Eddie VanderLaan, Jimmy Roberts

Pursuit winners: Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Rich Senneker (3) Bill Massuch (4) Mike Eddy (5) Jimmy Roberts (6) Butch Fedewa (7) Kirk Norman (8) Bob Schippers (9) Herb Mann (10) Eddie VanderLaan

---

#### April 22, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

Rained Out

---

#### April 29, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Danny Byrd

Heat winners: Bill Massuch, Jimmy Roberts, Bob Schippers

Pursuit winner: Rich Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Bob Senneker (3) Rich Senneker (4) Rick Knotts (5) Danny Byrd (6) Donnie Roberts (7) Ed Howe (8) Gary Fedewa

#### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Bob Bliss

Heat winners: Tom VanderLind, Gene Eding, Tom Finkbeiner

Pursuit winner: Gene Eding

Consolation winner: Jerry Longnecker

**Feature:** (1) Gene Eding (2) Paul Weisner (3) Cary Peoples (4) Art Harvey (5) Tom Drolema (6) Dave Cutler (7) Phil Stampfler (8) Tom Finkbeiner

---

#### May 6, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

Rained Out

---

#### May 13, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

Rained Out

---

#### May 20, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 17.59

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Don Pane, Jimmy Roberts, Terry Senneker Sr., Roger Herp

Pursuit winner: Bob Carnes

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Jimmy Roberts (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Rich Senneker (5) Ed Howe (6) Bob Carnes (7) Bill Massuch (8) Johnny Benson (9) Danny Byrd (10) Ron Laban

#### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Paul Weisner – no time given

Dash winner: Bob Sensiba

Heat winners: Jim Arnst, Dick Nichols, Jerry Longnecker, Phil Stampfler

Pursuit winner: Paul Weisner

Consolation winner: Jim Greenwood

**Feature:** (1) Bob Sensiba (2) Dick Nichols (3) Cary Peoples (4) Terry Schmid (5) Dave Cutler (6) Jack Drolema (7) Tom Drolema (8) Bill Minch (9) Paul Weisner (10) Jack Gritter

---

#### May 27, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 17.57

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Leo Havens, Mike Eddy, Jimmy Roberts

Pursuit winner: Jerry Spear

Consolation winner: Bill Massuch

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Jerry Spear (3) Bob Senneker (4) Ed Howe (5) Rich Senneker (6) Terry Senneker Sr. (7) Ron Laban (8) Rick Knotts (9) Donnie Roberts (10) Harvey Redder

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Mike Johnson 18.03

Dash winner: Terry Schmid

Heat winners: Bob Billings, Dick Nichols, Don Ward, Bob Minch

Pursuit winner: Terry Schmid

Consolation winner: Don Ward

**Feature:** (1) Terry Schmid (2) Tom Drolema (3) Bob Sensiba (4) Gene Eding (5) Dick Nichols

---

### May 29, 1972 – Monday – Late Models

50 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 17.45

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Ron Laban, Roger Herp, Bill Massuch, John Anderson

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Danny Byrd (3) Bob Carnes (4) Ed Howe (5) Bill Massuch (6) Jerry Spear (7) Eddie VanderLaan (8) Ray Barnard (9) Jimmy Roberts (10) Bud Middaugh

### 50 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Dave Cutler – no time given

Dash winner: Dave Cutler

Heat winners: Joe Pease, Harry Drolema, Bob Billings, Don Ward, Phil Stampfer

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Cary Peoples (3) Jack Gritter (4) Dick Nichols

---

### June 3, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker – no time given

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Terry Senneker Sr., Ed Howe, Leo Havens

Pursuit winner: Ed Howe

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Ed Howe (4) Bill Massuch (5) Rich Senneker (6) Donnie Roberts (7) Bob Senneker (8) Jerry Spear (9) Ron Laban (10) Rick Knotts

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Dave Cutler – no time given

Dash winner: Paul Weisner

Heat winners: Sid Hill, Gene Eding, John Jutila

Pursuit winner: Terry Schmid

Semi winner: Don Rand

**Feature:** (1) Dave Cutler (2) Paul Weisner (3) Terry Schmid (4) Gene Eding (5) Cary Peoples (6) Bob Sensiba (7) Bob Bliss (8) Tom Drolema (9) Mike Johnson (10) Don Ward

---

### June 10, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

*Midwest Late Model Invite*

100 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.53

Heat winner: Bob Fellows

Semi winner: John Mangus

**Feature:** (1) Danny Byrd (2) Johnny Benson (3) Bob Senneker (4) Ed Howe (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Tom Maier (7) Bill Massuch (8) Jim Dyke (9) Denny Miles (10) Gary Fedewa

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Dave Cutler

Heat winners: John Jutila, Paul Weisner, Ivan Richardson

Pursuit winner: Terry Schmid

Consolation winner: Larry Johnson

**Feature:** (1) Terry Schmid (2) Gene Eding (3) Paul Weisner (4) Dave Cutler (5) Jack Gritter

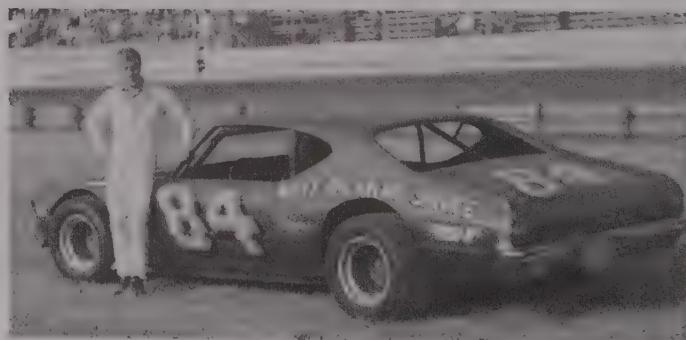
---

### June 16, 1972 – Friday – USAC (United States Auto Club) Sprint Cars

40 laps, .438 mile paved

Heat winners: Larry Cannon, Lee Kunzman, Gary Bettenhausen, Rollie Beale

Semi winner: Bob Evans



Bob Senneker

Dick Lee Collection



**Feature:** (1) Don Nordhorn (2) Larry Dickson  
(3) Rollie Beale (4) Sam Sessions (5) Johnny Parsons Jr.

---

### June 17, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.69

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Johnny Benson, Bob Fellows

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Donnie Roberts  
(3) Bill Massuch (4) Ron Laban (5) Jim Aldrich  
(6) Harvey Redder (7) Bob Fellows (8) Jim Westfield  
(9) Bob Sensiba (10) Roger Herp

### 15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Terry Schmid

Heat winners: Cary Peoples, Paul Weisner, Bob Bliss

Pursuit winner: Paul Weisner

Semi winner: Bruce Devree

**Feature:** (1) Terry Schmid (2) Tom Drolema  
(3) Dick Nichols (4) Cary Peoples (5) Art Harvey  
(6) Paul Weisner (7) Ivan Richardson (8) Don Ward

---

### June 24, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.57

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Bob Carnes, Jim Dyke, Leo Havens

Pursuit winner: Bill Massuch

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Gary Fedewa  
(3) Jimmy Roberts (4) Rich Senneker (5) Rick Knotts  
(6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Bob Carnes (8) Harvey  
Redder (9) Bob Fellows (10) Jim Aldrich

### 75 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

#### Spring Championship

Fast qualifier: Harry Drolema – no time given

Heat winners: Terry Schmid, Tom Drolema, Bob  
Sterkenburg, Pete Senneker

Consolation winner: Mike Bird

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Bob Sensiba (3) Cary  
Peoples (4) Bob Bliss (5) Harry Drolema (6) Art Harvey  
(7) Don Ward (8) Gene Eding (9) Tom Drolema  
(10) Dick Sarber

---

### July 1, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 17.687

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Donnie Roberts, Bill Massuch, Butch  
Miller

Pursuit winner: Bill Massuch

**Feature:** (1) Rick Knotts (2) Johnny Benson (3) Bob  
Senneker (4) Bob Schippers (5) Eddie VanderLaan  
(6) Rich Senneker (7) Jim Westfield (8) Bill Massuch  
(9) Harvey Redder (10) Ron Laban

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Paul Weisner – no time given

Dash winner: Terry Schmid

Heat winners: Steve Durham, Harry Drolema, Ivan  
Richardson, Al Blanchard

Pursuit winner: Bob Sensiba

Semi winner: Dan Ross

**Feature:** (1) Tom Drolema (2) Harry Drolema  
(3) Bob Sensiba (4) Paul Weisner (5) Cary Peoples  
(6) Jack Gritter (7) Gene Eding (8) Terry Schmid  
(9) Don Ward (10) Bob Bliss

---

### July 4, 1972 – Tuesday – Late Models

50 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker – no time given

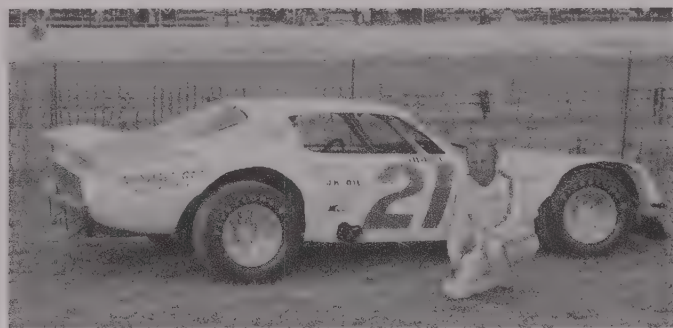
Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: John Houart, Donnie Roberts, Ray  
Barnard, Jim Dyke

Pursuit winner: Rick Knotts

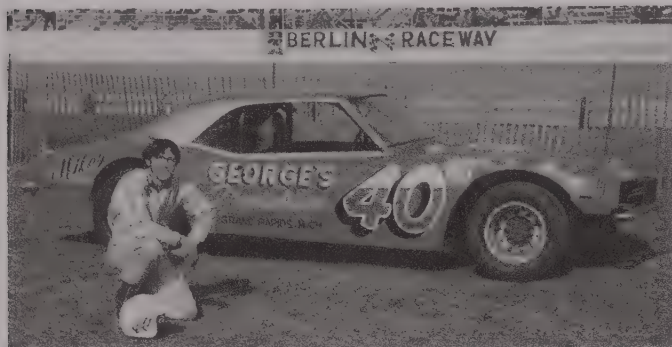
**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Bob Senneker  
(3) Rick Knotts (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Bill Massuch  
(6) Rich Senneker

