

# Flaherty Paces Field for 125 Laps To Win at Indianapolis

By ED SAINSBURY  
Indianapolis, Ind. — (U.P.) — Freckle-faced and red-headed Pat Flaherty, racing's real-life "Huck Finn," gets a story-book payoff tonight for shaking off two crashes with the speedway wall in the past to win the 40th annual 500 mile classic at a speed of 128.490 miles per hour.

Flaherty, a 6-foot, 160-pound Chicago tavern owner, paced the speedway's fastest field in history for the last 125 laps to earn a guaranteed purse of \$39,200.

But because the track usually throws additional money into the prize fund, the victor, who was driving in his fifth speedway chase, probably will get a larger check at the payoff dinner tonight than the previous high total, \$76,138 paid to Bob Sweikert last year.

Flaherty got a break in winning too. While he was on his safety lap, the extra tour run by each car to insure covering the full distance, his throttle linkage broke and fell off the car as he headed into the winner's enclosure.

Would Have Lost  
Had it happened on the previous lap, he would have been unable to maintain speed, and probably Sam Hanks, Pacific Palisades, Calif., who finished only 21 seconds behind, would have beaten him.

Flaherty became the sixth pole winner to win the race, duplicating a feat performed in the past by Jimmy Murphy, Tommy Milton, Billy Arnold, Floyd Roberts and Bill Vukovich. But when Flaherty won the pole, he did it with a record speed too, 145.056 miles per hour for one lap and 145.596 for four.

For the first few miles Wednesday, in a race which set a track record for accidents with 11, he laid off the blistering pace of more than 142 miles per hour hung up by Paul Russo, Jim Rathmann and Pat O'Connor.

Russo crashed into the wall after 22 laps and both Rathmann and O'Connor were forced to make pit stops to give Flaherty a chance to move ahead after 40 laps. He stayed in front for two turns of the track and then backed off again. After 53 laps he made a 39-second pit stop and after 75 laps he went in front to stay.

Freeland Places Third  
Don Freeland, Los Angeles, Calif., was third, Johnnie Parsons, the 1950 winner from Van Nuys, Calif., fourth and Dick Rathmann, Trenton, N.J., fifth.

Flaherty, 30, began racing in 1946 and in 1950, in his first speedway appearance, he finished tenth. In 1953 after driving 115 laps, he crashed into the northeast wall, while in 1954, as a relief driver, he slammed his car into the wall after 110

laps. Last year he was tenth again.

The winner, or for that matter, all of the major money winners, probably got a break due to the swarm of accidents. The 11 pileups involved 13 cars and one of them came after the first five cars had finished. It involved Dick Rathmann, who spun on the backstretch after he had

finished the grind. Only three drivers were hurt, none seriously. Jimmy Daywalt suffered a broken leg, head and arm injuries and friction burns after his car collided with the wall and spun, while Tony Bettenhausen suffered a shoulder injury from a similar accident. Rathmann also was injured slightly.

## MEDFORD TRIBUNE SPORTS

### Ron Owings Captures SOC Red Raider Batting Toga

By LEN WEBER  
Ashland—Ron Owings, Klamath Falls sophomore, won the Red Raider batting crown when the SOC Red Raiders finished their season last week-end at the spring tournament in La Grande.

Owings posted a .411 batting average and was pushed all the way by Vince Miller, slugging second sacker from North Bend who finished with an even .400. Taking up fourth and fifth spots in the batting race were Fred Luper, a Coquille lad with .293 average and Leroy King, another North Bender who finished with a .288 batting average.

Owings and Miller were both top flight candidates for the all-conference team, but rugged playing by SOC in the tournament hampered the chances of these two lads. Ned Landers, Medford junior and Red Raider first sacker and pitcher, was the only Red Raider to gain all-conference laurels. Landers, after a slow start, came along fast and finished 3rd in the SOC batting with an even .300.

Shortstop Owings led his team in times at bat with 56, runs scored with 23 and base hits with 23. He also paced the Raiders with 3 home runs and 22 runs batted in. He was tied with Al Kimura and Bill Seymour in the bases on balls department with 14 each.

