

Rutherford beats heat, wins race



United Press International
Johnny Rutherford survived 100-degree heat, and a pit collision to outduel Gordon Johncock yesterday and win the Texas 200 by nine seconds.

Three caution flags slowed Rutherford's winning speed to 164.191. Johncock, who was racing wheel to wheel with Rutherford

with 20 laps left, slowly slipped back to finish second.

Johncock said he had to drop back from his challenge of Rutherford because the high speeds were having an effect on his car.

Bobby Unser put his Drake-Offy automobile into the wall on the second turn suffering a foot injury that

was treated at St. Joseph's hospital. A.J. Foyt, Wally Dallenbach, pole sitter Danny Ongais and Al Unser all dropped out early.

Pancho Carter was third, followed by Johnny Parsons, Tom Sneva, Rick Mears, Jim McElreath, Larry Dickson, Bobby Olivero and Tom Bigelow. They were the only 10 drivers running at the end of the race.

"Everything really ran well," said Rutherford. "Actually, I thought Johncock was ahead and I was running second and I was all wound up trying to catch him until I finally figured out my crew was yelling for me to 'cool it.'"

Midway through the race Rutherford was exiting from the pits when his car collided with Dick Simon's. Rutherford's car sustained no damage and went on to run smoothly, but the right, rear section of Simon's car was smashed.

"I checked the mirror and didn't see anybody," said Rutherford. And as I pulled out I all of a sudden Dick Simon came along.

"I didn't see him. I sure didn't mean to hit him."

Simon, immediately after the accident, was in a foul mood — yelling at Rutherford's pit crew.

"I know his (Rutherford's) car is faster than mine," said Simon. "I know he can outrun me on the track. But he still ought to look where he is going."

Victory goes to Texan as only 10 cars finish

United Press International
Hard driving Johnny Rutherford seems to be in the habit of getting into spats with his fellow drivers. But he also has this habit of winning.

Rutherford did both yesterday. He was involved in a pit row collision with Dick Simon that left Simon's car smashed and Simon's temper overheated. And Rutherford survived the mishap to outlast Gordon Johncock by nine seconds and win the Texas 200 auto race, moving him into second place in the USAC standings.

"I know his car is faster than mine," sputtered Simon shortly after the pit collision midway through the race. "But that doesn't give him the right not to look where he is going."

The right rear of Simon's car was crumpled to the extent that he could not continue.

"I didn't intend to do it," said Rutherford, who was exiting from the pits when the cars collided. "I looked in the mirror when I started

out, but I didn't see him. I sure didn't do it on purpose. I hardly felt the impact. I was shocked to see his car limping off."

Rutherford of Fort Worth, Tex., and Johncock of Phoenix almost allowed a dispute to erupt into a fight earlier this year, but yesterday they were merely trying to outrace each other on a hot afternoon that was filled with minor incidents.

Bobby Unser ran his car into the second turn on the two-mile, high banked Texas World Speedway oval and had to be taken to a nearby hospital for treatment of a foot injury.

Later in the race Tom Sneva started out on the track with the fuel hose still attached to his car and he was penalized a lap for that infraction.

After such notables as A.J. Foyt, Wally Dallenbach, Al and Bobby Unser and pole sitter Danny Ongais had left the race early, it settled down to a scramble between Johncock and Rutherford.

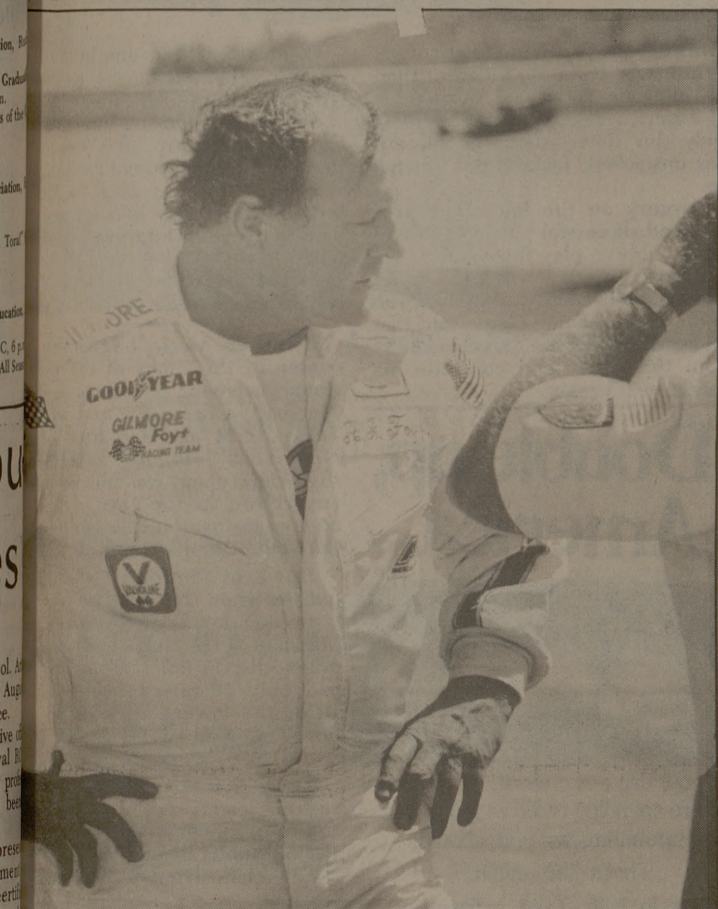
They were running side by side with 20 laps to go, but Johncock slowly dropped back.