---



Johnny Benson

Dick Lee Collection



Dave Cutler

Dick Lee Collection

---

### 50 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Terry Schmid – no time given

Dash winner: Terry Schmid

Heat winners: Mike Becker, Gene Eding, Dan Ross

Pursuit winner: Tom Drolema

Consolation winner: Bob Minch

**Feature:** (1) Tom Drolema (2) Paul Weisner (3) Gene Eding (4) Jack Gritter (5) Dave Cutler

---

### July 8, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

#### Mid-Season Championship

50 laps, .438 mile paved

Heat winners: John Houart, Eddie VanderLaan

Pursuit winner: Bob Schippers

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Johnny Benson (4) Rick Knotts (5) Rich Senneker (6) Donnie Roberts (7) Jim Dyke (8) Terry Senneker Sr. (9) Roger Herp (10) Scott Presley

---

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Terry Schmid – no time given

Dash winner: Tom Drolema

Heat winners: Sid Hill, Bob Billings, Dick Nichols

Pursuit winner: Gene Eding

Semi winner: Bob Clover

**Feature:** (1) Tom Drolema (2) Paul Weisner (3) Gary Barnes (4) Bob Billings (5) Dave Cutler (6) Bob Bliss (7) Art Harvey (8) Don Rand (9) Jack Gritter (10) Dick Nichols

---

### July 15, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker – no time given

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Jimmy Roberts, Bob Carnes

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Rick Knotts (3) Rich Senneker (4) Bob Carnes (5) Randy Sweet (6) Terry Senneker Sr. (7) Jim Westfield (8) Scott Presley (9) Bill Massuch (10) Dale Talsma

---

### 50 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

#### Mid-Season Championship

Fast qualifier: Dave Cutler – no time given

Heat winners: John Jutila, Harry Drolema, Dick Nichols

Pursuit winner: Tom Drolema

Consolation winner: Bob Sensiba

**Feature:** (1) Tom Drolema (2) Paul Weisner (3) Dave Cutler (4) Don Rand (5) Gene Eding (6) Bob Bliss (7) Dick Nichols (8) Harry Drolema (9) Phil Gress (10) Cary Peoples

---

### July 22, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

#### Berlin Fair

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Eddie VanderLaan 17.8

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Bob Fellows, Johnny Benson

Pursuit winner: Rich Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Bob Carnes (3) Jim Aldrich (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Rich Senneker (6) Terry Senneker Sr. (7) Donnie Roberts (8) Harvey Redder (9) Ralph Baker (10) Dave Boomstra

---

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Paul Weisner

Heat winners: Dick Nichols, Bob Clover, Tom VanHolstyn

Pursuit winner: Bob Clover

Consolation winner: Bruce DeVries

**Feature:** (1) Bob Clover (2) Paul Weisner (3) Dick Nichols (4) Harry Drolema (5) Bill Minch (6) Art Harvey (7) Bob Bliss (8) Don Rand (9) Dick Sarber (10) Gene Eding

---



### July 29, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

#### *22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Berlin Raceway*

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson – no time given

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Bob Fellows, Bob Schippers

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Johnny Benson (3) Rich Senneker (4) Bob Schippers (5) Bill Massuch (6) Bob Fellows (7) Jimmy Roberts (8) Ron Laban (9) Ron Keech (10) Harvey Redder

### 15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Paul Weisner – no time given

Dash winner: Art Harvey

Heat winners: Cary Peoples, Dick Nichols, Jerry Longnecker

Pursuit winner: Tom Drolema

Consolation Winner: Jerry Longnecker

**Feature:** (1) Gene Eding (2) Dick Nichols (3) Tom Finkbeiner (4) Bob Sterkenburg (5) Harry Drolema (6) Gary Barnes (7) Bob Clover (8) Phil Gress (9) Bob Sensiba (10) Cary Peoples

---

### August 5, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

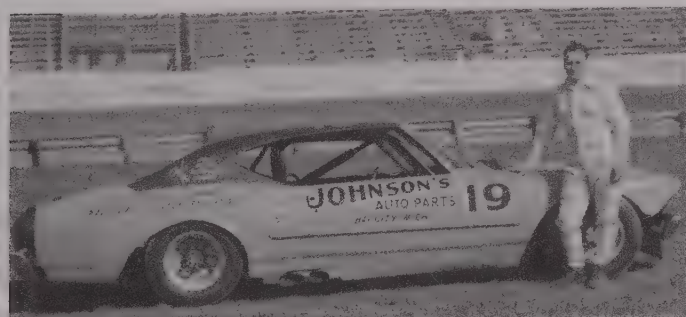
Fast qualifier: Ed Howe – no time given

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Jim Leonard, Bob Senneker

Pursuit winner: Rich Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Rich Senneker (2) Bob Senneker (3) Ed Howe (4) Johnny Benson (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Jim Leonard (7) Gary Fedewa (8) Randy Sweet (9) Bob Carnes (10) Jim Dyke



Ed Howe

Dick Lee Collection

### 15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Harry Drolema – no time given

Dash winner: Dave Cutler

Heat winners: Bob Minch, Jack Gritter, Jerry Longnecker

Pursuit winner: Art Harvey

Consolation winner: Bob Blouw

**Feature:** (1) Bob Clover (2) Tom Drolema (3) Terry Schmid (4) Jack Gritter (5) Gene Eding (6) Art Harvey (7) Harry Drolema (8) Bob Bliss (9) Dan Ross (10) Dick Sarber

---

### August 12, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Rich Senneker – no time given

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Rick Knotts, Dave Boomstra

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Johnny Benson (3) Rich Senneker (4) Bill Massuch (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Ron Laban (7) Dave Boomstra (8) Jim Leonard (9) Dale Talsma (10) Al Blanchard

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Terry Schmid

Heat winners: Bob Sensiba, Cary Peoples, Gary Barnes

Pursuit winner: Dave Cutler

Consolation winner: Dick Nichols

**Feature:** (1) Tom Drolema (2) Gene Eding (3) Cary Peoples (4) Bob Clover (5) Jack Gritter (6) Paul Weisner (7) Bob Bliss (8) Dick Sarber (9) Mike Johnson (10) Bob Billings

---

### August 19, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

#### *Michigan State Late Model Invitational*

Twin 75 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.36

Consolation winner: Ralph Baker

**1st Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Ed Howe (3) Joe Ruttman (4) Bob Senneker (5) Rick Knotts (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Rich Senneker (8) Bill McCracken (9) Randy Sweet (10) Bobby Allison

**2nd Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Johnny Benson (3) Rick Knotts (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Rich Senneker (6) Bobby Allison (7) Jimmy Roberts (8) Tom Maier (9) Ralph Baker (10) John Anderson

### 15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Don Rand

Heat winners: Pete Senneker, Dave Cutler, Dan Ross

Pursuit winner: Harry Drolema

Consolation winner: Jack Drolema

**Feature:** (1) Terry Schmid (2) Gene Eding (3) Tom Drolema (4) Paul Weisner (5) Bob Sensiba (6) Gary Barnes

---

### August 26, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Danny Byrd – 17.33

Dash winner: Rich Senneker

Heat winners: Bob Fellows, Eddie VanderLaan, Ron Laban, Bob Fellows

Pursuit winner: Eddie VanderLaan

**Feature\*:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Eddie VanderLaan (3) Joe Ruttman (4) Rich Senneker (5) Ralph Baker (6) Dale Talsma (7) Gary Fedewa (8) Ron Laban (9) Harvey Redder (10) Scott Presley

\*Rained Out – run 9/4

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Harry Drolema – no time given

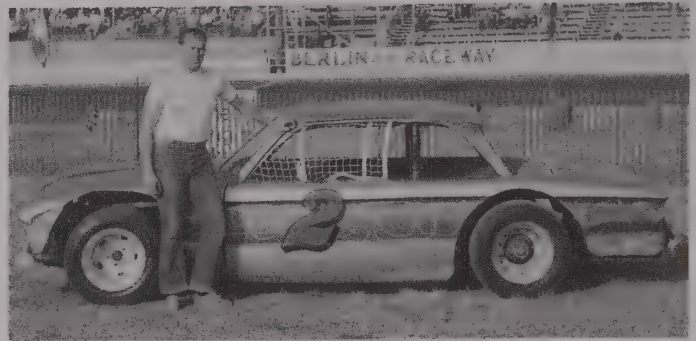
Dash winner: Bob Sensiba

Heat winners: Don Ward, Bob Sensiba, Denny Holtzlander

Pursuit winner: Mike Dixon

Consolation winner: Rick Kowalczyk

**Feature:** (1) Gene Eding (2) Dave Cutler (3) Bob Sensiba (4) Paul Weisner (5) Dick Nichols (6) Bob Clover (7) Terry Schmid (8) Mike Johnson (9) Art Harvey (10) Dick Sarber



Tom Drolema

Dick Lee Collection

### September 2, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Joe Ruttman – 17.63

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Ron Laban, Herb Kirts

Pursuit winners: Harvey Redder, Al Blanchard

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Johnny Benson (3) Randy Sweet (4) Rick Knotts (5) Herb Kirts (6) Dale Talsma (7) Terry Senneker Sr. (8) Jim Westfield (9) Harvey Redder (10) Jim Dyke

### 100 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

#### Invitational

Fast qualifier: Bob Clover 18.02

Heat winners: Tom Drolema, Bob Blouw, Ken Smith, Joe Christianson

Consolation winner: Bob Blouw

**Feature:** (1) Bob Clover (2) Paul Weisner (3) Don Rand (4) Art Harvey (5) Gail Cobb (6) Cary Peoples (7) Bob Bliss (8) Harry Drolema (9) Terry Schmid

---

### September 4, 1972 – Monday – Late Models

40 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Randy Sweet 17.67

Heat winner: Joe Ruttman

Pursuit winners: Eddie VanderLaan, Mike Malone

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Randy Sweet (3) Joe Ruttman (4) Ralph Baker (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Rich Senneker (7) Gary Fedewa (8) Bob Fellows (9) Harvey Redder (10) Butch Miller



**40 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Heat winners: Cary Peoples, Gail Cobb, Denny Holtzlander

Consolation winners: Gail Cobb, Don Ward

**Feature:** (1) Gail Cobb (2) Bob Sensiba (3) Paul Weisner (4) Cary Peoples (5) Gene Eding (6) Terry Schmid (7) Bob Bliss (8) Dick Nichols (9) Tom Finkbeiner

**Gail Cobb – Clean Sweep Award**

---

**September 9, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models**

**Season Championship**

40 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bob Senneker 17.67

Heat winners: Ron Laban, Ralph Baker

Pursuit winner: Terry Senneker Sr.

