

the sports

Busy weekend at TWS

Indy cars roar into B-CS

By SEAN PETTY  
Battalion Sports Editor

One of the busiest race tracks in the world shifts into high gear this weekend as the LubriLON Grand Prix comes to College Station's Texas World Speedway.

The race will feature the Indy-type cars in a 200-mile affair. The Grand Prix will be the highlighted race but, by no means is it the only thing the folks at the Speedway are offering Saturday and Sunday. It will be a triple-header of racing with the Texas Race of Champions (stock cars), the Mini-Indy cars and the Indy-type cars in the big race.

Some of the top names in Indy car

racing are expected to run this weekend. The list of notables is headed by Houstonian and local hero, A.J. Foyt who will be trying for his 66th Indy car win and third straight Indy car win in Texas. Foyt enters the Grand Prix as the defending champion but will have stiff competition from Gary Bettenhausen who he edged out by a mere three-hundredths of a second in the Coors 200 here in April.

The rest of the field includes Johnny Parsons, Roger McCluskey, Bill Vuckovich, Jim McElreath, Tom Bigelow, Jerry Sneva, Dana Carter, Tony Bettenhausen (Gary's brother), Dick Simon, Sheldon Kinser, Cliff Hucul, Jerry Karl, Frank Weiss, Roger Rager, Larry Dickson and Phil Threshie.

The Mini-Indy cars provide racing fans 100 kilometers of excitement. The smaller cars which reach top speeds of 150-plus m.p.h. on the high banks of TWS can sometimes change leads four or five times a lap. There may even be five or six cars

going across the finish line at once by race's end.

Dennis Firestone will be back to try and win his second Mini-Indy race in a row at TWS. He needs the win to increase his lead in the Robert Bosch VW Mini-Indy Championship. Firestone will be challenged by the defending LubriLON Champion, Harry MacDonald.

The third race will be the Texas Champions Invitational Stock Car Classic. The 50-mile race will feature the top Stock car drivers from all over Texas including Jimmy Finger, Freddy Fryar, John Rezek, Rich Rap, Slick Yeomans and Larry and Jerry Schild.

And if that isn't enough racing for you, there will be a Charity Celebrity Volkswagen Economy Race before the races start. Volkswagen Rabbits will be used by sports, television, radio and news media persons in an attempt to win money for their favorite charity. It's all for fun and charity and includes top racing celebrities from Houston, San An-

tonio, Austin, Dallas, Baytown, Killeen and Bryan-College Station. There will be such racing kings as Dave Ward from KTRK in Houston, the Houston Chronicle's John Hollis, Alonzo Bradley of the Houston Rockets, Chantal, a female disc jockey from KLIF radio in Dallas and Bryan-College Station's own David Walker from KBTX.

And if you could possibly want anything more, there will be the Brazos Valley Backyard Bar-B-Cue Championship with infield activities like race tire rolling, beer drinking and wet T-shirt contests, a 25 beer "Happy Hour" and a Country-Western concert in the evening. All of this will take place on Saturday, the day of time trials and qualifying for Sunday's races.

On Sunday, the VW Celebrity Economy Challenge will start at noon followed by the Texas Champions Invitational Stock Car Classic at 1 p.m., the Mini-Indy 100 km race at 2 and the 200-mile LubriLON Grand Prix for Indy cars at 3.



What's unleaded going for here these days men?

Pit crew members scurry to get Tom Sneva out of the pits and back into the race in a few precious seconds. With Indy cars that go close to 200 m.p.h., there is no time to waste. The

Indy cars will be back at Texas World Speedway this weekend for the 200-mile LubriLON Grand Prix. There will be three races Sunday starting at noon.

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Things getting hot in Dom

United Press International HOUSTON — The operator of the Astrodome may apply to the federal government for an exception to President Carter's 78-degree minimum thermostat setting because that setting would cause baseball fans to be uncomfortably warm, the president of the operating company said Wednesday.

William E. Odom, president of Astrodome Corp., said careful studies during the past few months indicate that during Astros games fans felt 78 degrees of heat when the thermostat was set at 76.

