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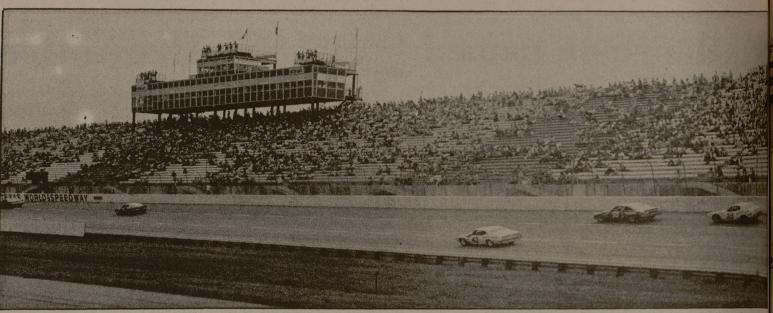
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Texas World Speedway will again be the site of racing activity

this Sunday as the Texas 500 will be run for the fourth time.

First time in two years

Cexas 500 to run Sunday

By PAUL McGRATH

It has been two years since a stock car race has been two years since a stock car race has been held at Texas World Speedway, billed as the world's fastest speedway. This Sun-day, auto racing seeks to retake lost ground and time in Lone Star coun-try with the function of the try with the fourth running of the

Texas 500 at 1 p.m. Texas World Speedway, located just south of College Station along Highway 6, has been closed down for over a year due to financial difficul-

The United States Auto Club (USAC) sanctioned race returns with an all-star cast of drivers. Three-time Indy winner and four-time national champion A.J. Foyt of Houston will be among the qualifiers seeking en-trance into the 40-member field. The field will also include this year's Indy 500 winner, Johnny Rutherford of Fort Worth, Roger McCluskey, the 1975 national champ; Ramo Scott and four-time National Stock Car (NASCAR) titlist, Larry "Butch"



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Hartman. Competition between Rutherford and Foyt will be spiced by the controversy emerging from last weekend's Indy race where Foyt claimed Rutherford illegally took

advantage of the yellow caution flag. Foyt narrowly lost the last Texas 500 when Buddy Baker of North Carolina beat out the Houstonian by 18 inches to take the checkered flag. Richard Petty finished third only 20 feet behind the leaders.

The Speedway was limelighted in 1973 when Mario Andretti set a world's closed course speed record of 214 miles per hour on the two mile oval during a qualifying run. Winner of the race, Gary Bettenhausen, earned a spot in the Guinness Book of Records with an average speed of 181.99 — the fastest for any closed course race.

The race will cover 250 laps on the two-mile track. The track itself has turns banked at 22 degrees with 12 degree banking on the front straight and 2 degrees on the back straighta-way. The high banked oval is 72 feet wide on the turns ed 50 feet in wide on the turns and 50 feet in width on the straightaways. There is an additional 12 foot apron circuiting the track.

The Speedway incorporates several safety features for both drivers and spectators. A crashwall four feet high and a foot thick separates the

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track from the grandstands. A nine foot high welded wire mesh catch fence provides additional safety.

Seating facilities provide for 26,000 spectators with room for thousands more on the infield. The purse for the race is \$11,000

from a total of \$75,000 distributed amongst the competitors. All drivers, regardless of sanctioning body affiliation, are invited to compete in the Texas 500. However, USAC safety rules must be followed and all cars are inspected before being allowed to race. The USAC rules do not restrict engines and combined with the high-banked track makes for faster times.

Speedway president R.C. Conole said, "Naturally we would like a lot of Texans to enter the Texas 500, but we want to make this race an open invitation to all drivers to compete. We know that this is the world's fas-

Speedway turns down **Janet Guthrie**

Texas World Speedway has refused any possible entry by Janet Guthrie into the Texas 500 on June 6 and at all other Speedway events this year

Speedway President Richard Conole has written the United States Auto Club requesting the removal of her competition license and the removal of her car owner Rolla Vollstedt from its Board of Directors. The issue is over Guthrie's and Vollstedt's intention to accept a \$5,000 appearance offer from a NASCAR race track.

"I think this whole thing is a cheap publicity stunt on the part of the NASCAR track. I am appalled that a member of the Board of Directors of USAC would accept what amounts to public payola," Conole declared.

"I think that the public is sick and tired of payoffs. Top NASCAR drivers get paid to appear in a race that only they can win. Everyone knows that the other drivers are going broke and can't afford to race, but they have raced and supported racing every week. They would be crazy to run that race if Janet gets \$5,000 to run against them.

test speedway and that this pose problem for some of their mac to be competitive. June 6 (the d the race) is an open date on the lender meaning that there is other race scheduled elsewhen

Conole added, "We put all th pearance money in the purs spread it over to pay more mon the way down to last place." An interesting sidelight to the will be the names of some of participants-some of them wi

completely fictitious. Conole that NASCAR officials have some NASCAR drivers not to e the USAC-sponsored race. Bec of this, Conole said he would a any drivers to enter under any they choose and will be free exposure.

"I respect their reason for us fictitious name," Conole said applied for a full International eration of Automobiles (FIA, Paris-based governing body petitive racing) listing of the 500 and the only Automobile petition Committee of the U States (ACCUS) member to w was Billy France, the head of CAR. He doesn't want his dr running here.

Conole said he thought th unfair to the drivers in both pu and purse earnings. "In NA only the top names win. The appearance money and all the tires. The little guys can't ma that way. Our purse pays more bottom and if they (the drivers) to run under an assumed na

okay with me," Conole said. Another attraction will be a tempt to break the women's course speed record by lady dr Arlene Hiss of Tustin, Calif. Martha Wideman of Lufkin. Th tempt will take place following day's practice runs. Stock car Earl Canavan donated a 1974 Do Charger to the ladies for trecord-breaking attempt. The powered by a 426 cubic inch engine and is capable of speed better than 220 mile per hour. Drivers will take their pra runs on Friday from 1 p.m. to5

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and on Saturday from 9a.m. ton Admission is free to the public. ifying for the 40 starting berths take place from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Admission prices range from \$ to \$20 for adults and \$5 for child 6-12 years. Children under 6y are admitted free with parent