"Actually, after I got in front, I still thought Gordon was leading and I was second," said Rutherford. "I was wound up trying to catch him. I finally figured out my crew was telling me to cool it."

"Once he got by me I knew I would never be able to catch him," said Johncock. "The front end of my car started jumping and I was getting close to the wall. I just didn't have enough horsepower."

After Rutherford and Johncock came Pancho Carter, Johnny Parsons, Sneva, Rick Mears and Jim McElreath. Only 10 cars were running at the finish.

Sneva easily maintained his USAC drivers lead with 3,220 points, but the 400 points gathered by Rutherford moved him from fourth place past Dallenbach and Foyt, into second with 2,200.



Battalion photos by Curt Schwake and Betsy Kelly

The faces of Johnny Rutherford, the winner, and A. J. Foyt, one of many losers, tell the story of the American Parts 200 yesterday at Texas World Speedway.

A&M's Cornelius earns spot on AAU squad

United Press International
INDIANAPOLIS — The Amateur Athletic Union Sunday announced Indiana University will represent the Soviet-Canadian-American pentathlon meet next month.

John Bell, head track coach at Indiana, will serve as meet director for Aug. 13-14 event.

The USA men's team includes AAU champion and 1976 Olympic Fred Dixon, Closter, N.J.; John Whitson, Albuquerque, N.M.; Jeff Bennett, Edmonds, Wash.; Rex Harvey, Highland, Colo.; and Fred Samara, Tenafly, N.J.

Anda Cornelius, of Fort Worth, Texas A&M, heads the women's team for the pentathlon. She is 1977 U.S. Champion.

Other women are Patsy Yem, Yem, Wash.; Kerry Zwart,

La Cescanta, Calif., and Terri Seipel, Dayton, Ohio.

This event will be the third in the USA-USSR series. The USSR won against the USA and West Germany in 1974 in Tallinn, Estonia.

A U.S. team finished first ahead of the Soviets and Poles at Eugene, Ore., in 1975 in decathlon, but behind the USSR and Canada in pentathlon, which was added to the series that year.

Bethea reports to Oilers

United Press International
NACOGDOCHES, Tex. — An attorney representing Elvin Bethea in his cattle feedyard contract dispute with the Houston Oilers said a grievance will be filed with the NFL and National Football League Players Association.

According to attorney Major Lowe, "Elvin Bethea is not asking for a new contract or asking that his present contract be renegotiated."

The problem concerns a pact Bethea entered with Oilers' owner K. S. "Bud" Adams Jr. last November. Bethea believed missing the first week of the Oilers training camp would loosen the feedyard profits of Ada Resources, Inc., which is owned by Adams.

Bethea, 31, allegedly was led to anticipate a \$100,000 profit from the business during a three-year period. He reportedly has lost \$600 so far.

Add \$3,000 more in losses, because his six-day hold out could cost him that much (\$500 per day). Head coach Bum Phillips will levy the fine, and he said he will not make his punishment of Bethea public.

The Oilers players were given Sunday off from practice, but Bethea stayed around to work.

"I'm glad to be in camp," he said. "I was sitting around the house, working in the yard, then running for a while. It was getting to me, being in Houston when everybody else was up here."

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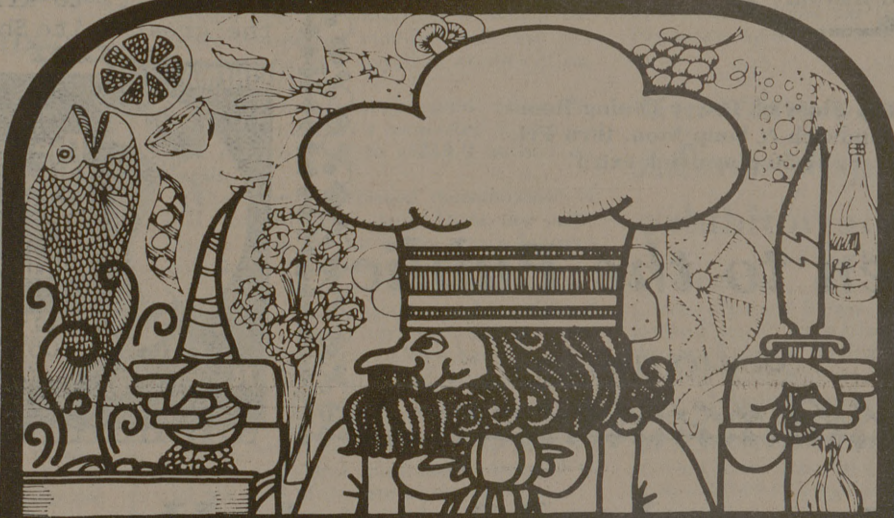
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