

DEMOLITION DERBY

Duel With Fenders and Bumpers Requires a Driving Force



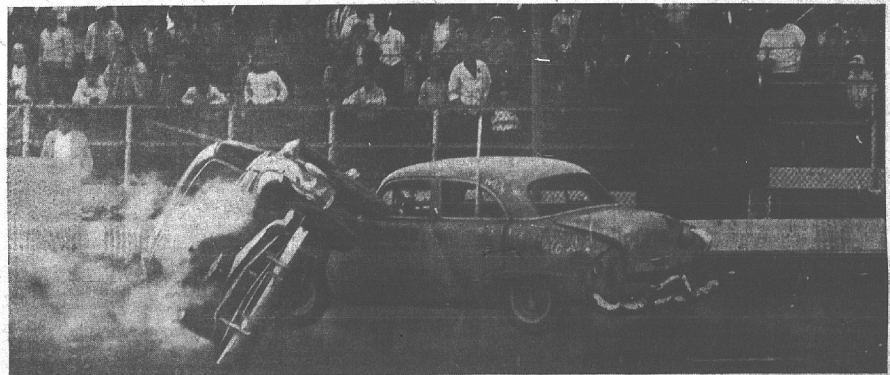
The flagman starts a Demolition Derby heat with a leap before running for cover as cars come from every direction.



Rush hour at the intersection presents a problem, but unlike the average highway, a little wreckage fails to stop the traffic flow.

MEN DRIVERS do things to a car that a woman driver wouldn't dream of when the annual Demolition Derby hits Langhorne, Pa. It is the only occasion at which the hit-and-run motorist comes out ahead. Run is the key to success because most cars won't run after fenders have been smashed against wheels and radiators have been plastered into engines. Any driver with \$10 entry fee and a car he has no affection for can get into the fray. If he likes his car too much, promoters of the derby will sell him a vehicle for \$25. Obviously,

this will not be a factory-fresh model. Most of the cars in the event are of 1950 vintage, too tired for the used car lot but still operational. The grandstand is packed as the starting flag gets the first heat under way. Of the 30 cars in each of six heats, the three still able to move after 20 minutes of ramming each other are declared preliminary winners. These meet again for the finals and the World Champion Demolition Driver emerges victorious. There is a cash prize, but the tall silver trophy is the real lure. It has no dents.



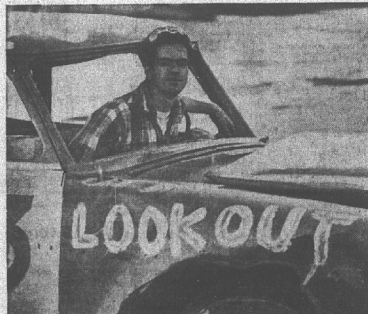
Tag, you're it. A car turns turtle and the hit-and-run driver goes after a new victim as long as his vehicle can still cover the ground.



Nurses at the Demolition Derby enjoy the action with the knowledge that, despite the violence, casualties are few.



The overturned car smokes ominously and judges stop the action to rescue the driver. All glass is removed from cars before they start.



A contestant sticks his head out of a windshieldless car. Crash helmets are worn for the action.



A Ford, Chevrolet or Plymouth may end up in the trunk. Cars drive with a stick on the side, pointing up while all is well. Drivers put it down when cars can't move.



Trophy goes to driver (left) who has survived a heat and the finals with car mileage to spare.