

River City Speedway gets underway with full card and 120 contestants

By Mike Weber

River City Speedway began its 17th season of stock car racing Saturday with four drivers — Clark Tenney, Gary Morris, Joe Cherington and Kari Puncoschar — capturing Columbia County Racing Association main events while leading from start-to-finish. Defending champions "Hollywood" Gary Meyer (street stock) and Matt Sayre (modified) both notched top-five finishes for a successful start in their bid to win consecutive titles.

Tenney, of Scappoose, led all the way in the street stock A main with his 21st Century Towing sponsored Chevrolet Malibu and

won by two carlengths over Hillsboro's Scott Puncoschar. Herb Thomas of St. Helens (3rd), Meyer (4th) and Rainier's Jon "Razor" Gillett rounded out the top-five. Cherington, of Vancouver, won the mini stock main with his Circle H Enterprises Datsun. Morris led throughout the modified main with his Air Flow Systems/Pub 212 open-wheel racer. Portland's Marc Sayre was second, followed by Scott Puncoschar, Matt Sayre and Clint Petty, of St. Helens. Morris, of Boring, led the division in feature victories (4) last year and took fifth in the series standings.

"I'm very glad to get a top-five

finish and now I won't have to dig myself out of an early season hole like I had to last year," said Petty, 35, the 2000 modified champion who took third last season.

Over 120 competitors entered the season opener at the Columbia County Fairgrounds facility and the most impressive driver was Randy Allen of Sandy. After posting the fastest time in qualifying (15.69 seconds) on the quarter-mile clay oval, Allen finished second to Longview's Troy Schreiner in the trophy dash. Allen, who took fourth in the 2002 point standings, then won the heat race and took the check-

ered flag in the Longview Napa sportsman main with his John's Frame Shop/Malar Performance Engines Chevy Monte Carlo. Scott Wells of Scappoose was runnerup in the Liner Racing Pontiac

Gran Prix and Portland's Doug Lockwood took third.

"This sure is a good way to start the season and second place is always nice, because I

Please see page 15



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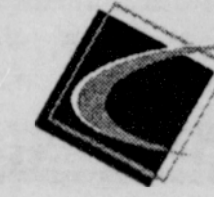
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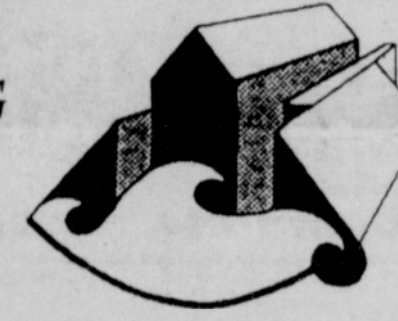
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