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Johnny Benson (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Rick Knotts (5) Rich Senneker (6) Terry Senneker Sr. (7) Roger Herp (8) Ralph Baker (9) Jim Leonard (10) Dave Boomstra

**40 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Heat winners: Dick Nichols, Cary Peoples, Rick Otterbein

Pursuit winner: Gene Eding

Consolation winner: Bob Billings

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Gene Eding (3) Tom Drolema (4) Gail Cobb (5) Bob Clover (6) Harry Drolema (7) Terry Schmid (8) Cary Peoples (9) Bob Bliss (10) Mike Dixon

---



Gene Eding

Dick Lee Collection

**September 16, 1972 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.62

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Johnny Benson, Butch Miller

Pursuit winner: Ralph Baker

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Rick Knotts (3) Donnie Roberts (4) Terry Senneker Sr. (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Herb Kirts (7) Ron Keech (8) Dale Talsma (9) Butch Miller (10) Jim Leonard

**15 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Bob Clover 18.47

Dash winner: Bob Sensiba

Heat winners: Gary Barnes, Gail Cobb, Bob Blouw

Pursuit winners: Bob Blouw, Gail Cobb

**Feature:** (1) Gene Eding (2) Jack Gritter (3) Bob Clover (4) Bob Sensiba (5) Harry Drolema (6) Terry Schmid (7) Tom Drolema (8) Bill Minch (9) Mike Johnson (10) Dave Cutler

---

## Berlin Raceway Points 1972

1972 LATE MODEL POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Johnny Benson	98	13	4	3		
2	Bob Senneker	43	4	9	3		
3	Eddie VanderLaan	40	2	1	6		
4	Rich Senneker	33	1	1	3		
5	Rick Knotts	29	1		1		
6	Ed Howe	27	2	3	1		
7	Bill Massuch	13					
8	Danny Byrd	10	1	1	1		
9	Joe Ruttman	9		1			
10	Bob Carnes	9					
11	Randy Sweet	8		1			
12	Jimmy Roberts	8					
13	Donnie Roberts	7					
14	Gary Fedewa	4					
	Bob Schippers	4					
	Jerry Spear	4					
	Jim Aldrich	4					
18	Ralph Baker	3					
	Terry Senneker Sr.	2					
	Ron Laban	2					
	Mike Eddy	2					
22	Herb Kirts	1					



**Berlin Raceway — Late Models, 1970 to Present**

<b>1972 HOBBY STOCK POINTS</b>							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Paul Weisner	55	3	3	2		
2	Gene Eding	46	4				
3	Tom Drolema	44	5		1		
4	Terry Schmid	28	4	2	5		
5	Bob Sensiba	25	1		3		
6	Cary Peoples	22					
7	Bob Clover	21	3	2			
8	Dick Nichols	18					
9	Dave Cutler	17	1	3	3		
10	Jack Gritter	13					
11	Harry Drolema	9		3			
12	Gail Cobb	8	1				1
13	Art Harvey	5			1		
	Don Rand	5			1		
15	Tom Finkbeiner	3					
	Gary Barnes	3					
17	Bob Bliss	2			1		
18	Bob Billings	2					
	Bob Sterkenburg	2					
19	Bill Minch	1					
20	Mike Johnson	0		1			

## Tri-SAC

By Laura Devlin

A dream of a few racing enthusiasts grew into an asphalt open-wheeled racing club that spanned a decade. The dreamers, from Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio, met in December 1971, at Union City, Michigan and convinced several others to join their efforts, and so Tri-STATE AUTO CLUB, INC. was born.

The dreamers, Jim and Clay Satison of Indiana, Ed Wurster, Marv and Jerry Carman, Larry Bible, Dick Jones, Duane Spangler, Bob and Joe Psurny, and Dean Best of Ohio, with the help of others set up the first year's rules and regulations. Jim Satison was elected President and Race Director for two years. Laura Devlin from day one till its demise in 1982 served the clubs reporter. She also served as Secretary for the 1980-81 season.

The first year, 1972, was short on races, 9 in all, but not on spirit or enthusiasm. The entire purse per race was \$1,500 with 10% of that going to the feature winner. Engine size was limited to 308 cubic inches for v-8's and none for 6 cylinders. Wings were not allowed. The first race was held at Avilla Motor Speedway. Tri-SAC set up points not only for drivers but also for car owners and for the first few years trophies and money were presented to the top 16 of each, then later cut to the top ten of each.

The first point champions were driver Marv Carman, and Ed Wurster, owner of Marv's #55 wedge.

Thirty-eight cars ran in 12 races in the '73 season. The racers traveled to Avilla, Butler, South Bend, Stuben County, Berlin Raceway, Galesburg and Hartford Speedways. Duane Spangler took the driving championship in the #92 of Urbie Durnwald.

Fred Seltenright of Marshall, Michigan became President of the club. These were growing years for the club. Wings were allowed and a tire rule came into effect. Purses rose significantly. The club traveled to more tracks including Mt. Clemens, Owosso,

Dixie and Kalamazoo. The club got its feet wet in the promoting game at Ft. Wayne's Baer Field. Seltenright was crowned 1974 champ with Frank Belaires of Marshall the top owner with the Max Dowker built #82 roadster.

Tri-SAC went international in '75 by going to Delaware, Ontario for Saturdays and Kalamazoo on Sundays. Big Bob Psurny became the first driver-owner champion in his #23 red CAE Sprinter. Hank Wise, of Kalamazoo became the first and only Tri-SAC driver fatality in a fiery crash at Kalamazoo Speedway.

Don Hey, Bryan, Ohio, was given the Race Director's headaches by President Dean Best. Chet Mysliwiec, owner of Kalamazoo Speedway, leased the Kazoo track to Tri-SAC. He did a terrific job and the club ran every Sunday evening from May thru September with open-wheeled supermodifieds, street stocks, and some late model shows.

There were over sixty cars in membership in 1976. Dean Best was driver-owner in his blue #29 sprint car sponsored by Kalamazoo Motor and Transmission.

New looks in roadsters were in for the '77 season. Wing size rules and mufflers came into effect. Max Dowker built his radical roadster and put Sammy Sessions behind the wheel to win the title that year. Harry Stickney of Girard, Michigan was President.

1978 saw cars as far as Canada to Chicago compete every weekend. Dowker put Jerry Carman in his roadster to take the championship.

Sam Sessions was elected President for '79 and big things were planned for the club until Session's untimely death in a snowmobile accident on December 17, 1978. Jerry "Ozzie" Osborn, Michawaka, Indiana became the new leader. The club went to dirt with shows on Friday nights at Ionia Fairgrounds, but cars began to fall off that



year. Mike Shaw of Marshall, Michigan was the '79 owner-driver champion.

Seltenright took the president's job again in 1980. Max Dowker built a new Titanium Roadster and a new era of racing began of ultra-light materials for race cars. Veteran Butch Fedewa drove the Dowker-Bob Soltow Jet Engineering #1 to every Tri-SAC to every win, winning the championship for 1980.

Kalamazoo Speedway was leased to the club in '81. With five rain dates in a row, the unbeatable team of Fedewa-Dowker-Soltow, the economy of the area and high traveling expenses of the racers

seemed to keep the count of cars from returning, which in turn kept the crowds away.

Veteran Wayne Landon drove his #83 roadster to the 1981 championship. Dick Lee presented Landon with an oil painting of his car at the annual and last banquet in Howell, Michigan.

The club was forced into bankruptcy and sadly Tri-SAC was disbanded. There are the fond memories of the members who became a family with campouts on weekends sharing the joys and sorrows, the ups and downs of open-wheeled racing.

During those ten eventful years, Tri-SAC meant speed, stars and cars that always pleased the fans.

## Berlin Raceway Media 1973

### Howe Takes Berlin Opener

**April 14, 1973 – Berlin Raceway**  
– Veteran driver Ed Howe of Beaverton kick-started the season at Berlin Raceway by roaring to victory in the 30-lap late model feature race in his '71 Camaro.

Jimmy Roberts led the initial eight laps of the event before Howe took over and went on to stave off challenges by track champion Johnny Benson for the win. Dave Mulder was third followed by Rick Knotts, Jimmy Roberts, Jim Aldrich, Gary Fedewa, Bill Whittington, Lance Norris and Herb Mann.

Bill Minch of Muskegon crossed the finish line only inches ahead of Jack Drolema to win the 20-lap hobby stock feature. This event was the wildest of the night starting with a restart for a spin in the first turn right after the green was thrown. The caution was displayed three more times; first when Rick Kowalczyk hit the fourth turn wall and again when Tom Drolema and George Jewell tangled on the backstretch and again right after the green was thrown from that melee when Tom Drolema was on the front straight, running half-speed waiting for the pack to fall in at the tail. The green was dropped and all front runners had to scatter to miss Tom. As a result Norm Stuck and Art Harvey collided, hitting the front wall demolishing both cars. Fortunately no one was injured in any of the accidents.

Gene Eding was third followed by Tom Drolema, Gail Cobb and Don Rand.

