

Gene Ashley Earns CGS IMCA Sport Mod Championship

BY BEN DEATHERAGE
For the Sentinel

When it came to the IMCA Sport Mods in 2015, Gene Ashley seemed to have it all figured out. The veteran racer out of Jasper managed to collect his first career championship at Cottage Grove Speedway.

"The biggest thing is I couldn't have done this without Eric (his youngest son)," commented Ashley. "He put this car together for me, and when I blew my motor in the middle of the year he gave me his so I could finish it out."

Gene's driving career started at the young age of 16 in 1970, running demolition derbies at the now-defunct Eugene Speedway before eventually venturing to CGS in the mid-70s. He would finish runner-up a few times but never won a title until now, at the age of 61.

"I've really enjoyed racing, but what I think I love the most is watching my kids (Ricky and Eric) race," he would continue,

"and to actually race against them over the years, I thought that would never happen."

Ashley would collect five victories over the season which would lead the division. Those triumphs would come on April 18, May 16, May 23, July 4 and Sept. 5. He would post 11 Top Fives and 11 Top Tens in 11 starts in his Ashley Family Racing/A-1 Auto Supply/Furniture Options #85 entry. His worst finish was fifth, which he placed on three occasions.

"I'm not sure what we're going to do next year. I kind of want to go back and watch the kids racing again. I really enjoy that."

What is for certain is that both of his sons intend to race quite often in 2016. Ricky will be competing in the Sprint Car ranks full-time while Eric will be a regular in the IMCA Modified division. No doubt whatever Gene Ashley does he will be accompanied by his lovely wife and number one race fan, Brenda.



Gene (center) displays his trophy with his family.

Photo courtesy of Dirt Monkey Productions

Notable Cottage Grove Track Finishes

Boys

100 Meters Varsity - Finals x

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Trevor Coleman | 11.74a | Marist |
| 2. | Pierce LaCoste | 11.98a | Marist |
| 3. | Josh McCluskey | 12.01a | Thurston |
| 4. | Kishon Lange | 12.02a | Thurston |
| 5. | Trey Adams | 12.03a | Crescent Valley |
| 6. | Jacob Woods | 12.22a | Cottage Grove |
| 7. | Brynden Howell | 12.37a | Cottage Grove |
| 7. | Kyan Louie | 12.37a | Marist |
| 9. | Neal van Tamelen | 12.46a | Crescent Valley |
| 9. | Chad Bortorff | 12.46a | Cottage Grove |

200 Meters Varsity - Finals x

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Adam Yarbrough | 24.32a | Marist |
| 2. | Chris Clure | 24.84a | Cottage Grove |
| 3. | Tyson Haas | 24.91a | Thurston |
| 4. | Ben Annus | 24.97a | Thurston |
| 5. | Chase Cutsforth | 25.06a | Marist |
| 6. | Neal van Tamelen | 25.26a | Crescent Valley |
| 7. | Ben Canfield | 25.63a | Crescent Valley |
| 8. | Tyler Becerra | 25.67a | Thurston |
| 9. | Johnathan Link | 25.77a | Crescent Valley |
| 10. | Claudio Canchola | 25.96a | Thurston |

110m Hurdles - 39" Varsity - Finals x

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Hayden Glenn | 18.53a | Cottage Grove |
| 2. | Sunwoo Kim | 18.60a | Crescent Valley |
| 3. | John Collins | 18.72a | Marist |

Girls

100 Meters Varsity - Finals x

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Natalia Corbitt | 13.67a | Crescent Valley |
| 2. | Emma Hanson | 13.75a | Crescent Valley |
| 3. | Isabella Schrader | 13.93a | Crescent Valley |
| 4. | Tara Crosswhite | 14.00a | Thurston |
| 5. | Mckenzie Journey | 14.05a | Thurston |
| 6. | Vanessa Taylor | 14.08a | Crescent Valley |
| 7. | Sarah Burrows | 14.16a | Thurston |
| 8. | Zarah Wemple | 14.19a | Cottage Grove |
| 9. | Kaitlen Haas | 14.33a | Thurston |
| 10. | Tara Child | 14.69a | Cottage Grove |

200 Meters Varsity - Finals x

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Hannah Albrecht | 27.87a | Cottage Grove |
| 2. | Madelyn Nowicki | 27.90a | Marist |
| 3. | Caitlin Kirk | 28.30a | Marist |
| 4. | Isabella Schrader | 28.93a | Crescent Valley |
| 5. | Natalia Corbitt | 28.96a | Crescent Valley |
| 6. | Kaitlen Haas | 30.05a | Thurston |
| 7. | Emma Hanson | 30.25a | Crescent Valley |
| 8. | McKenna Miller | 30.29a | Thurston |
| 9. | Emilie Simmons | 30.93a | Marist |
| 10. | Sofia Nation | 31.52a | Crescent Valley |

1500 Meters Varsity - Finals x

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Hope Powell | 5:32.47 | Marist |
| 2. | Hudson Weybright | 5:33.32 | Cottage Grove |
| 3. | Kela Leamy | 5:45.40 | Crescent Valley |
| 4. | Vanessa Hufnagel | 5:47.12 | Crescent Valley |
| 5. | Zoe Carlton | 5:50.22 | Thurston |

GOLF: Middlefield Men's Club

Monday, March 14
Game: 2-3 Points

First Place 98
Dave Tooker
Leon Hayes
Gary Sparks
Steve Erickson

Second Place 94
Jerry Pennington
Jake Cox
Frank LaCosse
Tom Arney

Low Gross
Steve Erickson 78
Frank LaCosse 78

Low Net
Frank LaCosse 65
Dave Tooker 69
Jerry Pennington 69

Closest to the Pin
#5 Steve Erickson

Thursday, March 17
Game: 2-3 Best Ball

First Place -16
Jim Hoover
Jim Cunningham
Jerry Singer
Phil Jones

Second Place -9
Mike Helms
Leon Hayes
Jim Wamsley
Dick Winters

Third Place -7
Leroy Bodine
Jake Cox
Larry Eyman
Dan Smith

Fourth Place (tie) -6
Frank Conti
Bill Medin
David Morris
Dave Tooker

Fourth Place (tie) -6
Jack Doleman
Frank Gates
Jerry Pennington
Dallas Doudna

Low Gross
Jerry Singer 70
Mike Helms 72
Dan Smith 74
Steve Erickson 75

Low Net
Larry Eyman 65
Dallas Doudna 66
Jake Cox 67
Leon Hayes 67
Jim Cunningham 67
Larry Emery 69
Gary Rider 69

Closest to the Pin
#5 Steve Erickson
#7 Jack Doleman
#14 Steve Erickson

Longest Putt
#18 Steve Lindholm

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