Owings also had the dubious distinction of committing the most SOC errors with 23. Miller scored 22 runs, had 20 hits, led the team in doubles with three. Also Miller batted out two triples and two homers to lead

the team in extra base blows. He was second in RBI's with 20. Leroy King was third in hits with 15 and also pushed across 15 runs, as well as topping the team in strikeouts with 14.

Southern Oregon will only lose two players off this year's third place OCC team. They are Corky Ellis, first baseman from Klamath Falls, and Lloyd Hoffine, veteran righthand pitcher from Coos Bay. Both are four year lettermen in baseball. Hoffine during his four years of pitching for the Raiders compiled a won-lost record of 11-6.

The Red Raiders as a team finished the season with a .277 batting average. They batted out 142 hits in 513 times at bat. They hit 15 doubles, nine triples, and eight homers. SOC batsmen walked to the bases 93 times, struck out 107 times and were guilty of 65 miscues, breaking last year's record of only 30 errors. SOC runners scored 145 runs in 18 games for an average of roughly eight runs per game.

Coach Al Akins and his Red Raiders finished the season with a 11-7 won-lost record. Having dropped five out of their last six games, and riding high on a 10-game winning streak after dropping their first two opening games.

Southern Oregon college hopes to increase its schedule next year and play a greater variety of teams. This year SOC had encounters with, Oregon Tech, Chico State, Humboldt State, and Portland university. In the OCC tournament they met Eastern Oregon and Oregon Colleges of Education.

Player	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	BB	SO	E	RBI	AVE.
Ron Owings, ss	56	23	23	2	1	3	14	7	23	22	.411
Vince Miller, 2b	50	22	20	3	2	2	8	11	5	20	.400
Ray Thiess, p	21	3	7	0	0	0	0	5	0	4	.333
Ned Landers, 1b-p	40	12	12	2	1	0	5	1	3	9	.300
Lloyd Hoffine, 3b	10	4	3	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	.300
Fred Luper, lf	41	12	12	1	3	1	6	7	5	15	.293
Leroy King, rf	52	10	15	2	0	0	5	14	5	15	.288
Ted Landers, 3b	46	8	12	1	0	0	2	5	7	2	.261
Dick Nix, cf	33	17	13	2	0	1	12	12	4	4	.245
Morrie Churchman, 2b	26	4	6	0	1	0	4	11	3	3	.231
Corky Ellis, 1b	19	2	2	0	0	0	1	5	2	0	.200
Henk Smith, p	70	3	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	.200
Al Kimura, lf	38	11	6	2	0	0	14	7	1	1	.166
Bill Seymour, c	43	10	7	0	1	1	14	10	11	1	.163
Larry Maurer, 1b	17	3	2	0	0	0	2	5	3	2	.118
Harvey Tonn, Ut-in	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	.000
Team Totals	513	145	142	15	9	8	93	107	65	120	.277

PITCHING RECORDS:  
Ned Landers 2-1  
Henk Smith 2-1  
Ray Thiess 3-3  
Lloyd Hoffine 2-2



CUTTING another notch in bat is Dale Long, Pittsburgh Pirates, who set new record by clouting eight home runs in eight consecutive ball games. (International)

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### Story of Mickey Mantle All-American Boy Parody; Could Be Greatest of All

(Editor's Note: This is the first of a series of three.)

By MILTON RICHMAN  
New York — (U.P.) — A shy sandy haired youngster from Oklahoma is on his way to becoming a national celebrity because he can hit a baseball probably farther and harder than anyone ever did before.

A five minute break for arguments.

His name is Mickey Mantle, and not since the days of the fabulous Babe Ruth has an athlete created the stir that Mickey has this year. He hits them clear out of the park the way the Babe did, but whether he ever catches the nation's fancy like Ruth did remains to be seen, for Mantle is not exactly cut to the hero pattern.

In a manner he is so different as to be almost embarrassing. He hasn't the showmanship of a Dizzy Dean or the wild exuberance of a Willie Mays. No, no, least of all Mickey, claims him to be a great brain. His personal life is so normal as to be almost dull.

But any awkwardness that clings to this stocky 24-year-old off the field is whisked away the moment he steps to the plate. The sight of Mickey Mantle hitting a homerun produces that chill of excitement at greatness in the happening that so very few ever achieve.