Ed Howe was the evening's fastest qualifier at 17.45 on the .438 asphalt and literally shot to the lead at the drop of the green in the late model dash winning over Rick Knotts, Dave Mulder and Johnny Benson. Bob Sensiba topped Jack Drolema, Don Rand and Norm Stuck in the hobby stock dash event.

Ivan Richardson won the first hobby stock heat by several car lengths over Cobb and Kowalczyk. Bill Minch won the fast heat in that division ahead of Bob Bliss, Stuck, and Phil Poortinga won the third hobby stock heat.

Fast qualifier in the hobby stocks Jack Drolema passed every car to win the pursuit with Minch and Eding runners-up, while Dick Nicholas won the hobby stock consolation event ahead of Pete Senneker.

Butch Fedewa aced out Eddie VanderLaan and Terry Senneker Sr. to win the first late model heat as the field came to the finish line in a pack with Knotts and Benson side-by-side for fourth and fifth spots in a good fast race. Jim Roberts won the second heat in that division ahead of Gary Fedewa, Norris and Mann in another close finish. Butch Fedewa carried his second checker of the night as he won the pursuit ahead of Terry Senneker, Jim Aldrich, Dave Mulder and Ed Howe.

### Howe Victorious Again

**May 5, 1973 – Berlin Raceway**  
– Beaverton ace Ed Howe laid shambles to a top-notch starting lineup and roared to victory in the 30-lap late model feature at Berlin Raceway Saturday night.

Using his third different car, this time a '72 Camaro, in gaining his fourth consecutive feature win, Howe started 16<sup>th</sup> in the 20-car field, forged past leader Bob Senneker on the 11<sup>th</sup> lap, and was never headed for the remainder of the action-packed event.

The feature was restarted after Eddie VanderLaan spun in front of the pack while challenging for the lead on the first lap. The caution flew on lap four when Dave Mulder got sideways going thru turns three and four, Ron Laban and Harvey Redder

spun and half the pack joined in the ensuing melee with Mulder having to exit one lap after the restart. The caution flew again briefly on lap eight when Rick Knotts' hood sailed off as the pack thundered down the front stretch. For the remaining 22 laps it was just good fast racing with Howe taking the checker first chased by Bob Senneker. Johnny Benson and Rick Knotts crossed the wire side-by-side with Benson taking third spot by mere inches. VanderLaan was fifth followed closely by Rich Senneker, Jim Aldrich, Terry Senneker Sr., Bill Bielby, and Jeff Bloom.

Jack Drolema won his second consecutive 20-lap late model main event in a fast paced event that was slowed only once when Bob Bliss spun early in the race. Dave Cutler was second as Don Rand edged Jack's brother, Tom Drolema, at the wire for third place. Gail Cobb was fifth followed closely by Bob Clover, Gene Eding, Mike Dixon, Dick Sarber and Terry Schmid.

Ed Howe was the fastest of 77 qualifiers with a record breaking 17.06 second dash around the .438 mile paved oval, breaking his own record of 17.19 seconds set in 1970. He followed up by winning the late model dash ahead of Rich and Bob Senneker and Bielby. Jack Drolema was the fastest qualifier in the hobby stocks and topped Rand, Bill Minch and Dave Cutler in the fast-car dash.

In other late model preliminaries Bill Whittington topped Butch Fedewa and Roger Herp in the first heat. Eddie VanderLaan bested Jimmy Roberts and Bloom in the second heat. Butch Fedewa bested Whittington and Clarence Cook in the non-qualifiers heat. Johnny Benson won the pursuit ahead of Knotts and Howe.

In hobby stock prelims the first heat was wild with a restart for a four car tangle and two cautions: when Phil Stampfler hit the inside guard rail and another car spun on the backstretch. Phil Poortinga finally



took the win ahead of Dick Nichols and Dan Cutler. Dave Cutler topped Dixon and Clover in the second heat. With one lap to go in this event, Tom Drolema and Bob Billings, battling for the lead, tangled going into the second turn, Billings went over Tom's wheel and went airborne and several front-runners crashed behind the duo. The third heat was restarted after Jerry Jarema hit the third turn wall. Mike Bird took the checker chased by Steve Brown and Joe Pease. Gail Cobb won the pursuit ahead of Clover and Jack Drolema.

The consolation race continued the wild action with a seven car crash on lap two and another caution needed when Joe Pease tapped the front wall. Peter Pater won the event chased by Poortinga, Jim Terrill, Dan Cutler and Brown.

## Howe Again At Berlin

**May 19, 1973 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Ed Howe in another new "Green Hornet" Camaro, finished just the day before, won the 30-lap feature race for late model stock cars Saturday night at Berlin Raceway, his fifth of the season. Jack Drolema in a '71 Mustang topped the hobby stock field to win the 50-lap hobby stock Spring Championship.

The only caution during the late model feature occurred when Bob Senneker went flying off the back straightaway. Following Howe across the line were Rich and Bob Senneker (with Bob doing a fantastic job coming from the rear of the field), Jim Aldrich, Bill Bielby, Butch and Gary Fedewa, Scott Presley and Johnny Benson.

Gail Cobb finished a car-length behind Drolema in the hobby stock championship race with Tom Drolema third followed by Bob Clover, Don Rand, Gene Eding, Bill Minch, John Jutila, Terry Schmid and Mike Dixon. Four caution flags marred this event.

The hobby stock consolation was taken by Jerry Longnecker over Dan Cutler, Don Ward, Mike Johnson and Rick Kowalczyk.

Bob Senneker was the late model dash victor, finishing ahead of Howe, Bielby and older brother Rich, while the hobby stock fast-car dash went to Gail Cobb over Bob Clover, Dave Cutler and Bill Minch.

Late model heat honors went to Harvey Redder besting Terry Senneker Sr. and Jimmy Roberts. Gary Fedewa finished ahead of Aldrich and Bob Senneker in the second heat. Both were accident-free.

Hobby stock heat victors were Phil Poortinga chased by Mike Bird and Longnecker. Pete Senneker won over Dick Sarber and Gail Cobb. Jim Greenwood was victorious over Ward and Dan Cutler. Pursuit victories were scored by Howe who set a new track record of 2:43.91, winning in eight laps over Bielby, Donnie Roberts and Butch Fedewa. Tom Drolema won the hobby stock feature over Eding, Dave Cutler, and Rand.

Howe was the fastest of 71 qualifiers with a 17.16 second dash around the .438 paved oval.

## Sixth Feature To Howe

**May 26, 1973 – Berlin Raceway** – Ed Howe won his sixth late model feature out of seven attempts Saturday night in his GOne Camaro and Bob Sensiba won his second hobby stock main event of the year.

Johnny Benson and Rich Senneker chased Howe across the finish line followed by Eddie VanderLaan, Bill Bielby, Dave Mulder, Harvey Redder and Paul Weisner. The caution flew once when Scott Presley spun coming out of the second turn starting a six car melee. All six were able to continue.

Bob Sensiba came in for the hobby stock feature win over Gail Cobb, Jack Drolema, Bill Minch, Terry Schmid, Bob Clover, John

Jutila, Dick Sarber, Gene Eding and Don Rand.

Bob Senneker came in for the late model dash over fast qualifier (17.23) Ed Howe, Dave Mulder and Bill Bielby. The hobby stock dash was a humdinger as they ran in four car formation throughout the race for a blanket finish which saw Terry Schmid edge Bill Minch by an inch for the win and Jack Drolema edged out Don Rand for third place.

Phil Poortinga took the first hobby stock heat win over Gail Cobb, John Jutila and Terry Schmid, with the race finishing in a four car crash after the checker dropped in turn one involving Dave Cutler, Jerry Strotheid, Tom Drolema and Don Rand. Bob Bliss won the third heat with Rick Kowalczyk taking second backwards across the finish. They were followed by Phil Stampfler and Harry Drolema. Danny Cutler won the fourth heat over Bill Cox, Phil Crowner and Mike Bird.

The unbelievable happened in the consolation race! There were no cautions needed and Rick Kowalczyk came in for the win over Karl Kozak, Jerry Longnecker, Pete Pater, Mike Johnson and Don Ward.

Six cars were left running in the late model pursuit as Butch Fedewa hung on to the lead throughout, taking the win over Bob Morgan, Benson, Redder, Bielby and Howe. Jack Drolema eliminated the field to win the pursuit over Strotheid, Jutila and Minch.

Jim Aldrich won the first late model heat over Bob Fellows, Dale Talsma and Lance Norris. Gary Fedewa took the second heat win over Johnny Benson, Dave Mulder and brother Butch Fedewa. Bob Fellows took the third heat win over Bill Whittington, Clarence Cook and Lee Aldrich.



## Bob Sensiba Berlin Winner

**May 28, 1973 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Sensiba of Middletown survived a ten car crash that occurred on the fifth lap, plus three other separate yellow flag periods and went on to win the 50-lap feature race for hobby stocks Monday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Gene Eding was second followed by Bob Billings, Jack Gritter, Mike Dixon, Ivan Richardson, Bill Minch and Bob Sterkenberg to fill out the lone eight cars that were still in competition out of 19 starters.

Rain forced the cancellation of the 50-lap late model main event and also the hobby stock consolation race. The late model main will be run next Saturday night June 2, in addition to the regular two-in-one race card.

Ed Howe set a new one-lap qualifying record with a 17.05 second sprint around the .438 mile paved Marne oval. Ed held the old record at 17.06 set just three weeks ago.

In the late model prelims Bob Senneker outdrove Howe to win the fast-car dash with Tom Maier and Bill Bielby finishing third and fourth. Gene Eding romped home first in the hobby stock dash chased by Dave Cutler and Don Rand.

Rick Kowalczyk won the first hobby stock heat race over Karl Kozak. Jerry Longnecker took the second heat over Dan Butler. Bob Bliss nailed the third heat win ahead of Mike Dixon. Jack Drolema took the fourth heat ahead of John Jutila and Ken Smith.

Late model heat action saw Randy Sweet win his first race of the season in the first heat chased over the finish by Clarence Cooke and Bob Fellows. The second heat was restarted after Jim Westfield and Dale Talsma tangled on the front chute shortly after taking the green. Jim Aldrich slid sideways into Dale and both of the latter drivers retired via the hook. Bob Carnes, driving Dave Sorg's #38, took the win followed by

Roger Herp, Terry Senneker Sr. and Westfield.