"We're not looking for a way around the regulation," Odom said. "We are looking for a way to keep the reputation of the Astrodome as a comfortable stadium."

Because the Astrodome is county owned, Astrodome Corp. has received an order from Harris County to raise its thermostat to 78 degrees. "We have not adjusted upward," Odom said.

Earlier, however, the corporation

did comply with a county order to raise the setting to 76.

"The thermostat setting," he said, "does not necessarily mean that that is what the temperature will be. An indoor stadium is influenced by how many people show up for a game, by what the temperature is outside and by whether the sun is shining on the roof during the time that we start pre-cooling."

Four persons with thermometers check the air temperature constantly during the pre-game cooling period and during a game, Odom said.

"Generally what we are doing is trying to shoot for an average temperature of 78 degrees," he said.

The studies led him to believe that a 78-degree thermostat setting would exceed the temperature at which fans would feel comfortable.

"We may be applying for an exemption. The regulations do allow for exemptions," he said.

He added, however: "I don't have much hope for it."

has a capacity of 6,600 tons, pointed out that it was 15 years old and not capable of being "fine-tuned" as ones in newer office buildings are. The air conditioner is shut off, although on days there are no games, conventional air conditioning is used.

Depending on outside weather influences, Odom said, "we've decided two to four hours in advance of the baseball game that we will bring the temperature down to 76 before people arrive, the temperature sometimes higher."

The Astrodome is tall enough to fit an 18-story building inside, cause warm air rises, fans often feel warmer than fans on the field level. Odom said there is much as a "3-to-3 degree difference."

"There are times," he said, "it is quite warm in the stadium, say the fans are disgruntled. But they understand it."

Shepard thinks Oklahoma's O.

United Press International NORMAN, Okla. — Darrell Shepard, a highly sought prep quarterback two years ago, is transferring from Houston to Oklahoma, it was announced Tuesday.

Shepard, of Odessa, Texas, said he wanted to play in bowl games and to join his brother, Woodie Shepard, on the Sooners team.

The NCAA ruled Darrell Shepard ineligible for post-season contests after a controversy over his acquisition of a new sports car shortly after

he signed with Houston in 1977. The NCAA said he could play in bowl games if he went outside the Southwest Conference.

"I decided last week to come to OU. It was because I couldn't play in bowl games and the fact that I had a chance to play with my brother," Shepard said.

Woodie Shepard played for OU in 1976, quit in 1977 and returned this spring. He threw a 49-yard pass to spark the winning touchdown drive in the 1976 OU victory over Nebraska.

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Head coach Barry Switzer said he would begin working on Shepard and might also be considered for kickoff returns and punts.

Astros beat Cubs, Bluejays over Range

United Press International HOUSTON — Jose Cruz drove in one run and scored two others to support the 12-strikeout pitching of J.R. Richard Wednesday night, sending the Houston Astros to their fourth straight victory, a 6-4 decision over the Chicago Cubs.

Richard, who raised his record to 8-11, broke a personal four-game losing streak and picked up his first victory since June 30. He carried a

two-hitter and a 6-1 lead into the eighth inning but the Cubs scored three runs, the first coming on a single by Ivan DeJesus that chased Richard.

Scott Thompson then greeted reliever Joe Sambito with a run-scoring single and with the bases loaded, Larry Bittner walked to force in a run. Sambito struck out Steve Ontiveros and Jerry Martin to end the rally and struck out two batters in the ninth to earn his 12th save.

The Astros tagged three Cubs' pitchers for 12 hits. Cruz's run-scoring double and Enos Cabell's run-scoring single gave Houston its first two runs in the first.

In Toronto, Otto Velez crossed two-run homer in the first and Rick Bosetti drove in three with a single and a homer Wednesday night, pacing the Toronto Blue Jays to an 8-3 decision over Texas Rangers.

Al Oliver's RBI single led the Rangers a 1-0 lead in the eighth inning but Alfredo Griffin drove in a run with a single and John Johnson, 4-12, uncorked a pitch. Rico Carty drew a walk, sending the stage for Velez's 10th home run of the year.

Bosetti led off the third with a sixth home run of the season, extending Toronto's lead to 4-1.

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