

Buckle up, race fans! The weekend is here!

Okay race fans, are you ready for some Saturday night all-out get-all-you-can kind of racing? Well I sure am, and it's going to be good if the weather will cooperate. The Winston Open is slated for Saturday night, and what makes this race so great is that driver and owner point counting is out. Having a super fast hot rod and driving the wheels off of that baby in 20 or 30 lap segments is the only thing that matters. The crews are going to be tweaking everything on the cars, and I'll almost bet that timing and rev limiters will be set to the max.

The Winston is NASCAR's all-star event of the season, and there's a ton of money for the winner along with bragging rights. So with all of this in mind you're going to see special paint schemes on the cars, and the drivers and crews have a take-no prisoners attitude. Saturday night is going to be so fast and fantastic, I'm thinking of installing a five point Simpson safety belt harness on my Lazy Boy.

I know, your saying WHAT! Okay, let me explain. 5 or 6 years ago Dale Earnhardt with his Pro Bass Gold # 3 Monte Carlo and Darrell Waltrip with his #17 Western Auto (I think) Monte Carlo were in the Winston. As the race got un-



Don Fosdick

Life in the Fast Lane

derway, like with only 6 or 8 laps into the first segment, those two got together out of turn four and wrecked which carried them almost down to the flag stand on the front stretch at Charlotte. I was sooo into the race, that when Dale's car got up on it's side, it threw me out of my chair, right on to the floor, and I hollered, OOH NOOOO! As we all know, any good sports fan gets into his or her sport all the way most of the time.

If you haven't heard there's been a driver change in the Hendricks Motor sports #25 Delphi Monte Carlo. Jerry Nadeau was released from the car after the race at Richmond a couple of weeks ago. Now here we go, Joe Nemacheck was hired to fill that seat for the rest of this year, and this will be the best ride that Joe has ever had, we'll see if Front Row Joe can live up to his nickname. As you know Joe Nemacheck had filled in for the injured Johnny Benson driver or the #10

Valvoline Pontiac at Richmond, and drove that car to a 12th place finish for the team. Now Jerry Nadeau will fill that seat until Johnny Benson is healed up from his rib injuries received from a Busch race a few weeks ago. Get ready for silly season to kick into high gear for the rest of the year.

I have some time now to report on an item that's close to my heart. On the 29th of April of this year Theresa Earnhardt and everyone at Dale Earnhardt Inc. along with several thousand fans and friends and drivers celebrated the late Dale Earnhardt's birthday at the Garage MaHall that Dale built before his death. Theresa Earnhardt and family decided to celebrate Dale's birthday in a public manner, not only for themselves but for all of Dale's Fans as well. ESPN2 broadcasted an hour long show from there on Dale's birthday, and it was amazing, with all the fans that were there to take part in the celebration. Theresa said,

the reason for all of this is to make sure that Dale's life and contributions to racing are not forgotten. I think this is great and even watching from good ole Colby, I felt that I was able to be part of this celebration, and yes I had tears in my eyes by the end of show, just like many others. As you all know, I'm a life long Dale Earnhardt fan and he will always be #1 to me, and I'm going to try to be at one of those birthday parties in the future.

I want to also remind all of my readers and cars nuts that we have a fantastic weekend right here in good ole N.W. Kansas. Today, we have the start of the Early Rod Run in Atwood, and NASCAR qualifying on FX starting at 6 o'clock our time.

On Saturday the 18th there is the Early Rod Run & Drags at Atwood. In Colby on Sunday the 19th it's racing at the Thomas County Speedway, including the WDRA racecars added to the evenings race schedule.

As always, if you made it this far, thank you for your time. Remember to pull those belts tight, get up on the wheel, and DRIVE safely.

Don Fosdick is a local guy who loves racing. Contact him at dfosdick@grapevine.net

Tony Pena off to 0-2 start

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)— Tony Pena will be a great manager if he can just get the Royals to play as well in Kansas City as Minnesota does.

Torii Hunter homered twice and Minnesota hit five home runs at Kauffman Stadium for the second time this season as the Twins routed the Royals 14-5 Thursday.

Nevertheless, Pena remained optimistic despite starting his managerial career 0-2.

"I'm not going to get my head down," he said. "I told my players this is one bad day, a really, really bad day. If you're going to lose a game, I would rather lose that way. I don't want to lose a game by one run."

The best news for Pena is that he won't have to manage against Minnesota again until August.

Five of Minnesota's nine road wins have come at Kauffman, where Jones has hit five of his eight home runs. In 11 games against the Royals, the Twins have hit 16 homers. In an 8-6 victory on opening day, Jacque Jones hit two home runs while David Ortiz, Brian Buchanan and Hunter all had one.

"I like this park. I love it," said Hunter, 4-for-6 with four RBIs and three runs scored. "You've got to hate it that we don't come back until August." Jones, Cristian Guzman and

Tom Prince also homered for the Twins, who added five doubles to set season highs in runs and hits (18).

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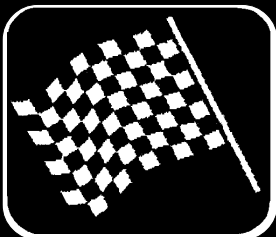
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