In the third and fastest heat Butch Fedewa managed to stay ahead of the pack for the win chased by Bob Senneker in second place and a near dead-heat for third place between Rich Senneker and Bob Morgan.

Lance Norris won the late model pursuit over Bob Schippers while Cooke and Jeff Bloom finished third and fourth.

The added attraction of skydivers before the feature events saw all three parachutists land on target in the infield.

As the hobby stock consolation race lined up the heavens opened up and the balance of the show was cancelled.

## Seventh & Eighth For Howe

**June 2, 1973 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Ed Howe of Beaverton driving a '72 Camaro won his seventh and eighth main event victories of the season by crossing the finish line first in both the 50-lap late model feature race carried over from Memorial Day and the regular 30-lap main event Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Howe's victories were worth \$1,515. Bill Bielby of Flint chased Howe across the finish line in both hectic races. The 30-lap main event was halted on the 22<sup>nd</sup> lap when Larry Phillips from Springfield, Missouri spun on the front straightaway and was struck by cars driven by Lee Aldrich and Dale Talsma. Phillips escaped injury but his race car was demolished. Eddy VanderLaan was third in the regular feature ahead of Harvey Redder and Gary Fedewa.

Ralph Baker led the first 14 laps of the 50-lapper before Howe took over for good. Just as they reached the halfway mark of the race Gary Fedewa and Bob Morgan tangled and spun in the first turn dropping Morgan from the field. Fedewa restarted

at the rear and finished seventh.

Randy Sweet debued his new Mustang started 15<sup>th</sup> and was battling for second place when he developed mechanical ills and pitted on lap 40. The second and final caution came on lap 41 when Jim Westfield spun on the front chute.

Howe and Bielby were chased over the finish by Bob Carnes, Lance Norris, Paul Weisner and Johnny Benson.

Gail Cobb of Grand Rapids outdrove early leader Bob Billings, Gene Eding, Bob Sensiba and Jack Drolema to win the 20-lap main event for hobby stock cars. It was Cobb's first win of the year.

Heat race winners were Ralph Baker of Holland, Scott Presley of Grand Haven, Bob Bliss and Bill Minch of Grand Rapids and Mike Bird of Muskegon. Jerry Longnecker of Grand Rapids won the semi-feature event. Pursuit race honors went to Ed Howe who also won the fast-car dash and was the fastest of 78 qualifiers with 17.15 seconds around the .438 mile paved Marne oval. Dave Cutler won the hobby stock dash event.

## Butch Fedewa Takes Berlin Race

**June 9, 1973 – Berlin Raceway** – Veteran driver Butch Fedewa of Lansing took over the lead on the last lap from faltering Eddie VanderLaan and went on to win the 30-lap late model feature by inches over Bill Bielby Saturday night at Berlin Raceway.

It was a hard driving wheel-to-wheel battle for the lead between VanderLaan and Terry Senneker Sr. until Terry spun into the first turn wall on lap 27, triggering a three car melee that wiped out the cars of Bob Schippers and Johnny Benson.

Paul Weisner finished third followed by Scott Presley, Gary Fedewa, Clarence Cook, Harvey Redder, Lance Norris, VanderLaan and Senneker.



Gene Eding of Grand Rapids outdrove Terry Schmid for the win in the hobby stock 20-lap feature. They were followed in order by Jack Drolema, Bob Billings, Bob Sensiba, Gail Cobb, John Jutila, Tom Drolema, Dick Sarber and Dave Cutler.

Fast qualifier Eddie VanderLaan (17.64) came in for the late model dash win over Weisner, Senneker and Presley. Eding took the hobby stock dash win ahead of Bill Minch, Don Rand and Dave Cutler.

George Jewell won the first hobby stock heat race by inches over Bob Blouw and Bob Clover as they crossed the finish line three abreast. Bob Billings was a very close fourth.

Harry Drolema spun on the backstretch starting a five car melee involving Bob Clover, Jutila, Schmid and Bob Sensiba.

Gail Cobb took the second heat over Ken Smith, Eding and Bob Sterkenberg. I.M. Satan claimed the third heat win over Bob Bliss, Phil Stampfler and Larry Witt. Rick Kowalczyk spun between the third and fourth turns scattering the field and bringing out the first caution. Jerry Longnecker spun between turns one and two for the second yellow flag.

Bill Cox took the fourth heat win over Jim Greenwood, Pete Pater and Sid Hill. Bob Bliss won the hobby stock consolation race over Stampfler, Jewell, Dan Cutler and Kowalczyk.

Eding won the hobby stock pursuit race in a record breaking 3:04.98 with Jack Drolema right on his bumper. Dave Cutler and Bill Minch were third and fourth.

Bob Fellows won the first late model heat ahead of Harvey Redder, Schippers and Gary Fedewa. Eddie VanderLaan won the second heat over Terry Senneker, Roger Herp and Weisner.

VanderLaan also won the pursuit race in the late models.

## Howe Is Gone At Berlin

### July 22, 1973 – Berlin Raceway

— Ed Howe of Beaverton drove his 1973 GOne Camaro to his 11<sup>th</sup> feature win of the season at Berlin Raceway Saturday night closing out the 118<sup>th</sup> Year of the Berlin Fair. Johnny Benson was a car length back for second followed by Randy Sweet, Jim Leonard, Rick Knotts, Bob Morgan, Roger Herp, Butch Miller, Lance Norris and Dale Talsma.

Tom Marks led the first 11 laps until Bob Morgan took over.

The only caution came out when Bob Schippers spun going into the third turn on lap 18 and Howe took the lead one lap after the restart.

Gail Cobb of Grand Rapids warmed up for next week's mid-season championship race by winning the hobby stock feature over Mike Dixon, Dave Cutler, Gene Eding, Phil Poortenga, Bob Sensiba, Terry Schmid, Dick Sarber, Mike Johnson and Bob Sterkenberg.

Fast qualifier Ed Howe (17.15), came in for the late model dash win over Benson, Norris and Scott Presley. Gene Eding took the hobby stock dash over fast qualifier Jack Drolema, Sterkenberg and Harry Drolema.

Dick Nicholas found his way to the checkered first in the first heat over Dixon, Sensiba and Johnson, Phil Poortenga took the second heat win over Cary Peoples, Eding and Jack Drolema. Don Ward came in for the third heat win ahead of Jack Gritter, Bob Bliss and Doug Bishop. Gary Barnes, out for the first time at Berlin this year, took the fourth heat over Steve Brown, Karl Kozak and Don Hillmick. Russ Corwin while leading came together with Karl Kozak causing Russ to spin out in the fourth turn on the last lap.

Jack Gritter won the hobby stock consolation race, over Doug Bishop, Dan Cutler, Clarence Cook, Don Ward and Jim Buck.

Rick Knotts came in for the late model pursuit win followed by Randy

Sweet and Ed Howe. Bob Morgan took fourth. Phil Poortenga took the hobby stock pursuit win followed by Eding and Jack Drolema, with fourth going to "Dad" Harry Drolema.

Butch Fedewa took the first late model heat over Ron Keech, Jim Leonard and John Mangus. The second heat saw Rick Knotts come in for the win over Jim Aldrich, Butch Miller and Roger Herp.

The first caution came out when Scott Presley spun on the front stretch on the first lap, causing a restart. The second caution came out when Johnny Benson and Jim Aldrich came together between the third and fourth turns sending Benson backwards into the wall hard and mangling the whole back end of his car.

## Benson Winner Of Michigan State Invitational

### August 4, 1973 – Berlin Raceway

— Defending track champion Johnny Benson of Grand Rapids turned in a brilliant driving performance to win the 150-lap 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Michigan State Invitational Race for late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

The hectic main event, run in two 75-lap sections, saw Benson take over the lead on the 76<sup>th</sup> lap and stave off a determined Dick Trickle of Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin for a two-car length victory. Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids was third, followed by John Anderson of Detroit, Butch Miller of Benton Harbor, Bill Bielby of Flint and Tommy Maier of Midland. Ed Howe of Beaverton was knocked out of the race on the 123<sup>rd</sup> lap when his car spun and hit the inside retaining fence. Trickle, winner of more than 100 main events in the last year and a half led the grueling main event for the first 75 laps. In that section, Benson was second followed by Anderson, Bob Senneker, Howe and Maier.

Jack Drolema took the 25-lap main event for the hobby stock cars. Bill Minch chased Drolema to his seventh win of the year followed by Bob Sensiba of Middleville and Dick Sarber of Grand Rapids.

Randy Sweet won the late model consolation over Bob Fellows and Jeff Bloom.

Heat race winners were Bob Murray and Ron Keech of Muskegon, Bill Minch and Rick Kowalczyk of Grand Rapids and Sensiba. Jack Drolema won the pursuit race. The consolation feature races were won by George Jewell and Randy Sweet of Kalamazoo.

Mike Dobbins of Grand Rapids was hospitalized after his race car hit the retaining wall.

Trickle was the fastest of 89 qualifiers with a 17.42 second dash around the paved .438 mile Marne oval.

### VanderLaan Wins First Feature Of Season

**August 11, 1973 – Berlin Raceway** – Race veteran Eddie VanderLaan warmed up for next week's late model stock car Mid-Season Championship race by driving a 1972 Chevelle to victory in the 30-lap feature race Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

VanderLaan scored his first main event victory of the season by forging past race leader Jim Leonard of Otsego on the 13<sup>th</sup> lap and was never headed. Defending track champion Johnny Benson finished second followed by Terry Senneker Sr., Tom Marks and Butch Miller.

Jack Drolema of Grand Rapids took over the lead on the 32<sup>nd</sup> lap from Gene Eding and went on to win the 40-lap Mid-Season Championship race for hobby stock cars. Eding was knocked out of the race one-half lap later when involved with another race car. Bill Minch was second followed by Bob Sensiba, Terry Schmid and Gail Cobb.

