

Liner sets women's record qualifying time at River City Speedway

By Mike Weber

Mother Nature sure has presented a number of problems for stock car racing competitors at River City Speedway with just one race completed out of three events on the Columbia County Racing Association May schedule. The May 3 season opener was cancelled because of rain, which delayed the 2003 opener until May 10.

More ugly weather plagued the Carousel Concessions sponsored race Saturday as rain forced the cancellation of all main events. Qualifying, trophy dashes and heat races finished though, before steady

rain, starting around 8 p.m., brought a halt to the action on the quarter mile clay oval track. Last year, there wasn't even one race cancelled at the Columbia County Fairgrounds facility and the next scheduled event — weather permitting, is the Coyner's Auto Body sponsored race June 7.

Despite the inclement weather, Lisa Liner of St. Helens had another notable accomplishment as she set a new women's division track record in qualifying (15.36 seconds) while driving the Liner Racing

Pontiac Gran Prix owned by Scott Wells of Scappoose. Liner, 20, broke the previous mark (15.60) that she set just a year ago on May 25, 2002.

Liner, defending women's champion, also competes in the Longview Napa sportsman class while driving the Heckman Trucking sponsored Chevrolet Malibu — and took sixth place in the heat race. In the women's division, Liner took second in the dash to Vancouver's Jacki Graham and was runnerup in the heat to Hillsboro's Kari Puncocar. Kerry Smith of Scappoose also

notched a heat race win.

Tricia Brittain of St. Helens, Michael Holland of Portland and Longview's Troy Schreiner won Sportsman heats. Longview's "Flying" Brian Vaughn won the dash and Sandy's Randy Allen, the current division leader in the point standings, also won a heat race.

St. Helens drivers Bernie Lujan and Bill Hoekstra recorded mini-stock heat wins and two-time series champion Joe Cherington of Vancouver, won the dash. In the street stock, Gresham's Mark Jones, Portland's Skip Pillow and Rob

Frederiksen of St. Helens, captured heat wins and Vancouver's Dennis Krohling won the dash.

In the modified division, CCRA president Jeremy Martin of St. Helens, won the dash and took third in the heat while driving the Reser's Fine Foods/Superior Torque Converter sponsored car owned by Sam Jeffers of Scappoose. Heat race winners included defending series champion Matt Sayre of Portland and Rainier's Ron Greer, along with Portland drivers Jeremy Brookshire and Brian Timmons.

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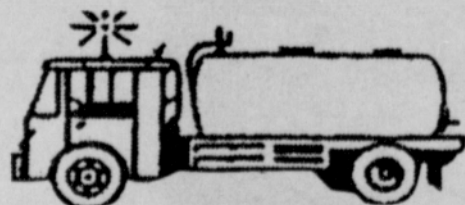
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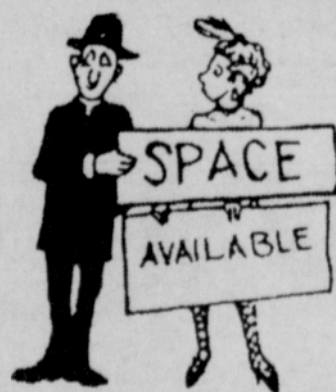
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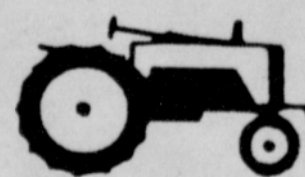
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