

USAC championship to be decided at TWS

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Staff

Imagine if you can, driving 170 m.p.h. for 250 miles. Imagine the mental and physical strain on your body as you circle a two mile track 25 times with 29 other cars right on your tail and some, literally, right on your bumper.

If you can't imagine that, you at least have the opportunity to watch men who drive like that for a living match machine, minds and speed at Texas World Speedway for Sunday's Texan 250 and Texas Race of Champions.

The Texan 250 is the last stock car race of the season for the United States Auto Club and the USAC championship will be decided right here in College Station. The whole year's driving, battling and money spent to keep the cars running comes down to this one race for the marbles.

A.J. Foyt, who leads the USAC standings with 1,825 points, will be trying for his first USAC championship since he last won it ten years ago.

Yet, there are three other men who would like to keep Foyt from getting that victory. The race features the top four men in the point standings. All have a shot at the crown. Foyt leads the point race followed by Terry Ryan with 1,640, Ray Darnell with 1,620 and Gary Bowsher with 1,595. These four men will be battling down to the wire to see who wins the big money and the USAC championship.

Many people may not realize how valuable the Speedway is to the area. It's the only major attraction in the Southwest, the Texas World Speedway can boast some things no other race track in the country can.

It starts with the hotels, restaurants and stores and filters down through various channels," Connor said. "Plus we hire a big staff from all over the world to work the race so you can see local people involved all the time."

Although car racing may not be the bigger spectator sports in the Southwest, the Texas World Speedway can boast some things no other race track in the country can. It's been called "the world's fastest speedway" and for good reason. Mario Andretti set a closed course record there with a lap time of 2:14 m.p.h. Gary Bettenhausen set the

White Shoes' to have surgery

United Press International
HOUSTON — Knee surgery is scheduled today for Houston Oilers punter and punt returner Billy Johnson, who led the National Football League in punt returns last season.

The 5-10, 170-pound Johnson, one of the fastest players in the NFL, will be lost for the season. A spokesman said Dr. Jack Houshoush, a nationally known orthopedic surgeon, will repair torn cartilage in Johnson's ailing left knee in Columbus, Ga.

"The knee won't heal itself," said Houshoush. "The knee is a very delicate structure. Each time it flares up on him he aggravates it further. The torn part of the cartilage gets caught in the joint and that's what causes it to swell."

"Nobody likes the idea of surgery and Billy is no exception. He wanted a second opinion so I suggested Dr. Houshoush. He's probably the best in the business." Johnson injured the knee when he stumbled during an open field punt against Dallas Aug. 19.

world record for fastest lap average there, averaging 181 m.p.h. The track definitely has its history.

A good crowd is expected to view the final race as the weather should be ideal for watching and racing.

Connor said a favorite in the Texan 250 would be hard to pick.

"Out of the 30 starters, 20 are capable of winning the race," he said.

"That shows you what caliber of race we have down here."



A.J. Foyt

There will be drivers from 18 states with 12 coming from Illinois alone. The total investment in race cars this weekend at the Speedway is estimated to exceed \$2 million, which is a lot of machine.

"This is the largest field of race cars we have ever had for a similar event," said R.C. Conole, president of TWS. "I think it is proof that interest is building in Texas auto racing. The quality of cars and drivers assures these will be great races."

Qualifying will be held Saturday

for the three races on Sunday. One Texas Race of Champions will be run followed by the Texan 250 and then followed by another Texas Race of Champions.

Approximately 56 cars will be fighting for the 40 available slots for the TROC, and out of 52 entrants only 30 will make it to the final USAC shootout.

The cars should average speeds of 170-174 m.p.h. reaching top speeds of 190-200 m.p.h. down the back straight.

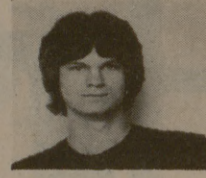
"The thing that makes this race (Texan 250) great is that the drivers go all out from the start because it is a short race," Connor said. "The strategy is different from a 500 mile race because you can't wait around and see how things develop."

All of the action will not be on the track this weekend. The Speedway has scheduled an Interplanetary Chili Cookoff for the spectators Saturday. Along with this will be beer drinking contests, a wet T-shirt contest and various other interesting events set up to entertain the public who camp out at the Speedway.

The whole show kicks off Saturday morning with qualifying all that day followed by the final races on Sunday.

Batt Pix

Week 10



David Boggan



Mark Patterson



Sean Petty

GAME

Houston-Texas	Houston by 13	Texas by 4	Texas by 6
Arkansas-Baylor	Arkansas by 23	Arkansas by 11	Arkansas by 17
SMU-Rice	SMU by 17	SMU by 16	SMU by 14
Texas Tech-TCU	Texas Tech by 21	Texas Tech by 13	Texas Tech by 17
LSU-Alabama	Alabama by 10	Alabama by 10	Alabama by 10
Oklahoma-Nebraska	Oklahoma by 14	Nebraska by 9	Nebraska by 12
Washington-USC	USC by 9	USC by 3	USC by 12
Dallas-Green Bay	Dallas by 7	Dallas by 17	Green Bay by 6
Houston-New England	New England by 4	New England by 9	New England by 7
Pittsburgh-Los Angeles	Pittsburgh by 3	Pittsburgh by 6	Pittsburgh by 7

Last week's record	7-3	7-3	5-5
Season's percentage	.700	.688	.633

Wilson hospitalized

Texas A&M head football coach Tom Wilson was admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital Thursday with kidney stones but Athletic Director Marvin Tate said Wilson was expected to return to practice sessions by Sunday.

"He is resting comfortably," Tate said Thursday afternoon. "Hopefully he will be up and out of here by tomorrow. It's just a good thing that since this had to happen we had an open date this weekend." The Aggies are not scheduled to play this Saturday but resume action next week against Arkansas.

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