Heat race winners were Benson, Leonard, Jack Gritter, Jerry Strotheide, Don Ward and Bob Billings. The consolation feature went to Billings. Pursuit race honors were won by Phil Poortinga and Leonard. VanderLaan won the fast-car dash event. Benson was the fastest of 69 qualifiers with a 17.60 second dash for the .438 mile distance.

### Senneker Beats Howe At Berlin

**August 25, 1973 – Berlin Raceway** – Bob Senneker of Grand Rapids outlasted Ed Howe of Beaverton in a side by side racing duel and was declared the winner of the 30-lap

feature race for late model stock cars Saturday night at the Berlin Raceway.

Butch Miller of Benton Harbor was third followed by Eddie VanderLaan, Paul Weisner, Jim Leonard, defending track champion Johnny Benson and Tom Marks. Rick Knotts of Kalamazoo spun out of the race and hit the concrete retaining wall while running second. He was not injured.

Gene Eding of Grand Rapids regained the lead from Jack Drolema for the second time on the 63<sup>rd</sup> lap and went on to win the 100-lap Michigan State Invitational race for six-cylinder stock cars. Drolema chased Eding to the \$1,000 win followed by Dave Cutler, Terry Schmid and Bob Sensiba.

The consolation feature went to Jerry Longnecker. Heat race winners were Bob Blouw, Jerry Strotheid, Dick Nichols, Bob Fellows, Pete Pater and Randy Sweet. VanderLaan took the fast-car dash with Sweet victorious in the pursuit race. Howe, driving Johnny Benson's Berger Chevrolet Camaro was the fastest of 75-qualifiers with a 17.25 second dash around the .438 mile paved Marne oval.



## Berlin Raceway Race Results 1973

### Late Models – Hobby Stocks

#### April 14, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.45

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Butch Fedewa, Jimmy Roberts

Pursuit winner: Butch Fedewa

**Feature: (1) Ed Howe (2) Johnny Benson (3) Dave Mulder (4) Rick Knotts (5) Jimmy Roberts (6) Jim Aldrich (7) Gary Fedewa (8) Bill Whittington (9) Lance Norris (10) Herb Mann**

#### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Jack Drolema – no time given

Heat winners: Ivan Richardson, Bill Minch, Phil Poortinga

Pursuit winner: Jack Drolema

Consolation winner: Dick Nichols

**Feature: (1) Bill Minch (2) Jack Drolema (3) Gene Eding (4) Tom Drolema (5) Gail Cobb (6) Don Rand**

#### April 21, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.38

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Bill Whittington, Jim Aldrich

Pursuit winner: Jim Aldrich

**Feature: (1) Ed Howe (2) Johnny Benson (3) Rick Knotts (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Jim Aldrich (6) Terry Senneker Sr. (7) Jeff Bloom (8) Gary Fedewa (9) Butch Fedewa (10) Roger Herp**

#### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Jack Drolema – no time given

Dash winner: Gene Eding

Heat winners: Phil Poortinga, Bob Sensiba, Bill Cox

Pursuit winner: Gene Eding

Semi winner: Dave Cutler

**Feature: (1) Bob Sensiba (2) Gene Eding (3) Bob Clover (4) Tom Drolema (5) Dick Nichols (6) Don Rand (7) Pete Senneker (8) Gail Cobb (9) Mike Johnson (10) Mike Dixon**

#### April 28, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.332

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Ron Laban, Donnie Roberts, Jimmy Roberts

Pursuit winner: Donnie Roberts

**Feature: (1) Ed Howe (2) Donnie Roberts (3) Bob Senneker (4) Jim Aldrich (5) Lance Norris (6) Jeff Bloom (7) Dave Mulder (8) Eddie VanderLaan (9) Gary Fedewa (10) Rich Senneker**

#### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Fast qualifier: Jack Drolema 17.944

Dash winner: Jack Drolema

Heat winners: Don Ward, Bill Minch, Jerry Longnecker

Pursuit winner: Bill Minch

Consolation winner: Don Ward

**Feature: (1) Jack Drolema (2) Gail Cobb (3) Pete Senneker (4) Tom Drolema (5) John Jutila (6) Bob Bliss (7) Phil Stampfler (8) Mike Dixon (9) Mike Johnson (10) Don Rand**

#### May 5, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models

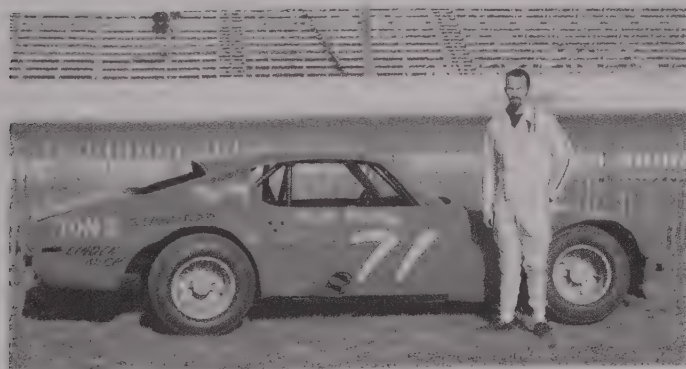
30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.06—New Track Record

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Bill Whittington, Eddie VanderLaan, Butch Fedewa

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson



Bill Bielby

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Bob Senneker (3) Johnny Benson (4) Rick Knotts (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Rich Senneker (7) Jim Aldrich (8) Terry Senneker Sr. (9) Bill Bielby (10) Jeff Bloom

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Jack Drolema – no time given

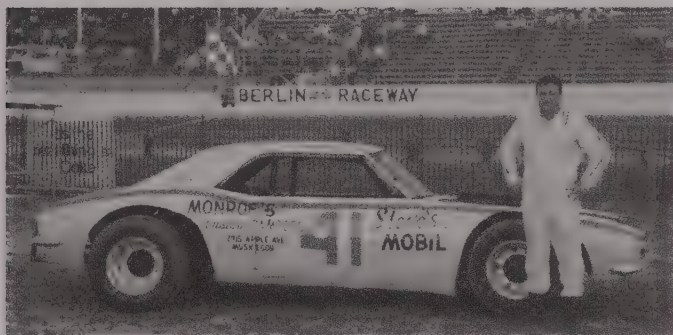
Dash winner: Jack Drolema

Heat winners: Phil Poortinga, Dave Cutler, Mike Bird

Pursuit winner: Gail Cobb

Consolation winner: Pete Pater

**Feature:** (1) Jack Drolema (2) Dave Cutler (3) Don Rand (4) Tom Drolema (5) Gail Cobb (6) Bob Clover (7) Gene Eding (8) Mike Dixon (9) Dick Sarber (10) Terry Schmid



Bob Clover

Dick Lee Collection

**May 12, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models**

75 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.15

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Clarence Cook, Ron Laban

Pursuit winner: Rich Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Rich Senneker (3) Dave Mulder (4) Jim Aldrich (5) Lance Norris (6) Roger Herp (7) Eddie VanderLaan (8) Ralph Baker (9) Clarence Cook (10) Dale Talsma

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Heat winners: Gail Cobb, Bob Sensiba, Dick Nichols, Joe Pease

Pursuit winner: Jack Drolema

Consolation winner: Bob Sterkenburg

**Feature:** (1) Gene Eding (2) Gail Cobb (3) Terry Schmid (4) Jack Gritter (5) Dick Nichols (6) Ivan Richardson (7) Pete Senneker (8) Dick Sarber (9) Don Rand (10) Bob Sensiba

**May 19, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.16

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Harvey Redder, Gary Fedewa

Pursuit winner: Ed Howe

**Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Rich Senneker (3) Bob Senneker (4) Jim Aldrich (5) Bill Bielby (6) Butch Fedewa (7) Gary Fedewa (8) Scott Presley (9) Johnny Benson

**50 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Spring Championship

Heat winners: Gail Cobb, Phil Poortinga, Pete Senneker, Jim Greenwood

Pursuit winner: Tom Drolema

Consolation winner: Jerry Longnecker

**Feature:** (1) Jack Drolema (2) Gail Cobb (3) Tom Drolema (4) Bob Clover (5) Don Rand (6) Gene Eding (7) Bill Minch (8) John Jutila (9) Terry Schmid (10) Mike Dixon

**May 26, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.23

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Jim Aldrich, Gary Fedewa, Bob Fellows

Pursuit winner: Butch Fedewa

**Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Johnny Benson (3) Rich Senneker (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Bill Bielby (6) Dave Mulder (7) Harvey Redder (8) Paul Weisner

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Dash winner: Terry Schmid

Heat winners: Phil Poortinga, Bob Sensiba, Bob Bliss, Danny Cutler

Pursuit winner: Jack Drolema

Consolation winner: Rick Kowalczyk

**Feature:** (1) Bob Sensiba (2) Gail Cobb (3) Jack Drolema (4) Bill Minch (5) Terry Schmid (6) Bob Clover (7) John Jutila (8) Dick Sarber (9) Gene Eding (10) Don Rand



### May 28, 1973 – Monday – Late Models

50 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier:** Ed Howe 17.05—New Track Record

**Dash winner:** Bob Senneker

**Heat winners:** Randy Sweet, Bob Carnes, Butch Fedewa

**Pursuit winner:** Lance Norris

**Feature\*:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Bill Bielby (3) Bob Carnes (4) Lance Norris (5) Paul Weisner (6) Johnny Benson (7) Gary Fedewa

\*Rained Out – run June 2, 1973

### 50 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

**Dash winner:** Gene Eding

**Heat winners:** Rick Kowalczyk, Jerry Longnecker, Bob Bliss, Jack Drolema

**Feature:** (1) Bob Sensiba (2) Gene Eding (3) Bob Billings (4) Jack Gritter (5) Mike Dixon (6) Ivan Richardson (7) Bill Minch (8) Bob Sterkenburg

