

This may be oldster's year

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Eighteen years ago Dick Simon parachuted into the center of a auto race track in Salt Lake City, accepted a ride around the track in a super modified sports car — and was hooked.

"I knew right then automobile racing would have to be my life," said the balding former insurance executive who will take his 12th shot at the Indianapolis 500 title on Sunday.

Simon's chances are rated somewhere between slim and none, but you can't tell him that.

"This is the first time I've raced here with new equipment," he said. "In the past, I've had nothing but hand-me-down cars. In my first race in 1970, I drove a car that cost \$12,000 and hadn't been in a race in five years."

He finished 14th. In the ensuing years, he has done no better than 13th, giving him a double distinction going into this 67th Indy classic.

Figure filberts say no one has ever driven that many races without finishing better than 13th. At 49, he is the oldest driver in the field.

Simon takes exception to critics who, after 52-year-old Bob Harkey was seriously injured in an accident during practice, argue that men of such age should not be allowed to sit in machines going around a track with 32 others at speeds up to 200 mph or more.

Such drivers, the critics argue, are mere spear carriers in the big show where big money and expensive machines always prevail.

"The difference between me and Harkey is that I am in perfect physical condition," Simon said Thursday after his final test run. "I have excellent reflexes and peripheral vision. I have the physical assets and instincts of a 30-year-old."

A.J. Foyt, seeking his fifth Indy championship, is 48 years-old. On the other hand, George Snider, who will drive Foyt's second car under sponsorship of Kentucky's Calumet horse

farm, is 43 and has been in 17 Indianapolis races without ever getting higher than eighth.

"There is no difference in any of us," Simon said. "We love driving, and we all — no matter who — hold out the hope of winning."

The father of seven and grandfather of six, Simon, a stocky, 5-foot-10 native of Bakersfield, Calif., said neither he nor any of his family ever considered the prospect of a fatal accident.

"My wife, Debbie, is into this more than I am," he said. "I think auto racing is the safest sport in the world."

"I'll give you an example, I went over to England to buy this new car from March Cars, Ltd., paying \$200,000. Driving in a passenger car at 35 miles an hour later in England, I was injured and spent 14 days in the hospital."

Born in Seattle, Simon attended the University of Utah on a skiing scholarship. He was Intermountain Ski Jumping Champion for two years, was former national parachuting champion and holds a multi-engine pilot's rating.

He was doing a carnival-type parachute jump when he got acquainted with car racing.

"I raced sports cars for trophies for six years," he said. "I made the transition to Indy cars in 1970, mortgaging my kids and getting \$50,000 from an associate, Fred Auerbach."

"I had a good chance in my first race in 1970 and was in the top five in 1980 when my front suspension came off and I went into the pits on three wheels."

He hardly blinks when he talks of the tragic 1973 Indy race in which Salt Walther was seriously injured and Swede Savage was killed. Simon's roll bar snapped, his helmet was broken and the water tank back of his head completely destroyed. He missed death by inches.

"Just a roll of the dice," he said with a shrug.



Emerald photo

Brian Crouser will sit out the NCAA championships because of an injury to the elbow of his throwing arm.

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"There has to be a happy balance," says Irving. "Sometimes an athlete can overlift and that can be counter-productive."

Crouser thinks the weight a thrower is at is the important thing. The sophomore feels an athlete should lift until he's at his prime weight.

"The weight training depends on the person," says Crouser. "Myself, I like to be at 230 because I'm a power thrower, but if you weigh 210 and can stay strong, that's good too. It just depends on how you feel."

One area where coaches and athletes agree is on the subject of athletic ability. All believe that the better the athlete, the better the safeguard against injury.

"The more athletic ability the better," says Burton. And from Crouser: "Being a good athlete gives you an advantage."

Still, there seems to be

no sure-fire way to stay away from injury for the javelin thrower.

The trend may be to stay away from throwing every week. Petranoff prefers not to throw on a weekly basis, and Rouse came up with three consecutive PR's this season throwing every other week. Crouser, healing from overthrowing, is adamant that he won't make the same mistake next year.

"I want to throw less than every other week," he says. "I'm at the point where I've got to start thinking about myself, and it's to my advantage not to throw too much. Roz was really smart to do what she did."

Yet no matter how often the javelin thrower performs, he or she remains a fragile athlete.

"A javelin thrower is like a finely tuned race car," says Irving, "and in my time, I've seen quite a few race cars."

Italian clocked Indy's fastest

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Teo Fabi has no more worries about driving at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Now, after a final show of speed Thursday, the worries may belong to the other drivers who will try to catch him in Sunday's Indy 500.