All American Boy  
The story of Mickey Mantle reads almost like a deadpan parody of the red-blooded, All-

American boy reaching fame and fortune (\$30,000 this year but that's only the beginning).

Born and raised in the little (Pop. 2,445) town of Commerce, Okla., Mickey was the son of a semi-pro pitcher who was determined his son would be a big league baseball player. The father pitched to the boy for hours on end, teaching him to hit both right and lefthanded.

The senior Mantle died in 1952. He lived just long enough to see his son with the mighty New York Yankees. But it is this year that Mickey, playing in the centerfield spot once held by Joe DiMaggio, has reached the heights.

As of last weekend, Mantle led both leagues in every department of batting — average .426, runs, runs batted in, hits. He is the terror of every pitcher in the American League. In one game last week he went to the plate six times, got five hits and was walked.

Ahead of Ruth  
But it is in homers that Mantle is creating the greatest drama. He is well ahead of the pace that Ruth set in 1927 when he chalked up the record that is probably the most sought after in baseball, 60 homers in one season. If Mantle can beat that, it will be like breaking the four-minute mile, only more so.

The authority for the claim that Mantle may be the greatest of all hitters is Bill Dickey, the Yankee coach who was a contemporary of both Ruth and Lou Gehrig. "Take it from me,"

### Cheney Colt Crew Dumps Ashland Lithians 12 to 1

Eight was the magic number for the Cheney Colts yesterday afternoon. They collected eight runs off eight hits in the eighth inning to thump the Ashland Lithians 12 to 1 in the semi-professional baseball fust at the fairgrounds ball park.

There was no loop significance in the scramble between the two Rogue Valley league members but the outcome indicated that the Colts, despite a loss to Glendale last Sunday, still must be considered strong contenders in the pennant chase.

The Colts loomed stronger than they appeared in their RVL opener. They had some new hands in the line-up. One or two of the players may go on up to the parent Cheney Studs and a couple of others may not be available for regular league games. The Colts, nevertheless, appeared on the upgrade and may have several more players on hand when the college year is over.

In yesterday's eighth frame Dickey says, "Mantle hits a ball harder and farther than any man I've ever seen."

Yankee Manager Casey Stengel doesn't want the boy's head to get big, but even he can't disguise his awe and admiration.

"The only question in my mind," Stengel says, "is whether he's a greater hitter righthanded or lefthanded. In the other departments no one's better. Who can run with him. Who can field with him. And who can outthrow him?"

Colts landed on Pete Berg, the Ashland twirler, for triples by New Landers, Bob Serak and Don LaBeau, two safeties by Doyle Gatlin and a single each by Jim Taylor, Morrie Churchman and Laval Meunier. Two errors and a stolen base figured in the run production.

Berg had allowed the Colts six hits over the previous seven innings. Churchman, who had three hits in five times up, three-baggered in the second inning. The swat scored LaBeau who had got on base on a miscue. Meunier's sacrifice fly tallied Churchman.

Consecutive singles by Bob Serak and Harvey Tonn and a sacrifice flyout by Ray Oakes gained a run in the third inning. In the fifth singles by Tonn and Churchman, an error and a fielder's option were the factors in a run.

Jerry Montgomery's sacrifice fly allowed home the only Lithian run. It came in the first inning. Medford starting tosser El-

don Davidson gave up a pair of walks in the canto and yielded a hit to Phil Sword. There was one fielder's option.

Drives In Three Runs  
Davidson was touched for two hits in four innings on the hill. He gave three bases on balls and struckout two. Ned Landers who followed permitted five hits over five innings. He whiffed six and walked one. In his 14-hitter Berg walked one batter and hit another. He had seven strikeouts.

Churchman drove in three Colt runs and LaBeau, Gatlin and Ned Landers each two. Gatlin was two for two at bat and Serak and Tonn two for five. The triples hit in the eighth inning all went about the same direction—to right center field.

The Colts return to RVL play at the fairgrounds Sunday at 2 p.m., meeting Eagle Point.

Medford Cheney Studs go into action for the first time next Wednesday, June 6, playing Yreka, Calif., here.

LIENSORE:  
Ashland — 100 000 000—1 7 6  
Colts — 021 010 088—12 14 1  
Berg and Sword; Davidson, N. Landers (5) and Meunier, T. Landers (5).

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