### June 2, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier:** Ed Howe 17.15

**Dash winner:** Ed Howe

**Heat winners:** Ralph Baker, Scott Presley

**Pursuit winner:** Ed Howe

**Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Bill Bielby (3) Eddie VanderLaan

*(Rich Senneker was fatally injured on June 1, 1973 at Owosso Speedway.)*

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

**Dash winner:** Dave Cutler

**Heat winners:** Bob Bliss, Bill Minch, Mike Bird

**Semi winner:** Jerry Longnecker

**Feature:** (1) Gail Cobb (2) Bob Billings (3) Gene Eding (4) Bob Sensiba (5) Jack Drolema

### June 9, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models

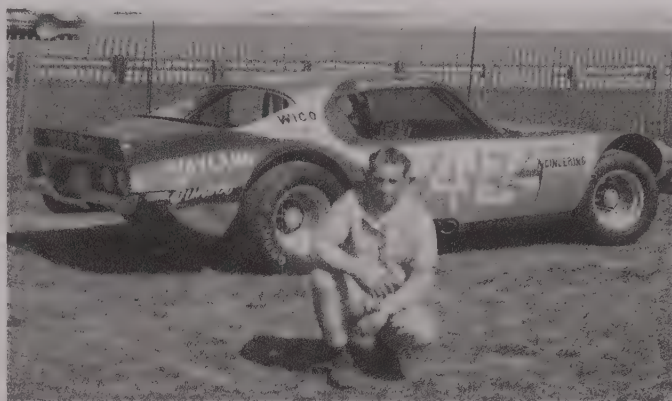
30 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier:** Eddie VanderLaan 17.64

**Dash winner:** Eddie VanderLaan

**Heat winners:** Bob Fellows, Eddie VanderLaan

**Pursuit winner:** Eddie VanderLaan



Bob Sensiba

Dick Lee Collection

**Feature:** (1) Butch Fedewa (2) Bill Bielby (3) Paul Weisner (4) Scott Presley (5) Gary Fedewa (6) Clarence Cook (7) Harvey Redder (8) Lance Norris (9) Eddie VanderLaan (10) Terry Senneker Sr.

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

**Dash winner:** Gene Eding

**Heat winners:** George Jewell, Gail Cobb, Bill Cox, Tom VanderLind

**Pursuit winner:** Gene Eding

**Consolation winner:** Bob Bliss

**Feature:** (1) Gene Eding (2) Terry Schmid (3) Jack Drolema (4) Bob Billings (5) Bob Sensiba (6) Gail Cobb (7) John Jutila (8) Tom Drolema (9) Dick Sarber (10) Dave Cutler

### June 15, 1973 – Friday – USAC (United States Auto Club) – Midgats

40 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier:** Sam Sessions 16.38

**Heat winners:** Sam Sessions, Gary Bettenhausen, Don Nordhorn, Bruce Walkup

**Consolation winner:** Mel Cornett

**Feature:** (1) Rollie Beale (2) Gary Bettenhausen (3) Bruce Walkup (4) Larry Cannon (5) Johnny Parsons Jr. (6) Lee Kunzman (7) Sam Sessions

### June 16, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

**Fast qualifier:** Bill Bielby 17.43

**Dash winner:** Ed Howe

**Heat winners:** Dave Mulder, Bob Senneker

**Pursuit winner:** Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Bob Senneker (3) Johnny Benson (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Bill Bielby (6) Bob Morgan (7) Terry Senneker Sr. (8) Jim Dyke (9) Dave Mulder (10) Paul Weisner

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Jack Drolema 18.01

Dash winner: Mike Dixon

Heat winners: Bob Sensiba, Harry Drolema, Phil Poortinga, Pete Pater

Pursuit winner: Jack Drolema

Consolation winner: Bob Sensiba

**Feature:** (1) Jack Drolema (2) Bob Clover (3) Dave Cutler (4) Gail Cobb (5) Mike Johnson (6) Dick Sarber (7) Bob Sterkenburg (8) Harry Drolema (9) Tom Drolema (10) Mike Dixon

---

**June 23, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models**

**Coca Cola 100**

100 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.13

Dash winner: Bill Bielby

Heat winners: Terry Senneker Sr., Jim Westfield, Butch Fedewa, Ron Keech

Consolation winner: Ron Keech

**Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Bob Senneker (3) Bill Bielby (4) Randy Sweet (5) Johnny Benson (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Bob Morgan (8) Dave Mulder (9) Lance Norris (10) Scott Presley

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Dash winner: Jack Drolema

Heat winners: Gene Eding, Mike Kowalczyk, Mike Sherrington

**Feature:** (1) Bill Minch (2) Gail Cobb (3) Gene Eding (4) Bob Sensiba (5) Dick Sarber (6) Jack Drolema (7) Bob Clover (8) Bob Sterkenburg (9) Mike Johnson

---



Butch Fedewa

Dick Lee Collection

**June 26, 1973 – Tuesday – Late Models**

**Rich Senneker Benefit**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Dave Mulder, Eddie VanderLaan

Pursuit winner: Rick Knotts

**Feature:** (1) Rick Knotts (2) Ed Howe (3) Johnny Benson (4) Dave Mulder (5) Bob Senneker (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Lance Norris (8) Paul Weisner (9) Roger Herp (10) Bob Morgan

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Dash winner: Jack Drolema

Heat winners: Dave Cutler, Bill Minch, Tom Finkbeiner

Pursuit winner: Gene Eding

**Feature:** (1) Gene Eding (2) Jack Drolema (3) Dick Sarber (4) Dave Cutler (5) John Jutila

---

**June 30, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.54

Dash winner: Randy Sweet

Heat winners: Jim Westfield, Harvey Redder, Herb Mann

Pursuit winner: Rick Knotts

**Feature:** (1) Rick Knotts (2) Larry Phillips (3) Johnny Benson (4) Jim Aldrich (5) Dave Mulder (6) Ralph Baker (7) Eddie VanderLaan (8) Paul Weisner (9) Harvey Redder (10) Jim Dyke

**50 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Dash winner: Bill Minch

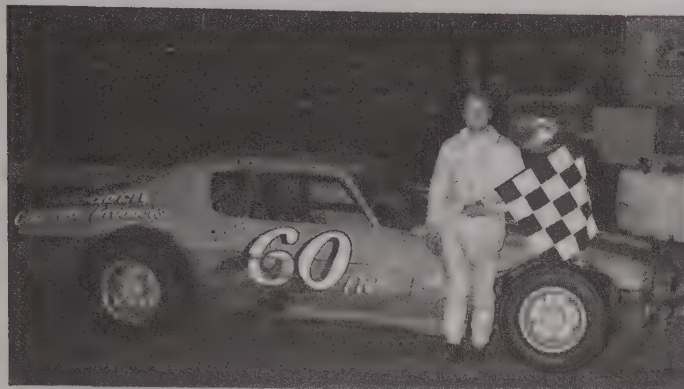
Heat winners: Bob Bliss, Jack Gritter, Ike VanHoeven, Ken Smith, Steve Brown

Consolation winner: Bob Sterkenburg

**Feature:** (1) Gene Eding (2) Jack Drolema (3) Bill Minch (4) Bob Sensiba (5) Bob Clover (6) Terry Schmid (7) John Jutila (8) Jack Gritter (9) Mike Dixon (10) Mike Johnson

---





Ed Howe

Dick Lee Collection

---

### July 4, 1973 – Wednesday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Bob Senneker, Dale Talsma, Butch Fedewa, Jim Murphy, Burdett Bennett

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Johnny Benson (3) Dave Mulder (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Harvey Redder

**Bob Senneker – Clean Sweep Award**

### 25 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Gene Eding

Heat winners: Bob Sensiba, Bob Sterkenburg, Fred Seltenright,

Fred Otterbein

**Feature:** (1) Gene Eding (2) Jack Drolema (3) Bob Sensiba (4) Bob Clover (5) Mike Dixon

---

### July 7, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.46

Dash winner: Bob Senneker

Heat winners: Bob Fellows, Bob Senneker

Pursuit winner: Bob Senneker

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Randy Sweet (3) Bob Senneker (4) Rick Knotts (5) Bill Bielby (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Terry Senneker Sr.

---

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Jack Drolema

Heat winners: Bob Bliss, Harry Drolema, Sid Hill

Pursuit winner: Bob Clover

Consolation winner: Rick Kowalczyk

**Feature:** (1) Jack Drolema (2) Tom Drolema (3) Gail Cobb (4) Bob Clover (5) Mike Dixon (6) Bill Minch

---

### July 14, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.41

Dash winner: Johnny Benson

Heat winners: Terry Senneker Sr., Johnny Benson, George Jewell

Pursuit winner: Ron Laban

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Terry Senneker Sr. (3) Randy Sweet (4) Lance Norris (5) Eddie VanderLaan (6) Paul Weisner

### 20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks

Dash winner: Dave Cutler

Heat winners: Sid Hill, Bob Sensiba, Harry Drolema

Pursuit winner: Jack Drolema

Consolation winner: Dave Cutler

**Feature:** (1) Jack Drolema (2) Bob Sensiba (3) Gene Eding (4) Mike Dixon (5) Harry Drolema

---

### July 21, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models

#### *Berlin Fair*

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.15

Dash winner: Ed Howe

Heat winners: Butch Fedewa, Rick Knotts

Pursuit winner: Rick Knotts

**Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Johnny Benson (3) Randy Sweet (4) Jim Leonard (5) Rick Knotts (6) Bob Morgan (7) Roger Herp (8) Butch Miller (9) Lance Norris (10) Dale Talsma

**20 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Fast qualifier: Jack Drolema – no time given

Dash winner: Gene Eding

Heat winners: Dick Nichols, Phil Poortinga, Don Ward, Gary Barnes

Pursuit winner: Phil Poortinga

Consolation winner: Jack Gritter

**Feature:** (1) Gail Cobb (2) Mike Dixon (3) Dave Cutler (4) Gene Eding (5) Phil Poortinga (6) Bob Sensiba (7) Terry Schmid (8) Dick Sarber (9) Mike Johnson (10) Bob Sterkenburg

---

**August 4, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models**

**Michigan State Late Model Invitational**

Twin 75 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Dick Trickle 17.42

Heat winners: Bob Murray, Ron Keech

Consolation winner: Randy Sweet

**1st Feature:** (1) Dick Trickle (2) Johnny Benson (3) John Anderson (4) Bob Senneker (5) Ed Howe (6) Tom Maier

**2nd Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson, Sr. (2) Dick Trickle (3) Bob Senneker (4) John Anderson (5) Butch Miller (6) Bill Bielby (7) Tom Maier