The Italian road-racing veteran, who established new one-and four-lap speed records in winning the pole position for the 67th Indy classic, again found the quickest way around the 2½-mile oval Thursday during "carbureation testing" the last opportunity for the starters to

get on the track prior to Sunday's race.

Fabi's Cosworth-powered March made three successive laps at more than 201 mph, the fastest caught by the Speedway's electric timer at 201.795.

Although 10 drivers qualified at more than 200, the only others over that figure Thursday as the teams worked on their race day setup were Kevin Cogan at 200.490, Bobby Rahal at 200.522 and Derek Daly, an Indianapolis rookie and Formula One veteran, at 200.630.

All 33 starters made it onto the track during the two-hour

session and all but six of them posted laps averaging more than 190 mph. But, again, it was the diminutive Fabi — whose one-lap high of 208.049 and four-lap average of 207.395 now are the standards here — who led the way.

"The car is comfortable and I am comfortable now with the track," said the native of Milan. "I have said I felt afraid of the place when I came here and ran 10 or 15 laps on it, but now I really like the track and I think I can run at the speeds we've been going (in practice) quite a bit in the race."

et al.

MEETINGS

International Student Christian Fellowship meets every Fri. at 7:30 p.m. at the Way Inn, 1332 Kincaid. All internationals are welcome. For more information call 683-4190 or 687-8684.

Lutheran Student Supper this Sun. at 6 p.m. at the Metzlers. Meet at 5:30 at the Christus House, 18th and Potter for rides. For more information call 342-4844.

Japanese Bible Study meets every Sat. at 7:15 p.m. at 550 E. 14th, Apt. 21. Instruction is in Japanese. For more information call 687-8684.

Asklepiads will hold an initiation meeting on Tue. May 31 at the Kappa Sigma Fraternity at 7 p.m. All new members must attend.

College Republicans will meet on Wed., June 1 evening in Rm. 109 EMU. Everyone is welcome.

There will be an organizational meeting on Tue., May 31 for the University Pre-Law Students' Association. The meeting will take place at 6:30 in Rm. 164 Oregon Hall.

LECTURES

Nicaragua 1982: Artist Betty LaDuke speaks on the peasant-painter of Solentiname and the professional artist, revolutionary commitment, and individuality in Nicaragua. A slide-lecture based on her travels in Nicaragua will take place on Wed. June 1 at 7:30 p.m. at 1236 Kincaid St. A \$1 donation is requested.

"Towards a Theory of Design Studio Instruction" is the title of a slide-lecture to be given by Larry Kasparowitz today in Rm. 177 at 4:30 p.m.

Consequences of War on Health in El Salvador, a slide presentation with videotapes by Rafael Barrera will take place on Tue., May 31 at 7:30 p.m. at 1236 Kincaid St. A \$1 donation is requested. A discussion will be included with local health workers.

MISCELLANEOUS

America's Love Run — a benefit for the Muscular Dystrophy Association will take place the entire month of June. The Love Run is a 30-day running program where participants obtain pledges for every mile they will run during the month of June. Watch for entry

coupons at local running stores or call 686-2753.

Lane County Sheriff Mounted Posse is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Ride-A-Long, with all proceeds going to Easter Seal School and Treatment Center. The Ride-A-Long will take place on Sun., June 5, on 10 miles of trail from Mt. Pisgah in Buford Park. Pick up pledge sheets at any feed store or western wear store, or the Easter Seal School, 3575 Donald, or call 344-3050.

Attention political science majors: apply for fall term peer advising positions. Applications are available in Rm. 907 PLC, and they are due today.

All majors are encouraged to apply for pre-major peer advising positions for fall term. Valuable experience for qualified and enthusiastic students for upper division credit. Pick up applications in Rm. 164 Oregon Hall. These are due Tues., May 31.

Sociology Majors: Applications are now being taken for new sociology peer advisers fall term. If you're interested, come to Rm. 709 PLC to pick up an application, or call x5012 with questions.

WORKSHOPS

Discussion on the purpose of life will take place M-F at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at 768 E. 16th. For more information call 747-0192.

"Creative Partnerships Linking Business and Childcare," a conference sponsored by the League of Women Voters is scheduled for Tue., May 31 at the Valley River Inn. For further information concerning registration call 344-5944, 683-7044, or 343-7917.

INTERVIEWS

Please sign up immediately if interested in interviewing with the following recruiters:

May 27 — Jet Delivery Service (for Operations Manager Eugene) — Spring grads — Bachelor's — Marketing/Business preferred).

Sign up at Job Location and Development, University of Oregon — returning students — Full Time Summer Jobs — 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. at 1511 Agate, Public Research OSPIRG and other jobs — Portland, Salem, Lincoln City, Beaverton, Eugene, San Diego, Tigard.

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