---

**August 11, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.6

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Johnny Benson, Jim Leonard

Pursuit winner: Jim Leonard

**Feature:** (1) Eddie VanderLaan (2) Johnny Benson (3) Terry Senneker Sr. (4) Tom Marks (5) Butch Miller

**40 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Heat winners: Jack Gritter, Jerry Strotheid, Don Ward, Bob Billings

Pursuit winner: Phil Poortinga

**Feature:** (1) Jack Drolema (2) Bill Minch (3) Bob Sensiba (4) Terry Schmid (5) Gail Cobb

---

**August 17, 1973 – Friday – ARCA  
(Automobile Racing Club of America)**

**Coca Cola/NASCAR 100 East**

100 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Bruce Gould – no time given

Dash winner: Bruce Gould

Heat winners: Dean Dalton, Ernie Shaw, Neil Castle

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Tiny Lund (3) A. Arnold (4) Ron Hutcherson (5) Bill Clemons (6) Dean Dalton (7) Wayne Watercutter (8) Iggy Katona (9) Bob Bassett (10) Dave Dayton

---

**August 18, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models**

**Mid-Season Championship**

40 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.38

Dash winner: Dick Sarber

Heat winners: Jim Leonard, Don Ward, Harvey Redder

Pursuit winner: Rick Knotts

Consolation winner: Don Ward

**Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Rick Knotts (3) Bob Senneker (4) Randy Sweet (5) Johnny Benson (6) Jim Aldrich (7) Lance Norris

**25 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Heat winners: Bill Minch, Dan Cutler, Rick Kowalczyk

Pursuit winner: Bob Sensiba

**Feature:** (1) Jack Drolema (2) Gene Eding (3) Terry Schmid (4) Phil Poortinga (5) Dave Cutler

---

**August 25, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Ed Howe 17.25

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Bob Fellows, Randy Sweet

Pursuit inner: Randy Sweet

**Feature:** (1) Bob Senneker (2) Ed Howe (3) Butch Miller (4) Eddie VanderLaan (5) Paul Weisner (6) Jim Leonard (7) Johnny Benson (8) Tom Marks

---



**100 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Heat winners: Bob Blouw, Jerry Strotheid, Dick Nichols, Pete Pater, Terry Schmid

Consolation winner: Jerry Longnecker

**Feature:** (1) Gene Eding (2) Jack Drolema (3) Dave Cutler (4) Terry Schmid (5) Bob Sensiba

---

**September 1, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.55

Dash winner: Bob Schippers

Heat winners: Ron Laban, Eddie VanderLaan Sr., Herb Mann

Pursuit winner: Johnny Benson

Consolation winner: Ron Keech

**Feature:** (1) Paul Weisner (2) Johnny Benson (3) Bill Massuch (4) Bob Morgan (5) Eddie VanderLaan

**25 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Dash winner: Jerry Strotheid

Heat winners: Bob Sensiba, Gene Eding, Dave Cutler, Bob Billings

Pursuit winner: Dick Sarber

**Feature:** (1) Bob Sensiba (2) Harry Drolema (3) Jack Drolema (4) Terry Schmid (5) Bill Minch

---

**September 3, 1973 – Monday – Late Models**

**Labor Day**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Joe Ruttman 17.57

Heat winners: Joe Ruttman, Randy Sweet

Pursuit winner: Joe Ruttman

Consolation winner: George Jewell

**Feature:** (1) Joe Ruttman (2) Johnny Benson (3) Randy Sweet (4) Paul Weisner (5) Bob Morgan (6) Eddie VanderLaan

**Joe Ruttman – Clean Sweep Award**

**25 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Heat winners: Mike Johnson, Bob Billings, Jerry Longnecker

**Feature:** (1) Bob Sensiba (2) Gene Eding (3) Bill Minch (4) Gail Cobb

---

**September 8, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models**

35 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Johnny Benson 17.45

Heat winners: Butch Fedewa, Jim Leonard, Jim Dyke

Pursuit winner: Rick Knotts

**Feature:** (1) Ed Howe (2) Paul Weisner (3) Rick Knotts (4) Johnny Benson (5) Randy Sweet (6) Eddie VanderLaan (7) Terry Senneker Sr.

**30 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Heat winners: Bob Clover, Bill Minch, Harry Drolema

Pursuit winner: Gene Eding

Consolation winner: Don Ward

**Feature:** (1) Gene Eding (2) Bill Minch (3) Bob Sensiba (4) Gail Cobb (5) Mike Dixon (6) Bob Clover

---

**September 15, 1973 – Saturday – Late Models**

30 laps, .438 mile paved

Fast qualifier: Paul Weisner 17.48

Dash winner: Eddie VanderLaan

Heat winners: Roger Herp, Butch Fedewa, Bill Massuch

Pursuit winner: Roger Herp

**Feature:** (1) Johnny Benson (2) Paul Weisner (3) Eddie VanderLaan (4) Tom Marks

**25 laps, .438 mile paved – Hobby Stocks**

Dash winner: Gene Eding

Heat winners: Bob Shirk, Phil Poortinga

Pursuit winner: John Jutila

**Feature:** (1) Gene Eding (2) Terry Schmid (3) Dave Cutler (4) John Jutila (5) Mike Johnson

---

# Berlin Raceway Points 1973

1973 LATE MODEL POINTS							
Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Ed Howe	74	13	13	8	2	
2	Johnny Benson Sr.	67	4	5	1		
3	Bob Senneker	45	3		6		1
4	Rick Knotts	27	2				
5	Eddie VanderLaan	24	1		4		
6	Paul Weisner	20	1	1			
7	Bill Bielby	19		1	1		
8	Randy Sweet	18			1		
9	Dave Mulder	12					
10	Rich Senneker	11					
11	Jim Aldrich	10					
12	Dick Trickle	9	1	1			
13	Terry Senneker Sr.	7					
14	Lance Norris	6					
15	Joe Ruttman	5	1	1			1
16	Butch Fedewa	5	1				
17	Butch Miller	5					
18	John Anderson	5					
19	Larry Phillips	4					
	Tom Marks	4					
	Donnie Roberts	4					
22	Bob Carnes	3					
	Bill Massuch	3					
	Bob Morgan	3					
25	Scott Presley	2					
	Jim Leonard	2					
27	Gary Fedewa	1					
	Jimmy Roberts	1					
	Harvey Redder	1					
30	Bob Schippers	0			1		
	Dick Sarbar	0			1		



# Berlin Raceway — Late Models, 1970 to Present

## 1973 HOBBY STOCK POINTS

Pos.	Driver's Name	Points	Feature Wins	Fast Qualifier	Dash Wins	New Track Record	Clean Sweep
1	Jack Drolma	70	8	6	5		
2	Gene Eding	70	8		6		
3	Bob Sensiba	46	5				
4	Gail Cobb	42	2				
5	Bill Minch	27	2		1		
6	Terry Schmid	21			1		
7	Dave Cutler	19			2		
8	Tom Drolema	15					
9	Bob Clover	14					
10	Mike Dixon	10			1		
11	Bob Billings	9					
12	Harry Drolema	5					
13	Jack Gritter	4					
	Don Rand	4					
	Dick Sarber	4					
	John Jutila	4					
17	Pete Senneker	3					
	Phil Poortinga	3					
19	Dick Nichols	2					
	Mike Johnson	2					
21	Jerry Strotheid	0			1		

No.	Date Recd.	Author	Title	No. of Vols.	From	By	Remarks
1	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
2	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
3	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
4	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
5	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
6	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
7	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
8	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
9	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
10	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
11	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
12	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
13	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
14	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
15	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
16	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
17	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
18	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
19	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		
20	1970	John Galsworthy	The Forsyte Saga	3	Gift		

Made in the USA  
Monee, IL  
24 April 2022



95314449R00230



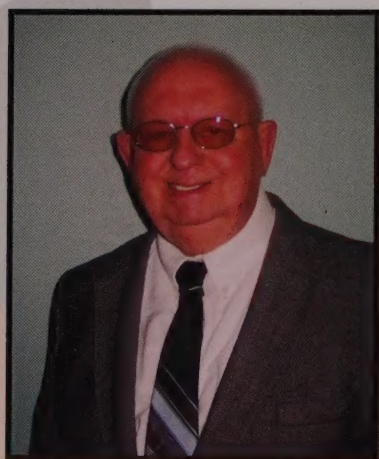


How and why did Berlin Raceway get started? What racing experience did Chet Mysliwiec have in his background before he founded Berlin Raceway? What motivated Chet Mysliwiec to begin Berlin Raceway? What near-by race track only ten miles from Berlin Raceway raced the same night as Berlin Raceway and created a rivalry between them?

Who was the racer who brought the first true supermodified to Berlin Raceway in 1957? What year was Berlin Raceway paved? What year did the covered grandstands burn down? What did it cost to build a jalopy/stock car in the early '50's? What was the most popular engine in the early stock cars? Why was there a rule that stock cars could not compete if it was painted black? What was the longest short track race in Michigan?

Where did the name Berlin Raceway come from? Who won the first feature race held at Berlin Raceway? What is the name of the first flagman at Berlin Raceway? Roger Joneson drove a stock car at Berlin Raceway which had the nickname 'Bucket of Bolts', why did his car have that nickname? What race driver had the most success on the fifth-mile track? Which driver held the track record on the fifth-mile track when it closed in 1958 to the supermodifieds? Why did Berlin Raceway begin racing on the dirt half-mile?

What year did the first winged supermodified race at Berlin Raceway? Who was the most successful driver on the half-mile dirt track? Who was the driver to win the last supermodified feature on the dirt track half-mile when it closed in 1965? What year did four-time Indy 500 winner A.J. Foyt race at Berlin Raceway? Who held the track record on the dirt half-mile when it closed in 1965? Who holds the most feature wins in late models from 1966 to 2019?



Dick Lee

7802 LPN RR FJ130



9 798666 271407